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TRUST IS A BURDEN

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Money doubling firm flees with investors' funds



Page 6

World Cup: Super Eagles arrive in Durban



Page 53

Bankole, Ogunewe exchange blows

By Turaki A. Hassan

THE frosty relationship between Speaker of the House of Representatives Oladimeji Bankole and Rep. Independence

Ogunewe (PDP, Imo) climaxed yesterday with an exchange of hot words and the raining of blows on the House floor. It nearly earned Ogunewe another suspension from the House

of Representatives, his second in as many years. The trouble first started as the House was about to commence its sitting yesterday, which was expected to adopt amendments to

the 1999 Constitution, as the Senate had done earlier in the day. Speaker Bankole was not in the chamber as the sitting began, having gone to receive a delegation from Abia State who were

agitating for the creation of Aba State. As he hurriedly walked back to the House chamber, Bankole encountered his well-known adversary Ogunewe at the entrance to the House

chamber. Bankole then stopped, went up to Ogunewe and said he was in his house the previous day but that he met only Ogunewe's wife
Continued on page 5



DEBRIS from a story building that collapsed at Oniru Estate, Victoria Island, Lagos State, yesterday.

ICPC handcuffs, whisks away perm sec

By Shehu Abubakar & Boco Edet

OPERATIVES of the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) yesterday stormed the headquarters of the Federal Ministry of Transport at the Central Business District of Abuja, arrested, handcuffed and whisked away the Permanent Secretary Dr (Mrs) Abigail Edugie Abebe to their office for questioning. *Daily Trust* learnt that she was questioned over an alleged misnomer in the award of contracts for the rehabilitation of the Lagos to Jebba railway lines awarded to a Chinese company, CCECC Nigeria Limited.

Continued on page 5



NASARAWA STATE

3 years of Giant Strides

SEE PAGE 14 & 15

Boys' genitals cut off while asleep

From Lawan Danjuma Adamu, Kano

PART of the genitals of a 14-year-old boy was Tuesday night removed by persons suspected to be ritualists while he was asleep in his brother's Gidan Maza residence in Tukumtawa in Kano metropolis.

A portion of Zaharadeen Sani's penis was chopped off around 11pm while he was asleep outside his home alongside other family members. The family sleeps in the open air due to intense heat in their rooms, it was gathered.

The teenager, who was oper-

ated on yesterday morning at the Abubakar Imam Urology Centre in Kano, was said to have woken up late night to discover that he had been dismembered, his older brother, Rabi'u Shu'aibu Lawan, told our correspondent in Kano yesterday. Neither the victim nor other members of the family had any clue on what was happening that night, Shu'aibu said. He said Sani, his younger brother, only realized that his manhood had been severed when he attempted to urinate, saying instead of passing out urine, he bled profusely from the remaining small

part of his penis. Shu'aibu further told our correspondent that he was the first to be notified of the incident by the victim at about 1:15am, adding that he initially thought it was his stomach that was ripped open. He said the boy continued to bleed as he was rushed to hospital.

When our reporter visited the Abubakar Imam Urology Centre where he was taken for treatment, Sani was seen at the hospital's main theatre while his family members and sympathizers trooped to his bedside. The hospital's Chief Consultant Urologist Dr. Yunusa Adamu

Dangwani said only one-third of the penis, comprising of the gland region was affected, adding that that the boy's testis was intact. Dr. Adamu also explained that during the operation, a catheter was inserted into the remaining part of the penis to help the victim pass urine easily. According to the consultant, there is the tendency that Sani had been sedated by his attackers before his genital was removed, otherwise he added, he would have been woken up by sharp pains as the organ was being slashed.

He said the incident may not

affect the boy's sexual and reproductive life and that the injury was not life threatening. "With his young and developing age, he may be able to live like a man. He may only have reduction in sensation due to loss of glands, but his libido will be intact," said Dr. Dangwani. Sani's father, Malam Sani Lawan, who lives at Kofar Mata also in Kano metropolis, told our reporter that his son was living with a relation at Gidan Maza, where he attends an Islamic school. The matter has already been reported to the police, according to Sani's parents.

Northern traditional leaders to meet on health care

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Dutse

TRADITIONAL leaders in the North are expected to meet in Jigawa State on primary healthcare on Saturday June 2010, the state Commissioner for Information Alhaji Aminu Muhammad has said.

Addressing newsmen on the outcome of the weekly executive council meeting in Dutse yesterday, the commissioner said the traditional leaders are expected to discuss vital issues related to the primary healthcare services at the

meeting. Alhaji Aminu Muhammad added that the state government would give the necessary support to support to the organising committee to enable the traditional leaders have successful deliberations.

He further hinted that the council also approved the conduct of the National Executive Council meeting of the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA) slated for today (Thursday). He assured that, the state Government would give the state chapter of the NBA necessary support to enable it host a successful meeting.

Kano Boko Haram suspect freed

From Abdulgafar Oladimeji, Kano

A man suspected to be a member of the Boko Haram Islamic sect that unleashed mayhem in Kano in July last year has been set free after the prosecution withdrew charges preferred against him on technical grounds.

Abdulrahman Dayyabu, who was standing trial before a magistrate's court on a six count charge of criminal conspiracy, inciting public disturbance, joining unlawful assembly, armed with deadly weapon and causing hurt to public servant, regained his freedom when state prosecuting counsel from the Kano State Ministry of Justice Barrister Yakubu Sule applied for the accused to be set free.

The man was in the company of other suspects who were said to have injured five police officers in Wudil town in Kano during the uprising.

Magistrate Sani Ismail coun-

seled the freed suspect to refrain from any unlawful act, saying the best way to live in a multi economic, political, religious complex society like Nigeria was to respect the views of others.

State counsel Barrister Yakubu Sule had earlier applied for 26 persons standing trial before the courts 10 and 24 to be transferred to chief magistrate's court 8 presided over by Chief Magistrate Sani Ismail.

Ruling on the new charge on which all those arrested in connection with Boko Haram saga in Kano were all arraigned before his court, Chief Magistrate Sani Ismail ordered that the accused persons be remained in prison custody, while adjourning the case June 10 for mentioning.

The new charge said the 26 accused persons connived with Salihu Al-Jasawi who is at large to incite public disturbances in Wudil town.



VICE President Mohammed Namadi Sambo (right) with Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral I. Ibrahim at the 2010 Navy Week dinner on Tuesday.

Shehu Idris heads c'ttee on Izala, Tariqa crisis

From Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna

THE Nigerian Supreme Council For Islamic Affairs (NSCIA) has set up a committee headed by the Emir of Zazzau, Alhaji Shehu Idris, to mediate on the crisis between the Izala and Tariqa Islamic groups as part of its commitment to forge a united Muslim Ummah.

This resolution which was contained in a communiqué released in Kaduna yesterday also included a call on Muslim leaders and followers of different sects and groups to eschew bitter-

ness and divisive tendencies and live in accordance with Qur'anic injunctions that enjoins Muslims to remain united.

The communiqué also stated that the council wants Muslims to speak with one voice and act and work together for the advancement of Islam. In addition, the last National Executive Council meeting resolved to promote peace and religious harmony within Muslim communities and between Islam and Christianity.

The council also reiterated the need for Muslim-Christian relations to be accorded priority in

the quest for peace and religious harmony in the country. According to the resolution, genuine progress has been made in resolving the Jos crisis, adding that all groups should join hands with the Federal Government to ensure the sustenance of peace, stability and development of Nigeria.

The council urged government to make religious education compulsory and each pupil or student should be taught the religion that his parents profess. The communiqué urged politicians to stop dragging traditional rulers into partisan politics.

ASUU chapter faults ABU VC selection process

From Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna

PROFESSOR Abdullahi Mustapha's election as Vice Chancellor of the Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) Zaria violated due process and the varsity's statutes just as the vice chancellor should not have contested for the position in the first place, Comrade Mu'azu Maiwada, the Acting Chairman of the university's chapter of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) said yesterday.

In a telephone interview with Daily Trust, the unionist alleged that unqualified people were made members of both Senate and Congregation of the university and as such, no credible selection of a substantive vice chancellor can come

out of this illegality. According to Maiwada, the union had consistently pointed this out to Alhaji Bunu Sherrif Musa, the chairman of the Governing Council but he paid no attention.

The varsity's law states that the number of persons who should be in the Senate from congregation, apart from professors, heads of department and deans, should be 30% of ex-officio members, he said. Maiwada listed directors, deans, provosts and heads of units that are statutorily recognised by the university laws as the ex-officio members that should constitute the said 30%.

By simple arithmetic, the unionist pointed out, most faculties will produce only two persons each from the congregation to represent them in the Senate, apart from pro-

fessors, heads of departments or deans, going by the 30% requirement. "However, in some instance, we ended up having about 6 to 8 representatives from certain faculties who are not even qualified," Maiwada said. He couldn't mention the erring faculties or those who are not qualified to be in the Senate.

The unionist also said that Professor Mustapha shouldn't have contested for the vice chancellorship in the first place because at 63, he is close to the retirement age of 65 years and will be required to leave office before his term expires. In addition, the law states that an officer who is nearing retirement age ought to resign from his position before taking up a substantive one, Maiwada said.

EFCC summons Siemens over €17.5m bribes

By Boco Edet

THE Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has invited Siemens, the German telecommunication firm, to give account of 17.5 million Euros allegedly used to corrupt top government officials in Nigeria.

EFCC Chairman Mrs. Farida Waziri told journalists yesterday in Abuja that top management staff of Siemens whose names featured prominently in the suspicious payments would be interrogated starting next Monday.

EFCC also grilled another set of ex-government officials

alleged to have benefitted from the bribery yesterday in continuation with its investigation.

Those who gave official statements include CEO Mobile Telecommunications (MTEL) Edwin Momfe, former Executive Director Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) Shuaibu Maigida and Permanent Secretary Power & Steel Ministry S.M Mahmood.

Three former ministers of communication – acting National Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Bello Halliru Mohammed, retired Maj-Gen Tajudeen Olan-

rewaju and Chief Corneliu Adebayo – were grilled last week.

The EFCC boss said, “We invited the ministers in the relevant ministries, and you know there were four ministers, one is late. Three of them have volunteered their statements and we have scrutinised their statements. We also invited CEOs of NITEL and PHCN and other related companies. They came in yesterday some are coming in today. By the end of this week they would have finished making their statement over allegations of monies given to them, air tickets, estacode and things

like that.

“Next week we are going to invite Siemens officials, the top management and some names that featured prominently in the case of bribery and we would link it up to Siemens AG and Siemens Nigeria and we are going to do that next week and try to round up our investigations.”

Court records in Germany and the United States, some of the countries where bribes were offered, have revealed that payments streamed to well-placed officials around the globe through a web of secret accounts and shadowy consultants.

On the conviction of the sister of former Delta state governor James Ibori by a U.K jury on charges of money laundering and mortgage fraud on Tuesday, Mrs. Waziri said she was delighted and prayed the judiciary in Nigeria would take a cue.

“Look at the dispatch with which that case was quickly disposed off and we should have that because after all those are our colonial masters and it is the same system we are using here. But what we have in Nigeria is delayed trial and adjournments. I am delighted to see that justice is been done,” she said.

Senior judiciary staff kidnapped in Abuja

By John Chuks Azu

A senior staff of the FCT judiciary Alhaji Ahmed Abdullahi Azare was abducted on his way home from work Tuesday night by armed hoodlums.

Azare, 45, is the head of the Revenue Department of the FCT Judiciary Headquarters, Maitama.

According to witnesses, Azare alighted from his ash-coloured Honda Accord car in front of his house located in Kubwa, FCT, around 8.45pm expecting to be received by his family but was accosted by some ‘grumpy-looking armed men’ numbering about five who came in two taxi cabs, apparently after trailing him from the town.

He was subsequently dragged back to his car and made to give up both his car keys and its security alert system.

“The hoodlums zoomed off with him in the middle after being sandwiched by two men at the back seat of his car while the two taxi cabs they initially came with followed behind,” the witness added.

Wife of the kidnapped judiciary worker, Jamilah, told *Daily Trust* that her husband has been kept incommunicado by his abductors.

She said the fact that no financial demands have been made makes it more difficult determining their mission.

She also described her husband as gentle, caring and peace-loving.

Though the case was said to have been filed at the Divisional Police Headquarters in Kubwa and Bwari, the FCT police spokesman SP Moshood Jimoh said the police were not aware of such report.



GOVERNOR Adebayo Alao-Akala of Oyo State (middle), Governor Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu of Niger State (left) and guest lecturer, Prof. Wande Abimbola, during the launching of a book titled “The Path of Destiny” and commemorative lecture as part of the programmes to mark Governor Akala's 60th birthday anniversary in Ibadan, yesterday.

FG: Niger Delta most successful of 7-point agenda

By Mohammed S. Shehu

THE Federal Executive Council (FEC) yesterday reviewed the administration's seven-point agenda and declared Niger Delta the most successful of the seven programmes introduced by the late President Umaru Yar'adua.

The pass mark on Niger Delta followed the presentation of an assessment report to the council by Minister of National Planning Shamsuddeen Usman yesterday.

Usman said the assessment started a year ago and focused on the implementation of the

overall 7-point Agenda and their successes, noting that the Niger Delta programme was “so valuable that it is being recorded as a major achievement in Nigeria.”

Usman said even though the focus of the appraisal was on implementation, emphasis were placed on “quality of life indicators.”

“It (Niger Delta) has had significant impact on peace all over the Nigeria. The review is to enable us know whether we have to be on track and focus on the future,” he said.

He explained that such method of assessment is used

successfully in other developing countries like India and Malaysia.

Usman said adherence to rule of law and electoral reforms have also been progressively successful “even though they are not like roads and bridges that you can easily see.”

Earlier, Information Minister Dora Akunyili said the report covered the activities and interventions under the seven key areas – critical infrastructure, human capital development, food security, Niger Delta development, land reform, security and rule of law and wealth crea-

tion – by the Federal Government of Nigeria from mid-2007 to December 2009.

She said the assessment gave a realistic picture of Federal Government's efforts to mitigate Nigeria's developmental challenges and set the economy on a higher pedestal for growth and development under the framework of the 7-Point Agenda.

“After consideration, council commended the Minister of National Planning and approved the memo as a guide to Council members in working to achieve their respective mandate.”

...jerks up N14bn road contract to N47bn

By Mohammed S. Shehu

CONTRACTS for the dualisation of Ibadan-Ilorin road section II and Oyo-Ogbomoso in Oyo State which were initially awarded at the cost of N14.3 billion in 2003 but could not commence due to paucity of funds were yesterday re-awarded at the

cost of N47.5 billion.

The Federal Executive Council also jerked up the construction of Kano western bye-pass in Kano State from N13 billion to N15 billion at its weekly meeting presided over by President Goodluck Jonathan at the Council Chamber of the Presidential Villa, Abuja.

The Kano project involves the

construction of a 26 kilometres long standard dual carriageway linking Zaria road with Katsina Road thus by-passing Kano metropolis.

Works Minister Sanusi Daggash, who presented memos for the contracts to the council, said the augmentation were due to increase in cost of procurement.

Information and Communications Minister Dora Akunyili, who briefed newsmen shortly after FEC alongside Daggash and National Planning Minister Shamsuddeen Usman, said the approvals were sequel to two memos presented to the council by Daggash seeking the council's approval.

Briton shoots 12, kills self

From Abdullahi Tasiu Abubakar, London

A British taxi driver went on a shooting spree yesterday killing twelve people and injuring 25 others before killing himself in Cumbria, United Kingdom.

Derrick Bird, 52, went berserk around 10:30 am and started the shooting spree in the coastal areas of Whitehaven, Seascale and

Egremont.

Many of his victims were said to be taxi drivers with some of whom he allegedly had arguments a day earlier.

Frightened shop keepers, office workers and people on the streets scamped for safety as he shot wildly. Police said shootings took place in 11 different locations.

Prime Minister David Cam-

eron said he was 'alarmed and shocked' by the incident while the leader of the Opposition Harriet Harman described it as "dreadful" and praised the police for their quick response.

Bird began the shootings in Whitehaven where he shot dead one taxi driver believed to be well-known to him before driving to Egremont and Seascale where he killed many more.

He then dumped his car and picked another to drive off before he abandoned the second car too and walked to the woodland in the village of Boots where he shot himself dead, police said.

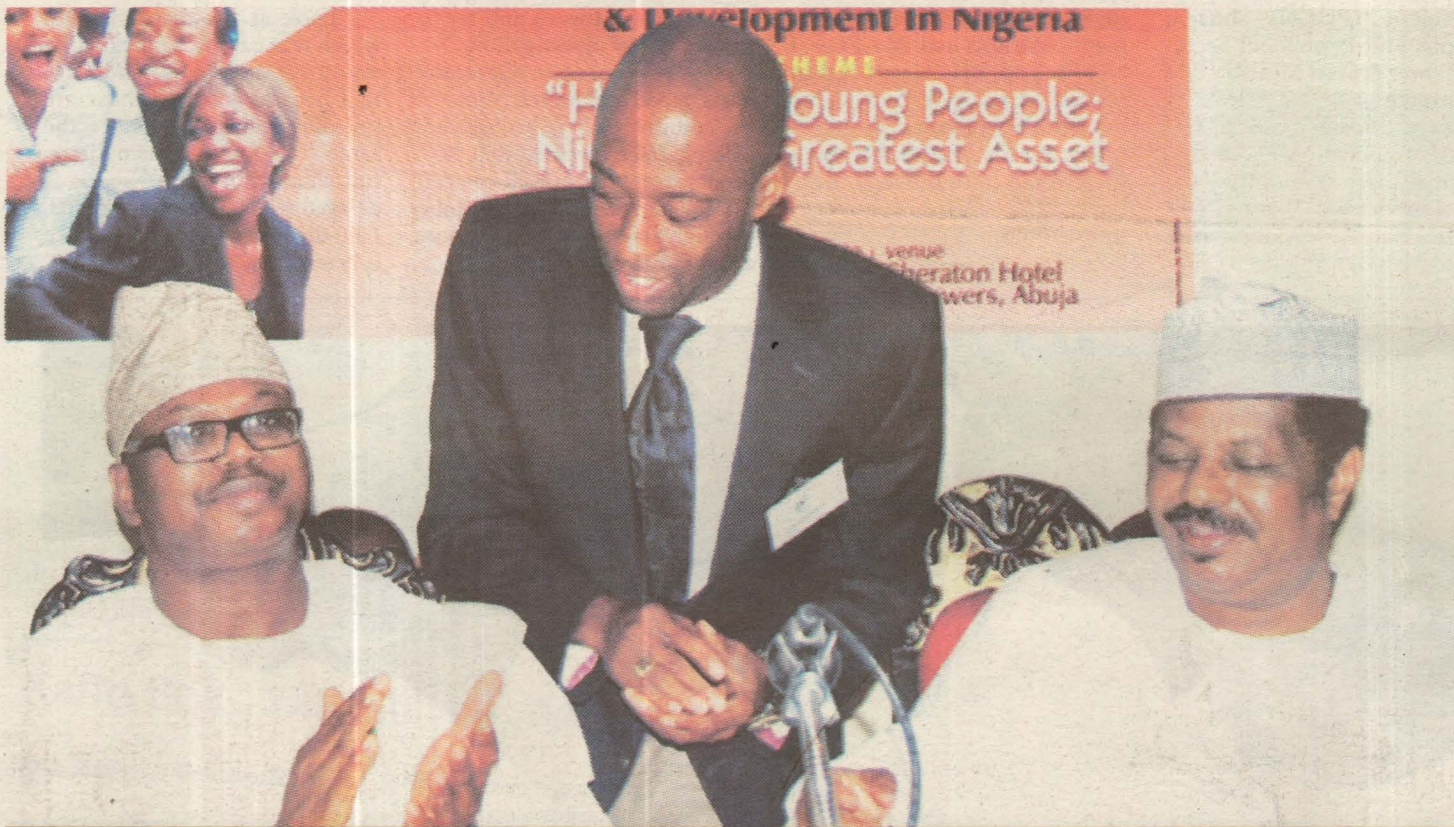
A local councillor who described Mr Bird as a quiet man said the whole thing apparently started as a quarrel between Bird and fellow taxi drivers.

Bird, a father of two, has spent

about 25 years working as a driver in the area before yesterday's incident.

Police had earlier launched a massive manhunt on land and in the air before calling it off after learning that the man had finally shot himself dead.

Police are investigating as witnesses too have been giving graphic account of the shootings to the local media.



From left: Minister of Youth and Development, Senator Akinlabi Olasunkanmi, Speaker, Nigerian Youth Parliament Mr Pnfoik Luke and Minister of State for Health Alhaji Suleiman Bello, at the national consultative forum on 'Advancing Young People's Health and Development in Nigeria'

Court dismisses el-Rufai's suit against AGF, IG

By Atika Balal

A suit filed by former Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Nasir el-Rufai against the Attorney General of the Federation (AGF) and the Inspector General of Police (IG) was yesterday dismissed by an Abuja Federal High Court.

El-Rufai went to court last year seeking an order of interim injunction restraining the AGF and IG from arresting, detaining or prosecuting him on the basis of the recommendations made by the Joint Committee of Senate on FCT and Housing pending the hearing and determination of a suit between him and the Senate before an Abuja Federal High Court.

The court had at the last adjourned date slated yesterday for mention but el-Rufai on June 1 filed a notice of withdrawal through his counsel, Tony Itedjere.

Itedjere said the former minister was no longer interested in going on with the matter.

But counsel to AGF, Dr. J.O. Olatoke argued that the matter was at a stage whereby the application should be dismissed and not withdrawn as el-Rufai had a similar suit before a Federal High Court in Lagos.

He told the court that a counter affidavit had already been filed in response to the plaintiff's claims.

But Itedjere said the counter affidavit had not been served on them when the notice of withdrawal was filed. He asked the court to grant their application for withdrawal and dismiss Olatoke's application for dismissal of the case.

Justice Gabriel Kolawole dismissed the case.

El-Rufai had challenged before an Abuja Federal High Court the decision of the Senate Committee which recommended that he should not be allowed to hold public office in Nigeria and that he should account for funds collected by the FCT Administration.

2011 polls: EFCC to procure more arms

By Boco Edet

ECONOMIC and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) intends to obtain more weapons for its operatives for protection before the 2011 elections.

EFCC Chairman Mrs. Farida Waziri said this yesterday while presenting a cheque of N9.7m as insurance benefits to the family of late Edoga Eze, an operative who was killed on duty while returning to Enugu from the Federal High Court, Owerri Imo State on March 19.

Mrs. Waziri said, "Before the next elections, we will release enough arms to our men to be able to defend themselves because the tempo of our work will surely rise and that means more foes for us." She lives of staff were being threatened and it would likely get more dangerous during the forthcoming elections.

Eze was in the company of five other officers when they were attacked by unknown gunmen and lost his life on the spot. Others escaped with severe gunshot injuries. He is the first beneficiary of the insurance cover for officials and assets of the commission initiated by Mrs. Waziri.

Eze's next of kin Eze Uchenna Thank God, accompanied by the deceased's mother and two siblings, while collecting the cheque on behalf of the family, said, "I want to thank everybody in EFCC for this. I know my father died on duty. May his soul rest in peace."

Mrs Waziri also offered to personally pay Uchenna's tuition fee for two sessions in the Secondary School he attends in Enugu.

Senate confirms Ukura as Auditor General

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

AGAINST stiff opposition from South-West senators, the Senate yesterday confirmed the appointment of Mr. Samuel Ukura from Benue State as the Auditor General of the Federation.

Mr. Ukura was nominated for the appointment last year by late President Umaru Musa Yar'adua but his confirmation was delayed due to protest from several stakeholders. The Senate Committee on Public Accounts chaired by Senator Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan (ANPP, Yobe North) that screened Ukura recommended his confirmation having found him qualified and fit for the job.

However, during yesterday's confirmation hearing, Senator Sola Akinyede (PDP, Ekiti) opposed the nomination of Ukura insisting that the Federal Civil Service Commission which recommended the nominee introduced unconstitutional requirements to disqualify two senior directors in the AGF's office from applying for the job. Also speaking on the matter, Senator Isiaka Adeleke (PDP, Osun) said the two senior directors were excluded from the process because they are from the south-west zone. But Senator Umaru Dahiru (PDP, Sokoto) said Section 86 of the Constitution is clear on who has the prerogative to appoint the AGF saying "The Constitution did not make recommendation for qualification, the President can nominate anybody irrespective of whether there are directors in the place or not."

After much debate on the matter, Senate President David Mark ruled that it is unfortunate that the matter was reduced to an ethnic issue. When the question was put, overwhelming majority of senators voted in support of Ukura's confirmation while those from the south-west voted against.

'FG not given police torture report'

By Misbahu Bashir

MINISTER of Police Affairs Adamu Maina Waziri has said that the report of Amnesty International accusing the police of torturing suspects was not presented to the ministry.

Amnesty International had accused the police of assaulting and killing suspects and detainees in its recent report. "I have not read the report. Those who prepared it have not deemed it necessary that as a ministry in charge of police, we deserve a copy."

One would have expected that in such reports, they would be able to give us place, time and the names of officers allegedly involved in those illegalities so that we can take corrective measures against them. I am a democrat and I am against any illegal form of detention and torture by the police," the minister said.

The minister said this while briefing journalists at a conference in Abuja, a statement by Press Secretary in the ministry, James Odaudu, said.

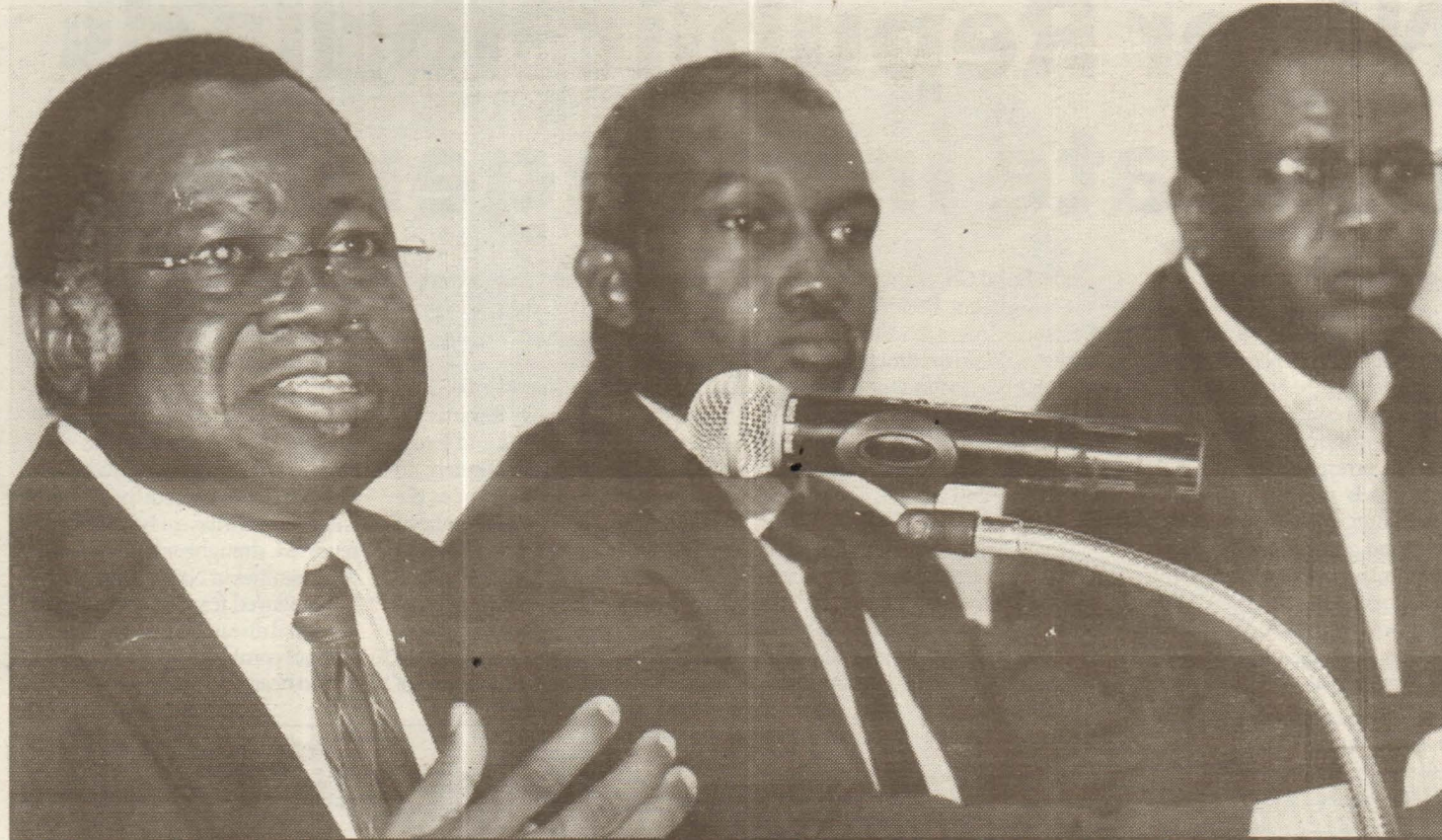


PHOTO: FELIX ONIGBINDE

FROM left: Lead Procurement Analyst, World Bank, Chief Bayo Awoosemusi, Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Public Procurement Yusuf Maitama Tuggar and National Coordinator, Public Private Development Centre, Mr Chibuzo Ekwewuo, at the inauguration of the Nigerian Procurement Monitoring Observatory in Abuja, yesterday.

Senate okays harmonised version of constitution review

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

THE harmonised version of the amendment to the 1999 Constitution as agreed by a panel of the two chambers of the National Assembly was approved yesterday by the Senate.

85 senators representing over the required two-third majority required voted in favour of all the sections in the harmonised amendments.

Speaking after the adoption of the harmonised amendment, Senate President David Mark said the upper legislative chamber has made history by taking the Constitution review process to this level, adding that "This is the first time that we will be getting to this point in recent efforts at altering sections of the Constitution."

Mark said "We are going to talk to Speakers of states Houses of Assembly, so that we can have this process completed as quickly as possible," Mark added.

Bankole, Ogunewe exchange blows

Continued from page 1

because the legislator himself was not at home. Unimpressed by the Speaker's peace overtures, Ogunewe reportedly said, "If you met my wife, it means that you were not invited to my house. Why then are you blackmailing me? What have I done to you?"

More attempts by Bankole to exchange pleasantries with Ogunewe were snubbed. When the speaker persisted, Ogunewe heatedly declared that Bankole was not welcome in his house and he said the Speaker could only have gone to see his wife, not him. As Bankole moved away and walked towards the House chamber, Ogunewe hissed loudly and said, "What is this mad man saying?" This infuriated Bankole, who turned around and threw a punch at Ogunewe, but was quickly held back by the Minority Leader Mohammed Ali Ndume (ANPP, Borno) and Rep. Khadija Bukar Abba Ibrahim (ANPP, Yobe). The two of them stood between the two men as they hurled insults at each other.

When he eventually entered the chamber, Speaker Bankole took his seat and asked that the House dissolve into a closed door meeting. The executive session began at 4.05 pm and ended at 5.45 pm when the House adjourned for the day. It did not consider any of the items listed on the day's order paper, including the final passage of the 1999 constitution amendments as harmonized by the two chambers. The House also gave no reasons for its inaction.

Bankole and Ogunewe have been at each other's throat for a long time, and Ogunewe is a prominent member of the Nigeria First Forum, a pressure group in the House that has been pushing for Bankole's removal as Speaker, allegedly with the backing of the Jonathan Presidency.

In February 2009, the House suspended Ogunewe for 14 legislative days for what they called "un-parliamentary conduct." The suspension order, which was given by the speaker, was read by the House's deputy chief whip Aminu Waziri Tambuwal (PDP, Sokoto), which made Ogunewe the first and only member of the House to be suspended in this legislative term.

Rep. Ita Enang (PDP, Akwa Ibom), chairman of the House Committee on Rules and Business and Rep. Esemey Eyiboh (PDP, Akwa Ibom), chairman of the House Committee on Information later briefed newsmen and denied that there was a brawl.

However, a member who does not want his name in print told *Daily Trust* that the closed door meeting was used to discuss the crisis. He said, "We could not reconcile them. Some people were calling for the suspension of Rep. Ogunewe, which angered other people. However, the calls were dropped when Ogunewe apologised. He was told to stop attacking the speaker on the pages of newspapers. We are going to meet this night in the Speaker's house to try to resolve the issue once and for all."

ICPC handcuffs, whisks away per msec

Continued from page 1

The ICPC operatives had earlier called on the Permanent Secretary at around 2pm and tried to whisk her away, but she resisted, saying the commission had already written a letter asking her to come to ICPC's offices with some documents on June 7. She wondered why she should be arrested before the appointed date. But the operatives retreated to their office, organised reinforcements and returned to the Transport Ministry in two vehicles. They cordoned the office, grabbed Dr Abebe, handcuffed her and whisked her away.

Minister of Transport Alhaji Yusuf Sulaiman was attending the Federal Executive Council meeting at the State House. When he heard what happened, he drove straight to the ICPC headquarters for a meeting with its chairman, Justice Emmanuel Ayoola. Soon afterwards, the perm sec was released.

Chief Press Secretary of the Ministry Mr Kingsley Agha, who confirmed the report, said the Ministry was embarrassed over the attitude of the ICPC operatives. "They wrote a letter reference ICPC/NR/P/NC/443/2009/SDD/TB1 dated June 2 requesting her to see them in their office along with some documents on Monday, June 7.

The letter was submitted the same day it was written. Just today, being June 3, four days to the date they fixed, they stormed this office and forcefully dragged her away. That is not how to work," he said.

A copy of the ICPC letter inviting the Permanent Secretary that was made available to *Daily Trust*, read in part: "The ICPC is conducting an investigation which borders on violation of the provisions of Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act 2000.

Of which it has become necessary to interview you and the Secretary of the Tenders Board Committee in respect of the award of contract for the rehabilitation of railway track and signal network (Contract 1) Lagos to Jebba, to CCECC Nigeria Limited.

"In this regard and pursuant to section 28 (1) (a) & (b) of the Corrupt Practices and other related offences Act 2000, you are therefore requested to appear before Wellington Nkemadu of Special Duties Department, First floor, room 39, on Monday 7th June, 2010 at the Commission's headquarters, plot 802, Constitution Avenue, Abuja, 10.00am prompt for the purpose of being examined. You are requested to produce the following documents:

"Pre-qualification papers of all the contractors that participated in the bid, tenders document, minutes of bid clarification meeting, minutes of bid opening, guidelines on procurement (if any) for the award of the contract, observers report, recorded procurement proceedings, certified duplicate copy of letter of award of contract and technical analysis made to the Bureau for Public Procurement," the letter read in part.

But Dr Abebe who was not in the ministry when the contract was awarded, minuted on the letter to the Director Rail and Mass Transit, saying, "I know this was done by NRC (Nigeria Railway Corporation). Confirm this and forward to acting Managing Director to obtain all doc (documents) and to report on Monday here before we proceed to ICPC."

Hours after she minuted on the ICPC's letter, its agents stormed her office on the sixth floor, handcuffed her and dragged her down the staircase into a waiting vehicle.

A source at the ICPC however gave *Daily Trust* a differ-

ent account of what happened at the Transport Ministry. He said ICPC's agents and the permanent secretary Dr. Abigail Abebe got into a fight yesterday and exchanged abusive words "after she was summoned on allegations that monies meant for the execution of capital projects were misappropriated."

