

Ciroma: Trying to remove Yar'adua will be distractive



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Why I resigned from AC, by Atiku Abubakar



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State govts may go broke in June

By Jibrin Abubakar & Idris Ahmed

STATE governments in this country may not be able to pay workers' salaries in the next two months when the \$3.2 billion currently left in the Excess Crude Account is shared out, a top official of the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission [RMAFC] told *Daily Trust*

in Abuja yesterday.

The sources said only Lagos State will be able to pay salaries if the funds from the Federation Account and Excess Crude Account further nosedive in June.

Lagos State has an Internally Generated Revenue profile of N17.5 billion, while it paid monthly salaries of N3 billion in 2009. Other

states depend largely on monies from the federation account and the excess funds from the proceeds of oil sales.

For the 2009 fiscal year, the anticipated internally generated revenue for Borno State was N17.843 billion and the personnel costs stood at N 8.678 billion for the year. Daily Trust could not confirm how much Borno

State raked in as internally generated revenue for the year.

But our reporter in Borno said the state may not face serious financial difficulties because it has made provision for the rainy day.

The dwindling revenue profile of the government will also affect civil servants at the federal level, a top

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PHOTO: SANI MAIKATANGA

A truck loaded with grain overturned along Ring Road, Kano, yesterday.

FCT minister suspends all plots from 2007

By Nasir Imam

ALL forms of land transactions, payment and transfers in the Federal Capital Territory [Abuja], including development control approvals in respect of plots allocated since January 2007 were yesterday suspended by

the new FCT Minister Senator Bala Mohamed Duguri.

The minister, who spoke at a press conference in his office, said briefs from various departments and agencies of the FCT Administration (FCTA) revealed some deficiencies, abuse of delegated authorities and misuse of public trust in recent

land allocations for residential, commercial and mass housing purposes in Abuja.

According to the minister, active involvement of unauthorized persons in the land allocation process; ineffectiveness of the Land Use and Allocation Committee (LUAC); allocations in mass

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Pastor, wife found dead

From Muhammad Abubakar, Bauchi

THE bodies of the resident pastor of the Church of Christ in Nigeria (COCIN) of Boto in Tafawa Balewa Local Government Area of Bauchi State, Reverend Ishaya G. Kadah and his wife, Selina Ishaya Kadah, were found yesterday, two days after they were declared missing.

The development has raised tension in the area which is home to hundreds of internally displaced persons from the crises in Jos and environs.

A resident of the area said the bodies were found burnt and deposited in a nearby bush by

people who had been searching for them since Tuesday when they were declared missing.

He said tension began in the village Monday upon rumours that there was going to be an attack on some people. The next day the pastor and his wife were found to be missing from their home and church. When we started looking for them, a boy in the area told us that he saw some men dragging the pastor and his wife, he said.

The state Commissioner of Police Danlami Yar'adua said his command received the information Tuesday that a pastor and his wife were missing and he immediately

sent his men who later discovered the corpses Wednesday evening.

He said the command had already arrested two suspects in connection with the killings while four other persons also believed to have a hand in the killings were at large and that investigations were going on, assuring that the command would not rest until it arrests them.

"Some hoodlums from Boto went to a village and stole some goats, the owner of the goats pursued them, and along the line they shot one of them on the leg with an arrow and eventually they were able to recover their goats and went back to their vil-

lage. But a boy who hailed from the refugee camp in the area now came back to the village and raised a false alarm that they were being attacked by some people, and the people believed the story was true and this cause a little pandemonium, then after everything settled down, we got a report that the Pastor and his wife were missing", he said.

The Special Assistant to the state governor on Media, Sanusi Muhammad, who spoke to our correspondent on phone, said government considered the incident unfortunate and would do everything to contain it.

The state government had last

month said in a press statement signed by the Secretary to the State government, Ahmed Ibrahim Dandija, that it had information that members of the COCIN Church in Tafawa Balewa were plotting to destabilize the state, an allegation the COCIN Tafawa Balewa chapter denied at a press conference it later held in Bauchi.