The source said the operatives were dispatched to the Ministry to extend an invitation letter for interrogation to Dr. Abebe, "but the visit assumed another dimension when both parties became violent." The official said, "She attacked one of our operatives, tore his clothes and injured him."

He said Dr. Abebe "was subsequently subdued by the operatives who handcuffed her and whisked her away to the headquarters of ICPC at Constitution Avenue, Central Business District in Abuja."

Another ICPC source told *Daily Trust* that she was followed by the Transport Minister Alhaji Yusuf Suleiman and Head of Federal Service Steve Oronsaye, who intervened on her behalf.

The source said, "The Head of Service nearly fought one of our security men at the gate. They arrived in five black jeeps with plate numbers- FG 03 Q41, BA 943 KWL, PR 195 KWL, BH 471 BRN and HG 627 ABJ." Dr. Abebe was later released in the evening.

ICPC said it is probing the execution of 2009 capital projects in all Federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) across Nigeria. So far, 74 out of the 321 MDAs have responded to a directive to submit details of their projects which they have undertaken.

The Commission also said it set up an ad-hoc Committee to verify the reports submitted by the MDAs and those who failed to initially respond have been given a June 20 deadline to do so.

Women protest Ondo monarch's action

From Adewale Giwa, Akure

MEMBERS of the National Council Of Women Societies in the 18 local government areas of Ondo State yesterday protested over the recent assault on Olori Bolanle Adesina by her husband, the Deji of Akure, Oluwadare Adesina.

Addressing journalists in Akure, the president of the association, Princess Iyabo Akinlagbe, faulted the action, saying a traditional ruler should lay a good legacy for the people. She called on women in the country not to allow the matter to go uninvestigated.

"We want violence against women to stop, we want the Ondo State government to bail women out of maltreatment. What the monarch did should be looked into with a view to making sure that women are not maltreated in future. We cannot continue to hide this kind of uncouth behavior demonstrated by a first class monarch. Women are not slaves and we cannot allow any man to maltreat us. I am not happy with what happened, if he wants to divorce the woman, he should have followed due process," she said.

Meanwhile, Olori Bolanle has petitioned the Ondo State government, Nigeria Union of Journalists and the Director of State Security Service. In a petition written by her counsel, Ibraheem Aganun, she called on Governor Mimiko to ensure that justice is done, saying the matter was not a domestic affair as claimed by the monarch.

Women allege discrimination in Imo PDP

From Johnkennedy Uzoma, Owerri

PEOPLES Democratic Party (PDP) women members in Imo State yesterday protested over what they described as discrimination and marginalization by the party.

The women who turned out in their numbers carried placards with inscriptions such as, "No Women No Elections", Deputy, You have disappointed Women", Imo Women Say No To Marginalization", PDP, where are the women."

The state woman leader of the party, Lady Ugochi Nnanna-Okoro, in a petition submitted to the secretariat lamented the discrimination of women during the party's selection of candidates for the August 7 local government election in the state.

She said of the 27 local government councils in the state, only 3 chairmanship slots were given to women. She said a situation where women are relegated to the position of cheerers, dancers and stewards would no longer be tolerated, urging the leadership of the party to look into the matter. The state chairman of the party, Prince Marcellinus Nlimigbo, said the party was gender sensitive and promised to look into the matter.

Niger Republic nomads migrate into Nigeria

From Hamza Idris, Damaturu

NIGERIEN nomads and their cattle are moving into Nigeria through the border in Yobe State in search of pasture as a result of drought said to be affecting the country.

Our correspondent learnt that the nomads alongside their wives and children as well as herds of cow, sheep and goats enter the country through the international borders in Machina, Gaidam and Yunusari Local Government Areas of Yobe.

Sixty five year-old Buba Kari, who was seen along Garin-Itace in

Gujba Local Government Area said the movement became necessary because prices of foodstuff had skyrocketed due to the drought in Niger.

"There is no food for us and our animals. We have to leave the Sahel region and move towards places where we can get food and water for our people and animals before they die," he said.

Daily Trust learnt that most of the nomads were from Nigerien villages of Maine Soroa, Kaoula, Diffa and Kanada, all close to Yobe State.

Another nomad, Jime Hamma, who claimed to have travelled along

with his family and cows from the state of Agadas in Niger, said poor rainfall was responsible for the migration.

"Our destination is not Yobe State, we hope to move towards the Savannah, along Benue and Cross River states, but will definitely go back to our country as soon as the situation improves. We have been suffering for long and our children and animals are emaciating," he said.

The Programmes Manager of Yobe State Livestock Development Programme Dr. Mustapha Gaidam confirmed the mass movement of

the nomads into the country, adding that many of them stay for a day or two in grazing reserves in Katarko, Alagarno and Mashio, all in Yobe State before proceeding. "The grazing reserves here are rich and there is water for the nomads and their animals. Actually, the movement of nomads is seasonal, but the situation is aggravated this year because of the reported draught affecting many communities in Niger," he said.

He allayed fears of any outbreak of animal disease, saying most of the animals coming from Niger Republic had been vaccinated.

PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE



MANAGING Director, Mobil Oil Mr. Tunji Oyebanji (middle) being assisted by Etsu Jikwoyi Dr. Bawa Jetta (2nd left), dealer Mobil Jikwoyi Filling Station Mrs. Muti Makanjuola (2nd right) to cut the commemorative cake to mark the 2010 Mobil Customers' Week in Jikwoyi, Abuja, yesterday.

Money doubling firm flees with investors' funds

From Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

A money doubling firm, Trend Spin Resources Limited, has fled Katsina State with about N100 million belonging to investors. Our correspondent gathered that the investors of the firm were billed to collect their money, including the 70 percent interest on their investment Tuesday, but were asked by the officials of the firm to return yesterday for the money. But when they got there yesterday, the office was deserted.

The investors created a scene at the premises of the firm as some of them fainted due to shock. Some of them attempted to destroy the office, but were prevented by policemen. The police also appealed to them to remain calm, saying they would do everything within their powers to track down the owners of the company.

The company which opened in the state about six months ago, claimed to deal in forex and guar-

anteed their customers a 75 percent profit on whatever they invest in 21 working days. Our correspondent observed that a few minutes after the disappearance of the Trend officials, customers of another money doubling firm, Keneza, which has been in the state for only a month, besieged the office to demand for their money.

But Alan Skoni, an employee of Keneza said theirs was different from Trends and assured customers of a 95 percent monthly interest on their investments, saying Keneza deals in oil and gas. Most of the victims are students and youth corps members as well as businessmen. Sunday Oga, a student of the Federal College of Education (FEC) Katsina, said he invested all his life savings with the hope of using the interest to pay his school fees.

The state Police Public Relation Officer (PPRO) ASP Suleiman Isiaku said he had been directed not to make comments until investigation into the matter was concluded.

NSE explains cause of Kano Kwari market fire

From Auwalu Umar, Kano

ALMOST three months after the fire outbreak at the famous textile market of Kantin Kwari in Kano in which several millions of naira worth of textile materials were consumed, the Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE) has said that the fire might not be unconnected with the lack of effective security arrangements in the market.

In a paper presented to the Kano State government on the recent fire disaster at the market, the engineers observed that there were no fire hydrants and no water in the market's distribution mains.

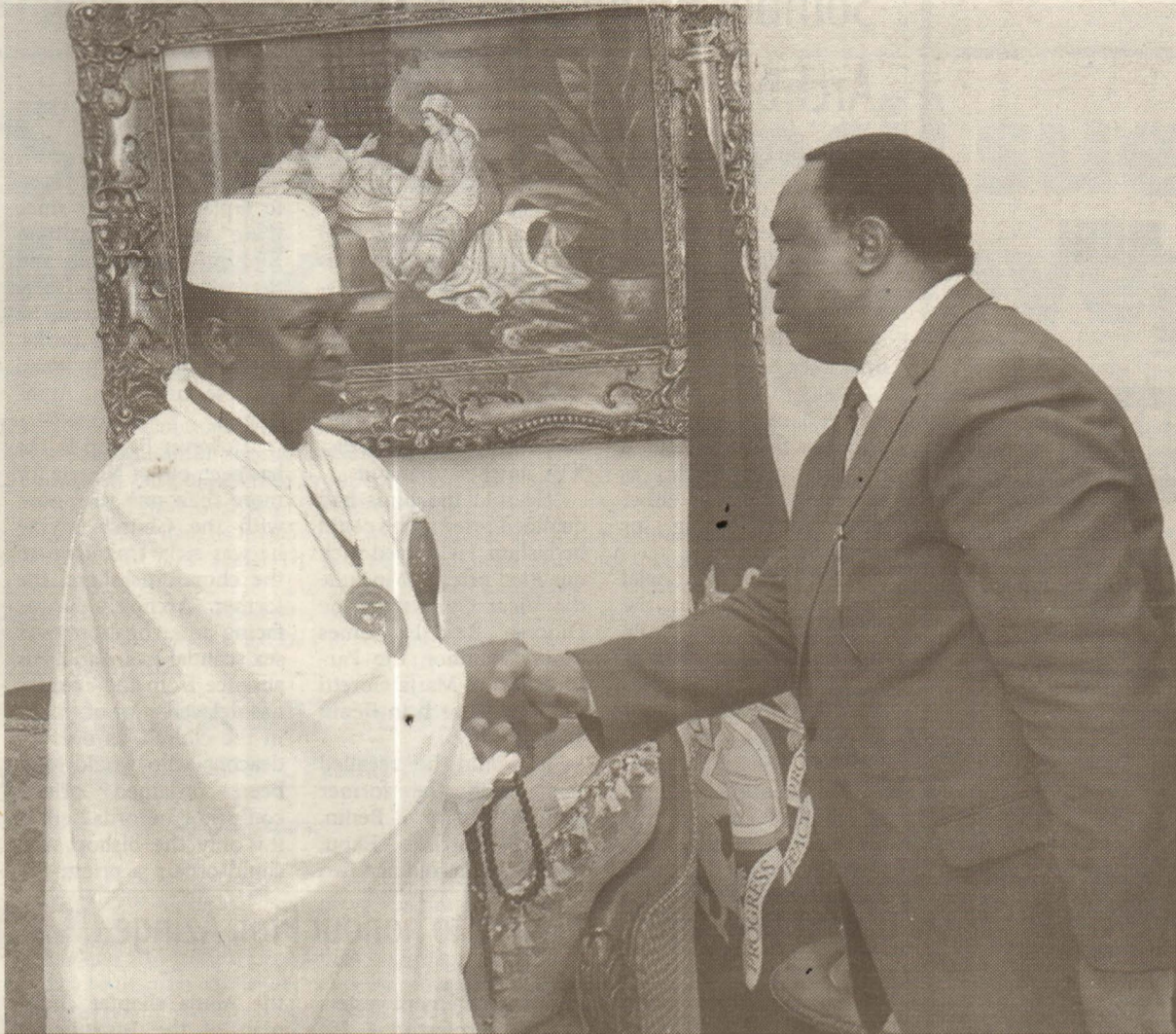
"This is besides the fact that none of the shopping complexes had a water storage reservoir, let alone an emergency water reserve for firefighting," they said.

Presenting the paper to state Commissioner for Projects Monitoring Alhaji Ibrahim Garba, NSE

chairman Kano branch, Engineer A A Rabi, said the most affected buildings were storey shopping blocks arranged in rectangular forms with open court yards that were completely occupied by temporary wooden stalls erected by smaller cloth merchants, who could not afford to rent permanent shops.

"As a result of the temporary structures, there was no free access for vehicles and therefore fire engines found it difficult to reach the venue of the fire outbreak," they observed.

He said although the shops were built to house highly combustible (textiles) materials, they were constructed like any common building without fire resistant materials. This, he said, could have been one of the reasons for the spread of the fire. The engineers then advised government and market committees to provide free access for vehicles into their various markets.



GAMBIAN President Yaya Jammeh [left] with Prof. John Kester, member, Board of Trustees, Shaw University, North Carolina, USA, during the presentation of Shaw University Distinguished Service award to the President recently.

No plan to sack workers, says labour minister

By Francis Okeke

THE Federal Government has no plan to sack any worker as part of its civil service reform proposals, Minister of Labour and Productivity Chief Emeka Wogu has said.

Wogu said the Federal Government would not with one hand give to the populace and take same with another hand.

The minister said in a press statement signed by his media aide, Emmanuel Aziken, that the clarification was in response to newspaper reports claiming plans to sack 50,000 federal workers under an alleged scheme of trimming the civil service.

"President Goodluck Jonathan has in various ways demonstrated his sincere empathy with Nigerian workers both physically and otherwise. The latest of such his gestures was his quick approval of the recommendations to bridge

the disparity in the salary scheme of the core civil service," Wogu said.

"It is as such out of place for him to go against his track record of proclivity to the interests of Nigerian workers by approving the plans to unduly retrench workers.

He said rather than retrenching and adding to the misery of the citizens, the government through the Ministry of Labour is actively promoting employment of more citizens either in the public service or in the empowerment of business entrepreneurs.

Wogu explained that "as such, I want to emphatically declare that there is no such proposal to retrench civil servants for whatever purpose. "This government declaration, however, does not in any way exclude the removal from service of workers who are disciplined using existing civil service regulations," he cautioned.

Nigeria: Israel's attack on Gaza-bound ship unjustified

By Aisha Umar Agaie & Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

NIGERIA'S Permanent Representative to the United Nations Professor Joy Ogwu says Nigeria is dismayed over the assault on a Gaza bound aid flotilla which left 10 people dead and several others wounded.

"We extend our sympathies to the families of the dead and the wounded," Ogwu was quoted as saying in a statement after an emergency consultation of the Security Council on the Middle East.

"This incident is unfortunate and regrettable as it has come at a critical time when two rounds of proximity talks have already taken place between Israel and Palestine," Ogwu said, adding that "The maximum use of force to intercept an international humanitarian convoy is not only unnecessary, but more importantly, has

created a new situation that could unleash fresh unrests with grave consequences for peace in the Middle East."

While urging maximum restraint by all parties, the Nigerian diplomat called for a full inquiry into this "unjustified violence with a view to bringing those responsible to account for their actions."

Meanwhile, Director of the Muslim Awareness International (MAI) Mr. Haroon Thani said the Israeli Ambassador to Nigeria should be summoned by the government to explain the reasons of the evil attack.

Mr. Thani also called on the UN Security Council to denounce Israel's action and set up an independent investigation team to unravel its cause and if possible sanction Israel from the council for violating International Convention on the use of force and arms over the years.

Senate promises legislation to help NEPAD

By Sunday Williams

SENATE Committee on Cooperation, Integration in Africa/NEPAD has agreed to put in place an appropriate legislation to help the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) in the execution of its agenda.

Special Assistant to the President on NEPAD Ambassador Tunji Olagunju had called for an Act on enforcement capabilities and sufficient technical and financial resources to enable NEPAD commitments to be fulfilled.

Olagunju spoke yesterday in Abuja when the Senate committee visited him on oversight function.

He said the Act will help them to enforce the implementation of the National Programme of Action, the recruitment and develop-

ment of skilled professionals to undertake its task as well as monitoring and evaluation of global standards, both public and private sectors.

Olagunju said the committee needs to redefine the principles and instruments of the country's development policy as well put in place an effective mechanism for monitoring and evaluation of service delivery.

Speaking, the Senate Committee members agreed that NEPAD lacks autonomy and need an Act establishing it in order to be effective in delivering its mandate.

Chairman of the committee Senator Gorge Akume urged the NEPAD management to submit the draft of the Act adding that: "the ball is in your court. When we see the draft bill, we will swing into action."

GSM registration law underway

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

A bill seeking to provide for registration of mobile phone subscribers by every telecommunication service providers in the country yesterday passed second reading on the floor of the Senate.

Sponsor of the bill Senator George Thompson Sekibo (PDP, Rivers East) said the proposed law is "To ensure responsible usage of any mobile number and services by the respective owners, and to prevent the occurrence of certain abuses of such services."

Sekibo said mobile phones have been used to perpetrate criminal activities and atrocities that have posed risk to the society and difficulties to security agencies because the phones are not registered.

"The wide and free ownership of mobile phone numbers without stringent checks has

brought with it a lot of disadvantages. Consequently, GSM phones are now being used to commit all manner of crimes and atrocities."

He said the proposed law will also require foreigners resident in Nigeria or visiting the country to provide their International Passport for identification before using mobile phones in the country.

Speaking during the debate, Senator Abubakar Danso Sodangi (PDP, Nasarawa West) said "There is no other country in the world where you can just pick a SIM card from the street without providing your personal data. This bill will enable our security agencies to track down criminals that abuse the GSM by using it to perpetrate crime."

After the debate, the bill was read a second time and sent to the Senate Committee on Communications for further legislative actions.

2011: FG considers trust fund for women

By Akor Ojoma

MINISTER of Women Affairs and Social Development Iyom Josephine Anenih said the Federal Government is considering setting up a special trust for women to enable them fund their campaign and achieve their potentials in next year's general elections.

The minister said this during a meeting with the thirty-six states commissioners of women affairs in Abuja, yesterday.

She said lack of funds has been the major setback for most women politicians thus necessitating the setting up of the trust fund.

Mrs. Anenih said the trust fund will take off before the end of the year and will give out loans to women politicians through various political interest groups.

The minister said women political rally has been scheduled for the 21st to 22nd of June in Abuja where various women political interest groups will create awareness on what they have to offer if given positions of leadership.

She said the summit is not going to align with any political party but will draw its womenfolk from all the political parties, relevant authorities, NGOs and other international organisations.



THE FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, MUBI

P.M.B. 35

MUBI- ADAMAWA STATE

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The Rector, Federal Polytechnic, Mubi, Dr. Mustapha Mohammed Barau on behalf of the Governing Council and the Academic Board invites the general public to the 11th Combined Convocation Ceremony of the Institution for the conferment of Honorary distinguished Fellowship, Award of Higher and National Diplomas, Diplomas, Certificates and presentation of prizes.

2. The Convocation is to take place on Saturday, 5th June, 2010 at 9:00am at the Convocation Square, The Federal Polytechnic, Mubi.
3. During the occasion, Eminent Nigerian Personalities will be conferred with Honorary distinguished fellowship of the institution.
4. The convocation will be preceded by the Convocation Lecture on Friday, 4th June, 2010 by 10:00am at the Abubakar Isa Ahmadu Multipurpose Hall on the following topics:
 - a. Challenges Facing Tertiary Education Administration in Nigeria
 - b. Challenges Facing Tertiary Education in Nigeria: The Way Forward.
5. The Lecture will be delivered by Professors Isa Chiroma and Idris Mohammed Bugaje.
6. Professor Alkasum Abba, Vice Chancellor, Adamawa State University, Mubi is the distinguished Chairman of the convocation lecture

In addition to 100% success in NBTE Accreditations for all its programmes, the Federal Polytechnic Mubi has successfully gained a 5 year full ICAN accreditation for its ND and HND Accountancy programme. This is as a result of strict Institutional quality assurance and effective adherence to standards in teaching and learning with comprehensive in-depth practical application of knowledge and skills acquisition as necessary ingredients for Techno-entrepreneurship development. The ICAN Accreditation for the ND and HND Accountancy programme is for a period of five academic sessions running from 2009/2010, academic session up to 2012/2013 respectively.

SIGNED
ALH. SULAIMAN SA'AD BUBA
REGISTRAR

Somber mood among Edo Catholics over Archbishop's resignation

From Vincent Egunyanga, Benin

MEMBERS of the Catholic church in Benin, Edo State, are in shock and disbelief over news of the recent resignation of their Archbishop, Richard Burke, over a sex scandal.

Visits to most parishes in the Archdiocese to get reactions from the church members were futile as some of the priests either went into hiding or refused to speak.

The Director of Social Communications in the Archdiocese, Rev. Fr. Stephen Okojie as well as the Chancellor of the Diocese Rev. Fr. Mike Oyanofoh refused to speak.

The resignation has in the meantime, opened up another crisis in the diocese as the Binis are insisting that the new

bishop to replace Richard Burke must be their kinsman.

The leader of the Bini Elders Forum who is also a Catholic, Professor Emmanuel Emovon, told *Daily Trust* in Benin yesterday that the Binis would make another representation to the Catholic pontiff, Pope Benedict XVI on their demand.

He said the Binis had qualified priests who could be bishop. He named such qualified priests to include the Vicar General of the Diocese, Rev. Fr. James Mary Okunbor, the Parish Priest of Maria Goretti Catholic Church in Benin among others.

It would be recalled that when the former Catholic bishop of Benin, Bishop Patrick Ekpu, retired due to old age two

years ago, the Binis clamoured for a Bini priest to replace him. But since there was no qualified Bini priest available and the Pope did not want any ethnic crisis in Nigeria, he transferred Bishop Burke, an Irish man, from Warri Diocese to Benin as Archbishop.

However Bishop Burke has been out of Nigeria for more than one year now, with the Church saying he was sick. Unknown to the church members, the former Archbishop was facing interrogation over sex scandal in Ireland. His absence from the country has delayed a lot of things in the church, as over 10 deacons who would have been ordained priests could not be ordained as it is only the bishop who could ordain a priest.

Asaba Development Union to honour Prof. Azinge

THE Asaba Development Union in Abuja has concluded arrangements to honour Professor Epiphany Azinge (SAN) on his recent appointment as Director General of the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies. The chairman of the organizing committee, Chief Fred Okonta (FCA)

said in a statement yesterday that Professor is also being honoured in a grand reception in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the development of Asaba in particular and the renewed input to the legal institution since he assumed duties there. Chief Okonta, who is also

the Abuja chapter chairman of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) said the grand reception, slated for Saturday June 5, 2010 at the Bolton White Hotel, Abuja is open to all sons, daughters and friends of Asaba to come and honour Professor Azinge.

'Physically challenged children can go to school'

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

PARENTS of physically challenged children who believe that they are destined to be professional beggars should drop this notion and send their children to school.

The Coordinator/Chairman, Unity Education Empowerment Initiatives (UEEI) retired Squadron Leader Aminu Bala

Sokoto made the call at the presentation of 10 wheel chairs to needy students of the Adisa Raji Special School Sokoto yesterday.

The coordinator said UEEI's gesture was borne out of sympathy for some students who crawl even in hot weather.

He expressed the hope that the gesture would reduce their hardship and assist in their movement to and from school.

Bala Sokoto called on other groups and individuals to assist the physically challenged.

He appealed to Hausa media, writers, scholars and physically challenged organisations to come up with a more befitting name to replace the word NAKASASSU, adding that the word means "disabled" which has since been replaced with 'Physically Challenged'.

Don decries educational policy inconsistency

From Halima Musa, Kano

THE Dean, Faculty of Education, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Professor J. A. Gwani, has identified policy inconsistency and constant curriculum changes as the causes of decline in the Nigeria's education sector.

Gwani said in a paper he presented in a conference at the Federal Col-

lege of Education, Kano that developed countries hardly change their curriculums because of the devastating effect. He noted that the school curriculum was meant to be fully followed to ensure success and continuity.

"Constant changes in school curricula are not good for education. They are changed meticulously to avoid unfavourable

results", he said.

He blamed government for politicising the sector, saying, "Education in Nigeria has been severely politicised to the extent that the state and federal governments have committed themselves for political reasons, to establishing schools, colleges and universities far beyond what the economy can reasonably sustain."

'Kano procured 5.6m bags of fertilizer in 8 yrs'

From Auwalu Umar & Ruqayyah Yusuf Aliyu, Kano

KANO State government procured and sold 5.6 million bags of fertilizer to farmers in the state at sub-

sided rates between 2003 and date, Governor Ibrahim Shekarau disclosed yesterday.

Speaking at the launch of this year's rainy season fertilizer sales at Yunfawa

village in Dawakin Tofa local government area, the governor said about 200,000 bags of the commodity would be sold to farmers at N1000 per bag this year.

Shariah council sues NHRC, Mark, Bankole over Yarima

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

THE Supreme Council for Shariah in Nigeria (SCSN) has instituted a legal action against the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Senate President David Mark and the Speaker of the House Representatives Dimeji Bankole for what it described as interference in the private life of Senator Ahmed Sani Yarima. The case which was instituted at a Federal High Court in Abuja is to be heard today in Court 5 and to be presided over by Justice Adamu Bello. In a motion of notice filed by the counsel to the coun-

cil, Mohammed Sani Katu, the council said the NHRC by writing a petition to the Senate president against Senator Yarima over his alleged marriage to a 13 year old Egyptian girl infringed on the senator's rights to privacy and family.

The SCSN added that the Senate president and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by referring the petitions to their committees on ethics and public petitions for investigation also infringed on Yarima's rights.

The council in suit number, FHC/ ABJ/CS/334/10 is seeking an order for the enforcement of Senator Yarima's right to private and family life and right to freedom of

thought, conscience and religion as guaranteed under sections 37 and 38 of the 1999 constitution.

It argued that the reliance on section 21 of the Child Right Act 2003 by the NHRC to petition the Senate president and the Speaker conflicts with the letters of the 1999 constitution which protects every citizens' right to practice, propagate and manifest the doctrine of his/her religion. The council is asking for an order of perpetual injunction restraining the respondents, their agents or privies from taking any steps, decisions or action in relation to the subject matter of the suit.

College expels 27 students over exam malpractice

From Muhammad Abubakar, Bauchi

THE College of Education, Azare in Bauchi State has dismissed 27 NCE and PGDE students for examination malpractice. A circular from the college signed by the Examinations and Record Officer Hamza Gumbama said the decision to dismiss the students was taken at the 113th Academic Board Meeting of the college held on March 9, 2010. The students were from the Schools of Post Graduate Studies in Education, Vocational Education, Languages, Education, Social Sciences and Sciences.

Commissioner campaigns for women in Borno

From Yahaya Ibrahim, Maiduguri

WOMEN in Borno State are being marginalized and this marginalization is manifest in the low participation of women in politics in the state, the Commissioner for Education Dr Ashabe Vilita Bashir has said. The commissioner said this in a speech delivered at a workshop on 'Building skills for effective political practice for female politicians' in Maiduguri. The workshop was organized by the Legal Defense and Assistance Project (LEDAP), a Non Governmental Organization. The commissioner who was represented by the Chairman of the Borno State chapter of the National Council of Women Societies, Mrs Zara Mamza, said the performance of women in the last general election in the state was very poor, saying only one woman contested for the House of Representatives and three for positions in the local council.

"Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) emphasizes that 30 percent of the cabinet should be women and the Nigerian government says 35 percent, but this has not been achieved," she added.

She said women were facing a lot of challenges, which include, religious and traditional believes, none gender sensitive structures in political parties, lack of support from fellow women, lack of capacity on the side of women politicians and high level of illiteracy.

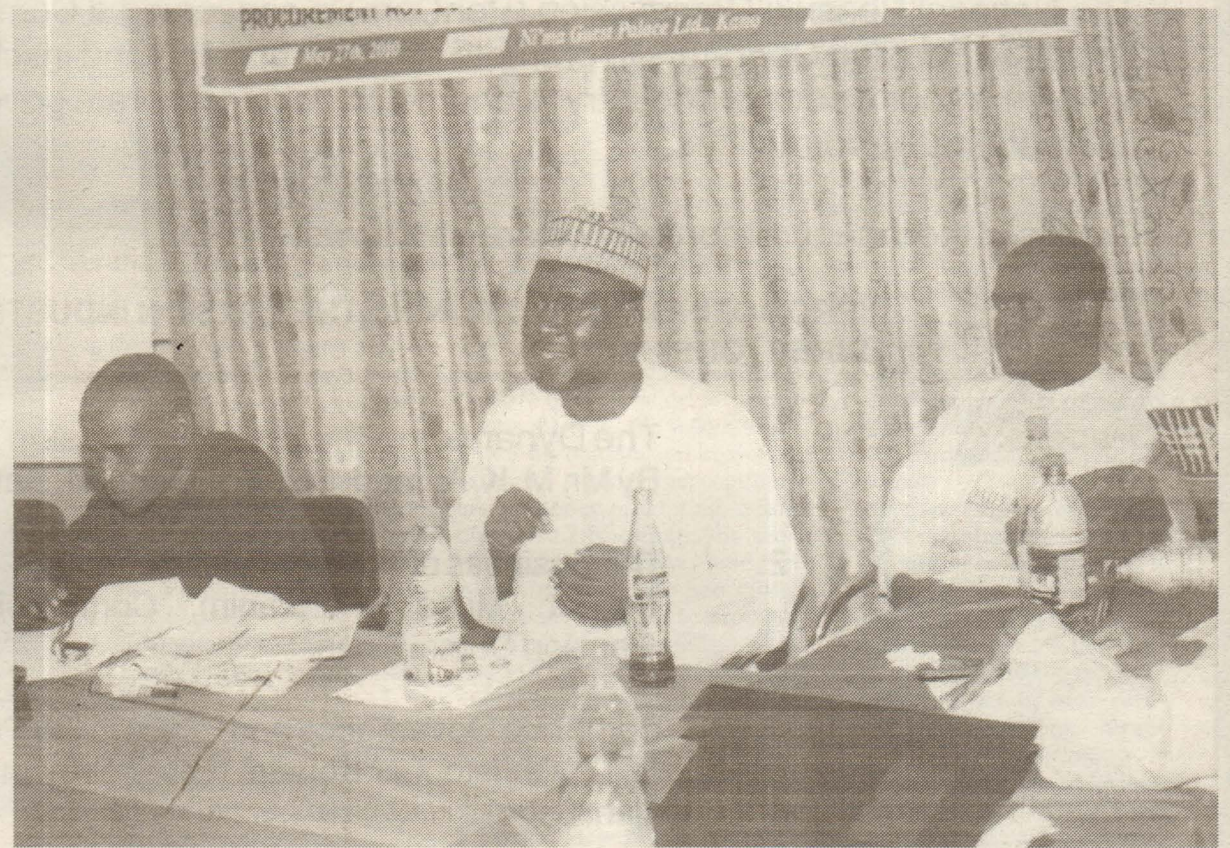
She maintained that women who are civil servants in the state, yet want to go into politics should be assured of job security, saying many of them were scared of losing their jobs if they do not win the elections. More than 50 women from different political parties participated in the two day workshop.

Rivers set to carry out statewide anti-malaria spray

From Muhammad Bello, Port Harcourt

THE Rivers State government says it will spray an insecticide, larvaticides throughout the state to rid it of mosquitoes. The Secretary to the Rivers State Government Mr Magnus Abe who spoke on behalf of Governor Chibuike Amaechi yesterday in Port Harcourt said the government had already signed a contract with a Cuban firm for that purpose. He said the Cuban company brought samples of the chemical which were currently being tested to ensure that they meet international safety requirements, adding that once that is concluded, the exercise would commence.

He maintained that malaria had remained a big challenge to the African continent and as such there was need for extra efforts to fight it.



FROM left: Malam YZ Ya'u, Executive Director, CITAD, Kano Auwal Musa Rafsanjani, Executive Director, Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC), at a train the trainer workshop on Public Procurement Act 2007 organised by UISLAC and Bureau of Public Procurement in Kano for civil society organizations on monitoring and observing Public Procurement Act 2007.

Leave my wives out of politics, Shekarau cautions

From Ruqayyah Yusuf Aliyu, Kano

KANO State Governor Ibrahim Shekarau has cautioned those urging one of his wives to contest for the Kano Central Senatorial

seat in 2011 to desist, saying his wives are not politicians and would not contest any electoral position.

Shekarau who spoke through his Senior Special Adviser on Media and Public Relations, Sule Ya'u

Sule, yesterday, said he was in possession of some posters campaigning for one of his wives. The governor has three wives, Hajiya Amina is the first and was recently turbaned as the Inuwar Sharifan Kano. Hajiya

Zainab who is the second wife is the founder of the Al-Yusra Women Center while the third, Hajiya Halima is the Garkuwan Nakasassu, whose pet project centers on the physically challenged.

Warning strike affects Nasarawa hospitals

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

THE on-going warning strike by the Association of Resident Doctors (ARD) has paralyzed activities at government hospitals in Nasarawa State. The nationwide strike is a prelude to the indefinite strike which the association has threatened to embark upon if the various state governments fail to implement the Consolidated Medical Salaries Structure (CONMESS) which was approved in September 2009.

In Nasarawa State, the government in January 2008, entered into an agreement with the NMA to implement the Consolidated Medical Salaries Structure (CONMESS) any time the circu-

lar was released by the National Salaries, Income and Wages Commission, but the government is yet to do that, though the commission released the circular in October, 2009.

The state chairman of the association, Dr. Musa Abdullahi, told our correspondent on phone yesterday that Nasarawa's case was peculiar because the association had earlier given the state government a 21-day ultimatum which was expected to expire on Tuesday, before the on-going warning strike by the national body commenced. He maintained that another strike would commence after the suspension of the present one if the state government does not keep its part

of the agreement. Our correspondent reports that at the Dahiru Arab Specialist Hospital (DASH) in Lafia, a team of doctors led by the ARD chairman, Dr. Abdullahi were seen moving around to ensure total compliance with the strike. The Commissioner for Health Dr. Bawa Abimiku however said government had made a special arrangement with consultants and NYSC doctors to take care of the situation, especially at the emergency and labour wards. He added that the Chief Medical Director (CMD) of the State Hospitals Management Board was also going round the general hospitals to ensure that the situation is properly managed.



NATIONAL PENSION COMMISSION

174, Adetokunbo Ademola Crescent, Wuse II
P. M. B. 5170, Wuse, Abuja

CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF LINCENSED PENSION OPERATORS

The National Pension Commission (PenCom) is convening a Conference Series for Directors of Licensed Pension Operators to promote capacity building and institutional strengthening in order to foster a sound pension industry anchored on good corporate governance that is consistent with international best practices.

Details of the inaugural conference are as follows:

Theme: "PROMOTING AND SUSTAINING THE PENSION INDUSTRY: THE ROLE OF DIRECTORS"

- Papers:**
1. The Dynamics of the Nigerian Pension Industry
By Mr. M. K. Ahmad, Director-General, National Pension Commission
 2. The Business of Pension Administration
By Dr. Musa A. Ibrahim, Commissioner (Inspectorate), National Pension Commission
 3. Corporate Governance and Ethics in the Pension Industry
By Dr. Christopher Kolade, (CON) Pro-Chancellor, Pan-African University, Ajah, Lagos.

Date: Tuesday, 8th June, 2010

Venue: Abora & Mazonia Suite
Eko Hotels & Suites
Plot 1415 Adetokunbo Ademola Street
Victoria Island, Lagos

Attendance is open to all Licensed Pension Operators. Each Licensed Pension Operator is required to send 3 participants (1 Executive and 2 non-Executive Directors). Letters of invitation have already been dispatched to all Licensed Pension Operators.

All enquiries regarding this Conference should be directed to:

Head Training & Manpower Development
National Pension Commission
174, Adetokunbo Ademola Crescent, Wuse II
P. M. B. 5170 Wuse, Abuja Nigeria
Tel: +234-9-4138736 – 40
e-mail: info@pencom.gov.org.ng

**SIGNED
MANAGEMENT**

Inside Politics

'Shekarau was mandated to anoint Takai as successor'

ALHAJI Sule Ya'u Sule is Governor Ibrahim Shekarau's Special Assistant on Media and Public Relations. In this interview with our correspondent in Kano, Alhaji Sule sheds light on Shekarau's decision to anoint former commissioner of local government affairs Alhaji Salihu Sagir Takai as his successor, saying party stakeholders mandated the governor to do so. Excerpts:



ALHAJI Sule Ya'u Sule

From Auwalu Umar, Kano

IT appears Governor Ibrahim Shekarau has lost grip of Kano, given the ongoing controversy over former commissioner for local government affairs Alhaji Salihu Sagir Takai who was openly endorsed by the governor for next year's governorship race. What is the position of things now?

IF something is happening within the party [ANPP], it does not mean it affects the whole state. First, let me tell a brief history of how these things started.

There were about three stakeholders' meetings and in each of these meetings, those in attendance requested the governor to pin-point a candidate who will take over from him. And in all

these occasions, he tried not to be involved; he tried not to take part in that procedure but the stakeholders insisted that he must decide his successor. So he now decided at the end of the third stakeholders' meeting to voice out his interest.

He made his own consultations and decided that Salihu Sagir Takai, the then commissioner of local governments should be supported.

But by this he was only expressing his own opinion as a stakeholder in the party. Like every other stakeholder, he is entitled to his opinion and so this does not foreclose the aspiration of others. ANPP constitution says, we should "produce your candidate through a consensus arrangement, and if that

arrangement fails, you should go for primary elections." Now, the same people who said he should produce a candidate are accusing him of supporting Takai. This is just the position of things.

Why did the governor prefer Takai to the other aspirants?

He has his own reasons; of course he weighed both sides of the coin before arriving at his decision. And that is best known to the governor. However, even I, an onlooker, know Takai to be an upright man. He was chairman for two consecutive terms; he was commissioner in two ministries; he was in water resources and later moved to local government affairs. His conduct is good and people know his antecedents. I know the governor has made a good choice for the people of Kano State, and I believe he has his personal reasons for choosing him.

But the governor was said to have confided in some of his close aides that he saw Takai in a dream as his successor...

I know Malam (Shekarau) very well. In all his activities, he brings Allah foremost. He leaves all his actions, all his intentions to Allah. Let me share my experience with you on one of my trips to Saudi Arabia with the governor. It was during Ramadan. It is a hadith of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) that when you are about to break your fast, if you pray at that moment, God will certainly answer your prayers.

So one day he invited me to his hotel room for a breakfast and at that period he said, 'Sule, this is a period when Allah answers our prayers, please help me in praying to God to give us the best person, somebody who can even do better than myself as a governor after my tenure.' He said this is what he has been doing all along. So if you said

he has prayed or he has done Istihara before arriving at Takai as his successor, I wouldn't be surprised.

Is it appropriate for him at this time to anoint his successor when many others from the same party are eyeing the plum seat?

As I earlier told you, these people put pressure on him; they said he should produce a candidate that they would back. We have all these things on tape.

They all said 'we will look up to you as our leader, please give us a direction, and give us someone that will lead this state'. So whatever is the case, as a stakeholder, he has his opinion and he would certainly express that opinion even without prompting. After one of such meetings, the secretary of the party even told the press that the party had given Malam the mandate to produce the gubernatorial candidate. This was widely reported in the media. So it is not a new thing.

Many in Kano and outside the state still see the removal of Sani Lawan Kofar-Mata as Director General of the Pilgrims' Board was not fair given his prominent role in Shekarau's re-election. How would you react to this?

Let me explain to you the procedure in government. If you work in government and you want to participate in politics, the law says you quit. You leave your position and go and contest. Constitutionally, only two officers at the executive arm can contest election at the state level while still holding offices; the governor and the deputy governor.

They have that constitutional immunity. But any other person wishing to contest must relinquish his or her position. It has happened. Takai, as an aspirant, relinquished his position; he resigned as commissioner for local governments because he

wanted to contest. It was only fair as well if Sani Lawan did the same thing by resigning from the position he was holding. On the question that Kofar Mata played a prominent role in Shekarau's re-election, to be sincere with you, one single person will never make you to win an election. Winning an election is a collective effort; everyone has a role to play and even the pressmen play their own role.

But Takai was still a commissioner when he held his first rally at Government House where he was endorsed by Governor Shekarau.

No, it was after his resignation. **I**t was almost a week after the rally. We reported it and it was there...

I think it was after his resignation definitely. You see, they normally give notice of resignation.

What is your comment on recent demonstration by Kano women said to be supporters of Sheikh Ibrahim Khalil warning against imposing unpopular candidate on people?

That is the beauty of democracy. Others can as well come and voice out their minds. These women came out to tell the people that they want their own man to be governor. The demonstrating women wish it was Ibrahim Khalil that was endorsed by the governor given his closeness to Shekarau.

What is the governor doing to see all the aggrieved factions have come together in the interest of the party?

The governor is meeting all of them. He has met with the members of the National Assembly; he has met with Senators and party leaders. Last weekend he met with chairman and secretary of each ward in Kano. He is also meeting with all aspirants.

Intense Lobby as tenure of Borno LG chairmen ends

From Isa Umar Gusau, Maiduguri

TOP civil servants, party leaders, supporters and political office holders especially Special Advisers to Governor Ali Modu Sheriff have intensified lobby to be appointed caretaker chairmen for respective local government councils as the two-year tenure of the 27 elected local government chairmen in Borno State officially ended on

Monday, May 31, 2010.

The chairmen took oath of allegiance on Saturday 31st May 2008 after their victory in the election conducted by the Borno State Independent Electoral Commission on April 26, 2008. All seats were won by the ruling All Nigeria Peoples Party.

As at yesterday afternoon, the state government was yet to formally direct the 27 elected chairmen to handover to council secretaries as

usual but some of the chairmen have already prepared their handover notes, *Daily Trust* correspondent learnt. Some of the outgoing chairmen have also joined in the race to be appointed caretaker chairmen of their respective councils to place them at vantage positions to seek re-election. Sheriff has set precedence of appointing caretaker chairmen to serve for renewable periods of six months before fresh elections.

AYF disassociates from IBB campaign

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

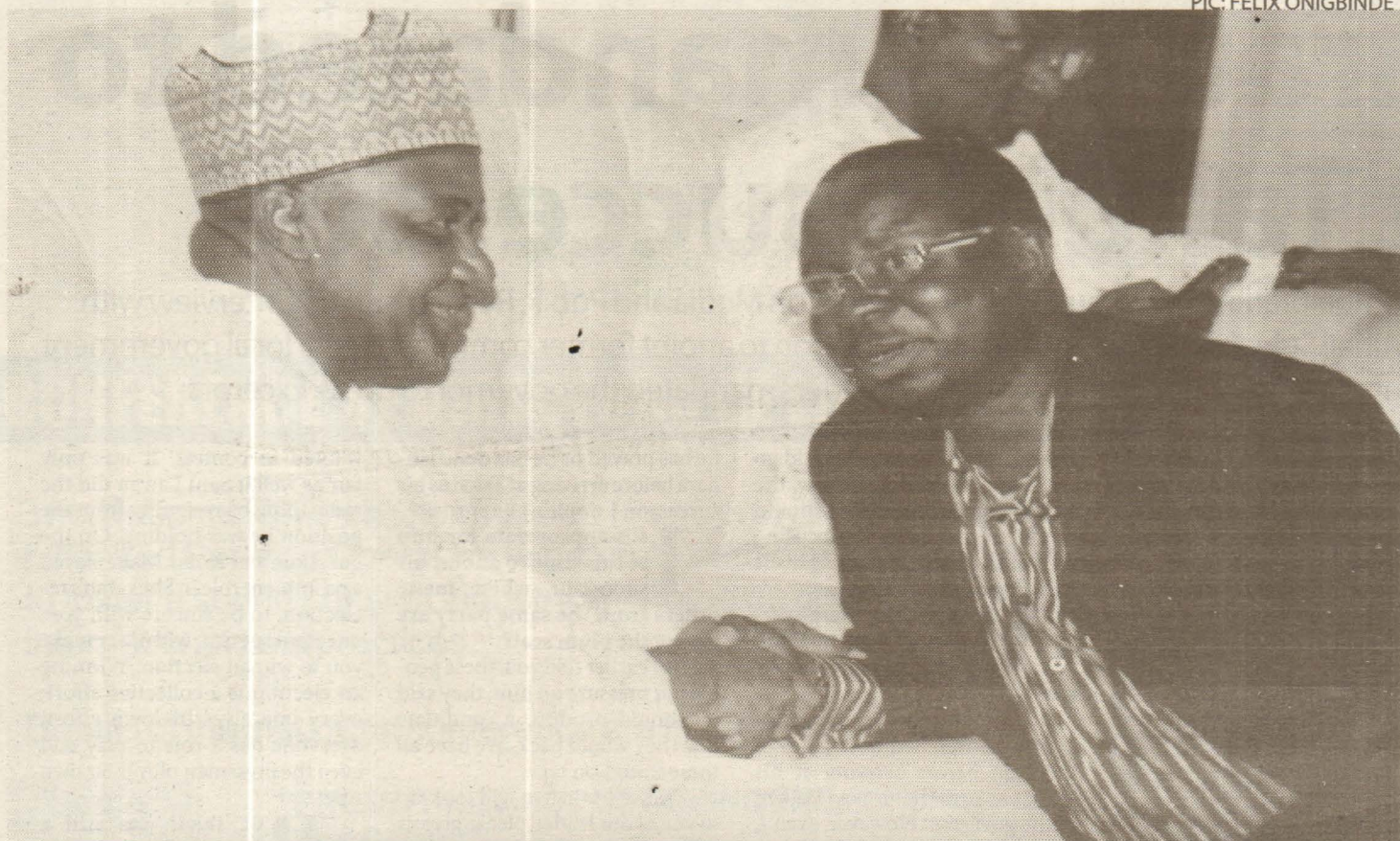
THE Arewa Youth Forum (AYF) has disassociated itself from the presidential campaign of General Ibrahim Babangida.

National President of the Association, Alhaji Gambo Ibrahim Gujongo, said this in reaction to a recent publication quoting one Comrade Ibrahim Alih as saying that Arewa youths were united for

IBB in the next general election.

"Gujongo said the Arewa Youth Forum (AYF) wants to use this medium to disassociate itself from that publication, in that the Forum had not at any time met to take a position on the Presidential ambition of the retired General," Gujongo said. "The Forum is also calling on this group to desist from using the name Arewa Youth Forum (AYF) henceforth," he added.

Inside Politics



PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE

VICE President Namadi Sambo (right) welcoming national coordinator of Association for a Better Society, Alhaji Mohammed Jamiu during the association's visit to the Vice President over electoral reform.

Utomi upbraids politicians over party funding

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

PROTEM Chairman of the Social Democratic Mega Party (SDMP) Professor Pat Utomi yesterday condemned elected officers who use state resources to oil their political party's machineries.

Utomi in a statement signed by his Press Secretary Layi Olajumoke said due to absence of proper checks and balance politicians appropriate public funds to their parties to strengthen them. He urged the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) to investigate such parties and indict any governor found culpable.

"EFCC should look into the books of these parties to determine if they have actually benefited from the various states' treasuries," he said.

He attributed lack of progress in the country's democracy to the absence of political parties which are driven by ideologies and advocated for two strong political parties in the country.

Anxiety in Sokoto as S/Court rules on guber tomorrow

Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

ANXIETY has once again returned to Sokoto as the Supreme Court rules in the case between Governor Aliyu Wamakko of the PDP and DPP's Maigari Dingyadi tomorrow. *Daily Trust* observes that apprehension pervades especially the state capital as no one can say for sure how the case will go.

The Supreme Court had twice stopped the Appeal Court from delivering judgment on the case based on a petition by the defendants, Governor Wamakko and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). Since then, many

politicians have been losing sleep over the outcome.

The Supreme Court is expected to rule on whether the appeal which DPP and Maigari Dingyadi earlier withdrew from the apex was valid. Wamakko had objected to the withdrawal.

"No one is certain as to the direction of the judges but our case is clear and unambiguous. We are keeping our fingers crossed and hopeful that we will be victorious," a loyalist of Governor Wamakko who does not want his name in print said.

The governorship tussle was ripe for judgment in February this year at the Court of

Appeal, Sokoto when the Governor petitioned the National Judicial Council and the Chief Justice of Nigeria. The judgment was then postponed, and again postponed for the second time in March pending the determination of the petitions.

Just when other states are preparing for 2011 general election, in Sokoto, the overriding issue is the legal tussle for the governorship election held three years ago.

Top politicians and many stakeholders in the state are known to have been holding series of meetings and consultations over the legal battle.

Dikko resigns from Unity Bank, guns for Senate

ALHAJI Lamis Shehu Dikko, Group Executive Director of Unity Bank Plc has issued a notice of resignation to the Bank to enable him contest the Katsina Central senatorial seat next year, *Daily Trust* has learnt. He will contest on the platform of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

Dikko will slug it out with Senator Ibrahim Ida, also of the PDP, who was elected in 2007. When he attempted to vie for the seat in 2007, he was said to have been pressurised to step down.

A seasoned banker, Dikko has been executive director at the Unity Bank since 2006 and became Group Executive Direc-



ALHAJI Lamis Shehu Dikko

tor in 2009, a position he holds to date. Before the merger that gave birth to Unity Bank, Dikko was an Executive Director with the defunct Intercity Bank Plc.

He was director in many companies and one time Chairman Katsina State Investment and Property Development Company Limited (KIPDECO).

He also had a stint with the media where he was producer, news and current affairs at the Kaduna State Radio and later sub-editor at the Nigeria Standard newspapers, Jos.

Born in 1957, Lamis Shehu Dikko attended Ahmadu Bello University Zaria and Harvard Business School, among others.

Kebbi court reinstates sacked LG chairmen, councillors

A Kebbi High Court yesterday ordered the reinstatement of some local government chairmen and councillors who were removed three months to the end of their tenure.

The chairmen and councillors of Dandi, Sakaba, Jega, Shanga and Bunza councils had sued Gov. Saidu Dakingari for removing them before the end of their tenure in February.

Delivering judgment, Justice Mohammed Ambursa said that their reinstatement was in accordance with section 7(1) of the 1999 constitution.

"I declare that neither the state governor nor the assembly can reduce the tenure of the office of the local government councils elected under the State Local Government Law 2008 from three years to two years." (NAN)

2011: State assembly aspirant flays politics of 'godfatherism'

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

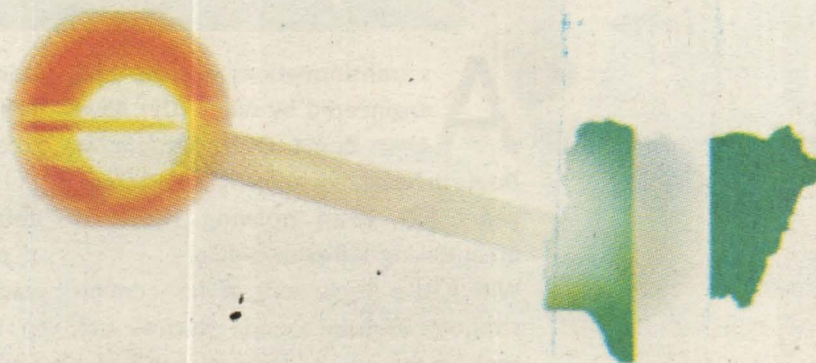
GOMBE State House of Assembly aspirant contesting under the Action Congress Japhet Philip La'abes, has described godfather phenomenon as the bane of Nigeria politics.

Japhet who is contesting for the Billiri - West constituency seat in the state assembly said in an interview with our correspondent in Jos yesterday that the phenomenon breeds undemocratic behaviour in the political space. He urged leaders to allow the electorate to elect their choice.

"When it comes to selection of candidates for election, governors are in the habit of pocketing the tickets and you have to go bow before them to book the party's ticket to run for an office. It is undemocratic," La'abes said.

The aspirant advocated for paradigm shift in Nigerian politics, stressing that for that to be achieved, the older generation of politicians have to allow the younger ones to take over the affairs of the nation.

Good Investor, Good Citizen



In November 2008, inspite of the Global Financial crisis which was batterjng rich and poor economies alike, the Federal Government through the DMO successfully introduced the 20-year FGN Bond in the domestic capital market.

This breakthrough which was confirmed by creditable results in subsequent monthly auctions, was a follow-up to the introduction and sustained issuances of Bonds of 3, 5 and 10 years maturities between 2003 and 2008.



The successful issuance of the 20-year Bond constitutes a manifestation of the Emerging Nigerian Spirit to surmount all obstacles and achieve lofty goals.

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**DEBT MANAGEMENT OFFICE
NIGERIA**

3 years of Giant Strides



As transformations go, the one engineered by Alhaji (Dr.) Aliyu Akwe Doma, OON, *Madauchin Doma* in Nasarawa state in the past three years has been nothing short of breathtaking and extra-ordinary. Within the framework of his administration's 13-point agenda which aims to capture the critical areas of need of a people desperately in a hurry to develop and catch up with the rest of the country, Governor Doma has set in motion a chain of significant reform measures that have, within a short period of time, literally turned around the fortunes of the young state. Presently, the Nasarawa metamorphosis is all encompassing. The reform measures are essentially designed to

redress social infrastructural deficits as well as deficits in virtually all sectors; accelerate rural development, improve and expand the agricultural base of the state; and tackle head-on the pandemic of poverty. This developmental model places premium on the repositioning and restructuring of education and healthcare delivery, in addition to the industrialization of the state, as strategic tools in the people's march towards the challenges of the goals of the 20:2020 initiative. In general, the reforms have given added impetus to good governance, accountability, transparency, openness and efficient service delivery in the state's public sector.



Instructional materials (textbooks) for distribution to schools in the state.



Governor Doma represented by the Secretary to the State Government presents instructional materials to beneficiaries at a launching ceremony at Akwanga.

EDUCATION

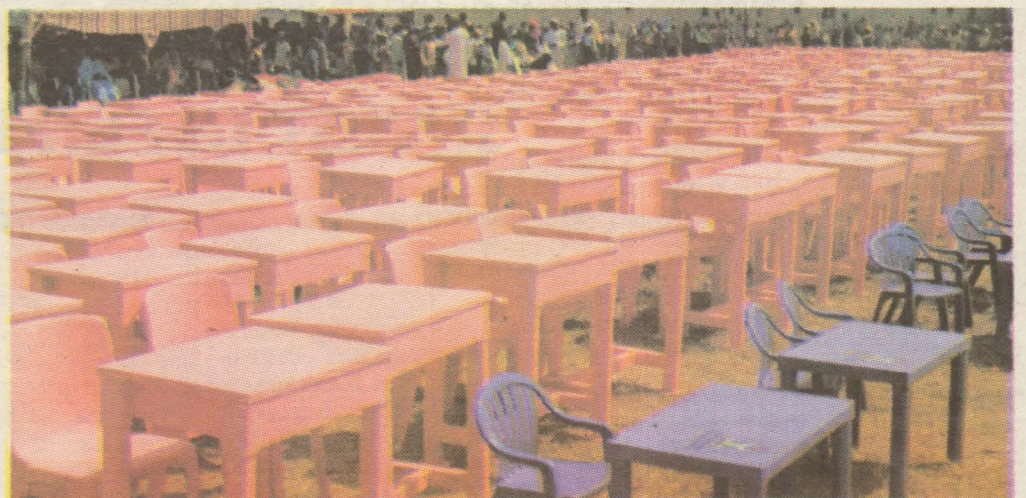
The crisis in the Education sector which the Doma administration inherited at inception had its roots in two distinctly related factors: inadequate funding and infrastructural decay. This was compounded by sagging institutional morale and lax supervision, occasioning poor implementation of educational policies and programmes. In response, Governor Doma reached to the depths and inner recesses of his decades-long experience as a seasoned bureaucrat and administrator to chart a new course for education in the state. He reversed the ignoble reality whereby education had hitherto literally fed on scraps. With significantly improved funding, revision and updating of existing curricula across the three tiers of education, learning has witnessed a new lease of life. The administration has gone one step further to ensure the restoration of discipline and focused determination in the advancement of education in the state.

SCORECARD

A major spin-off of these initiatives is the massive renovations and expansion of existing infrastructure and construction of new ones across the three tiers of education. This is further evidenced by enhanced funding and provision of needed infrastructure and facilities in all the tertiary institutions in the state, the latest addition being an ultra-modern study centre of the National Open University of Nigeria in Lafia. Others include massive recruitment of qualified teachers across the three tiers and the provision of instructional materials; revival of state-funded domestic and overseas tertiary scholarships; implementation of new salary structure for all categories of teachers in the state; phenomenal increase in school enrolments at all levels of education in the state; and the accreditation of nearly all courses/academic programmes in the state-owned College of Education, Akwanga, College of Agriculture, Lafia, Nasarawa State Polytechnic, Lafia and the Nasarawa State University, Keffi.



A collapsible school desk being presented at the formal launch.



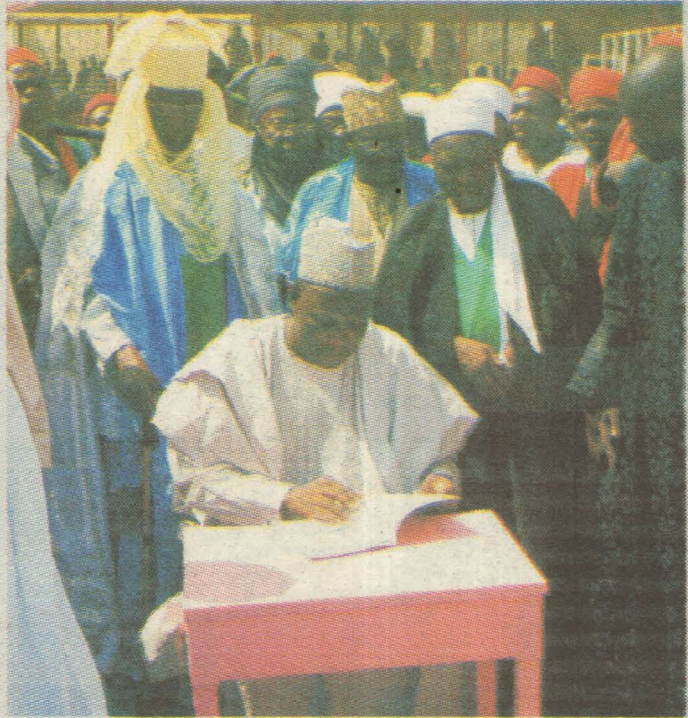
Collapsible furniture (seats and chairs) provided to schools by the State Government



3years of Giant Strides



Construction and furnishing of three faculty buildings at the Nasarawa State University, Keffi.



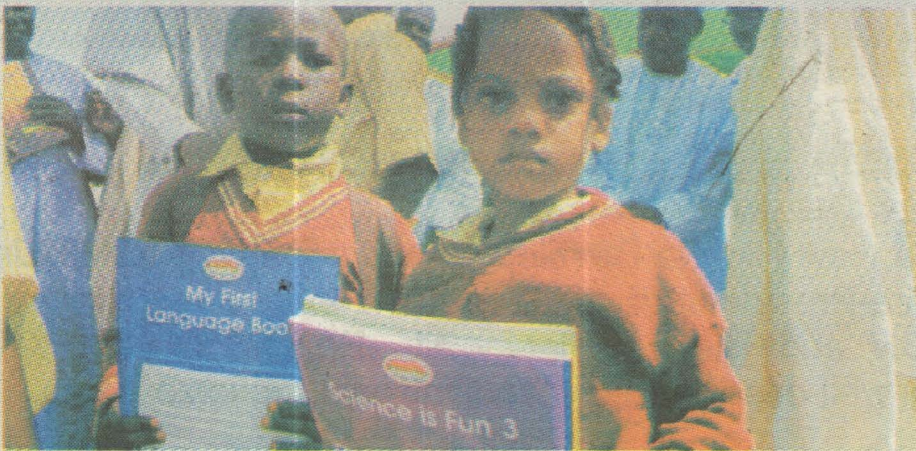
Governor Doma launching the furniture and instructional materials distributed to schools.



One of the modern classroom blocks constructed by the Doma administration.



Newly Constructed Biology Lab. at College of Education Akwanga



Pupil beneficiaries of the free instructional materials.



Trainees at the Relevant Technology Centre, Lafia receiving lessons



National Open University of Nigeria Lafia study centre constructed/donated by the State Government.

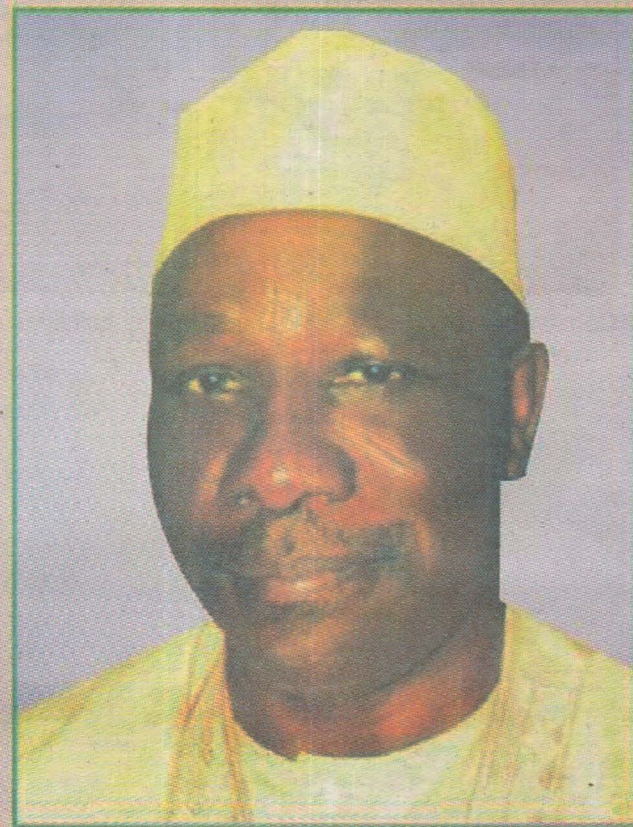


NEW NIGERIA DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LTD



His Excellency

Arc. Mohammed Namadi Sambo, GCON, FNIA
Vice President, Federal Republic of Nigeria



His Excellency

Mr. Patrick Ibrahim Yakowa (Dan Masanin Gwong)
Executive Governor, Kaduna State

CONGRATULATIONS FOR A WELL-DESERVED ELEVATION

The Board, Management and Staff of the New Nigeria Development Company (NNDC) Limited heartily congratulate His Excellency Vice-President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Arc. Mohammed Namadi Sambo, FNIA, GCON and His Excellency Mr. Patrick Ibrahim Yakowa Executive Governor, Kaduna State on their well-deserved elevation and assumption of office.

Indeed, your elevation to these positions of national and state duties is in recognition of your humility, commitment to professionalism and excellence, and service aimed at delivering democratic dividends to the people.

We in NNDC are undoubtedly convinced that you would bring into these new responsibilities which you are entrusted with your cumulative private and public service experience, leadership qualities and sense of mission to bear.

We pray to Almighty God to continue to guide and give you the wisdom to face the challenges of your offices with determination and sense of purpose.

Once again, congratulations.

Signed:

Management
New Nigeria Development Company Ltd
18/19 Ahmad Bello Way
P.M.B. 2120
Kaduna
Website: <http://www.nndcgroup.com>

Congratulatory Message

We heartily congratulate and rejoice with our humble and the most distinguished Senator, astute technocrat and indeed an accomplished new breed politician over a well deserved appointment as **Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).**

We are proud to be associated with you.

We pray Almighty Allah to give you more wisdom, guide and protect you in discharging your duties. Ameen.

Once again, congratulations!



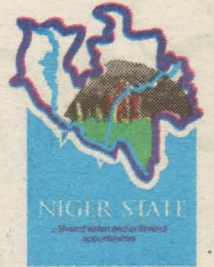
SEN. BALA A. MUHAMMAD DUGURI
(Kauran Bauchi)
Minister of FCT

Committee of Friends

- | | |
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| 1. Umar Maigari Baba (Santurakin Katagum) | 7. Tarik Hammoud |
| 2. Mohammed Kari (Garkuwan Bauchi) | 8. Abdullahi Salihu Bawa (Yarin Bauchi) |
| 3. Bala Mohammed Alkaleri | 9. Senator Baba Tela |
| 4. Jada Chibado | 10. Hon. Mohammed Sani Abdu |
| 5. Baba Isa Duguri (Dan Isan Duguri) | 11. Ibrahim Hassan |
| 6. Abdul Sale Othman | 12. Senator Atiku Bugudu |



NIGER STATE GOVERNMENT



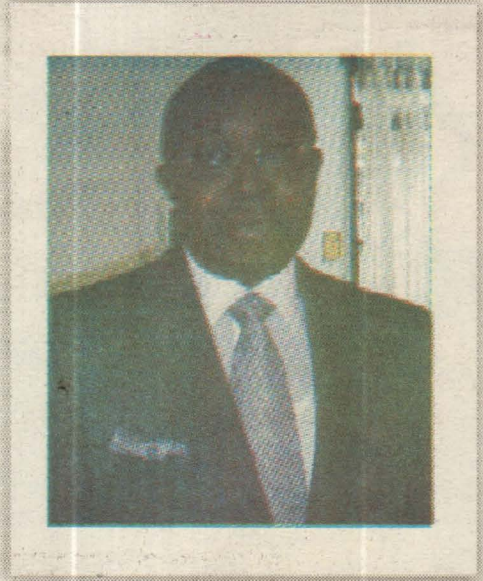
CONGRATULATIONS!



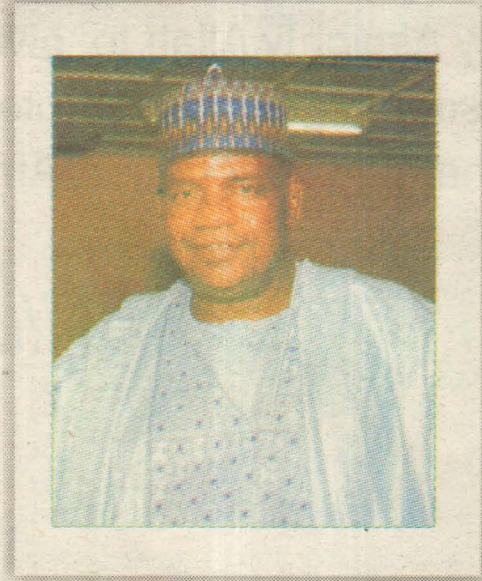
The Senate President
Senator David A. B. Mark, GCON



Her Excellency
Late Mrs. Maryam Ndidi Babangida
 Former First Lady, Federal Republic of Nigeria



Chief Aderemi Makanjuola
Executive Chairman
 Cavertan Group, Lagos- Nigeria



His Excellency
Alh. Muhammadu Danjuma Goje
 (Sarkin Yakin Gombe)
 Executive Governor, Gombe State

The Government and People of Niger State warmly felicitate with the family of Late Dr. Mrs Maryam Ndidi Babangida, former First Lady, Federal Republic of Nigeria; Distinguished Senate President, Senator David Alechenu Bonaventure Mark, GCON; His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Gombe State, Alhaji Muhammadu Danjuma Goje (Sarkin Yakin Gombe); and Chief Aderemi Makanjuola, Executive Chairman, Caverton Group, Lagos, Nigeria on the conferment on them of various Honorary Doctorate Degrees by the Federal University of Technology, Minna, on Saturday, 5th June, 2010.

These are rare opportunities to be so recognized and honoured, you have made positive impacts that will forever remain indelible in the memories of many people. The awards are in line with your patriotic and selfless services to humanity around and beyond your immediate environments.

The Senate President Sir, award of this magnitude is a clear manifestation of your sterling qualities, excellent handling and management of legislative matters and wonderful disposition towards improvement of the welfare of the citizenry.

The Late Mrs. Maryam Babangida contributed immensely to the progress of our Country. A piece of diamond cannot compare in value to you, neither can the riches of earth take your place in our hearts, even though you left us, we shall miss your motherly love, care and affection nonetheless we are consoled by the knowledge of what you left behind, memories of true friendship and hard work that is today being remembered. In historic events like this, you are truly deserving of this posthumous award.

His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Gombe State, Alhaji Muhammadu Danjuma Goje is a leader with passion who cares for the masses, and his contributions to the development of his State, the North and Nigeria generally cannot be quantified.

Chief Aderemi Makanjuola has equally made positive impacts on the lives of many Nigerians through his numerous philanthropic engagements, job creation and boosting of investment prospects. These, among other numerous achievements, make him worthy of this award.

We pray Allah to grant the Senate President, Senator David Mark, His Excellency, Governor Goje, and Chief Makanjuola sound wisdom to continue to serve our dear Nation diligently and Mrs. Babangida eternal rest. Amen.



The Chief Servant of Niger State,
Governor Muazu Babangida Aliyu, OON,
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BUSINESS

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VIRGIN Nigeria aircraft

Virgin Nigeria becomes Air Nigeria

From Nahimah Ajikanle Nurudeen, Lagos

VIRGIN Nigeria Airline has been changed to Air Nigeria by its owner Barrister Jimoh Ibrahim. Mr. Ibrahim controls majority stake in the airline.

Forty nine per cent is still being controlled by British investor Richard Branson. He had said he is trying to sell his 49 percent stake in the airline. The airline has got three different names within 10 months.

Mr. Ibrahim who announced the name change yesterday in Lagos said it is part of his efforts to revive the airline.

He said the name change was sequel to the board resolution on the 14th of May 2010 on the need for the airline to carry a Nigerian identity.

According to him, the new name has been approved and registered by the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) with a certificate number RC501975 issued to the airline by the commission under a company name Air Nigeria Development

Limited.

Mr. Ibrahim who is also the chairman of the CAC said the name was changed to make the airline fully an indigenous company.

He said the first re-named aircraft will fly into Nigeria by this weekend from France while the remaining aircraft will follow suit.

Ibrahim explained that everything about Air Nigeria will reflect Nigeria with integrity showcasing that "we as a nation can do it." He hinted that by October 1st 2010, the new owner under his chairmanship will announce increment in the airlines fleet from current four it has to 10 which will be officially launched in Abuja.

His words: "As we increase the number of air fleet, job security is guaranteed as more people will be required to run the airline, while I handover the new certificate of incorporation to the managing Director of Air Nigeria, Mr. Fikandu Kinfé, I insist that our company will be built on enduring timeless principles of loyalty and custom-

ers confidence with commitment to service delivery."

Ibrahim advised the management to embrace the high-road to financial success as opposed to the low road impressive balance sheet which often leads to low end.

According to Ibrahim, the debt profile of the airline will be addressed in a few months. It would be recalled that after the pull out of Virgin Atlantic-led management from Virgin Nigeria in 2008, the successor management led by the immediate Managing Director of the airline Captain Dapo Olumide re-named the Virgin Nigeria to Nigerian Eagle on September 14th 2009.

The airline was pronounced as Nigerian Eagle for a while before its creditor Guarantee Trust Bank (GTB) filed a suit against the name change in the airline and a caveat emptor was place on it and it was forced to go back to Virgin Nigeria.

However, on April 25th this year, Barrister Jimoh Ibrahim emerged as the core investor in Virgin Nigeria and became its chairman.

BRIEF

Ecobank appoints new Chairman

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

THE board of directors of Ecobank Nigeria Plc has appointed Olorogun (Dr.) Sonny Folorunsho Kuku as its new Chairman. The appointment which took effect from March, 2010 follows the voluntary stepping down of its former Chairman, Chief John Odeyemi. The bank in a statement described Kuku as a renowned physician, scholar and administrator. He has been the Joint Chief Medical Director and Chairman of the EKO Hospital (Ekocorp Plc) which he co-founded in 1978.