Our correspondent gathered at the time of writing his report that a meeting was being held in the office of the state Deputy Governor Babayo Garba Gamawa to tackle the matter before it gets out of hand as the state governor, Malam Isa Yuguda, was not in town.



ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan (left) with South African President Jacob Zuma at President Zuma's birthday celebration in the United States recently.

One killed in fresh Plateau violence

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

ONE person was killed while several others were injured Wednesday in Barikin Ladi Local Government Area of Plateau State after which youths in the area barricaded the road and started attacking passengers and passersby.

Several people were injured and many vehicles were damaged. Security operatives later intervened to maintain law and order.

Police Public Relations Officer ASP Mohammed Lerama said, "Police in Barikin Ladi received a report from someone called Mohammed Yusuf

that some groups of people went and poisoned the grasses where they normally graze their cattle and eight cows and a sheep died on the spot, a team of policemen went to the scene and confirmed the incident".

Lerama added, "Shortly after, they received a report that a corpse was found in a village called Kassa and a team of policemen went there and recovered the body after youths in the area mobilized to barricade the road and started attacking passengers, but the Joint Task force intervened and opened the road and brought the situation under control". He added that the police were investigating the two

incidents and appealed to members of the public to avoid taking laws into their hands and report any suspicious activities to the nearest police station or security operatives nearest to them. A witness in Barikin Ladi told *Daily Trust*, "Some cattle rearers in Loko Jauro village alleged that some youths put poison inside the water which their cows drank and some of them died. Shortly after, one person left his house with his motor cycle. After a search they found his motorcycle and his corpse as he was killed by unknown persons. As a result of that, some youths were angry, they took law in to their hands and barricaded the road".

Water Scarcity: Saraki sacks commissioner

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

GOVERNOR Abubakar Bukola Saraki of Kwara State yesterday relieved the Commissioner for Water Resources Alhaji Abdul-Mumini Sidiq Katibi of his appointment.

Contained in a statement signed by the new Secretary to the State Government, Alhaji Saka Isau (SAN). Alhaji Katibi was relieved of his appointment due to erratic and inadequate water supply situation in the state, particularly in Ilorin metropolis.

Meanwhile, the Commissioner for Sports and Youths Development Dr. Abubakar Kanike has been directed to oversee the ministry. *Daily Trust* gathered that the governor had earlier directed the ministry to proffer solutions to the perennial water shortage in the state pending the completion of the ongoing reticulation project. The governor gave the directive in Ilorin during unscheduled visits to the Asa and Agba dams and some parts of the state capital, including Oloje and Emir Road to have first hand information

on the current water situation in the metropolis.

The governor expressed confidence that the water problem would be permanently addressed when the on-going reticulation project is completed in October this year.

Governor Saraki said Asa dams had been rehabilitated and expanded to function to optimal level of 24 million gallons of water per day when the reticulation project is completed within the next six months, assuring that the laying of new water pipes would also cover new areas.



GOV Bukola Saraki

NRC to commence mass transit soon

From Sunday Ejike Benjamin, Lagos

THE Nigeria Railway Corporation (NRC) will commence mass transit railway operations in some major cities of the country before the end of this year, Minister of Transport Alhaji Yusuf Suleiman has said. The minister who said this yesterday after an inspection tour of the on-going rehabilitation works of the railway tracks in Lagos said the Federal Government is poised to delivering the dividends of democracy to Nigerians. The cities, according to the minister are Lagos, Kano, Port-Harcourt, Jos and Maiduguri, pointing out that rehabilitation

work from Lagos to Kano had already commenced and the work would be completed before the end of this administration.

"We are going to start with the Lagos to Ibadan track then Abuja, Kaduna to Kano and before the end of this month, we will mobilize all contractors to site", he said.

Alhaji Suleiman said he had no intention to introduce any new policy in the nation's transport sector, but would consolidate on the programmes and policies put in place by his predecessor for an improved transport system in the country.

"I am not coming out with any

new policy, am coming here with a commitment to continue with what is on the ground. I have a commitment to fastback and ensure practical implementation of projects that I met on ground. I am not starting any new project and will ensure that I go round the country to make sure that the contractors do their work according to specification", he said.

Suleiman added that the Federal Government would ensure that the Nigerian people get the best of the railway transportation system, saying once the railway system starts functioning, a lot of problem would be solved.

Man dies plucking mangoes with gun

A 26-year-old man, Olajide Ojo, who chose to pluck mangoes with a dane gun, has died of gunshot injuries.

Ms Olabisi Okuwobi, spokeswoman of the Oyo State Police Command, told newsmen in Ibadan yesterday that the tragedy occurred on April 3 on his father's farm at Ilora, near Oyo.

Okuwobi said the police were investigating the incident as it was not clear if

Ojo was killed by an accidental discharge from the gun.

"The father of the deceased stated that his son mistakenly shot himself as he was trying to pluck a mango," she said.

Okuwobi said detectives had visited the farm and recovered the dane gun. Ojo's remains, according to Okuwobi, had been deposited at the General Hospital, Oyo for autopsy. (NAN)

PIC: AFOLABI SOTUNDE



MINISTER of State for Commerce Josephine Tuggun at the wheels of the new Mercedes Benz 6.3 AMG. With her is Mr. Mirko Plath, MD, Mercedes-Benz at the 12th annual Abuja Motor fair yesterday.

AGF wants judges to retire at 75

By Adelanwa Bamgboye

MINISTER of Justice and Attorney General of the Federation (AGF) Mr. Mohammed Bello Adoke (SAN) said the mandatory retirement age for judges should be adjusted from 70 to 75.

The AGF made the call in Abuja yesterday during a valedictory ceremony to mark the retirement of Justice James Ogenyi Ogebe from the Supreme Court bench after attaining 70 years.

"It is my recommendation that the time has come for us to consider an upward review of the retirement age for this category of judges from the present 70 years to a regime where the old 70 years should be optional retirement age while 75 becomes the mandatory age.

Before now, the Supreme Court was made up of 17 justices including the Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN). But after the retirement of the Justice Idris Kutigi (former CJN), Justice George Adesola Oguntade and Justice Ogenyi Ogebe and two more still expected to retire later in the year, the membership of the apex court will reduce to 12.

Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (CFRN) provides that "A judicial officer appointed to the Supreme Court or the Court of Appeal may retire when he attains the age of sixty-five years and he shall cease to hold office when he attains the age of seventy years."

Justice Ogebe, who chaired the 2007 presidential election petition tribunal, was nominated to the Supreme Court by President Umaru Musa in February 2008. Yar'adua, less than a week to the tribunal's ruling on the Yar'adua vs. General Muhammadu Buhari case leading members of the opposition to cry foul.

Ciroma: Trying to remove Yar'adua will be distractive

By Muideen Olaniyi

144 of the 1999 Constitution to oust ailing President Umaru Musa Yar'adua will be a distractive process, former Minister of Finance Malam Adamu Ciroma has said.

Ciroma, who chaired the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Convention Committee in 2008, told newsmen in Abuja that the Executive Council of the Federation (EXCOF) should rather show empathy with Yar'adua over his health challenge.

He said: "I can warn that anybody who is thinking of invoking that section is going to produce heartache in the whole political process. It is going to become disruptive.

"What kind of people are we that somebody is not well, sometimes you want to take the step of removing him, for what? You have to be sympathetic in the way you relate to people."

Ciroma said the North would still produce PDP's presidential in 2011 in line with the party's zoning arrangement.

He said: "The zoning arrangement is something which we people who formed this party discussed and came to conclusion which we believe will serve the interest of this country better. It is not enough to think that you can get the right people or the competent people from one side of the country.

"After the death of General Sani Abacha, it was we people

from this part of the world or this part of Nigeria who decided come from the south and we agreed that the rotation should be between north and south even though there are six zones.

"So, we agreed that somebody from the south should become the president. We did not say from which part of the south. It is the way events developed in the south that produced General Olusegun Obasanjo as the president and he was to act as president for two terms. When he tried to extend his period, he met our resistance and he himself took part in choosing President Yar'adua to become his successor.