Dr. Kuku has also been a trustee and a distinguished fellow of the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria, president and trustee, West African College of Physicians. A past chairman of the committee of Pro-Chancellors of state universities and committee of chairmen of Federal tertiary hospitals, he was a recipient of the first distinguished alumnus award of the University of Lagos and Ambassador of Goodwill Award, City of Freetown. The first African Master of the American College of Physicians, he is a Fellow of the prestigious Nigerian Academy of Science. He was a Director of Midas Merchant Bank and is Chairman, Midas Stockbrokers Limited.

STOCK MARKET INDEX

Date:	Wednesday, June 2, 2010
Index:	26,232.57
Deals:	7,294
Volume:	349,342,964
Value:	N 2,193,413,077.41
Cap.:	N6,380,787,161,653.01

TRUST INDEX

Inflation	12.5%
GDP	6.68%
Budget	N4.6tr
Ext. Reserves Acct	\$40.1bn
Excess Crude Acct	\$4.3bn
Poverty Ratio	54.4%
Monetary Policy Rate	6%
Banks	24
Oil Price	\$73 a barrel
Power Supply	3, 600MW
Oil output per day	2.6mbd
Broad Money Supply	N11,010,063.6m
Credit to Private Sector	N10,037,422.5m
Inter-Bank Rate	1.2200%
Treasury Bills	1.3%
Deposit Rate	7.51%
Prime Lending Rate	18.06%

CBN EXCHANGE RATES

28/5/2010	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)
CFA	0.257	0.267	0.277
DANISH KRONER	24.6436	24.727	24.8103
EURO	183.661	184.2824	184.9038
POUNDS STERLING	215.6258	216.3554	217.0849
RIYAL	39.408	39.5414	39.6747
SDR	217.8721	218.6093	219.3464
SWISS FRANC	128.5155	128.9504	129.3852
US DOLLAR	147.78	148.28	148.78
WAUA	216.6994	217.4326	218.1658
YEN	1.6184	1.6239	1.6294

Bureau de Change Rates

BUYING	
Dollar	N152
Euro	N190
Pound	N225
SELLING	
Dollar	N153
Euro	N193
Pound	N228

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



CBN

FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

HEADQUARTERS, MABUSHI, ABUJA



INVITATION FOR TENDER

ADDENDUM TO EARLIER INVITATION TO TENDER FOR PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE ON AFFORESTATION PROGRAMME

The Federal Ministry of Environment wishes to refer to the advertisement published in the **Daily Trust and Thisday Newspapers of April 29th 2010 and Federal Tender Journal of May 3rd, 2010**, respectively on the above and to inform the general public and earlier respondents that the Ministry hereby adds LOTS 7 & 8 as follows:

LOT 7 (i-vi) Development of Teak and other species in six selected states in the Southern part of the Country.

Scope of work:

- To raise 400,000 seedlings of Teak and other species in each of the Six States

LOT 8 Development of Forestry Data Bank

Scope of Work

- Design and development of Forestry Information Management System
- Review existing data and information system
- Installation and commissioning of Forestry GIS Laboratory and Data Bank
- Training of information management staff of Forestry Department

Furthermore, the Ministry wishes to review the earlier advertised LOT 5 as follows:

LOT 5(i-xxx) Development of Tree Nurseries and Raising of Seedlings Nationwide.

Scope of Works

- Raise 1million assorted seedlings in 10 selected LGAs of each of the state and the 6 Area Councils of the FCT.

TENDER REQUIREMENT & SUBMISSION

To qualify for consideration, applicants are required to submit the documents stated herein after, failure to submit any of the under listed documents may lead to the disqualification of the applicant.

- Certificate of Registration with Corporate Affairs Commission (Limited Liability only)
- Provide details of Company's profile including the Curriculum vitae of the key of the key professional staff and other resources,
- Company's current Tax clearance certificate for the last three (3) years (State Tax Identification Number – TIN)
- Verifiable evidence of previous experience in jobs of this magnitude/nature (Attach letter of Award and Certificate of Completion).
- List of Equipment Owned
- Evidence from company's Bankers as to its financial capacity to undertake the works, if awarded,
- Name/e-mail Address and Phone Number of contact person.

- Company Audited Account for the last 3 years
- A letter authorizing the Federal Ministry of Environment to verify claims with relevant agencies or bodies.
- Evidence of VAT Registration and Remittance,
- Any other information that would be of advantage to the company

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Notwithstanding the submission of tender data, the Federal Ministry of Environment is neither committed nor obligated to include your company or any bid list or award any form of contract to your company or agent.
- The advertisement shall not be considered as commitment on the part of the Federal Ministry of Environment; nor shall it entitle potential companies to make any claims whatsoever or seek any indemnity from Federal Ministry of Environment by virtue of such company having responded to the advertisement,
- In addition to the above requirements, contractors interested in LOT 8 are requested to provide the information indicated below:

LOT 8: Development of forestry Data Bank

- Evidence of Competency in Forest Resources Survey and Mapping
- Evidence of Competency in GI and Remote Sensing
- Evidence of previous work conducted and Maps produced

NON-REFUNDABLE TENDER FEE.

Non-Refundable Tender Fee, complete set of bidding documents are to be collected from Secretariat of MTB, Federal Ministry of Environment, Room B301, Mabushi on payment of a non-refundable Fee of Ten Thousand Naira (N50,000.00) for each of the LOTS.

Submission Deadline: Completed Financial and Technical Tenders are to be submitted in two Separate Envelopes Marked Financial Bids or Technical Bids respectively. Each of the Envelopes are to contain one original and two duplicate copies of the Tenders respectively, and Both Envelopes Enclosed in a Larger Envelope Mark CONFIDENTIAL on the Top Left Corner and Written Tender for (*Specify LOT*) at the Centre. The Tender **Addressed to the Secretary, Ministerial Tenders Board, Federal Ministry of Environment, Room B301 (3rd Floor), Mabushi, Abuja. To reach him on or before 12 Noon on Wednesday, 30th June, 2010.** While the Bids will be opened by 2:00p.m. on the same date at the Ministry's Conference Room, Mabushi, Abuja.

NOTE: Only the Technical bids will be opened on the date mentioned in this publication while the Financial Bids of the Bidders that passed the Technical Evaluation would be opened on a date that would be communicated to these Companies.

Signed
Permanent Secretary

Business/Analysis

Public procurement, corruption and poverty paradox in Nigeria

As Nigeria formally launched the Public Procurement Monitoring Observatory yesterday in Abuja, **Fidelis Mac-Leva** who covered the event looks at development against the backdrop of corruption and poverty that coexists peacefully in Nigeria.

THE formal public launch of the Nigerian Procurement Observatory was held yesterday in Abuja. The occasion which was organized by the Public and Private Development Centre (PPDC) took place at the Reitz Continental Hotel. It attracted different stakeholders, including civil society organizations.

Yesterday's event preceded an advocacy for a mandatory provision for non state actors to make their observations of procurement in the 2007 Public Procurement Act. By yesterday's public presentation, therefore, the Procurement Observatory can now be assessed online.

Chibuzo Ekwekwo, coordinator of the PPDC said with the launch of the Procurement Observatory, there would be improvement in transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the procurement system.

Corruption is believed to be the major cause of poverty in Nigeria. The procurement process provides a veritable platform for the expression of corruption in Nigeria. This is because it is through the public procurement process that the country's huge natural resources revenues are expended.

Going by the Act establishing it, Public Procurement is a key aspect of delivery of social services, and by extension, socio economic. But analysts believe that despite this fact, procurement



FATIMA and her children await their 'tuwo' by the fireplace in front of their shack

reforms, involving legal framework for transparency, participation and enforcement are yet to produce the desired dividends.

Consequently poverty and squalor coexist comfortably in Nigeria despite its oil wealth. Statistics also indicate that Nigeria has one of the highest rates of maternal mortality in the world, accounting for 800 per 100,000 births, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

The UNICEF 2009 State of the World Children Report indicates that Nigeria has the world's eighth worst case of infant mortality out of 198 ranked countries. Similarly corruption in the procurement process in the Universal Basic Education interventions is said to have left Nigeria with one of the largest population of out-of-school children in the world.

In its 2009 EFA Global Monitoring Report, UNESCO revealed that over 8 million children are out of school in Nigeria. The situation is similar with other social welfare services like health, sanitation and water.

Against the backdrop of these circumstances, the question is how will the launch of the Nigerian Public Procurement Observatory bring about the desired reforms in the public procurement process? How will it bring an end to corruption and, by extension, corruption, particularly among the poor mass of Nigerians who are always at the receiving end?

Seember Nyager, Program Officer of the Nigerian Procurement Project, is hopeful that with the launch, independent monitors would be allowed to keep a watch-

ful eye on the procurement process, thereby reducing the level of corruption.

But Halima Jimari, a resident of Mpape, says only God can end poverty in Nigeria. Halima who lives with her husband and twelve children in a makeshift shaft told this Reporter that they have lost confidence in Nigerian leaders.

A big metal pot is standing on a four-legged grill made of poles. Looking inside the pot middle aged Halima clears perspiration on her face even as she battles with the cloud of smoke that surged from the fireplace towards her face.

She is preparing 'tuwo' - a local dish made from corn flour. Clay pots, wooden mortars and pestles also lie about. Bundles of firewood lean against the 'house pillars' formed by live tree trunks. Her children watched her hungrily as

she prepares the meal.

"We have been living here for the past one year. Four of our twelve children are in school but the rest are not because we cannot afford the cost. My husband is a mere petty trader so he cannot shoulder the responsibility of training the whole children. Yet we have a government that cares less about the welfare of the less privileged like us. Therefore, only God can change our situation."

A peep inside the makeshift hut by this Reporter shows that the interior is as damp as the bushy, murky marshes that surround the makeshift thatch. The dingy corners provide sanctuaries for teeming multitude of malevolent mosquitoes and even rodents. No doubt, the occupants of this shack have resigned to fate, even though they have a government.

Stocks: Trading volume falls by 35 per cent in May

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

TRADING activities on the floor of the nation's capital market depreciated considerably in the month of May by 35 per cent while stocks value was also down by 30 per cent. In April, trading volume and value rose by 17 per cent and 19 per cent respectively.

According to a monthly report from NSE, most market indicators declined in varying proportions. The market recorded a turnover of 8.25 billion shares valued at N76.14 billion in 180,489 deals during May in contrast to a total of 12.6 billion shares valued at N108.31 billion exchanged during April in 206,182 deals.

UBA Plc was the most active stock with transaction volume of 470 million shares followed by Fidelity Bank Plc with 442.9 million shares while First Bank of Nigeria Plc placed

third with 421.94 million shares. Zenith Bank Plc placed fourth with 419.23 million shares. Skye Bank Plc occupied the fifth position with 398.95 million shares while Guaranty Trust Bank Plc occupied the sixth position with 361.4 million.

Aggregate stock market turnover between January and May 2010 were 47.72 billion shares valued at N376.24 billion exchanged in 1,001,620 deals.

In the comparable period during 2009, the market recorded turnover of 35.11 billion shares valued at N207.41 billion in 684,855 deals. The Banking subsector, according to the report was the most active (measured by turnover volume) with traded volume of 3.9 billion shares valued at N36.31 billion exchanged in 66,231 deals while the Insurance subsector was second with traded volume of 1.6 billion shares valued at N2.0 billion exchanged in 8,995 deals. The Food Beverages and Tobacco subsector was third with transaction volume of 389.9 million valued

at N8.34 billion traded in 17,538 deals while the Mortgage Companies subsector was fourth with transaction volume of 317.8 million shares valued at N176.61 million traded in 1,440 deals.

The Conglomerates subsector was fifth with transaction volume of 131.3 million shares valued at N3.41 billion traded in 5,039 deals. Consequently, the five subsectors accounted for 10.0 billion shares valued at N76.21 billion exchanged by investors in 135,340 trades.

In March, the five most active subsectors traded 6.5 billion shares valued at N41.5 billion exchanged in 95,420 trades. A total of 174 equities out of the listed 214 were traded during the month compared to 175 in April. The Banking subsector occupied the Top 6 most active list.

However, the market value of the 262 listed securities closed at N8.425 trillion, down by 0.4 per cent from N8.45 trillion recorded in April.

Northern Business

FG intensifies exploration activities in Chad Basin



MINISTER of Petroleum Resources Mrs. Diezani Alison-Madueke.

FROM Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

THE Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) said yesterday that it is putting finishing touches to a comprehensive framework designed to herald the intensification of exploration activities in the Chad Basin of the country.

Besides, determined to ensure that the latest quest for a sustainable oil find in the Chad Basin is met with success, the Minister of Petroleum Resources Mrs. Diezani Alison-Madueke, in line with a directive from the Presidency has directed the Corporation to try and strike the 'black gold' in the prospective Chad Basin.

Dr. Levi Ajuonuma, Group General Manager, Group Public Affairs of the NNPC quoted Mrs. Alison Madueke, in a statement as saying that "Though it is too early to be categorical, there is a possibility that we may find oil in commercial quantity in the Chad Basin because of the discoveries of commercial hydrocarbon deposits in neighbouring countries of Chad, Niger and Sudan which have similar structural settings with the Chad Basin. Therefore it is prudent to aggressively explore the Chad Basin for possible hydrocarbon deposits".

Discoveries made in neighbouring countries in basins with similar structural settings are: Doba, Doseo and Bongor all in Chad amounts to over 2 Billion barrels (Bbbls); Logone Birni in Southern Chad and Northern Cameroun, over 100 Bbbls; and Termit-Agadem Basin in Niger totals over 1Bbbls.

According to the statement, already the NNPC New Frontier Exploration Services Division which is leading the charge for crude oil find in the entire Inland Basins is acquiring 3,550 sq km of 3-D seismic data for processing and interpretation in addition to the 6000km of 2-D data that is currently being

reprocessed.

Dr. Ajuonuma stated that currently over 600,000 seismic section and 30,000 well logs are being scanned and vectorised in good time for the eventual drilling.

Before now, 23 wells have been drilled with two of the wells, Wadi-1 and Kinsar encountering non-commercial gas.

He added that the NNPC New Frontier Exploration Division which is headed by Engr. Olakunle Olaosebikan is working in consultation with a renowned Geophysicist and Consultant to the United Nations, Prof. Deborah Ajakaiye who is leading a team of Nigerian and foreign Geologists/Geophysicists in the search for hydrocarbon deposit in the Nigerian Frontier Inland Sedimentary Basins, NFISB.

"The search is not limited to the Chad Basin alone but covers extensive inquest in the entire Nigerian Frontier Sedimentary Basins which includes- The Anambra, Bida, Dahomey, Gongola/Yola and the Sokota Basins alongside the Middle/Lower Benue Trough," Ajuonuma stated.

He stated that as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility to the host community and because of its proximity to the operations area, the Management of the NNPC has granted approval to engage the University of Maiduguri to conduct the environmental baseline studies/impact assessment for the Chad Basin project.

"The Corporation believes that such a study will help the University and the community to build its capacity. Already the community is benefiting immensely from the project through the employment of able bodied local youths as lines men, field assistants, store keepers, drivers etc. these are critical components in the execution of this project," Ajuonuma stated.

'Kano buys 5.6 million bags of fertilizer in 8 years'

From Auwalu Umar & Ruqayyah Yusuf Aliyu, Kano

KANO State government procured and sold 5.6 million bags of fertilizer to farmers in the state at subsidized rates between 2003 and date, Governor Ibrahim Shekarau

disclosed yesterday.

Speaking at the launch of this year's rainy season fertilizer sales at Yunfawa village in Dawakin Tofa local government area, the governor said about 200,000 bags of the commodity would be sold to farmers at N1000 per bag this

year.

The sales of the fertilizer, according to him, would continue through issuance of vouchers. The aim, he said, was to increase the number of retailers for farmers can get the desired inputs easily.

He also said his govern-

ment commitment to the doubling maize production program and rice development project had improved food and animal production.

The governor said the government was engaged in partnership with the Federal Government for the national

program on food security, national fadama development program and commercial agriculture development program which have so far yielded remarkable results.

He assured the farmers of continued support, saying his government was ready to

partner with the federal government, local and foreign investors to assist farmers in Kano to get bountiful harvests.

Shekarau, however, advised farmers in the state to take advantage of the various subsidies provided by government.

Bauchi shops for N475m loan

BAUCHI State Government says it is shopping for a loan of N475 million to boost its youths and women empowerment programme.

The Governor, Isa Yuguda, said this on Tuesday in Bauchi while briefing newsmen on the activities of his administration in the last three years.

Yuguda said that the loan, when secured, would enable the state government to provide resettlement packages for graduates of its skills acquisition programme.

He said that the state government had so far trained 9,000 unemployed youths under its Corporate Bodies/Master Trainer Partnership in more than 37 trades.

The trades include video coverage, carpentry, fish farming and poultry, among others.

"In the resettlement efforts, plans are under way to secure a loan of N475 million for disbursement to the graduates of the various skills acquisition programmes as free interest loan in cash and kind," he said.

Yuguda said that some of the unemployed youths were

also sponsored for advanced welding and fabrication at the Nigerian Naval College, Sapele, Delta State.

He said that his administration had also secured placements for more than 6,000 qualified indigenes of the state in military, police and other para-military establishments.

The governor said that

the placements were part of the state government's efforts to fill the state's quota in such establishments.

"To attain the vision of this administration in the area of human capital development and capacity building, some 3,000 civil servants have been sent for various in-service training programmes. (NAN).

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Maiduguri: 6, Gaji Gallimari Street Wujeri Area. Tel: (078) 970195, 08084040900, 08084242900.
Yola: 6, Numan Road, Along Airport Road, Jemeta, Adaramawa. 08022966272, 08084040500.
PH: KPM 16, PH Abu Em-Hyu (Beside Crust Rock Lafi). Tel: (084) 262648, 01-6590300, 08084040800.

RIVER BASIN AUTHORITY/ RESOURCE PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA

COMMUNIQUE

The National Executive Committee (NEC) of River Basin Authority /Water Resource Institute Pensioners Association of Nigeria held its meeting at Hadejia Jama'are River Basin Development Authority, Kano on Saturday 20th March, 2010 and resolved as follows

1. PAYMENT OF PENSION, Gratuity and Death Benefits

That it commends recent effort being made by the Federal Government to ensure regular payment of pensions and gratuities to pensioners. However, it notes that arrears of gratuities, Death benefit and pension currently being owed pensioners of River Basin Development Authorities and National Water Resources Institute from the March 2000 to March, 2010 is over 2 Billion

It urges the Federal Government to graciously release funds to settle these arrears to alleviate the suffering of its members, some of whom have died without gaining from their years of labour for the nation.

2. INCREASE IN PENSION

That increase in pension under the unified pension scheme was last implemented in the year 2000, where as there have been several increases in salaries of civil/public servant in the ensuing years. It therefore request the Government to ensure prompt implementation of increase in pensions of all pensioners with effect from the year 2000, correspondingly with all increases on salaries, so far in accordance with the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria [1999] section 173 section sub-section 3 which states 'Pension shall be reviewed every five years or together with any federal civil service salary reviews, whichever is earlier' All arrears arising there from should be promptly paid.

3. PLIGHT OF RECENTLY SERVED STAFF

That many civil servants were prematurely retired in accordance with the Federal Government reforms exercise in the public service with effect from 2006 most of them have not been paid their pensions for over two years, it urges the federal government to release fund to pay all outstanding pensions of these unfortunate citizen to alleviate their hardship.

ELDER U.W.U ESSIET
NATIONAL SECRETARY

ENGR. M. I. WABI
NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Business/Finance



Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Wednesday, June 2, 2010

COMPANY Name	No of Deals	Quot. (N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
2ND-TIER SECURITIES				
ADSWITCH PLC	1	1.90	600	1,086.00
CAPITAL OIL PLC	4	0.50	34,600	17,300.00
SECTOR TOTALS	5		35,200	18,386.00
AGRICULTURE				
FTN COCOA PROCES. PLC	44	0.95	3,752,184	3,511,585.02
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	10	0.94	425,500	399,970.00
OKOMU OIL PALM COY PLC	23	14.58	101,394	1,413,083.44
PRESCO PLC	24	6.18	962,990	6,033,540.86
SECTOR TOTALS	101		5,242,068	11,358,179.32
AIR SERVICES				
AIRL/SERVICES & LOG. PLC	14	3.38	231,170	781,414.60
NIG. AV. HAND. COY PLC	118	12.00	2,316,307	27,920,306.01
SECTOR TOTALS	132		2,547,477	28,701,720.61
AUTOMOBILE & TYRE				
DN TYRE & RUBBER PLC	30	0.50	8,004,370	4,002,185.00
R. T. BRISCOE (NIG.) PLC	31	5.07	896,818	4,505,180.11
SECTOR TOTALS	61		8,901,188	8,507,365.11
BANKING				
ACCESS BANK PLC	260	8.75	11,794,849	102,601,984.96
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	62	2.25	1,198,944	2,615,569.57
DIAMOND BANK PLC	77	8.40	3,777,477	31,685,398.05
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	47	5.28	1,849,930	9,780,147.65
F/CITY MON. BANK PLC	72	8.00	3,059,533	23,913,730.30
FIDELITY BANK PLC	133	2.70	10,809,429	29,725,910.21
FIRST BANK OF NIG. PLC	788	14.32	15,972,618	228,793,671.38
FINBANK PLC	57	0.55	4,620,017	2,472,060.30
GTBANK PLC	584	17.31	10,584,339	182,195,292.97
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	67	10.55	1,255,527	13,237,280.98
INTERCONT. BANK PLC	60	1.77	608,727	1,064,781.36
OCEANIC BANK INT. PLC	113	1.61	4,609,043	7,495,225.33
BANK PHB PLC	71	1.38	5,559,431	7,914,906.98
SKYE BANK PLC	124	8.12	2,078,351	16,868,711.92
SPRING BANK PLC	15	0.86	74,842	66,788.36
STERLING BANK PLC	65	1.93	4,219,464	8,072,041.87
UNT BANK FOR AFR. PLC	281	11.40	7,524,284	84,930,870.14
UNION BANK OF NIG. PLC	118	5.21	666,982	3,476,377.31
UNITYBANK PLC	4	1.11	12,373	13,734.03
WEMA BANK PLC	75	1.12	2,218,229	2,517,840.96
ZENITH BANK PLC	394	13.39	26,751,198	358,291,763.27
SECTOR TOTALS	3,467		119,245,587	1,117,734,087.90
BUILDING MATERIALS				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	81	20.90	1,520,521	31,278,278.27
BENUE CEMENT COY PLC	42	66.00	192,588	12,800,739.18
CEMENT CO. OF N/NIG. PLC	33	21.50	688,807	14,402,080.16
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	79	42.05	1,778,406	74,338,218.26
SECTOR TOTALS	235		4,180,322	132,819,315.87
CHEMICAL & PAINTS				
AFRICAN PAINTS (NIG.) PLC	2	3.49	10,000	33,200.00
BERGER PAINTS NIG. PLC	11	6.65	153,122	1,021,461.30
CHEM/ALLIED PROD. PLC	7	28.39	55,988	1,589,499.32
SECTOR TOTALS	20		219,110	2,644,160.62
CONGLOMERATES				
JOHN HOLT PLC	1	9.28	30	264.60
PZ CUSONS NIG. PLC	83	31.74	1,937,637	59,814,648.89
SCOA NIGERIA PLC	1	8.71	500	4,140.00
TRANS. CORP. OF NIG. PLC	6	0.50	875,279	437,639.50
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	93	40.55	323,272	13,019,740.23
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	75	24.60	663,861	16,307,705.60
SECTOR TOTALS	259		3,800,579	89,584,138.82
CONSTRUCTION				
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	39	7.71	328,253	2,529,070.10
G. CAPPA PLC	1	14.46	20	274.80
JULIUS BERGER NIG. PLC	36	53.06	335,933	17,824,973.86
M/VERSE RESOURCES PLC	3	0.50	210,000	105,000.00
SECTOR TOTALS	79		874,206	20,459,318.76
FOOD/BEV. & TOBACCO				
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	11	45.00	10,754	484,105.00
BIG TREAT PLC	57	0.75	2,449,503	1,971,577.43
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	83	29.95	587,115	17,572,645.90
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	298	22.80	1,817,574	41,608,998.57
DANGOTE SUGAR REF. PLC	148	19.68	2,161,148	42,203,848.82
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	90	68.60	784,629	54,552,974.67
H/WELL FLOUR MILL PLC	16	8.19	102,370	823,138.90
NAT. SALT COY NIG. PLC	42	8.77	717,000	6,441,110.00
NIG. BOTTLING COY PLC	19	34.92	36,119	1,200,032.42
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	87	350.00	252,885	88,437,125.65
N/NIG. FLOUR MILLS PLC	3	33.58	9,200	305,596.00
TANTALIZERS PLC	25	0.91	758,620	700,954.92
UNION DICON SALT PLC	1	4.44	5,000	21,100.00
UTC NIGERIA PLC	4	1.38	5,500	7,260.00
SECTOR TOTALS	884		9,697,417	256,330,468.28
HEALTHCARE				
EKOCORP PLC	1	5.58	200	1,062.00
EVANS MEDICAL PLC	12	1.48	96,932	136,741.00
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	19	3.15	426,391	1,361,682.20
GLAXOS. CONS. NIG. PLC	24	27.00	119,056	3,206,474.30
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC	32	6.31	330,590	2,086,022.90
NEIMETH INT. PHARM. PLC	2	2.79	2,900	7,714.00

UN/DIAG. & CLIN. SERV. PLC	21	0.74	1,957,270	1,349,358.80
SECTOR TOTALS	111		2,933,339	8,149,055.20
HOTEL & TOURISM				
CAPITAL HOTEL PLC	1	3.42	1,000	3,420.00
IKEJA HOTEL PLC	21	2.24	514,240	1,119,715.60
SECTOR TOTALS	22		515,240	1,123,135.60
IND/DOMESTIC PROD.				
B. O. C. GASES NIGERIA PLC	1	9.88	400	4,072.00
FIRST ALUM. NIG. PLC	1	0.50	10,000	5,000.00
VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC	15	6.42	369,911	2,372,430.70
VONO PRODUCTS PLC	0	0.50	0	0.00
SECTOR TOTALS	17		380,311	2,381,502.70
INF. & COMM. TECHNOLOGY				
CHAMS PLC	46	0.73	2,888,850	2,105,580.50
MASS TEL. INNOV. NIG. PLC	2	0.50	55,000	27,500.00
STARCOMMS PLC	15	2.21	393,224	874,073.06
SECTOR TOTALS	63		3,337,074	3,007,153.56
INSURANCE				
AFRICAN ALLIANCE INS. PLC	12	0.50	2,070,000	1,035,000.00
AICO INSURANCE PLC	44	1.29	3,200,245	4,164,090.94
CONTINENTAL REINS. PLC	8	1.20	808,530	980,241.30
CORNERSTONE INS. CO. PLC	43	0.74	14,789,104	10,997,639.82
CUST/ALLIED INSUR. PLC	25	3.87	1,740,100	6,734,187.00
EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC	1	0.50	10,000	5,000.00
GR/NIGERIA INS. COY PLC	3	0.50	7,000	3,500.00
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	27	0.76	4,487,896	3,354,132.08
GUARANTY TRUST ASS. PLC	40	2.28	9,849,256	22,651,212.77
CONSOL. HALLM. INS. PLC	2	0.50	12,000	6,000.00
INT. ENERGY INSUR. COY PLC	48	0.59	5,486,682	3,113,621.45
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC	4	0.50	60,761	30,380.50
L/UNION & ROCK INS. PLC	23	0.63	4,303,000	2,553,955.56
LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	1	0.50	24,471	12,235.50
MUTUAL BENEFITS ASS. PLC	6	0.50	196,053	98,026.50
N.E.M. INS. CO. (NIG.) PLC	16	0.60	1,321,841	772,039.42
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC	13	1.13	520,400	584,490.44
OASIS INSURANCE PLC	1	0.68	45,000	29,250.00
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC	10	3.50	70,500	235,900.00
REG. ALL. INS. COY PLC	2	0.50	20,000	10,000.00
STACO INSURANCE PLC	13	0.50	1,108,000	554,000.00
STAND/ALL. INSUR. PLC	28	0.50	2,052,012	1,027,636.00
UNIC INSURANCE PLC	12	0.71	227,931	164,086.84
UNIV. INS. COMPANY PLC	4	0.50	298,900	149,450.00
INTERCONT. WAPIC INS. PLC	40	0.69	3,182,921	2,112,989.29
SECTOR TOTALS	426		55,892,603	61,379,065.41
MARITIME				
JAP/OIL & MAR. SERV. PLC	242	1.94	17,107,363	31,386,285.75
SECTOR TOTALS	242		17,107,363	31,386,285.75
MEDIA				
AFROMEDIA PLC	14	0.63	333,698	207,115.78
DAAR COMMUNIC. PLC	23	0.64	1,690,526	1,081,936.64
SECTOR TOTALS	37		2,024,224	1,289,052.42
MORTGAGE COMPANIES				
ASO SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	7	0.50	158,538	79,269.00
RES. SAVINGS/LOANS PLC	3	0.50	30,200,000	15,100,000.00
UN/HOMES SAV/LOANS PLC	17	0.83	298,500	247,169.14
SECTOR TOTALS	27		30,657,038	15,426,438.14
OTHER FINANCIAL INST.				
CRUSADER NIGERIA PLC	23	0.88	3,869,016	3,212,709.88
ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC	1	0.80	1,000	760.00
SECTOR TOTALS	24		3,870,016	3,213,469.88
PACKAGING				
AVON C/CAPS & CONT. PLC	1	7.65	524	3,809.48
NIG. BAG MAN. COY PLC	136	3.20	2,089,881	6,705,736.60
NAMPAK NIGERIA PLC	2	5.43	56,500	306,795.00
SECTOR TOTALS	139		2,146,905	7,016,341.08
PETROLEUM (MARKET.)				
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC	51	40.00	395,439	16,046,372.01
BECO PETROL. PROD. PLC	34	1.20	802,051	952,797.00
MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC	31	80.77	419,279	33,865,164.83
CONOIL PLC	22	49.00	81,099	3,956,976.60
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC	39	8.09	546,689	4,422,714.01
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC	20	166.35	163,426	27,187,549.36
OANDO PLC	226	83.20	631,982	53,130,084.37
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	15	242.00	18,282	4,500,434.84
SECTOR TOTALS	438		3,058,247	144,062,093.02
PRINTING & PUBLISHING				
LONGMAN NIGERIA PLC	4	7.99	121,450	970,385.50
UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC	10	7.00	99,761	694,160.60
SECTOR TOTALS	14		221,211	1,664,546.10
REAL ESTATE				
UACN PROP. DEV. CO. PLC	24	21.91	208,548	4,566,068.28
SECTOR TOTALS	24		208,548	4,566,068.28
ROAD TRANSPORTATION				
ASSOCIATED BUS COY PLC	23	0.88	453,985	414,710.89
SECTOR TOTALS	23		453,985	414,710.89
THE FOREIGN LISTINGS				
ECOBANK TRANS. INCORP.	31	17.09	553,250	9,477,764.50
SECTOR TOTALS	31		553,250	9,477,764.50
OVERALL TOTALS	7,294		349,342,964	2,193,413,077.41

What is Changes in Stock List

Any modification to the list of tradable issues of an exchange. These modifications include: new listings, supplemental security listings, substitutional listings, deletions, name changes, and stock symbol changes.

Google

GAINERS

MOBIL	7.92
CHEVRON	3.84
CAP	1.35
CCNN	0.51

LOSERS

FLOURMILL	1.30
UNILEVER	0.99
C	



NATIONAL AGENCY FOR FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND CONTROL (NAFDAC)

Public Notice

NAFDAC ANNOUNCEMENT ON AMNESTY FOR HOLDERS OF OBSOLETE PESTICIDES IN BENUE, FCT, KADUNA, NASARAWA AND NIGER STATES

CropLife Nigeria, representing the Agrochemical Industry in Nigeria, in collaboration with NAFDAC and the Federal Ministry of the Environment, has initiated the process of taking inventory of all obsolete and unwanted pesticides in the private sector as part of International Initiative across Africa to dispose of these wastes in an environmentally safe manner. Obsolete pesticides are crop protection products, together with some public health and veterinary products that can no longer be used for their original purpose due to age, deterioration, degraded packaging, no proper label or are not legally registered for use. The private sector means all holders of unwanted and obsolete pesticides outside of government departments and Agencies. The private sector includes farmers, plantations and agribusinesses, retailers and distributors of pesticides, research organizations and other entities engaged in agriculture.

The inventory taking is being implemented through a project called **CLEANFARMS NIGERIA**, under the direct supervision of CropLife Nigeria. The first phase of the project will be carried out in the following states: **Benue, FCT, Kaduna, Nassarawa and Niger**.

The project aims to:

1. Identity the types, quantities and status of obsolete and unwanted pesticides and associated empty containers existing in the private sector and compile a national inventory of these wastes, beginning with the above states.
2. Subsequently, to carry out a programme for the collection, safeguarding and eventual disposal of such unwanted and unusable materials free-of-charge to those holding them.
3. To find a sustainable long term solution to the management of unwanted pesticides and empty containers in the country.

In order to ensure that all sources of obsolete and unwanted pesticides, and associated wastes are identified and the products collected for safeguarding, NAFDAC wishes to bring to the attention of the public the following information:

- a) * Farmers, importers, distributors, co-operative societies or any other organisations or entity in Benue, FCT, Kaduna, Nassarawa and Niger states, that may be in possession of such unwanted pesticides are advised and encouraged to report and register the said materials to the CleanFarms Nigeria project.
- b) The period of reporting and registration is to run from 1st June- 31st August 2010. Provided eligible materials are registered before 30th August, 2010 and are subsequently delivered to the collection centres to be designated by the CleanFarms Nigeria project, those individuals or organisations holding or owning the materials will not be held legally or financially responsible by NAFDAC for their future disposal.
- c) The CleanFarms Nigeria project will only be responsible for collection and disposal of the unwanted pesticides and empty containers from the above states that are reported and registered before the end of the registration period.

Holders of unwanted and obsolete pesticides and the empty containers are therefore urged to report and register the products to the CleanFarms Nigeria project before 31st August, 2010 and to take advantage of this one-off opportunity.

Further information on the registration process will be made through radio and the press in the coming days or is available from:

**The Executive Secretary
CropLife Nigeria
Mobile: 08036027544**

**NAFDAC, the conscience of Nigeria: Safeguarding and Promoting the Health of the Nation.
Signed: Management**

AFRICA REPORT

S/Africa food prices to start rising in 2011

SOUTH Africa's food prices will rise gradually from 2011 partly as the economic recovery gains pace, increasing the likelihood of more protests, the Agricultural Business Chamber said yesterday.

Households, especially in the lower-income level, spend a large chunk of their income on food and higher food prices in recent years contributed to millions of people's inability to escape poverty, more than 16 years after the end of apartheid.

John Purchase, chief executive of the chamber said any

spike in food prices could signal increased activism and possible strikes by powerful labour federation Cosatu.

"While food prices are still coming down at the moment... it is going to bottom out probably within the next six months or so," he said on the sidelines of an agriculture conference.

"There will be gradual increases in food prices, we believe, again from 2011. How big that rise is, is very difficult to predict," Purchase added.

South Africa's annual consumer price inflation slowed

more than expected to a four-year low of 4.8 percent in April as food price pressure eased, compared with March's 5.1 percent.

Inflation has slowed sharply since peaking close to 14 percent in 2008 and food price inflation, the main driver at the time, has trended downwards, slowing to 0.9 percent on an annual basis in April.

COSATU and FEDUSA -- two of the largest union federations in the country -- protested against high food prices in 2008.

Although the biggest economy in Africa has emerged from

its first recession since 1992, household finances are tight after about a million jobs were shed and as debt levels remain high.

Purchase said the first sign of food inflation would be seen in the price of maize, which is expected to ease further in the short-term partly due to a bountiful harvest.

South Africa's agricultural minister said in April the country had secured foreign markets to sell the surplus maize produced in the 2009/10 season to help safeguard maize prices for local farmers.

"We have a big surplus of 4 million tonnes and if it's not all exported... it's going to depress prices probably into the next season quite significantly, that's why I say there is going to be a time lag in this whole period."

"As we see economic recovery taking place we will probably see bigger demand for resources, like oil and fertilizer... So all this puts pressure on demand for (commodities like maize) and that's going to drive up food prices," he said, adding an upturn in consumer spending power will also add to the pressure.

Fighting in central Somalia kills 24 — Rights group



WITNESSES said some civilians were forced to flee the fighting barefoot with no belongings

FIGHTING in two central Somali towns left at least 24 people dead and 50 wounded as rebels clashed with a pro-government militia, a rights group said yesterday.

The moderate Ahlu Sunna Waljamaca group that is aligned with President Sheikh Sharif Ahmed's weak UN-backed administration fought with al Shabaab insurgents in Marergur and Gadon towns in the Galgadud region on Tuesday.

"At least 24 people died and 50 more were wounded, mostly combatants, in the long hours of fighting," said Ali Yasin Gedi, vice chairman of the Mogadishu-based Elman rights group.

"Civilians fled to bush areas, some were barefoot with no belongings." Western security agencies say Somalia -- a failed state that has been torn by civil war for nearly two decades -- has become a haven for

militants including foreign jihadists, who are using it to plot attacks in the region and beyond.

The rebels want to extend their area of control from the south towards the pro-government northeastern region of Puntland. Ahmed's government controls little more than Mogadishu's sea port, the airport and his palace in the capital.

"Large forces of al Shabaab and Hizbul Islam attacked us but we chased them away after fierce fighting," said Sheikh Abdullahi Sheikh Abu Yusuf, an Ahlu Sunna Waljamaca spokesman.

"Their goal was to capture Dhusamareb, but they failed." Residents in Marergur town spoke of fierce fighting. "The two sides fought the whole of yesterday and they are still at face-off," Nur Abdi, an elder in Marergur, told Reuters.

Libyan executions of foreigners are condemned

HUMAN rights campaigner group Amnesty International has condemned the reported execution of 18 people in Libya. The 18, some from Chad, Egypt and Nigeria, were executed on Sunday in Tripoli and Benghazi, Libyan media reported.

Amnesty International said they feared the accused had not had fair trials.

The people were convicted of murder and executed by firing squad, the Libyan Cerene newspaper said.

US court rules ex-Somali PM can be sued over torture

US Supreme Court has ruled that it will not halt a lawsuit by alleged torture victims against former Somali Prime Minister Mahamed Ali Samantar. The original lawsuit was filed by Somalis living in the US under 1991's Torture Victim Protection Act.

A federal judge had originally ruled that Mr Samantar was entitled to diplomatic immunity. Mr Samantar currently lives in the US state of Virginia.

The lawsuit accuses Mr Samantar of commanding his troops to detain, torture, and kill members of Somalia's Isaaq clan.

The justices said that although the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act of 1976 shields foreign states from being sued in American courts, it does not shield former officials of those states.

WORLD

Violence mars Afghanistan peace meeting in Kabul

MILITANTS have tried to attack a national peace meeting being opened by President Hamid Karzai in the Afghan capital, Kabul. Three rockets landed close to the venue. Officials said two attackers were killed and one captured.

Mr Karzai is aiming to use the three-day "peace jirga" to enlist support for his plan to offer economic incentives to reformed Taliban militants.

Taliban chiefs have dismissed the talks and threatened delegates with death. Mr

Karzai's opening speech was interrupted by the sound of explosions and gunfire some distance away.

He told the delegates: "Someone is trying with a rocket perhaps... Don't worry about it, let's proceed." Three rockets fired at the giant tent at a university in Kabul where the meeting is being held landed 100m (110 yards) away.

The UN's top envoy to Afghanistan - who is at the meeting - said that none of the Afghans moved as the rockets landed.



POLICE captured one Taliban fighter and killed two others after a long gun battle

Gunman kills several in Cumbria rampage

AT least five people have been killed and several others injured after a gunman opened fire in west Cumbria.

Police say a body, believed to be that of suspect Derrick Bird, has been found in the Boot area of the Lake District.

The first reported fatal shooting was in Whitehaven at 1035 BST, after which the gunman fled east.

A GP in the town of Seascale said he and a colleague had later certified two other people dead.

Dr Barrie Walker said: "The surgery was called and I went out. I've certified one of them dead. My colleague saw another," he said. "At present there are two people dead and one seriously injured in Seascale. I know one of the victims. She was in the street.

Japan's prime minister steps down over US base row

JAPANESE Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama resigned yesterday to improve his party's chances in an election next month, after his popularity plunged over his broken campaign promise to move a US Marine base.

Finance Minister Naoto Kan, who has a clean and defiant image, emerged as a likely successor. He signalled he intends to run for leadership of the ruling

Democratic Party of Japan at a party meeting to be held Friday.

Hatoyama swept into office just eight months ago, defeating the long-ruling conservatives and capturing voters' imaginations with his promises to bring change and transparency to government, as Japan grappled with a stagnant economy and an aging, shrinking population.

So when he failed to deliver on his pledge to move the Marine Air Station Futenma off the southern island of Okinawa and his staff got ensnared in a political funding scandal, his approval ratings rapidly sank, falling below 20 percent.

"He could not live up to the huge expectations," said Tetsuro Kato, professor of politics at Hitotsubashi

University in Tokyo. "He just proved himself to be a rich kid without experience and leadership skills

"The expectations were so great, the disappointment was also great," he added. Hatoyama, a 63-year-old professor-like millionaire with a Ph.D in engineering from Stanford University, is the fourth Japanese prime minister to resign in four years.



GARKI MICROFINANCE BANK LIMITED

Plot 559C, Area 11, Garki, Abuja. Tel: 09-481 1507. E-mail: garkimfb@hotmail.com



GARKI MICRO FINANCE BANK LTD.

NOTICE TO ALL SHAREHOLDERS

Notice is hereby given that the **Annual General Meeting of Garki Micro Finance Bank Limited** will be held at **SHEHU MUSA YAR'ADUA CENTRE, Abuja on Thursday 1st July, 2010 at 10:00pm.**

- i). To receive and consider the Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 2009 (Financial Report).
- ii). To declare dividends.
- iii). To elect/appoint members of the Audit Committee.

By order of the Board of Directors.

Dated this 28th day of May the year 2010

I. B. Odigie
I. B. ODIGIE ESQ.
Company Secretary

GARKI MICRO FINANCE BANK L TO. PROXY FORM

I/weof.....being member/ members of GARKI MICRO FINANCE BANK LTD. hereby appoint..... or falling him as my/our proxy to act and vote for me/us and on my/our behalf at the Annual General Meeting of the Company to be held on **Thursday 1st July, 2010 at 10:00am** and at any adjournment thereof.
As witness my/our hand(s) thisday of2010
Signed:

NOTE:

A member entitled to attend and vote at the General Meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy in his stead. All proxies Forms should be deposited at the Bank, Garki Micro Finance Bank Ltd, Area 11 Garki, Abuja at least 48 hours before the time for holding the meeting. A proxy need not be a member of the Company.
In the case of joint shareholders, anyone of such may complete the Form but the name of all joint shareholders must be stated.
If a shareholder is a corporation, this Form must be under its common seal or under the hand of some officer(s) or attorney duly authorized in that behalf.

GARKI MICRO FINANCE BANK L TO. SHAREHOLDER'S ADMISSION FORM

Please Admit shareholder or in his/her place Mr./Mrs./Miss. to represent him/her, at the **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of this Bank to be held at **10:00 a.m. on Thursday 1st July, 2010, Abuja.**

Shareholder's Name: _____
Shareholder's Address: _____



Media Trust Limited

Our Dear Advertisers,

GETTING REAL VALUE FOR YOUR MONEY

This is to bring to your attention a 10 per cent adjustment to our advert rates. The new rate, a copy of which is in inner pages, is **with effect from Thursday, July 1, 2010.**

This decision was necessitated by the enormous capital investment we recently committed to our operations, leading to the setting up of our own ultra-modern printing presses, strategically, in Abuja (North Central), Kano (North West) and Maiduguri (North East).

In addition, we have sustained the out-sourcing of our printing in Lagos, thus making us the **ONLY** newspaper in Nigeria to print the same edition simultaneously from four locations nationwide.

This means that **Daily Trust**, and its sister weekend titles, is available to our readers every morning, from Lagos to Maiduguri, Port Harcourt to Sokoto. The ultimate goal of our huge investment is to ensure we are closer to all our readers, where ever they are, in order to justify your spend on advertising.

Notwithstanding this one month notice, the new rate will not affect any advert campaign already paid for between now and 30th June, 2010 even if the campaign breaks from July, 2010.

We sincerely appreciate our business relationship with you, as we look forward to enhanced partnership in the years ahead.

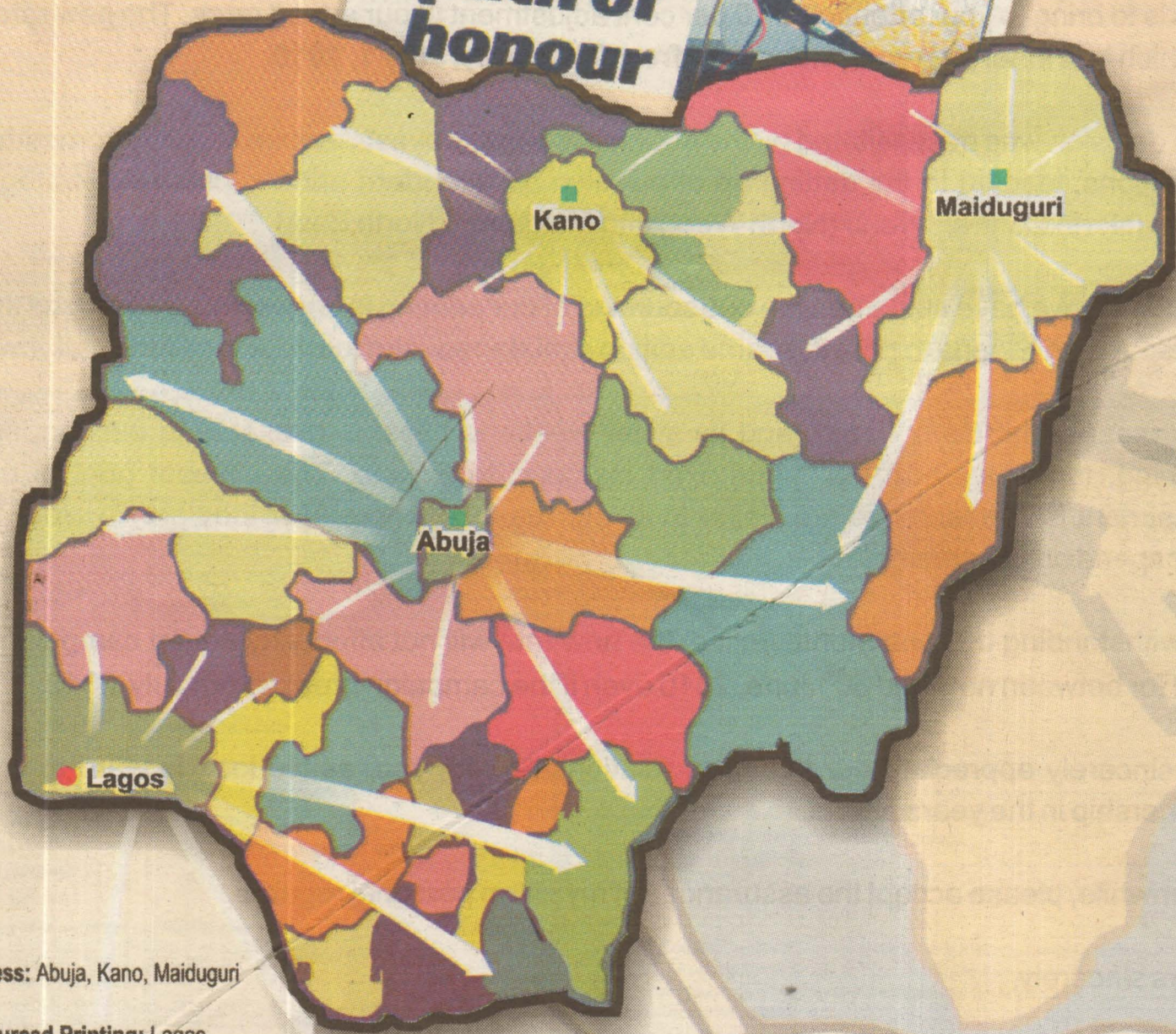
Meanwhile, please accept the assurances of my warm personal regards.

Yours sincerely,

KABIRU A. YUSUF
Chairman/CEO



...getting closer to you!



- Our Press: Abuja, Kano, Maiduguri
- Out-sourced Printing: Lagos

We print same edition simultaneously from different locations everyday. Indeed, we are getting ever closer to you. Grab your copy and enjoy fresh and incisive news reports wherever you are, daily.

HOTLINES:

News: 0805 410 2934 Advert: 0805 210 0453 Newspaper sale: 0805 210 0114



Media Trust Limited

ADVERT RATE

Effective July 1st, 2010

SIZE	BLACK			COLOUR		
	RATE (N)	VAT (N)	TOTAL (N)	RATE (N)	VAT (N)	TOTAL (N)
Full Page	356,400.00	17,820.00	374,220.00	475,200.00	23,760.00	498,960.00
Half Page	252,000.00	12,600.00	264,600.00	370,834.00	18,541.70	389,376.70
Quarter Page	109,350.00	5,468.00	114,818.00	284,286.00	14,214.00	298,500.00
10" x 6 cols	247,500.00	12,375.00	259,875.00	326,700.00	16,335.00	343,035.00
10" x 5 cols	201,960.00	10,098.00	212,058.00	277,200.00	13,860.00	291,060.00
10" x 4 cols	162,360.00	8,118.00	170,478.00	217,800.00	10,890.00	228,690.00
10" x 3 cols	148,500.00	7,425.00	155,925.00	198,000.00	9,900.00	207,900.00
9" x 6 cols	234,036.00	11,701.80	245,738.00	306,900.00	15,345.00	322,245.00
9" x 5 cols	194,040.00	9,702.00	203,742.00	267,300.00	13,365.00	280,665.00
9" x 4 cols	148,500.00	7,425.00	155,925.00	213,840.00	10,692.00	224,532.00
9" x 3cols	142,560.00	7,128.00	149,688.00	194,040.00	9,702.00	203,742.00
8" x 6 cols	221,760.00	11,088.00	232,848.00	300,960.00	15,048.00	316,008.00
8" x 5 cols	186,120.00	9,306.00	195,426.00	257,400.00	12,870.00	270,270.00
8" x 4 cols	138,600.00	6,930.00	145,530.00	205,920.00	10,296.00	216,216.00
8" x 3 cols	134,640.00	6,732.00	141,372.00	186,120.00	9,306.00	195,426.00
7" x 6 cols	168,300.00	8,415.00	176,715.00	217,800.00	10,890.00	228,690.00
7" x 5 cols	158,400.00	7,920.00	166,320.00	205,920.00	10,296.00	216,216.00
7" x 4 cols	134,640.00	6,732.00	141,372.00	198,000.00	9,900.00	207,900.00
6" x 6 cols	162,360.00	8,118.00	170,478.00	207,240.00	10,362.00	217,602.00
6" x 5 cols	148,500.00	7,425.00	155,925.00	201,960.00	10,098.00	212,058.00
6" x 4 cols	130,680.00	6,534.00	137,214.00	194,040.00	9,702.00	203,742.00
6" x 3 cols	79,200.00	3,960.00	83,160.00	106,920.00	5,346.00	112,266.00
6" x 2 cols	69,300.00	3,465.00	72,765.00	89,100.00	4,455.00	93,555.00
5" x 5 cols	138,600.00	6,930.00	145,530.00	198,000.00	9,900.00	207,900.00
5" x 4 cols	124,740.00	6,237.00	130,977.00	196,020.00	9,801.00	205,821.00
5" x 3 cols	75,240.00	3,762.00	79,002.00	102,960.00	5,148.00	108,108.00
5" x 2 cols	59,400.00	2,970.00	62,370.00	79,200.00	3,960.00	83,160.00
4" x 6 cols	128,700.00	6,435.00	135,135.00	178,200.00	8,910.00	187,110.00
4" x 5 cols	126,720.00	6,336.00	133,056.00	154,000.00	7,700.00	161,700.00
4" x 4 cols	114,840.00	5,742.00	120,582.00	129,800.00	6,490.00	136,290.00
4" x 3 cols	69,300.00	3,465.00	72,765.00	91,080.00	4,554.00	95,634.00
4" x 2 cols	53,460.00	2,673.00	56,133.00	75,240.00	3,762.00	79,002.00
3" x 2 cols	33,660.00	1,683.00	35,343.00	49,500.00	2,475.00	51,975.00
3" x 3 cols	49,500.00	2,475.00	51,975.00	59,400.00	2,970.00	62,370.00
2" x 2 cols	23,760.00	1,188.00	24,948.00	39,600.00	1,980.00	41,580.00
1" x 1 col	4,950.00	247.50	5,198.00	5,940.00	297.00	6,237.00

SPECIAL POSITIONS

POSITION	RATE (N)	VAT (N)	TOTAL (N)
PAGE 2 OR 3	1,140,480	57,024	1,197,504
PAGE 4 OR 5	1,036,800	51,840	1,088,640
FRONT PAGE STRIP	552,381	27,619	580,000
FRONT PAGE SOLUS	410,400	20,520	430,920
BACK PAGE STRIP	457,143	22,857	480,000
FRONT PAGE EARPIECE	323,810	16,190	340,001
BACK PAGE EARPIECE	295,238	14,761	310,000
CENTRESPREAD	1,632,960	81,648	1,714,608
DOUBLESREAD	1,209,600	60,480	1,270,080
ROP STRIP (COLOUR)	158,400	7,920	166,320
ROP STRIP (B&W)	129,600	6,480	136,080
INSIDE BACK COVER	518,400	25,920	544,320
FRONT PAGE	15,000,000	750,000	15,750,000
WRAP-AROUND	25,000,000		

TRUST CLASSIFIED

POSITION	SIZE	RATE (N)	VAT (5%)	TOTAL
Registration of Trustees	3" x 2 cols	18,000	900	18,900
Loss of Documents	2" x 2 cols	9,000	450	9,450
Change of Name	Per Word	100	NIL	-

LOOSE INSERTS

	RATE (N)	VAT (N)
Handling	142,000	7,100
Per 1000 copies (1 Sheet)	36,000	1,800
Per 1000 copies (Magazines)	60,000	3,000

Technical Data

Columns 6 Daily
Depth - 14.5" (Inches)
Width - 10"

Series Discount

5-10 Insertions 2.5%
11-20 Insertions 5%
21-51 Insertions 10%

Terms of Advert Placement:

- 1) All adverts are expected to be prepaid in cash or draft in favour of Media Trust Limited
- 2) Series discount is subject to the stipulated number of insertions, and it is payable ONLY at the end of a campaign (to be deducted from balance pay).
- 3) Copy date is two days for the North and three days for the South.
- 4) Cancellation of advert placement in less than 24 hours to publication date will attract 25% surcharge.
- 5) Advertisers/Agencies are to supply their camera ready artworks in electronic copies and in jpeg format
- 6) Advertisers will be surcharged 10% of the applicable rate where artworks are not provided
- 7) Adverts may not be published if the visuals given are considered too poor as to affect the reproduction.
- 8) Alterations to original order should be conveyed in writing at least 24 hours to desired alteration date.
- 9) The management of Media Trust Limited reserves the right to reject an advert or any publication in any or its titles where such materials are considered distasteful for public exposure or libelous.

Advert Hotlines: 0805 210 0453, 08037054013

Advert e-mail: advertdailytrust@gmail.com



Promises UNBROKEN



- Incisive **News**
- Balanced **Reporting**
- Inspiring **Columnists**
- Wide **Advertising** Reach
- Social **Responsiveness**
- Platform for **National Discourse**

*Stay with Daily Trust
and enjoy the perks*



HOT LINES:

News: 0805 410 2934
Advert: 0805 210 0453
Subscription: 0805 210 0114

www.dailytrust.com

14 DAY JUNE SENSATION

1-14 JUNE 2010

INCREDIBLE SAVINGS UP TO N1,000,000!

SENSATIONAL DEALS ON LIMITED STOCK ONLY

SENSATIONAL DEALS ON FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS

SENSATIONAL DEALS FOR 14 DAYS ONLY



Showroom Timings
 Mon - Sat
 9am - 6pm
 Sunday
 12Noon - 4pm

Finance options available.

There won't be a better time to buy a Nissan vehicle.

SHIFT_the way you move



SUN GROUP

Sun Motors

LAGOS:
 Victoria Island:
 17A, Karimu Kotun Street,
 Victoria Island, Lagos.

Ijora:
 3A, Ijora Causeway, Ijora,
 Lagos.

ABUJA:
 Plot 477, Airport Road,
 Banilux Compound, C.B.D. Abuja.

148, Idu Industrial Area,
 Near Dangote Cement Warehouse
 Sany Compound, Abuja.

SALES

SERVICE

GENUINE SPARES

BODY SHOP

FINANCE

SALES HOTLINES

0805 869 8888, 0805 869 8899
 0806 237 9227

SERVICE HOTLINES

0805 869 8838, 0805 869 8852
 0805 869 8882.

Email: nissan@sungroupe.com

RE: FCT MINISTER, THE DANGER AHEAD II

"He who is from frailty if free have no need of Moorish bow or arrow" Reactions of actions invited is coming from players that struts and fret their hours upon the stage. Now matter how much they try to put lip service zigzagly straight. I am not moved I still maintain the fact that their chickens are coming home to roost. And that the ANPP are slightly albeit intentionally put on the March again.

Firstly I will like to start with my PHRANK ELEOJO SHAIBU, our able aides to the FCT minister, who so much enjoys the cry of a baby when deprived of breast milk. How much more of adults living in the FCT?

In paragraph two and eight of your write up in defence of misplaced priority, I am yet to come to terms with the use of English Language acquired centuries back in which I am referred to as "miscreants"; goblin and desperado. Until I finished searching myself and my records will I know I am a criminal or I have committed any illegal act before. If not, where is the place of constructive criticism? May be we wait on the judiciary to settle that score? I am coming.

In paragraph six where you claimed the minister announced his defection to the PDP on the 13th of May, what manner of defection, if he ever does, is that the process followed for defections? Where does defection process starts from? Is from the ward level or from the FCT ministers' office? In the same paragraph, you quoted the minister as saying: "...first I will consult my people in Bauchi State on my political future because politics is not opportunism, but consultation and engagement" My FCT ministers aides when I said the minister puts his people over there in Bauchi first you said I 'authored a piece of trash' When has matters of the FCT gone to Bauchi for consultation and advice? Even if matters arising is confusing, is the political future if FCT not best handled by the best brains in FCT so much so that it has to be shaped by the council of consultants in Bauchi rather on his political future he said. And like you school me on the 12 member ministerial and investigation committee, can you still school us on who the chairman of the committee is and his background?

MR PHRANK ELEOJO of the Leadership I will get back to you.

Mr Nosike Ogbuanyi, of the Daily Trust of Wednesday 26th May thanks for feeding me with the list of the eight secretaries of the FCT minister. The question I want you to answer is this; where is the place of the FCT indigene in his heart and his list? Though we have one and expect many more Kudos to the Hon Minister. We will still need more appointments in other important and sensitive areas; because we have many scholars, intellectuals or men with the pedigree to at least be in a key position to say the least? Is one justified?

To my Honourable Alhaji Galadiman Gwagwa/Jarman Garki, thanks for celebrating the fact that the party under which you are the state chairman FCT PDP so much among his side and other position so that deem it fit to publish the table. What manner of Chairman are you? Change is constant and it is the only thing that serve as the catalyst for charting a new course towards developments and upliftment. You have overstayed your

welcome, you are already overtaken by time and intellectual ability, to me you are surplus to requirement, due to your lackadaisical attitude and bi-partisanship we will soon loose one or more site to the ANPP in the FCT. The spirit of office have overtaken you that is why you are shifting the goal post. Eleven years, (1999-2010) is enough to learn, acquire skill, do whatever you can, achieve whatever you wish and deliver whatever you can, chart new courses and leave a legacy in your wake. The truth is bitter but we must say it. Let another party loyalist who is able, active, of intellect, of superior qualification, of a more sound and scholastic standing be in that position so that we can taste a new and formidable variety. We are not in Cuba, Kenya of Libya where leadership is a birth right. We need change.

All these are in passing, they are by the way. Let me start what I really wanted to say concerning the FCT ministry.

I am not bothered about being compensated, may be to one's outburst about the position of the presidency during the period of Yar'adua's sickness but what about the tradition of politics where contestants that lost on any platform are adequately compensated, if we want to go by PHRANK's ministers decision to eliminate 'partisan bickering' or Alhassan gwagwa 'PDP willing and ready to accommodate all willing Nigerians...' if we are not willing we will not join politics or vie for elective posts. Alhassan what have you done or said in respect of the PDP or all its contestants that either fail or step down who for the sake of sanity accepted to step down or accept defeat for the sake of continuity.

Now to the Presidency, from the foregoing, or concerning the increasing population and the topography or geography of the existing councils, I strongly think we need more area councils, by so doing even the remotest grassroot will feel the presence of your administration and life or power will be given to such people since democracy has its root in the grassroot.

The presidency, what is the place if the FCT indigenes in your government? Are they lacking in competency that they cannot handle ministerial positions or what? I think what is good for the goose is also good for the gander. Is it that the nook and cranny of the FCT are/is in shortage of befitting manpower. So much so that they will be this marginalized?

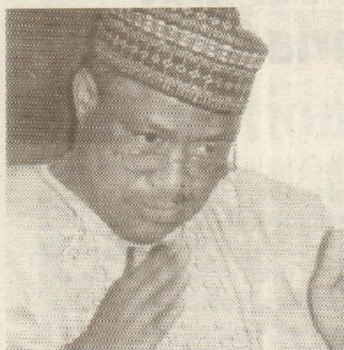
Indecision is a dispose, we read decisiveness, like the presidency those in its choice of positions, why would the FCT Minister embark on unending consultation even to the extent of going to his people concerning the future of the FCT.

My passion for pursuing the course of justice remains unassailable, why? Because the insect that feeds on the leaves is among the leaves! Therefore, only a part of the leave could best used to tackle its problems sentiments apart.

Comrade Ahmed Suleiman Bala
Cordinator PDP Jama'a Forum, FCT Abuja
08053742836
Behind Hamsel Filling Station, Zuba, FCT

Online Reactions

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON www.dailytrust.com



EX-PPRESIDENT Ibrahim Babangida

2011: In defence of Babangida

I totally agree with you, but still, let us allow the ballot box to judge.

Salmanu Bello

gwarzosalmanu@yahoo.com

Yes, Muhammad you've really drawn our attention to this fact. How long will people keep reminding us of June 12. Let them leave IBB to breathe well. Let's just focus on credible elections in 2011.

Abdul Harbau

abdulkadirharbau@yahoo.com

I totally accept your wise argument on IBB but I have a question for you and hopefully you should be able to speak about it in your column next week. Since it is a normal thing in the Nigerian system, kindly speak on the achievement(s) of his government particularly in the north where we both come from. If you can tell me one good thing IBB did for the north, I will be able to tell you five done by Abacha. If you can tell me one good thing by Atiku, I believe I will be able to tell you five done by Buhari. I do not think IBB is even marketable in the north anymore.

Mustapha Warabe

miwarabe@yahoo.com

PDP's NWC, Reform Forum reach truce

We already know that the agenda of PDP Reform Forum is just to jettison the PDP zoning agreement. The people of Nigeria will resist their agenda.

Abdulrahman Yahaya

muresindhhouse@yahoo.com

I have said it... this party is capable of resolving any crisis no matter how big. Let us all support the party in its efforts to support our dear president. I am confident that with our prayers and support he will take us to the Promised Land.

Musa Guri

musaguri@yahoo.com



VICE President Namadi Sambo

N10bn voted for 50th year party

I can't understand what's really happening in Nigeria. As we can see, one part other Aso rock wants to slash the budget (due to reduction in the price of crude oil) while the other part is requesting the approval of N10bn for 50th Anniversary celebrations. This is pathetic, unrealistic and un-called for. None of the indicators (Economic, Health, Security etc) are showing any progress. It's still very clear that over 70 per cent of Nigerians live below one US dollar per day. Therefore, I'm using this medium to call on the legislators to think very carefully before endorsing to this embezzlement.

Ibrahim

maikore54@yahoo.co.uk

It is unfortunate that while millions of Nigerians are living in abject poverty, the Government is set to squander this huge amount of money in celebrating our 50th anniversary. Instead of this, they should just come out and tell us that they are planning to secure money to execute their 2011 election campaigns. I want to believe that Nigeria is not yet lucky to have the desired leadership that will launch it to the dream land. This is unfortunate and too bad.

Lamara Garba Azare

lamaragarba@yahoo.com

This is absolute madness. Shouldn't celebrations be accorded to good work? Remember it's not how far but how well. To propose N10bn while children are out there suffering and the majority of Nigerians are in total poverty is a big shame!

Derekin Derek

derekin.derek@gmail.com

When it comes to matters like this, the federal government will spend billions of Naira without complaining but when it comes to matters of development and social amenities, that is when the government will start complaining of no money and loan to be considered. I wonder when these people will start thinking of the people instead of money and power.

Auwal Sagir

asmsycool@yahoo.com

What is Nigeria celebrating? Is it that there is no security, electricity, roads, pipe borne water supply, and employment for the teeming youths and that colleges and universities are decaying everyday in the country? Won't it be better



PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan

spending this whopping sum of money on providing electricity for 24 hours for every Nigerian instead of a cook-out for Abuja politicians? Some Nigerians find it difficult feeding themselves twice or thrice a day. Won't this public money help programs for the poor to breathe a breath of life instead of the government patting themselves on the back on October 1st? What President Jonathan and his political colleagues need to do is to wear sack cloths on October 1st and pray to God to forgive Nigeria her sins and help us chart a new course. That should be a better celebration and a cheaper one for the country.

Dr. Anthony Ekwenchi

anthonyekwenchi@att.net

It is a shame that our leaders are not thinking of developing Nigeria but continue to waste our of country's resources. While some countries are cutting costs and spending, our government is increasing spending and wastage. Nigeria's government is planning to waste N10bn for 50th year independence anniversary...celebrations of failure at 50.

Rev. Joseph

nanajoseph2001@yahoo.com

This is a waste of public money for a worthless celebration. One would have expected President Jonathan to declare this year's anniversary as a moment for sober reflection and not one for celebration. We lost a President, 70% of Nigerians do not know where the next meal is coming from and instead about 1,000 children

No, no, no! This must be stopped.

Kolo Kyari

koloxk70@yahoo.com

Is this what we call democracy? Spending 10 Billion Naira on an anniversary that is not worth celebrating? This amount is enough to revive our educational system. I'm really disappointed in our leaders who spend the wealth of their citizens on frivolous things. May God save Nigeria.

Abubakar Yahaya

gumelson1984@yahoo.com

A country with an ailing economy, millions of jobless youth, bad roads, insecurity, poor electricity supply and lots more is spending this huge amount of money in the name of celebrating 50th anniversary...this is quite unfortunate and disheartening. If we have had honest, corruption free and dedicated leaders in the last 50 years, Nigeria would have been a developed nation by now. So what are celebrating? This is nothing but another chance for a few to enrich themselves. What a pity.

Umar Dahiru

uddahiru@gmail.com

President Jonathan, do you want to spend N10bn to celebrate 50 years of power failure? I thought you could make the difference we have been anticipating. Things are even getting worse as people are dying of hunger & starvation.

Oxaz Odunda

oxaitext@yahoo.co.uk

This is not a good one; we have people suffering in the country - no water, light, jobs - and yet the government is spending such money for just an anniversary not minding the people that elected them to that position. I believe this are the kinds of things that have made armed robbery and kidnapping rampant everywhere in this country.

Bultrus

bultrus2010@yahoo.com

Why does the Federal Government want to spend N10bn for an independence anniversary? While majority of Nigerians are suffering from poverty, the government the government is squandering our money for this anniversary. I think the president has not done justice to Nigerians.

Mujahid Ajah Matazu

mujahidajah@yahoo.com

Reps order payment of N70bn pension arrears

If I may make a suggestion, I will suggest that pensioners should always be considered first before the regulars because it is as a result of their great efforts that Nigeria is standing today.

A.Y

aym@yuurok.com

Thanks be to Allah and may Allah continue to bless members of the National Assembly. Our prayers are that let this become

reality. A lot has been said but at the end of the day nothing has come out of them.

Kabir Ibrahim Gusau

ahlulzikri@yahoo.com

A job half done by the National

Assembly. Until it becomes a reality before it can be termed a 'job well done.' More grease to your elbows all the same.

Helen Yoms

helenyoms@yahoo.com



By Chris Aligbe

Virgin: The deal that fleeced Nigeria (III)

Cont'd. from yesterday.

First, a start-up airline like Virgin Nigeria, expected to start domestic, regional and international operations right from inception required, at least, \$300million to take-off and not \$50million as Virgin Nigeria had as its equity capital. This is why, right from the second year, the new airline had negative capital and cash-flow problems. With its vast experience, the Virgin Group knew this, yet it went along with it. The entry of UBA after a keenly competitive bid, as the airline's bankers brought in a new scenario. First, it provided the financial lifeline for the airline which now became heavily indebted to it. Also, UBA became a major role player in the fate of the nation's flag carrier.

For its operations, Virgin Nigeria needed airplanes. Virgin Atlantic Ltd. leased all the airplanes -one A340, two A320, for long hauls, and seven 737s from GCAS for domestic and regional routes. What were the terms of the leases and which routes were the airplanes applied? The lease terms and rentals as well as the utilization of the Airbuses on the long haul routes are as mind boggling as they are bewildering. What about the 737s? Each of these seven aircraft was lease at a monthly rental of \$181,000 with an average of \$151,000 maintenance reserve monthly. As against the normal 3years lease period, the leases were fixed for 5 years i.e. up to 2011. Worst still, the aircraft utilization was fixed at 200 bloc hours monthly. Apart from this, 200hrs minimum utilization is against industry norm of 100-120hrs, which Virgin Atlantic Ltd. knows. An examination of utilization of Virgin Nigeria aircraft stood at average 150hrs at the best of times and, very much lower, in abnormal months. The actual utilization shows a difference of 50 bloc hours from fixed-bloc hour lease utilization which translates to \$905 per bloc hour, \$42,250 per 50 bloc hours per aircraft per month.; \$295,750 per 50 bloc hours for 7 aircraft per month. In one year this will sum up to \$3,549,000 and for the three years it lasted, about \$10,647,000 would have been paid just for the unutilized excess bloc hours, let alone maintenance reserve. If Capt. Olumide and his colleagues had not moved in quickly in 2009 to avert this disaster, by engaging an aviation consultant to negotiate down the monthly bloc hour rental from the original \$181,000 to \$125,000, Virgin Nigeria would have had to carry this burden up to 2011 with an exposure of over \$17million for unutilized 50 bloc hours per month per each of the seven Boeing 737s leased for a fixed 5-year contractual period. That intervention saved Virgin Nigeria \$56,000 per aircraft per month. This will amount to \$280,000 per 5 aircraft per month, \$3,360,000 per annum and \$6,720,000 up to 2011, when the lease contract would have expired. Unfortunately, this agreement to reduce the rentals from 181,000 to 125,000 was never honoured by the leasing company on the pretext that the airline's balance sheet was too weak to support it and that it was preferable to wait until an investor bought the airline before the lessor reduced the lease rates. Such was the hypocrisy of the lessor at the time, because it makes more sense that when a company balance sheet is weak, then it means that if you reduce the rent, then there is more likelihood that they can pay!