"So, Yar'adua is now in the middle of his term or the term

which is for the north and he is unwell. If he recovers to contest no problem, if not, there will be he cannot contest, the issue is to consider as the PDP did recently that the remaining four years of Yar'adua which is belonging to the north should be operated by a northern elected president," he pointed out.

Ciroma, who did not rule out the possibility of seeing the Acting President Goodluck Jonathan declaring interest in the 2011 election, however noted that such move would change the zoning arrangement of the PDP.

"He may wish to. If he wishes, you cannot stop him from trying. He may try and by the time he succeeds, it means the wish of the party has changed," Ciroma said.

Jonathan returns from US trip

By Mohammed S. Shehu

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan yesterday returned to the country after a four-day official visit to the United States where he participated in the Nuclear Security Summit.

The presidential plane touched down the presidential wing of the Nnamdi Azikwe International Airport at about 10:30 am and he was received by top government functionaries led by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation Mahmud Yayale Ahmed.

Speaking to newsmen at the airport shortly after their arrival, Foreign Affairs Minister Odein

Ajumogobia described the US trip as "successful" adding that it provided the country the opportunity to engage with the world.

"It was a very successful visit and I think it is important that Nigeria engages with the world again and I think we did so in a very open and successful way. The meeting between U. S. President Barack Obama and the Acting President was very successful and I think it is very important, there is a lot of goodwill, enormous goodwill for Nigeria outside Nigeria and I think that we are back to try and take advantage of that goodwill, for the betterment of Nigeria.

"You could see for yourself the

interviews that were given to BBC, CNN, in fact it was a very short trip but in that short trip there was so much excitement and everyone was very keen to meet the Acting President," Ajumogobia said.

Meanwhile, the Acting President has said that the Federal Government will soon establish a Diaspora Commission that will harmonize the contributions of Nigerians living overseas and ensure proper documentation of their input in the affairs of the nation as key stakeholders.

A statement by his spokesman, Ima Niboro, said Jonathan stated this Wednesday while addressing the Nigerian Community in the US

at Nigeria House, Washington DC, to round off his four-day visit to the United States.

He said government establishment of the commission will enable the government have proper records of their contributions.

The forum afforded Nigerians in the US the platform to interact with the Acting President and ask questions on the state of the nation.

On the power sector, Jonathan said "The compelling need to introduce a concept to ensure efficiency in the sector informed my decision to personally oversee the Ministry of Power."

On the 2011 polls, he said: "We are confident that the 2011 elec-

tions will be better than previous ones held in Nigeria."

US Ambassador to Nigeria, Prof. Ade Adefuye, said Jonathan's visit to the States has given tremendous boost to Nigeria's image abroad, making Nigerians in Diaspora hold their heads high once again in national pride.

Earlier, Jonathan was special guest at a luncheon organized by the Corporate Council on Africa where he described the recent signing of the Agreement on the Nigeria-US Bi-National Commission as a historic feat that reflects the high level friendship and collaboration that exist between Nigeria and the US.

'Nigeria must separate budget from oil benchmark'

By Sunday Williams

IF Nigeria wants to take economic diversification seriously, the country must separate its budget and financial system from oil price benchmark syndrome, the Executive Director of African Institute for Applied Economics (AIAE) has said.

Speaking yesterday in Abuja at the public presentation of the

book: "The Global Economic Crisis and Nigeria: taking the right lessons, avoiding the wrong lessons," the director said the oil benchmark syndrome confers a mentality of overdependence on the oil sector.

He said: "The oil benchmark mentality does not give the right national mindset for the much needed economic diversification. Time has come to consider some form of decoupling or debugging

of the government budget and public finance from the oil benchmark syndrome."

He expressed concern over the rising domestic debt profile as well as rising physical deficit as can be seen in the 2010 budget that has been passed by the National Assembly.

"These are areas of concern and we think that steps should be taken to watch these trends particularly

the depletion of the excess crude account between 2006 to 2009. These important signs needs to be watch by stakeholders so that we are sure that we are on the part of sustainability," he said.

He said that whatever measures that the country is taking to curb with the aftermath of the economic crisis should not undermine the basis for long time economic sustainability.