Add to the above situation the various financial engineering strategies meant, ostensibly, to keep Virgin Nigeria flying! With negative operating capital, the airline quite early in life depended on loans, much of which it got from its lead banker, UBA, up to \$100million. The loans were based on a plan to raise \$150million from IPO. This was in 2008. At this time, Branson had requested that from the \$150million Virgin Atlantic's 49% equity should be bought over and \$11million should be paid to Virgin Atlantic as royalty for the use of the Virgin brand by Virgin Nigeria.

Having done a market survey which convinced it that up to \$400million could be raised, UBA Capital decided to provide the required \$150million as equity, with the hope of selling it off for \$400million. Before this could happen, the Nigerian individual investors, on learning about the UBA move, which they felt would put them at a disadvantage, went to court to stop it.

In reaction, UBA cut off further funding to virgin Nigeria, compounding the airline's cash-flow problems and creating operational difficulties and revenue loss.

To be cont'd.

Aligbe, an aviation industry consultant, is based in Lagos.

Child Rights Act is unconstitutional (II)

By Mukhtar A. Usman

Cont'd. from yesterday.

It is explicit from the foregoing that prohibition of marriage of girl below the age of 18 as provided under section 21 of the Child Rights Act is, no doubt a negation of fundamental right of Nigerian Muslims to practice their religious belief since Muslims belief could not be exhaustive and a thoroughgoing path to haven if the deeds of the prophet (S.W.A) are not recognized as constituent elements of Islam.

The option open to Senator Sani now is to commence legal proceedings in order to challenge the constitutionality of section 21 of the Child Right Act by invoking the constitutional provisions discussed above. While the case may be pending before the court, the Senator may however apply and obtain an interlocutory injunction restraining any government agency from arraigning or filing criminal charges against him pending the determination of his

suit.

In conclusion, Federal Government has been reported to have commenced investigating Senator Sani on his marriage of the Egyptian girl with a view to prosecuting him under section 21 of the Child Rights Act. This is a law that was born out of a charter of the United Nation on the UN declaration for the protection of children to which Nigeria is a signatory. Hence in the recent past, the National Assembly ratified the charter thereby enacting the Act. It should be submitted that laws that are brain child of international conventions, charters, treaties, etc, should henceforward be subjected to tests and scrutiny to determine the field they have to belong to before domesticating them. This is because Nigeria is a multi-religious and multi-cultural nation especially with Islam being the most dominant religion and a total way of life of its believers. Any part of domesticated law that is not in consonance with the belief, conscience, thought and practices of any religion should be

made to fall under the residuary legislative list under the constitution. By so doing, the constitution would have provided for legislative powers on the state legislatures to make a choice for enacting any international human right law as a local legislation, suitable to the peculiarities of each particular state as a federating unit.

There are advantages in any democratic system, derivable from institutions such as the legislature. The instrumentality of law making whereby the people are vested with the power to participate is an important tool with which people of common faith and heritage can actualize their yearning and ensure the existence of their common norms and values. We should be cautious in electing our legislators both at the National Assembly and the State House of Assembly because they have the tool of defining and safeguarding our future and our faith.

Concluded.

Usman is an aide on legal matters to Bauchi State governor.

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

N10 billion for anniversary bash
IN reports that of the N10b voted to celebrate 50th anniversary of Nigeria's independence, no amount is earmarked for thanksgiving. It is the divine grace of God we will see that day.
FELIX K, 07036494739.

Problems N10b can solve

FRANKLY, it is a waste of national resource. NITEL workers are owned 25 months' salaries; Ajaokuta Steel 10 months' salaries. The workers there have become slaves in their own country.
UMAR Oiza, 08033199921.

Did you say N10b?

I now believe our leaders have no vision or sympathy for the long-suffering people of Nigeria. Talk about squandering of the Good-luck!
ASHAFA Ruma, Kaduna, 08065635686.

Pay retired soldiers with the money
THE Federal Government of

Nigeria is to spend a whopping sum of N10bn on the 50th anniversary of independence while our retired parents who stood for the country diligently are not paid their arrears of only N69bn.
ALIYU Yero, Bauchi, 08065032749.

Is this a joke?

10 billion naira for independence celebration? Stop it. We have nothing to celebrate. Use the money on youths or roads or electricity, instead. God is watching; we are watching!
07039455401.

Sigh!

N10BN voted for 50th year party. I hope the less-privileged will be invited to eat from the N40m reserved for so-called 'food week'. Nigeria, we hail thee!
SM Katsina, Kano, 08033330580.

Aaargh!

N950M to be spent on parade during Nigeria's 50th Independ-

ence anniversary celebration, according to reports. I feel like I want to go mad!!!
DI Fagge, 08033957737.

Re: 10bn for 50th anniversary

FOR goodness' sake, this is outrageous. 10bn is more than enough to build cottage industry for the employment of our teaming youths who are not employed. Mr President, why this wasteful spending? Consider your chances come 2011,
DAVE, Abuja, 08034513289.

What's there to celebrate?

WHAT have they achieved that they want to use 10 billion naira to show-case? We've unemployment, no shelter, bad road, no education, no electricity, security poor, simple council election they can't conduct. All they know is to spend and EFCC is watching. With all we have, what kind of country is this?
OGABA, Abuja, 07038902284.

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The elections in Ethiopia

Partial results of the recent parliamentary elections in Ethiopia were released amid criticism by international observers who detailed alleged government's repression of dissent had already guaranteed that ruling party would triumph. The results as announced by the country's electoral board showed the ruling Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) and allied parties winning 534 seats out of the 536 declared, giving the incumbent Prime Minister, Meles Zenaw ai landslide victory in the 547-member parliament. That ensures another five-year term for him.

However, like the 2005 elections, last month's polls also fell short of international standard, according to members of the European Union observer group. The opposition has called for fresh polls. On its part, the United States of America said even though the exercise fell short of fairness, the next step of the new government could determine the future of US ties with Ethiopia. Ethiopia is a long-time ally of the US, which considers the Horn of Africa country as a bulwark against infiltration by what the US calls terrorist organizations allegedly harboured by neighbouring Somalia and Eritrea. In spite of reports of poll rigging, this slap in the wrist amounts to business as usual by the international community, led by the US, in its relationship with Ethiopia.

Already, the African Union which sent a 60-man observer group described the outcome as a reflection of voters' will, asserting that voters had freely expressed their will during the exercise. Zenawi has been in power since 1991, when the guerrillas he led toppled the regime of Mengistu Haile Mariam, which had in turn toppled the repressive monarchy of Emperor Haile Selassie in 1974. From former US President Bill Clinton's description of Zenawi at the time as member of a "new generation" of African leaders, the Ethiopian Prime Minister has evolved to head a repressive government that has brutalised its citizens launched wars on its neighbours on flimsy pretexts, in order to cling to power.

In many respects, however, Zenawi's government has moved Ethiopia forward since it took office. It has improved educational and economic opportunity of Ethiopia in the past 19 years. But, like others whose power was derived at the point of a gun, he has often shown, sometimes brutally, that he has no tolerance for dissent. Though he claimed that he didn't want to be too hard on the opposition this time as in 2005, when members of an opposition coalition who won enough seats were killed, beaten and jailed, the atmosphere is however still not too friendly for political foes.

Today, membership in the Zenawi's party is required for almost any educational or professional advancement in Ethiopia, an affront that should rightfully be resisted. Having been declared as winner, we expect Zenawi to shed his dictatorial toga and become the leader for all the Ethiopian people, irrespective of their political differences or religion affiliation. His long-standing grip on power has turned him into a virtual despot, thus making it difficult for people to freely express their views. Journalists are also afraid to report on the corruption that observers say is rampant in the regime. So are ordinary people, especially civil servants who say commentary might cost them their jobs, or worse.

We wish that a more transparent process took place in Ethiopia. But Zenawi's party has been declared winner, and we expect him to be more tolerant in leadership. He should reach some accommodation with opposition in the new government in order to assuage feelings of loss and stabilise the country. Ethiopia is in dire need of socio-economic reform to further salvage the citizens from poverty, hunger and deprivation. We also call on the opposition to also accept any offer to join the government. If they feel aggrieved enough, they should channel their complaints to the appropriate court of law, rather than embarking on action that may be detrimental to the wellbeing of the country, as experienced in 2005.

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Promoting interfaith dialogue in Northern Nigeria

Sister Kathleen Mcgarvey is a member Inter Faith Communion of Women's Faith based Groups of the Catholic religious order of Our Lady of Apostles (OLA). I first met her in 2002 while she was conducting the research for a book on feminism in Islam and Christianity. I was at that time the National President (Amirah) of the Federation of Muslim Women's Associations in Nigeria (FOMWAN) and she had approached me to organise interviews with members of the FOMWAN Executive Council during one of our meetings in Abuja. She attended the meeting and conducted interviews with some members. She was later invited to our annual National Conference which held in Maiduguri that year.

Sister Kathleen has finally published the book titled *Muslim and Christian Women in Dialogue: The Case of Northern Nigeria* and it was launched at the Conference Hall of the Catholic Social Centre in Kaduna last Thursday May 27, 2010. The event attracted eminent Nigerians from the religious community.

The hostess was Sister Assumpta Mordi of the Our Lady of Apostles OLA congregation who said in her welcome remarks that her religious group focuses on promoting dialogue and human rights with particular reference to women. She said the book was a big boost to OLA as a mission and they felt it should be celebrated. The Chairman of the ceremony was Rev. Father Matthew Hassan Kukah a high profile clergy man and public commentator who in his opening remarks also underscored the need for dialogue within our faith community. In his opening remarks he recalled the attempt by government to establish a national advisory religious dialogue body known as the Advisory Council Religious Affairs ACRA and how the body could not take off due to disagreement among the leaders of the Muslim and Christian community on who should lead the body. He introduced the presenter of the keynote address, the Catholic Archbishop of Kaduna Archbishop M.M. Ndagoso. In his presentation titled *Muslim and Christian Women Organisations: Veritable Tools for Inter Religious Dialogue* he observed that the Muslim and Christian missionaries had hoped that the majority of Nigerians would profess their faith which was a legitimate but big dream. However the reality today is different and unlikely to change as Muslims, Christians and practitioners of traditional religion are not likely to get converted. The Bishop therefore urged all to embrace dialogue and challenged the Muslims and Christians who are adherents of the two Abrahamic faiths to engage in dialogue because they have several things in common. Since Prophet Abraham is the father of their two religions the bishop said dialogue for them is not an option but an imperative.

The book was reviewed by my humble self, after which I highlighted its content and the debate on women's rights within the Muslim and Christian community which dominates the

Civil Society Watch

By Hajiya Bilkisu (mni)

book. The title of this book by Kathleen Mc Garvey, gives the impression that the content of the book is exclusively about dialogue among Muslim and Christian women in Northern Nigeria. However from the content and reading through section 1 of the book, the reader is treated to the history of Islamic and Christian feminism.

In Chapter one titled Muslim Women's Movement, the author traces the development of feminism and its

Christian Muslim Mutual Relations, (ACMMRN) and other community based initiatives which were related to promotion of health care and conflict resolution. This Chapter points to the need to build on what already exists and expand the space to make these initiatives more effective.

The last chapter is titled "Towards a Women's Liberative Interreligious Dialogue". The author while writing about the inclusive approach in Northern Nigeria cites various aspects of Islam and Christianity that should unite the adherents of both faiths. Her credentials as a religious leader shines forth as she cites the scriptural basis for unity and balances this with her sound knowledge of the differences in

Chapter six is titled *Christian Women's Discourse in Northern Nigeria*. The author notes that all the Christian denominations have a dynamic women's organisation known as Fellowship or *zumuntan mata*

various colourations. Chapter two of the book is titled Christian Feminist Theology in Comparison with Islamic Feminism and the author observed that both Muslim and Christian women claim that activism existed since the religion came into existence. Section two of the book which focuses on Northern Nigeria has four chapters and the third chapter captures the history of development of Islam in the region, women's role in the jihad that led to establishment of Sokoto Caliphate, the Islamic brotherhoods, *tariqa*. Chapter four traces the development of Secular Women's movement while chapter five is devoted to Muslim women's discourse in Northern Nigeria, the formation of the Muslim Sister's Organisation (MSO), the establishment of FOMWAN and the sharia debate. Chapter six is titled *Christian Women's Discourse in Northern Nigeria*. The author notes that all the Christian denominations have a dynamic women's organisation known as Fellowship or *zumuntan mata*.

The last section of the book has two chapters the seventh and the eighth. Chapter seven is dedicated to Women in Interreligious Dialogue and eighth to reflections on the relevance of theology to interreligious dialogue and a feminist ethical response to religious pluralism, the section ends with a way forward. I consider this last section of the book as the most important. While the previous chapters provide a useful historical perspective to the struggles of women within the faith based arena, and highlight their gender discourse, the last section focuses on an aspect that is very important for Nigeria's future - inter faith dialogue and relations. Chapter seven provides an insight into various interfaith initiatives in the country such as the Nigeria Inter Religious Council (NIREC), Association for

the doctrinal beliefs of Muslims and Christians.

This chapter provides an interesting concept note for any one genuinely interested in comparative religion and inter-faith work. Kathleen McGarvey boldly addresses the issue of using religion to oppress as highlighted in the first two chapters of the book. Her work also provides a blue print for all people who want to use religious dialogue to empower all but particularly women. She ends her discourse with a recommendation that her work is taken as a concrete example of 'how dialogue might be developed so as to become a transforming and liberative force in the actual lives of a fractured and suffering community'. It is an indispensable resource material for faith leaders, their followers, conflict resolution experts, students of comparative religion, historians and researchers.

After presentation of the book review, two women leaders of faith based organisations Barrister Maria Orgah of Catholic Women's Organisations and Amina Kazaure who represented Farida Sada of FOMWAN made brief presentations on the experiences of women in organising interfaith activities. Both of them stressed the need to give additional attention to promoting such activities. Sister Kathleen the author of the book then made a presentation on the Muslim and Christian Women in Nigeria Dialogue: Way Forward. She made it clear in her paper that dialogue is needed even when there are no riots and urged both men and women, Christians and Muslims to make a commitment to interreligious dialogue. The revolutionary suggestions made to address gender issues by Sister Kathleen and her agenda for establishing and sustaining interfaith work will be discussed next week. The full book review will also be published separately.



CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA

In furtherance of the transparency and full disclosure stance of the Central Bank of Nigeria, the Monetary Policy Committee has decided that henceforth the lending rates obtainable in all Deposit Money Banks (DMBs) be made public to guide business decisions. Consequently, find below the applicable rates for each of the DMBs as at 28/05/2010. The rates will be published every Wednesday in some selected national Newspapers. The rates will also be available on the website of the Central Bank of Nigeria.

Average Deposit and Lending Rates as at 28-05-2010

S/N	NAME OF BANK	Deposit			Lending Rate									
		Demand Deposit	Savings Deposit	Time Deposit	Agriculture		Mining & Quarrying		Oil & Gas		Manufacturing		Real Estate & Const	
		Ave.Int Rate	Ave.Int Rate	Ave.Int Rate	Prime	Max.	Prime	Max.	Prime	Max.	Prime	Max.	Prime	Max.
1	Access Bank	-	1.00	0.5-2.5	17.00	24.00	17.50	24.00	17.50	24.00	17.00	24.00	19.00	24.00
2	Afribank Nigeria	0.01	1.00	4.50	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00
3	Diamond Bank	0.60	2.85	3.50	14.00	19.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	23.00
4	Ecobank Nigeria	0.01	2.00	5.00	n/a	n/a	18.00	20.00	16.00	20.00	16.00	20.00	16.00	20.00
5	Equitorial Trust Bank	0.05	2.00	6.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00
6	Fidelity Bank	-	2.00	5.50	19.00	23.00	19.00	23.00	19.00	23.00	19.00	23.00	19.00	23.00
7	First Bank of Nigeria	-	2.00	0.5-3	9.00	16.50	18.00	24.00	18.00	24.00	18.00	24.00	14.00	16.00
8	FCMB	0.12	1.77	5.50	17.00	22.00	17.00	23.50	17.00	23.50	17.00	22.50	17.00	23.00
9	FINBANK	0.25	2.00	4.70	14.00	20.00	18.00	20.00	20.00	22.00	18.00	20.00	20.00	22.00
10	Guaranty Trust Bank	n/a	2	2.5-4	16.00	17.00	18.00	21.00	18.00	21.00	18.00	21.00	18.00	21.00
11	Stanbic IBTC Bank	0.43	2.19	4.31	16.00	20.00	14.00	20.00	14.00	20.00	14.00	20.00	14.00	20.00
12	Intercontinental Bank	0	0.50	6.82	22.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	-	-	22.00	25.00
13	Citi Bank Nigeria	0.75	1.50	2.00	13.00	21.00	13.00	21.00	13.00	21.00	13.00	21.00	13.00	21.00
14	Oceanic Bank	0.25	3.00	2-7.5	16.00	23.00	16.00	23.00	16.00	23.00	16.00	23.00	16.00	23.00
15	Bank PHB	0.56	1.54	8.92	5.00	24.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00
16	Skye Bank	1.00	1.50	3.46	14.00	14.00	17.00	22.00	17.00	22.00	17.00	22.00	17.00	22.00
17	Spring Bank	0	3.00	5.00	21.00	24.00	21.00	24.00	21.00	24.00	21.00	24.00	21.00	24.00
18	Standard Chartered Bank	0.50	1.50	2.00	16.00	18.00	16.00	18.00	16.00	18.00	16.00	18.00	16.00	18.00
19	Sterling Bank	0.50	3.50	5.00	14.00	18.00	16.00	20.00	16.00	20.00	16.00	19.00	16.00	20.00
20	Union Bank	0.5	2.00	3-5	8.00	22.00	16.00	22.00	14.00	21.00	16.00	22.00	17.00	22.00
21	United Bank for Africa	0.43	1.10	4.60	8.00	24.00	21.00	24.00	15.50	24.00	15.50	24.00	15.50	24.00
22	Unity Bank	0-1	3-4	1-7	9.00	24.00	26.25	28.25	26.25	28.25	26.25	28.25	26.25	28.25
23	Wema Bank	1.00	1.5	3.42	16.00	16.00	16.00	20.00	16.00	20.00	16.00	19.00	16.00	20.00
24	Zenith Bank	0-1	0-1	3.00	11.00	16.00	11.00	18.00	11.00	18.00	11.00	18.00	13.00	17.00

S/N	NAME OF BANK	Deposit			Lending Rate									
		Demand Deposit	Savings Deposit	Time Deposit	General Comm.		Mortgage		Transp. & Comm.		Fin. & Ins.		Govt.	
		Ave.Int Rate	Ave.Int Rate	Ave.Int Rate	Prime	Max.	Prime	Max.	Prime	Max.	Prime	Max.	Prime	Max.
1	Access Bank	-	1.00	0.5-2.5	18.00	24.00	14.00	24.00	18.00	24.00	20.00	24.00	19.00	24.00
2	Afribank Nigeria	0.01	1.00	4.50	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00
3	Diamond Bank	0.60	2.85	3.50	20.00	24.00	18.75	22.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	23.00	20.00	23.00
4	Ecobank Nigeria	0.01	2.00	5.00	16.00	20.00	11.00	18.00	17.00	20.00	8.00	20.00	18.00	20.00
5	Equitorial Trust Bank	0.05	2.00	6.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00
6	Fidelity Bank	-	2.00	5.50	19.00	23.00	19.00	23.00	19.00	23.00	19.00	23.00	19.00	23.00
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8	FCMB	0.12	1.77	5.50	17.00	26.00	17.00	22.50	17.00	22.00	17.00	23.00	17.00	22.00
9	FINBANK	0.25	2.00	4.70	18.00	22.00	20.00	22.00	20.00	22.00	15.00	20.00	20.00	22.00
10	Guaranty Trust Bank	n/a	2	2.5-4	18.00	21.00	18.00	21.00	18.00	21.00	18.00	21.00	18.00	21.00
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14	Oceanic Bank	0.25	3.00	2-7.5	16.00	23.00	16.00	23.00	16.00	23.00	16.00	23.00	16.00	23.00
15	Bank PHB	0.56	1.54	8.92	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00
16	Skye Bank	1.00	1.50	3.46	17.00	22.00	17.00	22.00	17.00	22.00	17.00	22.00	17.00	22.00
17	Spring Bank	0	3.00	5.00	21.00	24.00	21.00	24.00	21.00	24.00	21.00	24.00	21.00	24.00
18	Standard Chartered Bank	0.50	1.50	2.00	16.00	18.00	13.00	16.00	16.00	18.00	16.00	18.00	16.00	18.00
19	Sterling Bank	0.50	3.50	5.00	16.00	21.00	16.00	21.00	16.00	20.00	16.00	20.00	16.00	18.00
20	Union Bank	0.5	2.00	3-5	18.00	22.00	-	-	18.00	22.00	16.00	22.00	18.00	22.00
21	United Bank for Africa	0.43	1.10	4.60	21.00	24.00	15.50	24.00	15.50	24.00	15.50	24.00	21.00	24.00
22	Unity Bank	0-1	3-4	1-7	26.25	28.25	26.25	28.25	26.25	28.25	26.25	28.25	26.25	28.25
23	Wema Bank	1.00	1.5	3.42	16.00	21.00	16.00	20.00	16.00	21.00	16.00	20.00	16.00	20.00
24	Zenith Bank	0-1	0-1	3.00	12.00	19.00	12.00	17.00	11.00	18.00	11.50	16.00	12.00	18.00

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

(Signed)
Management

News Extra

Naomi Campbell court request labelled a publicity stunt

Prosecutors want model to testify about 'blood diamonds' allegedly given to her by former Liberian president



PROSECUTORS want Naomi Campbell to testify about the former Liberian president's alleged gift of diamonds in 1997.

Naomi Campbell is no stranger to courts, but the latest request for her to attend former Liberian president Charles Taylor's war crimes trial in The Hague, is perhaps the most unusual.

Taylor's defence lawyers yesterday opposed a request by prosecutors to call the model as a witness, branding it a "publicity stunt" after they filed a motion last month seeking to have Campbell testify about claims Taylor gave her "blood diamonds" at a reception in South Africa in 1997.

But Taylor's lawyers said the evidence was "tangential to the real issues" against Taylor and said prosecutors were trying to introduce it too late in the trial - 15 months after they closed their case.

"For the prosecution to present such inferential evidence at this advanced stage, as part of an obvious publicity stunt, would bring the administration of justice into serious disrepute," Taylor's lawyer Courtenay Griffiths wrote to judges.

According to the prosecution motion seeking a subpoena, Campbell told prosecutors through her lawyer she does not want to get involved in the case.

Prosecutors want Campbell to

Africa.

In a written statement to the court, Farrow said Campbell told her that two or three men woke her up and "presented her with a large diamond which they said was from Taylor". White says she heard Taylor say he was going to give Campbell diamonds and saw them being delivered.

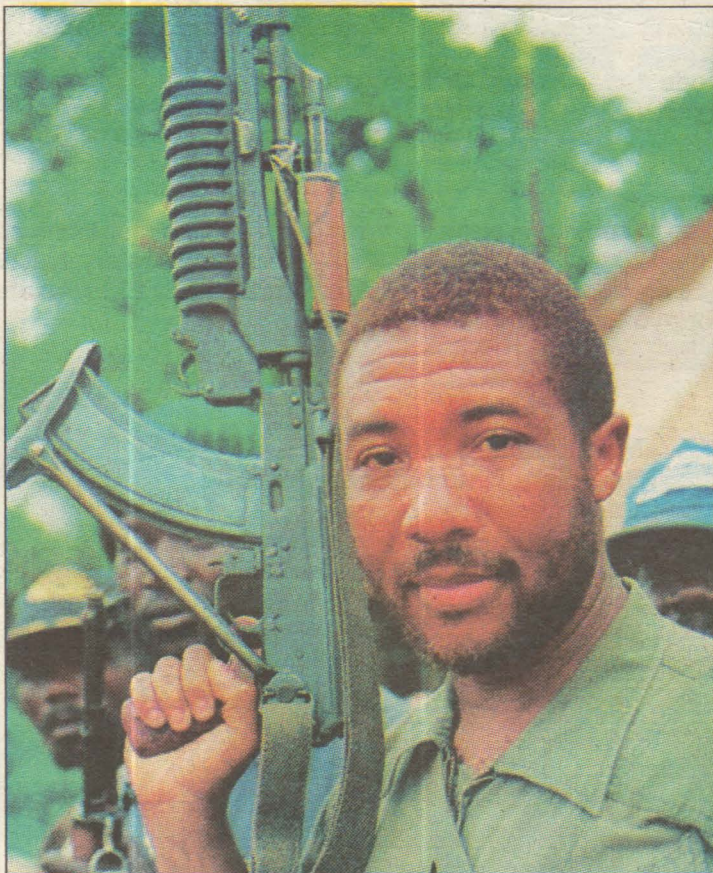
Prosecutors say Campbell's testimony would provide "direct evidence of the accused's possession of rough diamonds from a witness unrelated to the Liberian or Sierra Leone conflicts".

Taylor, once one of West Africa's most powerful men, is charged with 11 counts of murder, torture, rape, sexual slavery and the use of child soldiers and terrorism in his role backing rebels in Sierra Leone's 1991-2002 civil war.

An estimated 500,000 people were the victims of killings, systematic mutilation or other atrocities during the war, with some of the worst crimes committed by child soldiers who were drugged to desensitize them.

It is unclear when judges will rule on the prosecution request.

Culled from guardian.co.uk



FORMER Liberian President Charles Taylor



HALI had turtle shell growth on his back

'Turtle boy's' joy at shell surgery

A young lad dubbed turtle boy by cruel bullies is starting a new life after a giant shell of hard skin was removed from his back. Maimaiti Hali, eight, underwent a miracle two-hour op to cut away the huge mutated growth.

Dad Maimaiti Musai said: "We were told surgery wasn't possible when he was very young so we waited. But the growth got bigger and harder and became like a turtle shell."

"People bullied him and we were determined to end it. He is such a good and brave boy and he never complained. We are so glad that he is now on the mend."

Medics at Urumqi Military General Hospital say they have taken away the growth and replaced it with skin grafts from Hali's scalp and legs.

Chief surgeon Ye Xiangpo said: "The skin we removed was as thick as a bull's hide."

"We used scalp hair on the graft because it grows back very quickly. We expect him to make a full recovery."

Hali, of Heping, northern

China, added: "It was a bit painful, but I won't worry about other kids laughing at me any more."

"I am looking forward to going out in the sun without my shirt on and to going swimming with my friends."

Culled from thesun.co.uk

People bullied him and we were determined to end it. He is such a good and brave boy and he never complained. We are so glad that he is now on the mend.

OTONTI NDUKA FOUNDATION FOR VALUES EDUCATION & NIGERIAN ACADEMY OF EDUCATION

Invite Nigerians from all walks of life and the general public to a 3 day National Conference on the theme:

Systemic Regeneration of Values for Sustainable National Development

Under the Distinguished Chairmanship of

Prof. Wole Soyinka, NNOM, Nobel Laureate

Keynote Speaker: Prof. Anya O Anya, NNOM

Date: Monday 2nd - Wednesday 4th August 2010

Venue: Sheraton Hotel, Lagos

Preamble:

The basic purpose of the Otonti Nduka Foundation for Values Education is the revitalization of the moral fibre of all segments of the Nigerian society through the enunciation, propagation and inculcation of appropriate positive values capable of sustaining a modern democratic, scientifically oriented, multi-ethnic, and multi religious society. This purpose is achieved through research, publications, conferences, workshops, public enlightenment campaigns, and so on. In August 2008 the Foundation held a National Conference on Societal Values at which certain ethical, religious and political values were identified as the bedrock of the socio-economic development of the nation. The Foundation was there and then mandated to liaise with government agencies, educational institutions and organizations to develop and promote curricula, syllabuses and public enlightenment materials on values education.

To prosecute the basic purpose and mandate outlined above the Foundation found a most appropriate and notable ally, namely, the Nigerian Academy of Education which had in 2004 held an Annual Congress on the very theme: Values Education.

The centrality of values in the context of any worthwhile national development efforts informed the decision of the two organizations to, as a matter of urgency, jointly host the projected National Conference on the above theme.

The seven subthemes of the conference are as follows:

	<u>LEAD SPEAKERS</u>	<u>REFLECTORS</u>
1. Values Education and Governance	Ambassador (Prof.) Ibrahim Gambari, Dr. Mahumud Tukur Former V-C Bayero University Kano	His Excellency Barr. Raji Fashola, SAN
2. Traditional Values and Globalization	Prof. Mark Anikpo University of Port Harcourt.	Prof. Nuhu Yaquub V-C University of Abuja
3. Professional Ethice and Values Education	O.C.J. Okocha, SAN Former President Nig. Bar Association	His Excellency, Com. Adams Oshimhole Governor Edo State.
4. Values Education and Manpower Development	Pro. I. J. Elaigwu University of Jos	Prof. S.O. Igwe, FNAE Pro-Chancellor Uni. Nig. Nsukka
5. The Mass Media and Values Education	Prince Tony Momoh	Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa
6. Youth Sub- culture and Values Education	Prof. Atahiru Jega V-C Bayero University Kano	Hon. Ledum Mitee
7. Human Right and National Consciousness	Prof. Akin Oyeboode University of Lagos	Dr. Hauwa Imam Dean of Education University of Abuja

CALL FOR PAPERS:

Scholars, researchers and social analysts are hereby invited to contribute papers on any of the sub-themes listed above. Two copies of such a paper, typed singlingspacing on font size 12, and not exceeding 20 pages should be submitted to the Secretary, National Organizing Committee (NOC), 24 Woji Road, GRA Phase 2, P. O. Box 8580, Fed. Secretariat Port Harcourt, on or before 15 July 2010. An abstract of not more than 300 words for each paper should reach the NOC Secretariat not later than 30 June 2010.

For further enquiries please contact:

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Phone: 08039461525
iafn@yahoo.com
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24 Woji Road, GRA Phase 2
P.O.Box 8580 Fed. Secretariat
Port Harcourt, Rivers State
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info@otontindukafoundation.org



CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION

OBITUARY

"INNA LILLAHI WA INNA ILAIHI RAJI'UN"

"Certainly we come from God and to Him is our return"



It is with profound grief that the Board, Management and staff of the Corporate Affairs Commission announce the death of **Malam Bello Ibrahim**, which sad event occurred on Monday 17th May, 2010 after a brief illness. Until his death **Malam Bello** was the Director of Administration.

We pray God to grant him eternal rest in Al-janna firdanus and give his family the fortitude to bear the irreparable loss.

Signed
Management

labour report

'Government is only interested in privatising power'

In this interview, the Deputy General Secretary of Nigeria Union of Electricity Employees (NUEE) Comrade Ibrahim Aliyu says government is only concerned with selling PHCN and not with power generation. He also speaks on workers' welfare and sundry issues.

WHAT is your take on recent pronouncement by the Federal Government to increase electricity tariff?

Well as a union, we are not in support of increase in electricity tariff because the populace cannot take it. Government is talking about how to generate more electricity and increase more megawatt into the system but it had not done anything in that regard. I don't think this is the right time for the increase.

I will advise that government should concentrate on bringing in more megawatt into the system so that even if the tariff is increased they will not complain.

But in this regard I think government wants to give electricity to the private sector to manage because private operators are complaining that they cannot come in under the present tariff regime.

But what we want to under-

stand is which country in the world has hands up its electricity to private individuals completely? Some years back Britain privatized its electricity only for them to come back again to buy it because of how sensitive the sector is to every economy.

Nigeria should be able to learn from other countries of the world because most of our industries have collapsed.

But they say that it will bring in money that will be used to fix the facilities?

It is not true, because the Minister of State for Power told Nigerians recently that private operators said they cannot come in with the little tariff Nigerians are paying on electricity; that is if they must come in the tariff must be increased.

Also the Presidential Subcommittee on Power gave the recommendation that electricity tariff must be increased for the private sector to come in.

Recently your union issued a strike threat but subsequently suspended it. What is the situation now?

You see my union does not just embark on strike for the fun on it. We don't derive pleasure in calling our members out for strike because we know that the little we are generating now has made the system to be fragile and any attempt to disrupt the system will take some time to redeem the system. So, we are very careful on the matter.

When we sat down with the management of Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN), an agreement was reached including all the stakeholders who include the Minister of Power and that of Labour and others.

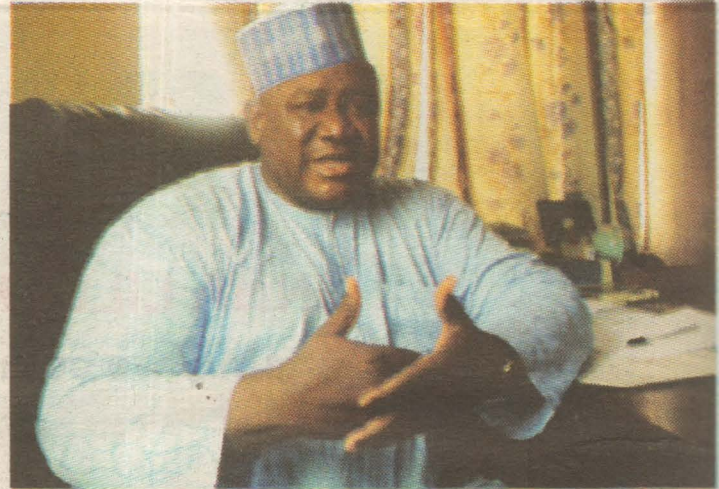
On monetization and salary increase issues, we demanded 150 percent and agreed it would not be paid in bulk but that it will be paid according to increase in megawatt generated and revenue collected.

However we were able to get 13 percent out of the 150 so we have this monetisation arrears which we have not collected since 2003, the balance from the 150 percent, and also the issue of casualisation which we handle mutually but our management are taken us for granted because last year they promised that it will be in this year budget but nothing like this was there.

On the one in the budget, the ministry of power ask the management of PHCN to send the particulars of the people so that the money can be paid into their accounts but the management of PHCN did not mention it to us and there is a lot of tension and anxiety by the workers.

So because we don't want to go on strike for the fun of it, we met with the management, including intervention by the Presidency that the Ministry of Finance will handle the payment and not PHCN after verification.

How long will the verification process take?



COMRADE Ibrahim Aliyu

There is an agreement that the committee will complete their job within four weeks but right now PHCN is compiling its own figures.

You said the 150 percent increment is tied to performance; Nigerian will say you have no right to demand for this payment because Nigerians have not seen any positive change as regard to output in electricity?

Performance is not that of staff per se but it is the performance of PHCN and government because for the workers, it is what you give them that they work with. If you give them enough megawatt they will distribute it and transmit it to Nigerians. Again, if the engines are there the workers are ready to work.

As a stakeholder, what do you think is the problem with the sector?

First of all is that PHCN has completely obsolete machines; these are machines that have been working for the past 30 to 40 years. Most of them have even been written off by the manufacturers but the wisdom of our engineers keep these machines going and that accounts for the little we are getting till now.

There was no investment along the line over the years in the electricity sector. The former minister of power who is now the Governor of Cross River once invited the Japanese that manufactured some of this engine, they went back without doing anything because that they had forgotten this machines long time ago.

FG constitutes committee on graceful ageing

By Francis Okeke

THE Federal Government has re-constituted an inter-ministerial committee to develop an action plan on graceful ageing for workers and retirees.

The committee which was initially constituted in the year 2000 submitted the draft of the national policy on ageing to the Federal Executive Council in May 2007.

Speaking at the stakeholders meeting on the Implementation of the Plan of Action on graceful ageing empowerment programme in Abuja, Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Productivity, Chief Alex Anigbo disclosed that the challenges of the ageing population cut across policies within local, national and international tiers of government.

He stated that Ageing is a natural process of evolution which progressively reduces the vibrancy of every human being, adding that ageing population remains an important economic resource whose experience, wisdom and knowledge cannot be abandoned by economic planners, but

must be harnessed for the good of the country.

Anigbo acknowledged the role played by some international donor agencies, such as International Labour Organization (ILO), World Health Organization (WHO) as well as the International Federation on Ageing (IFA) for spearheading the mainstreaming of ageing issues into the development agenda of individual nations as part of Decent Work Country programme (DWCP).

The Permanent Secretary recalled that unlike the developed economies of the world, the role of the Ageing population in nation building is apparently unrecognized and unappreciated by government, which is evident in the absence of legislation and institutional structures to cater for the needs of the retirees to enable them to engage in productive activities that can encourage graceful ageing.

He charged the stakeholders to be committed and dedicated to the assigned responsibilities for the realization of the set objectives for the ageing population.

ILO calls for balanced response to jobs recovery

INTERNATIONAL Labour Organization (ILO) Director-General Juan Somavia has called for a "balanced" policy strategy aimed at securing a "jobs-rich" economic recovery in the face of new threats to the global economy from the sovereign debt crisis and fiscal retrenchment.

Speaking yesterday at the opening of ILO's 99th International Labour Conference holding in Geneva Switzerland, Mr. Somavia warned that the recent debt crisis and deficit reduction measures, mainly in social spending, could "directly affect jobs and salaries" at a time of weak economic recovery and continued high levels of unemployment.

Mr. Somavia called

for a "balanced policy convergence strategy" based on three elements: securing a job-rich recovery, moving onto a path of strong, sustainable and balanced growth, and addressing the structural imbalances of the global economy that existed before the crisis.

"We need to act on all three objectives together in a harmonious way within a short, medium and longer-term perspective," Mr. Somavia said. "They are all interconnected. So we don't have 'either or' options."

"The immediate danger of a simultaneous fiscal retrenchment in a significant number of countries is to slow down Europe's weak recovery even more," Mr. Somavia said. "In turn, this would damage in different

ways growth prospects around the world. A contagion effect cannot be ruled out.

"There is no doubt that the public debt and public deficit problems of many countries are real and need to be dealt with, as both a national and a global stability issue," said. "The question is how and in what time frame."

Mr. Somavia addressed the opening of the Conference against a backdrop of new concern over the continuing global jobs crisis, that had elevated global unemployment to more than 210 million, or its highest level ever recorded according to his report "Recovery and Growth with Decent Work." GENEVA (ILO News) -

EDUCATION

E-MAIL: education@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 08035910371

'Why NTI degree programme was stopped'

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

MINISTER of Education Professor Ruqayyatu Ahmed Rufa'i said the Kaduna-based National Teachers' Institute (NTI) was directed to stop its degree programmes in order to allow the institute develop its capacity to deliver services to its teeming clientele that are scattered in across the country.

Speaking during her visit to the institute, she said the directive was also to encourage the institute to concentrate more on training Nigerian teachers.

She said the repositioning exercise will make the institute to brace up for future challenges.

It would be recalled that the minister had fortnight ago directed the management of the institute to reposition itself within six weeks and that they should stop the degree programmes being offered in the institute.

While commending the institute for engaging experts for its programme, the minister pledged to encourage stakeholders to prevail on their teachers to avail themselves of the training and retraining opportunities offered by the institute.

"On our part, we will do everything within the limit of our powers to assist the institute to deliver on its mandate. Our mission of this visit is



A student of the University of Stirling Miss Catherine Dagu receiving UK scholarship award from the International Officer of the university Mrs Elizabeth Herrmann (left) and the Regional Manager of Study Group International Nigeria Mrs Yetunde Pereira in Abuja recently.

to familiarise ourselves with the activities of the institute in order to know how to help you better," she said.

She also identified poor quality of teachers in Nigeria schools as one of the factors responsible for the fallen standard of education in the country, saying there is urgent need for all stakeholders to wake up and contribute in

addressing the situation.

"A great number of teachers have not gotten the requisite teaching qualification that will enable them perform optimally in the profession, the few that are qualified are either demoralized due to lack of incentives and poor remuneration or are disillusioned due to lack of recognition and respect

from the society," she said.

Earlier in his address, Director General of the institute, Dr Aminu Ladan Sharehu said the institute has commenced the repositioning exercise as directed by the minister, adding that a five-point agenda has been developed to put the institute in its proper perspective.

Sandamu LG to decongest schools

THE Sandamu Local Government in Katsina State said it has concluded plans to decongest primary schools in Maye and Burka villages, chairman of the council, Nasiru Ibrahim, has said.

He said the project, which would cost the council N4.5 million, was awarded in April and would be completed this month.

According to him, the additional classrooms are necessary in view of the increasing enrolment of pupils in the two schools in those villages.

Abia health college introduces 25 courses

THE College of Health Technology Abia, Abia State, has introduced 25 new health related courses with a view to cover more areas of manpower development.

This was disclosed by the Rector of the college Mr Okoro Alvan.

He said that with the recent elevation of the school to a college of health technology, it now had the capacity to venture in to natural and applied sciences.

He said that the college would build microbiology, physics and chemistry laboratories to improve the quality and proficiency of graduates of the institution.

Bauchi re-engages 200 retired teachers

THE Bauchi State Government has re-engaged the services of 200 retired teachers to boost quality teaching in public primary schools in the state.

Governor Isa Yuguda stated this while briefing journalists on the achievements of his administration in the last three years.

He said the retired teachers were re-engaged on contract basis, adding that "government has recruited more than 200 retired teachers on contract and more than 1,000 fresh graduates to boost the teaching staff strength of the schools.

Dakingari urges nomads to send children to school

GOVERNOR Saidu Dakingari of Kebbi State has appealed to nomads to enrol their children in special schools established on their grazing routes.

Dakingari, who made the appeal during an unscheduled visit to some nomadic settlements in the Suru Local Government Area, said such enrolment would enhance the living standards of the nomads.

He called on them to conduct their daily activities in permanent settlements and ensure they benefited from the schools provided for them.

DRPC organises training for nursery teachers

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma

THE Development Research and Projects Centre (DRPC), a Kano-based non-profit civil society organization, said arrangements have been concluded for the training of 50 teachers and nannies in nursery, kindergarten and Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) classes in government and private schools.

The 2010 teacher development programme will take place in Kano from June 18 to June 20, a statement signed by the official of the organisation, Hajiya Hadiza Ismail, has said.

"To participate in the programme you must be a teacher in a nursery or ECCD class or headmaster of a school with ECCD or nursery classes. You must have more than three years experience; you must have basic reading and writing capacity in English language; and you must be committed to your self-development as teacher and a leader," the statement said.

According to the statement, all applicants will be screened at the Community Education Resource Centre (CERC), Gandun Albasu, on Saturday, June 12, 2010 to verify those eligible for the programme.

Make civic education compulsory in schools, group tells FG

From Yemi Bamidele, Ibadan

THE Scripture Union of Nigeria (SUN) has called on the Federal Government to make civic education compulsory in all primary and post-primary schools in the country.

The call was made by a top official of the organisation Pastor Sam Ogungbemi while addressing journalists in Ibadan as part of activities lined up for the celebration of this year's Children's Day.

He said making civic education compulsory in schools will incul-

cate the sense of patriotism in the nation's youths and prepare them for the challenges ahead.

He said prevailing moral decadence in the country has also made it imperative for the introduction of civic education for primary and post-primary schools children.

NUC partners security agencies on closure of illegal varsities

THE Executive Secretary of National Universities Commission (NUC) Professor Julius Okojie said the commission is working with security operatives to close down illegal universities in the country.

Okojie, who disclosed this while addressing journalists in Abuja,

said the commission is also using legal means to address the issue.

"We are working with law enforcement agents because the existing laws can actually prosecute those violating the laws and obtaining money under false pretext," he said.

He said the commission's mas-

sive sensitisation and awareness campaigns had yielded fruitful dividends, stressing that "we have raised enough awareness that people are now asking questions, to the extent that traditional rulers come here to report to us that people are setting up private universities behind us."

Oceanic Bank trains school children on financial planning

OCEANIC Bank has trained school children how to be financially responsible and independent from an early age as part of activities lined up for the commemoration of Children's Day that was celebrated last week.

Head of Corporate Communications of the bank, Nonye Ugwuji, said Oceanic Bank also

used the opportunity of the Children's Day celebration to expose children and their parents to the unique propositions of its various kiddies products and value added services that are targeted at grooming tomorrow's leaders.

Oceanic said in a statement that "this year's edition of "Oceanic Children Banking Month"

will continue to focus on teaching children how to be financially responsible and independent from an early age." The bank, in conjunction with parents and other key players in the society (schools, churches, mosques, hospitals, and so on) have held series of events to help position children as the leaders of tomorrow.

CAMPUS ROUNDUP

E-MAIL: campusroundup@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 08035910371

Don cautions varsities against severe punishment for students

From Thomas Biniyat, UNIJOS

A lecturer with the Faculty of Law of the University of Jos Professor Nnamdi Aduba has advised against the use of extreme measures in punishing erring students by school managements.

Speaking at a public lecture organized by the Human Rights Club of the university entitled "Students-Lecturer Relationship", Professor Aduba said student-lecturer relationship is

based on the principle he referred to as "locus parentis."

He said lecturers should act as parents to the students and treat the students as their biological wards, especially when they err.

"Lecturers are role models and student-lecturer relationship has to change in the class because experiences have shown that your student can be your boss tomorrow. Also, the students should know that if you want to become a prominent per-

son tomorrow you don't soil your name while in school because your records are there with the lecturers," he said.

The hilarious professor of law, who is presently on sabbatical at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, Abuja, expressed concern over poor dress on campuses, and cautioned that lecturers should treat students the way they present themselves.

In his remarks, a lecturer on Human Rights, Barrister Fran-

cis Malam Kwede, who spoke on "The Rights of Students Under the 2009 Fundamental Rights Enforcement Procedure Rules," said the university system is not a unique system but students can make it unique if they obey the rules and insist that the rule of law be followed by school management to enhance a good student-lecturer relationship.

The president of the club, Miss Ann Egbunu, said that the club main objective is to create

awareness among students on their rights on campus and on student-lecturer mutual relationship.

Other speakers at the occasion include representative of the National Human Right Commission (North-Central Zone) Mrs. Bobaniyi Zainab, representative of the Plateau State Commissioner of Police and the representative of the League for Human Rights, Gad Peter Shmaki.



PIX: MUSLIEUDEEN ADEBAYO

OUTGOING Amir of the University of Jos chapter of the Muslim Students Society of Nigeria (MSSN) Malam Luqman Usman presenting a certificate to the patron of the organisation Professor M. T. Yahaya at a function in Jos recently.

UNILORIN students are future Obamas, says LAUTECH pro-chancellor

HIGHLY impressed by the ambience of the University of Ilorin and the learning and character of its students, the Pro-Chancellor and Governing Council Chairman of Ladoke Akintola University (LAUTECH) Mr. Bolaji Ayorinde, has said that he is confident that he could see many of them as future Obamas.

Mr. Ayorinde made this observation at the launch and public presentation of the 15th edition of The Jurist, an annual journal of the Law Students Society of the University of Ilorin, dedicated to a Justice of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, Justice George Adesola Oguntade.

While commending the university and its students especially on the publication of the well-acclaimed scholarly journal, the LAUTECH Pro-Chancellor said "I see here among you the future presidents of Nigeria. Some 25 years ago, one Barack Obama edited the Harvard Law Review. Today, he is the president of the United States of America. Your career begins from the university and it is how you spend your life in the university that ultimately shapes your life"

In the same vein, a legal

icon, Prince Lateef Fagbemi said the University of Ilorin's Faculty of Law is in a class of its own, stressing that "in terms of dressing, you are superb and in terms of scholarship, you are wonderful. You have 15 editions of this important journal... I have a lot of respect for the Faculty of Law, University of Ilorin."

In his reaction to the honour by the students, the representative and son of the honouree, Mr. Folu Oguntade, said the biggest problem that confronts Nigeria is that of leadership. He chided a former Nigerian leader who was reported to have said that Nigerian youths are not ready to lead the country affirming that the Nigerian youth are capable and are ready to take up the mantle of leadership in the country.

He cited the transformational leadership being provided by the youthful Barack Obama of America and the and new Prime minister of the united Kingdom, David Cameron as world examples while the exploits of Governor Bukola Saraki of Kwara State and Governor Raji Fasola of Lagos State were cited as instances where the youth are providing the right leadership.

Don't sell honorary degrees, Jonathan urges varsities

From Garba Mohammed, GOSU

PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan has urged universities to reform from awarding honorary doctorate degrees for pecuniary purposes.

President Jonathan gave this hint in his address at the first convocation ceremony of Gombe State University (GOSU).

He said awarding honorary doctoral degrees all sorts of people including those with questionable

wealth is a cankerworm in the Nigerian university system.

He commended management of the university for resisting the temptation to award honorary doctorate degree at the occasion, saying "it is rare to see a university holding its convocation without awarding honorary degrees. Gombe State University is saying rightly that honorary degrees are not for sale."

The president said that as the hope of the nation against social

malaise and economic doldrums, universities in the country must work hard to produce sound and productive graduates.

He also called on the universities to ensure that the training they provide is consistent with the needs of the multi-ethnic and multi-religious Nigerian society.

He appealed to all Nigerians to work together in unity, fair play and love regardless of class or creed so that "we can meet our aspirations to greatness."

DO YOU HAVE A STORY?

ARE you a university or polytechnic student or lecturer? Do you have interesting stories about social, economic and political activities on the campuses? Then CAMPUS ROUNDUP is a platform for you to share your story with our readers.

Write to the Editor through: campusroundup@dailytrust.com

Glo donates N25m for university games

THE Chairman of Globacom Limited Chief Mike Adenuga has donated N25 million to the University of Ilorin in support of the 13th edition West African University Games (WAUG), which the university will be hosting next year.

In a letter addressed to the Pro-Chancellor and chairman of Governing Council of the university Alhaji Tukur Mani, Mr Adenuga said "the 2011 WAUG Games is a major sports event which deserves to be supported by all Nigerians at the individual and

corporate levels."

The Globacom boss described University of Ilorin as an institution that has a track record of excellence in "academia and other areas of importance such as youth development and sports."

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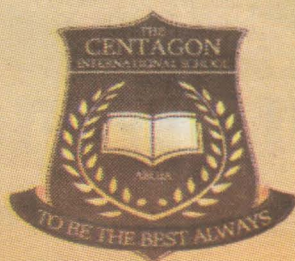
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Dr. Muhammadu Barkindo

Aliyu Musdafa Ph.D,

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Heartily invites the General Public to the **TURBANING CEREMONY** of His Excellency, Alhaji Bello Mohammad Tukur, OON, Chief of Staff to Adamawa State Governor as **SARKI YAKI** Adamawa and Mr. Kobis Ari Thimnu, SSG, Adamawa State as **KATUKA** Adamawa.



Alhaji Bello Mohammad Tukur, OON



Mr. Kobis Ari Thimnu

Date: Saturday, 5th June, 2010

Venue: Lamido's Palace, Yola, Adamawa State

Time: 10:00 am

Signed:

Publicity Committee

CITY NEWS



HOTLINES: 0803-3493-462 & 0703-8927-513
email: citynews@dailytrust.com

Bricklayer jailed for raping 9-yr-old girl

By Romoke W. Ahmad

A 32-year-old bricklayer, Babalola Jimoh, was on Tuesday sentenced to two years imprisonment without fine option for defiling a nine-year-old girl, an offence punishable under Section 275 of the Penal Code.

Chief Magistrate Ahmed Shuaib of Karu magistrate court handed down the ruling minutes after the accused confessed to the crime in the open court.

The accused blamed his action on the devil and begged for leniency, vowing never to engage in such an act.

Earlier, Prosecutor Sanni Seriki had told the court that on May 31, one man reported to the police that his wife caught the accused having illicit sexual intercourse with their underage daughter in an uncompleted building.

He said the accused confessed

to the crime during police investigation.

The girl mother who was also in court said though the HIV test carried out on the child was negative, more test will be conducted in three and six months time.

She said medical officials told her that the child's real status can

only be determined after the window period of between three to six months.

The convict also told our reporter that he deserves the sentence but sincerely regrets his action as he cannot explain what came over him as he has a wife and three children.



PIX: OGECHI OHALEE

STUDENTS of Government Junior Secondary School Gwagwa with their teachers and officials of Centre for Drug Abuse and Crime Prevention yesterday.

NGO takes drug war to schools

By Ogechi Ohalee

THE Centre for Drugs Abuse and Crime Prevention (C-DACP) yesterday cautioned students of Government Junior Secondary School, Gwagwa, against drugs usage and donated sporting equipment to divert their attention from such vices.

Items donated included canvass, footballs, football boots, tee shirts, caps and other sporting equipment.

While presenting the items, Dr. Wale Oloyede, chief executive officer of the organisation, stated

that the donations were made to students to help improve their lives and divert them from wrong doings.

"Engaging in sports will go a long way in preventing them from using or initiating into drugs trade because when children are still in primary and secondary schools, they need to be engaged to know that drug usage is bad," he reasoned.

He explained that if such children are left at that level with their habits, their condition might get bad when discovered; adding that the sport equipment were donated

to engaged the students so that their talents are discovered.

Also responding, Hussani Bako of FCT Universal Basic Education Board described the presentation as a welcome development.

He said the donated items will assist parents on how well to engage their children, warning that drugs shorten the existence of children.

Principal of Government Junior Secondary School, Mrs Ibe E. Adanma, thanked the organisation for the donation and said it will go a long way in developing the young ones in sports.

'Science tech college roofs promptly repaired'

By Maureen Onochie & Ogechi Ohalee

THE Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Agency for Science and Technology said yesterday that the blown off roofs of some buildings at the Government Science Technical College, Abuja, were repaired a day after the rainstorm that affected part of the school.

Spokesman for the agency Odugbo Sarah said in statement yesterday, in reaction to a story in *Daily Trust* of May 27, that the destruction caused by the rainstorm did not affect academic activities of the college.

The statement said, "The truth of the matter is there was a rain storm in the early hours of May 12, 2010 which affected the said portion of the school building. This problem was immediately brought to the notice of the FCT Agency for Science and Technology management which did

not only order an immediate on the spot assessment visit but also began the repairs of the damaged roof section which was published along with the story.

"Repair works were carried out on the 13 May which was just 24 hours after the storm. It must be emphasized that this incident did not in any way affect academic or any other activities in the school.

"It must be mentioned that the FCT Agency for Science and Technology is conscious of its responsibilities and takes quite seriously matters that affect not only the welfare of its students and staff but also the environment in which they carry out their academic activities."

Also, principal of the college Christophine Nnabuife told one of our reporters that within hours of the windstorm, action was taken by the agency to repair the blown off roofs.



THE repaired building at Government Science Technical College, Area 3, Garki, Abuja.

Conmen use coloured cabs to dupe victims

By Akor Ojoma

CONMEN, who hitherto used unpainted cabs to dupe their victims, have now resorted to Abuja coloured commercial vehicles.

Unsuspecting commuters, who board their vehicles, are engaged

in discussions on how to make fast money and the greedy ones get carried away.

Our reporter boarded one of such cabs along Central Bank of Nigeria/Women Centre junction on Tuesday enroute to Wuse and found herself in the midst of such persons.

In the cab where two passengers and one in the back seat signalled the driver to drop him after a short drive and the driver asked for his bag of dollars.

The passenger started begging and told the cab driver that the money belongs to his master but

before he could reply, the reporter alighted from the cab. Another victim of such fraudsters at Maitama said he had to jump off a moving cab when he saw each of the passengers with dangerous weapons.

The man said the discussion

started with dollars but when the swindlers saw he was wise, they threatened him with their weapons.

He called on law enforcement agencies and members of the FCT taxi drivers association to do something about the menace.



**BORNO STATE GOVERNMENT
MINISTRY FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND CHIEFTAINCY AFFAIRS
BORNO STATE**

**TENDERS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF NEW LAND
CRUISER JEEP V.6 LITRE ENGINE [4-WHEEL DRIVE
VEHICLES] TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT EXECUTIVE
CHAIRMEN**

The Borno State Ministry for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs hereby invites tenders from suitably qualified contractors for submission of qualification documents for the procurement of the following vehicles:

**1. LAND CRUISER JEEP V.6 LITRE ENGINE with
the following features: -**

- a. Fully loaded
- b. Leather seat
- c. Automatic transmission

TENDER DOCUMENTS

The tender documents will be available for collection by all interested contractors/Companies upon the payment of non-refundable fee of N25,000.00 per set with effect from Thursday, 3rd June 2010 in the office of the Permanent Secretary Ministry for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs. All completed tender documents should be accompanied with the following requirements:-

- (a) Evidence of Registration and Incorporation by the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC)
- (b) Evidence of Registration with Borno State Government as a contractor or supplier
- (c) Evidence of Tax Clearance Certificate for the last three (3) years
- (d) Evidence of Financial capability
- (e) Company profile
- (f) Experience

TENDER CLOSING DATE

The closing date for the submission of all tender documents has been fixed for Monday, 14th June, 2010 at 10.00am prompt.

TENDER OPENING

All Contractors/Companies that have submitted their bidding documents should come for the opening at the office of the Permanent Secretary on Monday, 14th June 2010 by 2.00pm prompt.

Signed

**HAJJA YABAWA LAWAN WABI, Mni
PERMANENT SECRETARY
Ministry for Local Government and Chieftaincy
Affairs,
Maiduguri, Borno State**

Three kids subjected to 'juju' swearing at Mararaba

By Gladys Ogechi Nworgu

THREE teenagers accused of stealing a cell phone were on Saturday made to prove their innocence by swear with juju (black magic) at Mararaba in Nasarawa State.

The suspects (names withheld) were on May 22 apprehended on allegations

that they stole a cell phone from a barbing saloon belonging to one Sunday Paul at Aso area.

According to Mr. Sunday Paul, the owner of the handset, he left the cell phone in his shop to pick up something outside and returned to meet it missing.

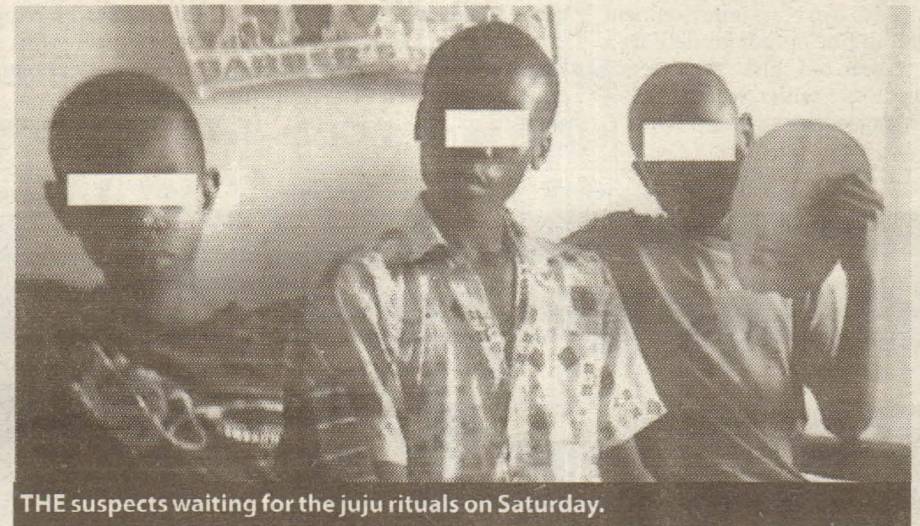
A native doctor was later brought to the place to get

the real thief and a needle was pierced in the tongues of the children.

Only the tongue of one of the boys bleed and he was accused of stealing the money as well as made to pay N1,000.

Other fines given to the boy was for him to produce a hen, a bottle of coke and the cell phone.

PIC: GLADYS OGECHI NWORGU



THE suspects waiting for the juju rituals on Saturday.

Man blames illness for wallet theft

By Usman A. Bello

AN accused, Usman Mohammad, on Tuesday told an Abuja magistrate that illness made him to steal a wallet from one Barrister Frank Ikpe at Wuse Bus stop.

He told the court that he has been having ulcer for sometime and whenever he goes to hospital, money is demanded.

"I stole the wallet to be able to raise money for the treatment, as I have a wife and two kids to cater for," he said.

Prosecutor Adamu Abdullahi had earlier informed the court that on May 28, Frank reported to the police that while he was driving along Wuse market, the accused forcefully entered his car and stole his wallet containing a driver's license, identity

card, NHIS identity card, complimentary card, Swis army wrist watch and N6,000 cash.

The prosecutor stated further that during investigations, the accused confessed to have committed the offence, adding that the items were recovered from him and he committed an offence punishable under Section 287 of the Penal Code.

The accused pleaded guilty when the charge was read and begged the court to temper justice with mercy.

The prosecutor urged the court to try the accused summarily under Section 157 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC) and Magistrate Folashade Oyekan sentenced the accused to two months imprisonment or to pay N500 as fine.

Dutsen-Alhaji residents appeal for transformer

By Usman A. Bello & Hussein Yahaya

RESIDENTS of Dutsen-Alhaji on Tuesday appealed to the newly elected chairman of Bwari Area Council, Peter Yohanna, to provide their community with additional transformers to boost electricity in the area.

John Obioma, a resident, said electricity is being rationed in Zone 6, Dutsen-Alhaji, where he resides, adding that residents hardly get four hours steady electricity supply.

"We can't even make use of freezers and whatever is kept inside spoils," he said.

Another resident, Abubakar, said any time they protest at Power Hold-

ing Company of Nigeria (PCHN) Dutsen-Alhaji, the officials there keeps telling them they need more transformers in the area for steady electricity supply.

He said the issue of high electricity bills worry residents as most of them complain that they never consumed such units of electricity.

"Most residents have resorted to the use of generators and they cause a lot of noise," Abubakar stressed.

He called on the new council chairman to assist the community get more transformers.

Other residents also appealed to the new chairman to provide additional transformers for them so

that they can enjoy steady electricity.

Residents of most parts of Bwari also lamented erratic power supply occasioned by inadequate transformers.

Residents of 16-16, Sabo-Gari and across river along SCC road appealed to the new council executives to assist them with new transformers to solve part of the power problem being experienced.

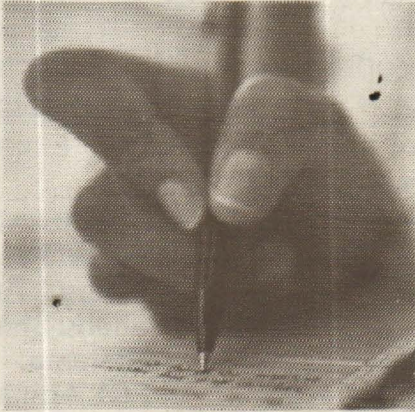
It would be recalled that the council chairman, Peter Yohanna had upon assumption of office informed journalists that his predecessors, Isah Dara procured about 30 transformers for various communities within the council area.



To Our
Esteemed Readers,
Advertisers and
Contributors

POLICY ON PUBLICATION OF ADVERTORIALS, PETITIONS AND RELATED MATERIALS

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



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

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

The new policy is depicted hereunder

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

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

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

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

Signed:
MANAGEMENT



NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

GANI FAWEHINMI, SAN HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE PRIZE 2010

The Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) has instituted a Gani Fawehinmi Prize for Human Rights and Social Justice, in honour of the late Chief Gani Fawehinmi, SAN who throughout his life time used the instrumentality of law to fight for the enthronement of human rights and social justice.

THE PRIZE

The prize is to be awarded to a person or institution in Nigeria that has attained distinction through consistent boldness, courage, independence, innovation and risk taking in the defence of the rule of law, the rights of the voiceless and the demand for accountable government.

MODE OF APPLICATION/NOMINATION

1. Each application/nomination should be made in 15 copies, accompanied by 15 copies of applicant's/nominee's curriculum vitae duly signed and dated.
2. All applications/nominations shall be submitted under confidential cover, boldly marked at the right hand corner of the envelope "GANI FAWEHINMI PRIZE", and addressed to Mr. Ikeazor Akaraiwe, Secretary, Gani Fawehinmi Prize for Human Rights and Social Justice Committee, Nigerian Bar Association, National Secretariat, 96A Medical Guild Close, Off Olabode George Street, Off Ajose Adeogun Street, Victoria Island, Lagos.

Nominations shall close on 21st June, 2010.

For further enquiries, please contact: 014618287
tosinfalomo@nigerianbar.org
belemaladapo@nigerianbar.org

CHIEF WOLE OLANIPEKUN, SAN IKEAZOR AKARAIWE
CHAIRMAN SECRETARY



LAGOS UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL

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Applicants are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the under-mentioned positions in the Lagos University Teaching Hospital:

A. NURSING OFFICER II

Candidates must possess Registered Nursing and Registered Midwifery Certificates from a recognized Institution with Current Practising Licence.

SALARY: CONTISS 07 (N579,391 - N857,305) per annum and other allowances approved by the Federal Government.

B. PHARMACIST

Candidates must possess a Degree in Pharmacy, and duly registered with the Pharmacy Registration Board of Nigeria.

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C. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER II

Candidates must possess a Degree in any of the disciplines of Social Sciences or Humanities.

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D. PHARMACY TECHNICIAN

Candidates must possess a Pharmacy Technician Certificate from a recognized Health Institution (3 years programme), Registration Certificate of Pharmacy Technician's Board as well as Current Annual Licence.

SALARY: CONTISS 06 (N362,757 - N551,043) per annum and other allowances approved by the Federal Government.

E. LIBRARIAN II

Candidates must possess a Degree in Library Studies and/or Associateship or Fellowship from a recognized Institute of Librarians.

SALARY: CONTISS 07 (N579,391 - N857,305) per annum and other allowances approved by the Federal Government.

METHOD OF APPLICATION

Applications and detailed Curriculum Vitae including copies of Credentials (15 copies) should include:-

- Full Names (Surname First and in Capital Letters)
- Place and Date of Birth
- Home Address
- Phone Number and E-Mail Address
- Marital Status
- Current Postal Address
- Nationality at Birth
- Number and Ages of Children
- Secondary and Post Secondary Education (Dates and Institutions)
- Academic and Professional Qualification including distinctions with dates. And Evidence of discharge or exemption from N.Y.S.C.
- Statement of experience, including full details of former and present positions.
- Other activities outside current employment.
- Names and Addresses of three (3) Referees.

Applicants should please request their referees to forward references on their behalf directly to the Chief Medical Director, Lagos University Teaching Hospital, Idi-Araba, Surulere, Lagos.

In addition, Candidates are also required to forward a photocopy each of their Credentials along with their applications.

Applications and all supporting materials should be addressed to:-

**THE CHIEF MEDICAL DIRECTOR
LAGOS UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL,
IDI-ARABA, SURULERE,
P.M.B. 12003,
LAGOS, NIGERIA.**

CLOSING DATE

Six (6) weeks from the date of this publication.

SIGNED

AYO' OLAGUNJU
DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION
FOR: CHIEF MEDICAL DIRECTOR

FAAN

RE: FEDERAL AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF NIGERIA (FAAN)

INVITATION TO TENDER IN THISDAY, DAILY TRUST AND TENDERS JOURNAL
OF MONDAY, MAY 31, 2010.

ADDENDUM

With Reference to our Advert for Tenders published on the 31st May, 2010 in respect of FAAN's 2010 Capital Appropriation, the Management of FAAN wishes to inform the general public that the bid documents will now be obtained at the Abuja Liaison Office at the address below:-

**Room: 4A 020
Federal Secretariat Complex
Phase 1, Annex II, Ground Floor,
Shehu Shagari Way,
Maitama,
FCT, Abuja.**

2. We also wish to draw the attention of the general public to the change of period for the submission of bids. The earlier 4 weeks which should end by 28th June, 2010 now closes on Monday 14th June 2010 and submission of bids is at the above address.
3. All bids must be submitted by 11:30am, then opening commences by 12 noon on 14th of June, 2010.

**Signed:
Management**



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FELLOWSHIP ADMISSION (2010/2011)

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for admission into the School of Medical Laboratory Science, Lagos University Teaching Hospital, Idi-Araba, Lagos, Nigeria in October, 2010 for:

- i. A one-year Fellowship Programme (Full-time) leading to the award of Fellowship of the Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria in another area of specialization where BMLS/AMLSCN was obtained.
- ii. A two-year Fellowship by dissertation in the same area of specialization where BMLS/AMLSCN was obtained.

ENTRY QUALIFICATION:

- Candidates must be a Registered Associate member of the Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria for at least 24 months post AMLSCN or BMLS.
- Candidates must have Current Practising Licence.

CONDITIONS FOR ADMISSION:

Selection of candidates will be based on academic qualification and result of a competitive Entrance Examination, Screening Tests and Interview.

ACCOMMODATION:

The School is non-residential, students have to arrange for their accommodation.

METHOD OF APPLICATION:

Candidates should apply in person for application forms with a remittance of N5,000.00 cash payment to the Cash Office, Accounts Department, Lagos University Teaching Hospital, Idi-Araba and thereafter present two (2) Photostat copies of the payment receipt to the office of the Head of School, School of Medical Laboratory Science, LUTH, Idi-Araba, Lagos.

Applications forms duly completed must be returned to the Head of School not later than four (4) weeks from the date of publication.

PROF. AKIN OSIBOGUN
CHIEF MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Sign Language



Oh no, this doesn't add up at all.

Photo location: Beijing, China, by Joseph Hodsman
Culled from telegraph.co.uk

ANACROSTIC 6

DEFINITIONS	WORDS
A. Challenge for Father Dowling	167 41 52 71 203 87 69
B. Eager for bloodshed	204 44 82 106 27 177 89 128 159 58
C. Jail; slang	85 18 151 209 54 189 30 145 141
D. Abstained from	74 116 210 17 127 67 64 178
E. Kitchen pan	112 31 142 19 56 76 148
F. Doctor	23 166 35 187 114 95 77 9 123 213
G. Pushes	133 180 47 184 194 104 163 119 160 28
H. With great enthusiasm	101 66 45 6 191 158 22 125 167 143
I. Guided	39 60 91 4 43 88 135 36 79 129
J. Proud	175 182 46 124 152 102
K. Pad depizen	201 84 153 68 29 51 126 182 185 72
L. Study of inscriptions	86 63 78 168 196 100 103 162 136
M. Marginal comment	164 168 192 139 131 81 98 55
N. Is a good team member	176 134 26 212 149 169 40 137 108 50
O. Alike	146 193 172 122 92 70 14 20 207 161
P. Backyard brightener	202 57 105 12 65 94 117 156 5 181
Q. Feasts, e.g.	107 3 111 211 38 96 173
R. Court writ	154 121 8 13 199 183 140 83 115 49
S. Mansion features	59 171 205 48 99 188 130 15 24 42
T. Policy generators: 2 wds.	53 138 97 21 197 90 147 155 32 110
U. Condense	120 118 1 62 195 144 33 34 186 179
V. Forced	113 75 200 170 11 206 2 198 25 10
W. Hip: hyph. wd.	7 37 16 80 174 109 73 61

1	U2	V5	Q4	I5	F6	H7	W	8	R9	Y10	V	11	V13	F13	R		
14	O15	S	16	W17	D18	C19	E20	O	21	T22	B23	F24	S25	V26	N27	B28	G
29	K30	C31	E32	T33	U	34	U35	F36	I	37	W38	Q39	L40	N41	A42	S	
43	I44	B45	H46	J	47	G48	S49	R50	N51	K52	A53	T54	C55	M56	E57	P	
58	E	59	S60	L61	W62	U63	L64	D65	F	66	H67	D68	K69	A	70	O71	A
72	K73	W74	D	75	V76	E77	F78	L79	I80	W	81	M82	B	83	R84	K	
85	C86	L87	A88	I89	R90	T	91	I92	O93	W94	F95	F96	Q97	T98	M99	S100	L
101	H102	J	103	L104	G105	F106	B107	Q108	N109	W110	T	111	Q112	E113	V114	F115	R
116	D117	F118	U119	G	120	U121	R	122	O123	F124	J	125	H126	K127	D128	H129	T
130	S	131	M132	J133	G134	N135	I136	L	137	N138	T139	M140	R	141	C142	E	
143	B144	U	145	C146	O	147	T148	E149	N	150	W151	C152	J153	K154	R155	T156	P
157	A158	H159	B160	G	161	O162	L163	G164	M	165	F	166	L167	H168	M169	N	
170	V171	S172	O173	Q	174	W175	J176	N177	B178	D179	U180	G181	P	182	R	183	R
184	G185	K186	U187	F188	S189	C190	W191	H192	M	193	O194	G195	U196	L197	T	198	V
199	B	200	V201	K202	F203	A204	H	205	S206	V207	O208	W209	C210	D211	Q212	N213	F

SOLUTION TO ANACROSTIC 5

- A. Masked man
- B. Abhors
- C. Unwashed
- D. Rockers
- E. Indoors
- F. Cooperatives
- G. Ethylene
- H. Driver education
- I. Raffles
- J. Ultimate
- K. Offhand
- L. Newspaper
- M. Toodler
- N. Highways
- O. Effected
- P. Inspiring
- Q. Rob Roy
- R. Obstructs
- S. Nimrod
- T. Knowledge
- U. inchoate
- V. Noodles
- W. Grams

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.

162

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

Solution to Sudoku 161

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

ENVIRONMENT environment@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 07041632079

'16m Nigerians use firewood for cooking'

A survey conducted by the National Population Commission (NPC) has shown that more than 16 million Nigerians depend on firewood for their cooking fuel.

The report, contained in

the NPC's 2006 Population and Housing Census survey report, showed that the survey was carried out on the 'Distribution of regular household by type of cooking fuel', said that out of the 28,197,085 people reviewed,

firewood users recorded the highest with a total of 16 million.

It said that solar, with a total of 41,786, was the lowest means of cooking fuel recorded and listed others sources reviewed to include electricity, gas,

kerosene, coal, animal dung/sawdust/coconut husk and others.

The report also showed that 950,749 of the more than 16 million firewood users came from Kano State, while Lagos

State, with 140,650, recorded the lowest.

In 2005, the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) said that Nigeria had the highest rate of deforestation in the world. (NAN)

Niger develops six grazing reserves

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

COMMISSIONER of Livestock and Fisheries Development in Niger State, Alhaji Garba Jibrin Danwake, has disclosed that the present administration in the state had in the last three years undertaken the free vaccination of animals against hordes of animal diseases livestock, pests and birds.

He also disclosed that the present administration in the state had also developed six grazing reserves for animal pastures, two grazing reserves in each of the three senatorial zones of the state. He also disclosed that the state had built twenty five veterinary clinics one in each of the council areas of the state.

Reps harp on environmental safety of depots

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

THE House of Representatives Committee on Downstream have emphasized the need for improved safety and working environment in the nation's depot operation.

A member of the committee, Honourable Joseph Jaiyeola Ajatta, disclosed this in Lagos Tuesday during the committee's inspection of tank farms in the state as part of the lower house oversight function.

Ajatta, who led some team of the committee to inspect tank farms in Apapa axis of the state expressed reservation about the dearth of safety standard and illegal erection of buildings beside depot.

He said such situations violate the statutory requirement to the effect that any building intended to be erected within the surrounding of depot must pave way for 50meters distance from same.

Some of the depots visited by the team include NNPC Ejigbo depot, Mobil, Conoil, African Petroleum depots in Apapa as well as Mobil Aviation Terminal, Ikeja



A towering cloud of sand dwarfs the rows of uniform houses as it descends on a small village Golmud, a new industrial city in central China, temporarily blocked out the sun and reduced visibility to around 600ft.

NOSDRA launches Calabar –Badagary coastline map

By Mustapha Suleiman

THE National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) on Tuesday launched Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) maps of Nigerian coastline stretching 50km inland from Calabar to Badagry.

The ESI project was initiated by NOSDRA through the Federal Government appropriation

in 2007/08 to determine the sensitivity ranking of our coastline biodiversity (flora and fauna) and other social relics of paramount importance to coastline dwellers.

This map was designed to serve as a baseline and proactive instrument that will be used by stakeholders in the oil industry and other related institutions to develop their tactical maps for

oil spill contingency planning in their areas of operations.

In her address at the ceremony, NOSDRA Acting Director General, Mrs. U. H Okwechi noted that "the map is multi-disciplinary, multi-sectoral and cross-cutting in order to soothe the user's demand, since it is populated with varied data that any user would need for decision-making and policy formulation."

She recalled that the document was presented and subjected to stakeholders review in October 2008 in order to incorporate their observations and inputs towards achieving a standardised and sustainable ESI map suitable for effective management of oil spill and related purposes in Nigeria particularly in the Niger-Delta Area.

June 5 is World Environment Day

By Mustapha Suleiman

NIGERIA will on Saturday join the global community to celebrate the World Environment Day (WED). The World Environment Day is considered globally as the

most important event in the Environment Calendar.

The World Environment Day is celebrated on the 5th of June every year in over 100 countries of the World. The theme of this year's World Environment Day is "Many Species. One Planet,

One Future."

Activities lined up for the 2010 WED celebrations will commenced from Tuesday with a Talk Show on Tuesday Night live on NTA by the Minister and some of his Directors; prayers at the

central Mosque on Friday, school children's quiz grand finale, interdenominational Church service at the Ecumenical centre Abuja; and WED 2010 national event at Sarius Palmentum Botanical Garden Maitama.



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- Web Technology

Prof. Hastings McKenzie will be at the following events:

Tuesday, 8th June 2010
13:00 - 15:00

Miss Daramola Abimbola,
Birmingham City University
Nigeria Liaison Officer,
BCIE, Plot 146 C,
Immam Abibu Adetoro Street,
(By Sinari Daranijo), VI, Lagos
T: 01 899 0651 / 070 3444 6009

17:00 - 19:00
British Council in Ikoyi

Wednesday, 9th June 2010
10:30 - 14:00

Mr Yomi Asade, PFL,
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off Ajose Adeogun Street,
Victoria Island
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CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA

NIGERIAN TREASURY BILLS

TENDER NOTICE

Notice is hereby given by the Central Bank of Nigeria that the Federal Government of Nigeria Treasury Bills of 91, 182 and 364-day tenors amounting to N20,000,000,000, N40,000,000,000 and N40,000,000,000 respectively would be issued by Dutch auction on Thursday, 10/06/2010.

All Money Market Dealers should submit bids through the CBN TEMENOS INTERNET BANKING between 9.00a.m and 11.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 09/06/2010.

Each bid must be in multiple of N1, 000 subject to a minimum of N10, 000. Authorized Money Market Dealers are allowed to submit multiple bids. A bid may be for authorized Money Market Dealers own account, Non - Money Market Dealers or interested members of the public. The result of the auction would be announced by 11.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 09/06/2010. The Bank reserves the right to reject any bid.

Allotment letters would be issued for successful bids on Thursday, 10/06/2010, while payment for the successful bids should be made to your account with Central Bank of Nigeria not later than 11.00am on Thursday, 10/06/2010.

*The Bank reserves the right to vary the amount on offer in line with market realities prevailing as at the period of auction of the Nigerian Treasury bills.

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- *Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology, Hisar - India.
- *UCSI University, Kuala Lumpur - Malaysia. *
- Mideast Aviation Academy, Amman - Jordan.
- *University of Sharjah, UAE. *MSA University, 6 October City, Egypt.
- And many others.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

- (1) Student should be holders of: High school certificate. (WAEC/NECO), English Language and Mathematics (are obligatory qualifying subjects) + at least six other Good Credits (Preferably "As").
- (2) All certificates (WAEC & NECO) must be duly certified by the Federal Ministry of Education and the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This verification is the responsibility of the candidates or their sponsors
- (3) An entrance exams may be held in Abuja where necessary.

APPLICATIONS

Interested candidates and sponsors who wish to obtain more information or apply for admission should write to or scan and send their credentials to admissions@majoracademy.org not later than 30th June 2010. E-mail enquiry or application must specify full name, and contact details of the enquirer.

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National Solidarity Association

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E-mail: nsamembership@yahoo.com; membership@democracyforigeria.org
Website: www.democracyforigeria.org

POSTPONEMENT

ONE DAY NATIONAL SUMMIT: IBB AND THE CHALLENGE OF NATIONAL REBIRTH

This is to inform the general public that the above event, which was earlier scheduled to take place on the 5th of June, 2010 at the Hamdallah Hotel, Kaduna has been rescheduled as follows:

New Date: Thursday, 24th June, 2010

Venue: Conference Centre, Kaduna International Trade Fair Complex, Zaria Road, Kaduna.

We regret any inconvenience this rescheduling has caused.

Signed:
Aliyu A Mohammed
Executive Secretary

SPORT

NFF demand
charter
refund

Page 55



Eagles arrive in Durban

By Ismaila Lere

THE Super Eagles have arrived in South Africa ready to erase the memories of missing out on the 2006 FIFA World Cup and desperate to get among the South Africa 2010 challengers.

The Eagles landed at the newly-constructed King Shaka International Airport in Durban yesterday to start their preparations in the coastal city, where they should experience a warmer climate than the rest of South Africa.

The team's Arik Air flight from London landed at 10:40am South African time (9:40am Nigeria time), led by President of the Nigeria Football Federation, Alhaji Sani Lulu Abdullahi.

At the airport to welcome the team were the Nigeria High Commissioner to the Republic of South Africa, General Mohammed Buba Marwa (rtd), the Consul-General, Mr. Okey Emuchay and four other high-ranking officials from the High Commission. There were also Ald Stan Larkan, Mayor of Richard's Bay and Councillor Logaan Naidoo, the Deputy Mayor of Durban.

There was a big reception for the Nigeria team, attending its fourth World Cup finals in 16 years, at the holding area of the King Shaka Airport.

Also at the airport to receive the delegation were the Deputy General Secretary (General Services) of the Nigeria Football Federation, Barrister Musa Amadu and NFF's Head of Marketing, Mr. Idris Adama.

Flag-waving, South Africa-based Nigerians, more than 200 of them, cheered lustily and sang popular victory songs as the players filed out of the airport and into their bus. The players responded by opening the bus windows to wave at the Nigerians as the bus pulled out of the airport for the 90-minute drive to Richard's Bay.

Barrister Musa Amadu, NFF's Deputy General Secretary said: "The players are all looking fresh



Super Eagles disembark from the aircraft after arriving Durban, South Africa yesterday, a day later than planned due to a technical fault in the charter flight

and battle-ready. They showed no signs of weariness. What is uppermost in their minds is the World Cup finals.

"It is true that their arrival was delayed for about 24 hours, but some of the players told me that was nobody's fault. They praised the Nigeria Football Federation for all the care and concern they have always shown and are not comfortable with dark insinuations being

made in some quarters concerning the charter flight arrangements."

The team arrived Protea Hotel Waterfront at 1:30pm and had lunch thirty minutes later, before retiring to the rooms. A dinner reception for the team, hosted by the Mayor of Richard's Bay, Ald Stan Larkan, was scheduled for Wednesday night at the Protea Hotel Waterfront.

Officials of the Nigeria High

Commission have told the Nigeria Football Federation that the High Commissioner, General Marwa will host the Super Eagles to another dinner reception at the Consulate in Johannesburg, when the team travels there for the friendly against North Korea on Sunday. The team is expected to fly into Johannesburg in the morning of Sunday, play the match in the evening, had dinner at the Con-

sulate and return to Richard's Bay on Monday morning to continue their final preparations for the World Cup

Back in Nigeria, NFF General Secretary, Dr. Bolaji Ojo-Oba appealed to Nigerians to be ready to support the team all the way, and leave out extraneous issues as the first-ever FIFA World Cup finals on African soil kicks off in nine days.

Lagerback: 'I feel very privileged to be here'

NIGERIA coach Lars Lagerback is aware of the bumps in the road that lies ahead, but he said he is relishing the challenge of leading the Super Eagles in their bid to soar to the heights at the world's showpiece football event.

"First of all, I feel very privileged to be here and to be part of this World Cup - the first World Cup in Africa," Lagerback told FIFA.com upon the team arrival today. "We are looking

forward to what we hope will be a good tournament. The few weeks [of being in charge of the team] have been wonderful for me. The players attitudes have been great, and the spirits are high. We have had great preparations."

A lot was expected from Nigeria at the Africa Cup of Nations in Angola - an event earlier this year that was seen as a dress rehearsal for African teams preparing for the 2010 FIFA

World Cup. Despite never seeming to be at their best, they finished third - a result that subsequently led to coach Shaibu Amodu being demoted from his job. Such is the pressure that comes with coaching the Super Eagles. Since then, a lot has changed.

The former Sweden boss now has the weight of Nigeria's expectations on his shoulders, and he is aware of the task that lies ahead in the valleys

of South Africa. A team that commands a huge following within South Africa and on the African continent at large, Nigeria will face tough opposition during the tournament. They will come up against Argentina in their World Cup opener at Ellis Park in Johannesburg in what should be their test of character. They will then face former European Champions, Greece in Mangaung/Bloemfontein before their final Group B match

against Korea Republic.

"We have a very tough group, the quality of the opposition is very good, and what I know is that all the teams want to win" said Lagerback. "But the Super Eagles are ready to take on the world's best. We know there are high expectations, especially from our fans. If we give our 100 per cent, we can beat any team. But I am happy with everything so far."



FOCUS ON: HOLLAND



Netherlands maul Ghana 4-1

FOUR different players scored Tuesday as the Netherlands showed off its attacking prowess with a 4-1 win over Ghana in a World Cup warmup.

Dirk Kuyt scored in the first half before Rafael van der Vaart, Wesley Sneijder and Robin van Persie added goals in the last 20 minutes. Van Persie completed the rout with an 87th-minute penalty.

Van Persie is now tied with Dutch legends Ruud Gullit and Johan Neeskens on 17 international goals.

Asamoah Gyan scored Ghana's only goal when he capitalized on shaky defending to make it 2-1 in the 78th.

"Our play was very good," Netherlands captain Giovanni van Bronckhorst said. "We were very dangerous on the counter in the second half. We were good on the ball and scored some good goals."

Sneijder set up the Dutch goal on the half hour with a defense-splitting ball to Van Persie that was a near replica of the pass that set Diego Milito free for his first goal for Inter Milan in the Champions League final. Van Persie's low shot was saved by Richard Kingson but Kuyt was on hand to tap in the rebound for his 15th international goal.

The pass was a relief for Sneijder who appeared to struggle early while playing his first match with the much-criticized World Cup ball.

Mark van Bommel, like Sneijder playing his first match since the Champions League final, set up the second Dutch goal with a pass through the Ghana defense that Van der Vaart calmly slid under Kingson.

"You are never happy if you are not in the starting lineup," said Van der Vaart. "It always nice to come in to score a goal. I am happy."

Ghana, playing without injured Chelsea midfielder Michael Essien, rarely threatened and it took a mix-up in the Netherlands defense by Van Bronckhorst and Joris Mathijsen to gift Gyan his goal.

"The goal was a shame. We hardly gave them a chance tonight," Netherlands coach Bert van Marwijk said. "This was just a communication problem."

But Ghana's joy was short-lived with Sneijder drilling a long-range, low volley past Kingson to make it 3-1. Sneijder's goal came from a corner Van der Vaart earned when his lob from close to the halfway line forced Kingson to back pedal fast to tip the ball over the bar. Van Persie finally found the net himself from the penalty spot after Kingson brought down Van der Vaart.

The final or bust

THE Oranje have set lofty aims for their campaign in South Africa, 32 years after their 3-1 extra-time defeat by Argentina in the showpiece game, which itself came four years on from their 2-1 final loss to West Germany. Since the retirement of pioneering coach Rinus Michels, a multitude of players have followed in the footsteps of the Johan Cruyff generation without ever advancing as far as the final hurdle, though one particularly talented crop did claim the European title in 1988. Often seen as spectacular but mentally fragile, the Netherlands hope to banish that image under Bert van Marwijk, who took over in the wake of their disappointing UEFA EURO 2008 campaign.

He and his charges at least have history on their side this time around. The last team to reach a FIFA World Cup™ finals without dropping a single point in qualifying - West Germany in 1982 - went on to contest the final. The current Oranje vintage have made no efforts to conceal their ambitions and, once again, look on paper to have all the ingredients necessary to go far.

The road to South Africa

It was a full house for the Netherlands as they picked up eight wins from eight games. The Van Marwijk era has proved to be a faultless one so far, with the former Feyenoord coach leading his troops to the top of Group 9, where Norway

and Scotland came equipped as their major rivals. As it happened, the Dutch let in the only two goals they conceded all campaign against Iceland and FYR Macedonia, while hitting two of their 17 efforts to secure slender but controlled 1-0 victories in Glasgow and Oslo.

The coach

Not the most heralded player in his time, having collected a solitary international cap, Mark van Bommel's father-in-law has known far more success in the dugout. He shone especially brightly at Feyenoord, leading the Rotterdam outfit to the UEFA Cup trophy in 2002 before taking the Dutch crown upon his return after a two-year stint with Borussia Dortmund in Germany. Calm, affable, discrete but approachable, the 56-year-old believes it is important to be close to his players, saying: "An international coach has few opportunities to work with his squad. Because of that, I want to make the most of the time I spend with my players, mix with them, take part in training, and add and vary exercises to get to know them better." Although his style marks a real break with that of his predecessor, Marco van Basten, the tactics remain similar. "Marco put a 4-2-3-1 formation in place," he says. "The players got used to that and I intend to keep it." Flanked by former stalwarts Philip Cocu and Frank de Boer in the assistant coaching roles, Van Mar-



VAN Marwijk... Calm, affable, but discrete



WESLEY Sneijder, Dutch midfield dynamo

wijk's record is impeccable thus far.

The star players

With Edwin van der Saar and Ruud van Nistelrooy having called time on their international careers, Van Marwijk has needed to apply his own touch to the core of players he inherited from Van Basten, without shaking things up too vigorously. The key men now are Arjen Robben, Joris Mathijsen, Andre Ooijer, Dirk Kuyt, Mark van Bommel, Klaas Jan Huntelaar and Giovanni van Bronckhorst,

all of whom enjoyed considerable playing time under the previous trainer. Rafael van der Vaart, Robin van Persie, Nigel De Jong and Wesley Sneijder also remain closely involved.

Previous FIFA World Cups

In their eight finals appearances, the Oranje have reached the showpiece match twice, falling narrowly short of the global crown in 1974 and 1978. They also came in fourth at France 1998.

Brazil bring joy to long suffering Zimbabwe

Brazil's Samba Boys brought joy to long-suffering Zimbabwe yesterday, prompting euphoria on the streets as they arrived to play a World Cup warm-up match.

Zimbabwe has been tormented by a decade of economic collapse, political crisis and violence and good news has been rare.

Until this week its dream of some benefit - especially tourist revenue - from the World Cup in neighbouring South Africa had been dashed.

Then Brazil, one of the favourites to win the biggest trophy in football, agreed to come to Harare for a match against Zimbabwe and the excitement was palpable with

everybody from passport officials to hotel bellboys saying they would attend.

The 60,000-capacity national stadium, refurbished recently by China, is sold out but even fans without tickets poured into the area in the hope of getting in.

Ticket prices, at 10 dollars, are triple the normal rate.

A traffic jam built up on the road to the stadium, on the edge of the capital, more than two hours before the 1530 (1330 GMT) kickoff.

Government offices and schools declared a half day holiday to allow people to see the match which local media suggested was a favour from Brazil's President Lula da Silva to

Zimbabwe's leader Robert Mugabe, long ostracised in the West for what is seen as his brutal repression of political opposition and rigging of elections in 2008.

The match was front page news in Zimbabwe's newspapers, usually exclusively devoted to political and economic events.

Staff at Harare's exclusive Meikles hotel said it was full for the first time since 2008.

A long political impasse after the disputed result of the elections was finally broken by the formation of a power-sharing government with the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) last year.

Mugabe's ZANU-PF party, however, is still considered to hold real power in the country with control of the police and army.

Sports Minister David Coltart, from the MDC, told the BBC: "This is the biggest sporting event ever in Zimbabwe. It is a unique opportunity to rebrand Zimbabwe."

The fans have adopted South Africa's noisy vuvuzela trumpets, sounding them incessantly long before the match and many wearing Brazilian colours.

In one corner of the stands Zimbabweans held up a banner reading "Welcome Brazil".

Eagles still waiting on bonuses

A special committee set up by Nigeria's Presidency to assist the

PTF has reneged on picking up the accommodation and transportation bills

country's World Cup campaign is yet to pay up the Super Eagles win-bonuses running to over 200 million naira (about \$1.3 million) from the 2010 Africa Cup of Nations in Angola.

A top official informed MTN-Football.com that the Presidential Task Force (PTF), which raised over a billion naira at a special appeal fund launch to support the country's World Cup campaign, is yet to pay up 50% of the Eagles bonuses from this year's Nations Cup in Angola.

To avoid a pay row in Angola,

the NFF had to come up with the PTF contribution for these bonuses, which totalled over 400 million naira, as Nigeria placed third at Angola 2010.

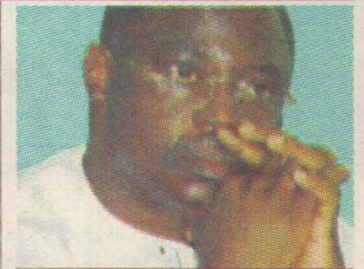
However, despite making several formal and informal representations to the PTF for a refund, the NFF are yet to receive a favourable response.

"But for the forward thinking of the NFF, we would have had a major bonus row in Angola caused by the PTF's failure to pay their own 50% of the team's bonuses at the Nations Cup," an official told MTNFootball.com.

Officials have also complained that the PTF has reneged on picking up the accommodation and transportation bills of the national team coach, Lars Lagerback.

It was agreed that the PTF was to besides paying the salaries of Lagerback, also get him a house and a car for his use when he is in Nigeria. This has not been done.

By March when Nigeria were about to hire Lagerback, the PTF had no less than 600 million naira (about \$4 million) in their coffers.



Alhaji Sani Lulu Abdullahi

NFF demand charter refund

Nigeria have demanded a refund of their payment from International Air Charter plc after the airline failed to fly the Super Eagles contingent to South Africa.

The aircraft, operated by LuzAir, failed to take off after the pilot detected a technical problem and aborted the flight, setting the Eagles back a full 24 hours.

NFF Media Officer Ademola Olajire told KickOffNigeria.com that the federation have written to the company demanding a refund.

"We were shocked and disappointed at the situation and the NFF wrote to them immediately after incident demanding a full refund of payment," he said.

The incident led to widespread anger and condemnation back home, forcing NFF Secretary General Bolaji Ojo-Oba to issue a public apology on Tuesday.

A local carrier, dispatched by the Nigerian government, finally flew the team to South Africa.

Sports Director pleads support for Lagerback

AS more Nigerians hail Coach Lars Lagerback's South Africa 2010 World Cup team list, the Imo Director of Sports, Goddy Agbarakwe, has urged support for him to succeed.

Agbarakwe, reacting to the list released on Monday in London, said on Wednesday in Owerri that what Lagerback needed most now was support of Nigerians to excel.

"He is not a magician. He is using what he found on ground, so let us give him the maximum encouragement to perform."

"It is already late to begin to criticise him negatively now," he

told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN).

Agbarakwe, a former Iwuan-yawwu Nationale of Owerri and Green Eagles player, urged the team to strive to make the country proud.

"No matter the situation now, the Eagles should work as a team in the first ever World Cup on African soil to make reasonable impact," he said.

"With prayers, nothing is impossible. God that helped us to qualify will see us through with our fervent prayers," he said.

In Aba, Abia state, a football

analyst, Eric Ughor said: "Lagerback's list is good. The selection comprises experienced players."

"We cannot manufacture players. Lagerback toured Europe in search of Nigerians from among whom he could select the best from."

"I hope and pray that the team performs and excel at the World Cup."

Captain of Enyimba International FC of Aba, Okey Oditah, appealed to Nigerians to have confidence in the team and support them.

"All we need to do now is to

pray and give our support to the team," he said.

He is not a magician. He is using what he found on ground, so let us give him the maximum encouragement

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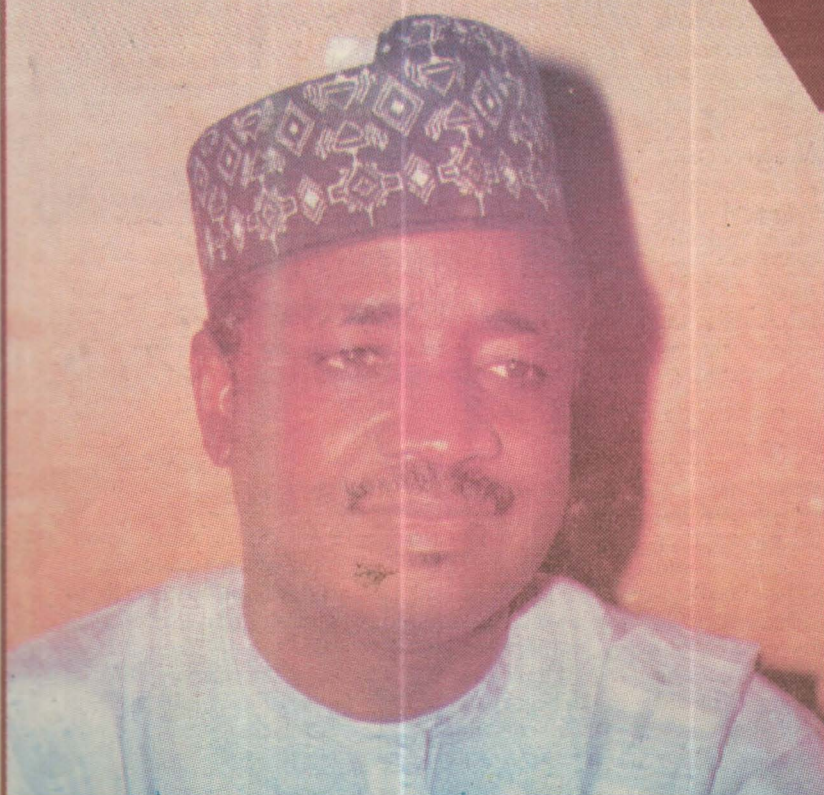
CONGRATULATIONS

The Management and staff of ZBCC heartily rejoice with His Excellency, Alhaji Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko on the occasion of this year's democracy. Indeed the people of Sokoto State have cause to celebrate democracy as a result of the even distribution of democratic dividends in the areas of roads, water supply, education, health care delivery among others. No doubt the people of Sokoto State have felt the impact of your purposeful leadership. Once more congratulations

Signed

Alhaji Adamu Husaini

Managing Director



His Excellency,
ALHAJI ALIYU MAGATAKARDA WAMAKKO
Executive Governor, Sokoto State

THE THURSDAY COLUMN

Is'haq Modibbo Kawu

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Discourse on our expensive civilian administration

The Nigerian political elite thrive on a salad of lies, deception and looting. Politics is an investment for most of the politicians of our land, not to pursue lofty nation-building ideas, but a platform to take inordinately from the commonweal. And as in such projects anywhere, this basic truth is protected by a bodyguard of lies, as Winston Churchill used to say. So they devised what they celebrate as "Democracy Day", and that occasion to lose a whole day of national productivity, came again last week, on May 29th. If a visitor from outer space had chanced upon this land, he might have taken the outpouring of speeches as a genuine reflection of commitment to the country's well being. Nigeria celebrates "Democracy Day", handicapped by the fact that it is not led by democrats. Almost without exception, none of those who rule us today stood to be counted as an opponent of military dictatorship; they however inherited the state with the retreat of the military and instituted a mongrel 'democracy', rooted deeply in the psyche of military dictatorship and carrying the baggage of a civilian leadership that never converted to the ethos of democracy. Processes tend to get better with practice, but not in Nigeria. Obasanjo provided the template that has ruled the roost ever since: an authoritarian complex; a messianic delusion; unbridled corruption and constant preachments about how well-meaning they are about developing the country.

The 'democracy' that was celebrated last week is so lucrative for those on the inside that they need to keep up the charade of the system they so handsomely profit from. The media for example reported on May 26th, 2010, of a leakage of an agreement within the House of Representatives to collapse the capital vote in the 2010 budget and then increase the quarterly allocation for each member to N42million from N27million. Last year, the press had similarly reported each senator collecting N500million each, between October 2007 and June 2009. So much money goes into the upkeep of individuals 'employed' to make laws for us that one of them, Smart Adeyemi, in what must be a moment of over-indulgent satiation, was reported to have visited the EFCC to state that the National Assembly is corrupt and he wants the EFCC to probe the body! It was obviously a Eureka moment for the smart Alec (no pun intended!), but he apparently forgot that he has been part of the "chop-chop" that he wants probed. And since those living it up at the high level glasshouse of comfort, at the expense of the Nigerian people must maintain a code of self-preservative silence, "a high-powered ad-hoc committee to investigate allegations of corruption", was quickly set up. The "anti-corruption" whistle-blowing Smart Adeyemi made a volte-face of denial and has been eating his own vomit! It was also last week that a minister of the current government, Labaran Maku, confessed that public contracts in Nigeria are 30 per cent higher than in neighbouring West African countries.

And if you are getting angry, you better rev up the anger, because last week also, the chairman of the ICPC, Justice Emmanuel Ayoola, told a public lecture that a total of \$300billion was stolen by corrupt Nigerian leaders since independence. These sums, he said were enough "to build many standard schools equipped with all facilities"; but the brazen looting ensured we did not, and consequently, according to Ayoola, "we now send our children to private schools and universities and that is why when they come out of these schools, they have no love for their country". It is

clear that one of the downsides of the corruption central to the process of politics in our country is the erosion of patriotism in broad sections of the citizenry. So pious preachments about the importance of 'democracy', deformed as it is in its Nigerian incarnation, does not cut ice with the Nigerian people; frankly, I think the time has come for us to interrogate the inordinately high cost of this political process. Can Nigeria continue to maintain a parasitic political stratum that contributes very little to the nation, yet takes so much from it? Isn't it possible for legislation to become a part-time process, while those who end up in legislatures go back to gainful employment, when they are not examining legislation?

It is in fact the costs associated with the assumption of political power and the opportunity to go on a stealing frenzy that made for the do-or-die attitude which Obasanjo confessed is the essence of his politics, and we all know that is the central dictum of Nigerian politics, in the past eleven years. It is not likely to change, for as long as the ultimate prize of power confers mind-blowing privileges on the lucky chaps who get in. Come to think of it, what are the ideals which hold the political parties together? They are non-existent, beyond the fact of being vehicles of access to government houses and legislative chambers. Again we might

argue that the times of great political parties built on ideals expired during the Twentieth Century, but the Nigerian political space has exhibited the worst expressions of the disappearance of ideals in political life. And because of the breakdown of basic values and absence of a national ethos of patriotic service or recruitment, we have often ended up with throwing up the lowest common denominator in the process of leadership recruitment. Those recruited therefore see themselves in a perverted sense as a privileged caste which must be subsidized in every aspect of their existence. It is also one of the reasons that those who have had the opportunity to be within the loop of governance, become completely addicted to the privileges of access. This is the basis for the emergence of a tribe of what our greatest musician Fela Anikulapo-Kuti called ANY-GOVERNMENT-IN-POWER (AGIP), personified by Jerry Gana, Ojo Maduekwe and Nasir El-Rufai. The cost of running the civilian administration is stifling the development of the country and unfortunately, it has not become more democratic. It is double jeopardy for Nigeria.

Hajiya Raliat Abdulrazaq: "Maama" At 80

Last weekend Hajiya Raliat AbdulRazaq, wife of the Mutawali of Ilorin, Alhaji AGF AbdulRazaq, the first lawyer in Northern Nigeria, celebrated her 80th birthday anniversary. Fondly called "Maama", Hajiya was a genuine mother for many people from Ilorin, especially those of my generation. We all grew up knowing her as the grand auntie who was ever present in community events in Ilorin; and in turn, the Ilorin community showered her with trust and genuine affection for years. Apart from the success they made of their lives as a couple and in politics, business and law, "Maama" and her husband are a superb example of successful parenting, giving birth to children who have made a positive mark on Nigerian life. If I have any regrets about the birthday celebration, it is that just like the earlier one for their father, they chose to celebrate in Lagos. Why did they refuse to go back home to Ilorin to celebrate amongst people who genuinely love their wonderful mother? Happy 80th Birthday "Maama"!

Can Nigeria continue to maintain a parasitic political stratum that contributes very little to the nation, yet takes so much from it?

SPORTS REPORT



SERENA Williams

Serena crashes at French Open

The top-ranked Serena Williams yesterday crashed out of the French Open after losing in the quarterfinals, squandering a match point and losing to Australian spoiler Samantha Stosur, 6-2, 6-7 (2), 8-6.

The upset was the second in a row for the No. 7-seeded Stosur, and the third in as many days at Roland Garros. Stosur

ended four-time champion Justine Henin's Roland Garros winning streak at 24 matches in the fourth round.

Then Williams made her exit, with stretches of brilliant tennis by Stosur hastening the departure. The Australian, long regarded as a doubles specialist, used her forceful forehand to build a lead, winning 17 consecutive points during one stretch.



ROBINHO

Brazil beats Zimbabwe 3-0 in World Cup warm-up

Brazil defeated Zimbabwe 3-0 in a World Cup warm-up yesterday behind goals from Michel Bastos, Robinho and Elano.

Brazil had a sloppy start at Harare's National Sports Stadium, but picked up the pace to earn the easy victory with less than two weeks before its World Cup debut.

Michel Bastos opened the scoring with a powerful left-footed free kick in the 41st minute, Robinho added to the lead from inside the penalty area in the 44 and Elano closed the scoring from close range in the 56 minute.

It was Brazil's first warm-up since arriving in Africa to begin its World Cup preparations. It will face Tanzania on Sunday in Dar es Salaam in its final match before debuting against North Korea on June 15 in Johannesburg.