He said the book that was presented is a fall out of his institutes last year's symposium in collaboration with the National Assembly Policy Analysis and Research Project on the Global Financial crisis and Nigeria.

He said the book is designed to benefit different segments of the society, adding that it shows evidence to inform and influence economic policies.



REGISTRAR, Advertising Practitioners Council of Nigeria (APCON) Alhaji Garba Bello Kankarofi (left) with Chairman of Advertising Standards Panel Mr. Sesan Ogunro, during a courtesy visit by APCON to Corporate Head Office of Media Trust Ltd in Abuja, Wednesday.

NMA: Why health minister must be doctor

By Ruby Leo

THE Nigerian Medical Association (NMA) said acting President Goodluck Jonathan should appoint a trained medical doctor as substantive health minister to check the growing outbreaks of diseases in Nigeria and the near collapse of the country's health system.

NMA President Dr Prosper Igboeli said though they are not against other medical professionals from handling the reigns of the health ministry, they would

briefly with the serious health issues presently bedeviling the country. Briefing newsmen on the association's forthcoming 50th anniversary, Igboeli said a total review and assessment of the system needs to be done to determine where and when the system lost focus so that it would be solved.

According to the NMA, the right calibre of persons must be put in positions that would enable the system to work.

"When you decide to bring politics into any system it would collapse, because it is being diluted and can't hold the centre, it is garbage in garbage out," he said.

He said a doctor has adequate knowledge in all areas of medicines and explained that the only important factor in the health system is the patient who needs to be managed and treated to health when ill.

Secretary General of the association Dr Kenneth Okoro also defended the doctors' position on the nomination of a candidate to head the health ministry.

Police to appeal ruling on Boko Haram

By Misbahu Bashir

THE police said they would appeal the judgement of a High Court sitting in Maiduguri, Borno State in which they were found guilty of killing Alhaji Baba Fugu Mohammed, the 72-year-old in-law of the late Boko Haram leader Mohammed Yusuf.

The court awarded N100 million in damages to his family and asked the police to exhume his body from where they buried him and hand it over to the family for proper burial.

The Police Force Public Relations Officer ACP Emmanuel Ojukwu said they will take the appeal to the Federal Court of Appeal. Police will ask the appellate court to review the decision of the Maiduguri court. "Police will

soon file an appeal," he said.

Justice Mohammed Mustapha said in his judgment that he was satisfied that the police detained and executed Baba Fugu after he reported himself to the police headquarters in Maiduguri when he learnt from family members that he was wanted by the police.

Late Fugu's family had told the court that their late father, who had 27 children, gave out the hand of one of his daughters in marriage to late Mohammed Yusuf, leader of the Boko Haram sect, because they were childhood friends with Yusuf's father.

The family also told the court that their father gave Yusuf a house, which served as the sect's headquarters, long before he developed the Boko Haram ideology.

Ajumogobia leads Nigeria to Polish funeral

By Aisha Umar Agaie

FOREIGN Affairs Minister Odein Ajumogobia will lead the federal government delegation to the state funeral of late Polish President Lech Kaczynski, his wife Maria Kaczynska and senior government officials of Poland who died in air crash in Russia.

The state funeral will take place on Sunday, April 18 and will be preceded by a state memorial service to commemorate all victims of the plane crash Saturday, April 17, 2010.

The spokesman of foreign ministry, Ozo Nwobu, said the Nigerian delegation will depart on April 17 to Poland. On the foreign minister's team include

Rep Faruk Lawan, Senator Umar Bature, Archbishop John Onaiyeka and representatives of some service chiefs.

The president and his wife will be buried in former Polish capital Cracow, in the Wawel's Castle Cathedral, the resting place of the country's kings, past leaders and great national poets.

Meanwhile the ambassador of Poland Mr. Prezemyslaw Niesiolowski said as at yesterday 41 country delegate have been confirmed to attend the funeral at Poland which include presidents of U.S, Russia, Germany, France, UK prince Charles and others.

The ambassador also thanked Nigeria for the condolences sent to the people of Poland.

W/Bank: Stone industry can provide one million jobs

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

THE stone industry is capable of providing jobs for one million jobless Nigerians, a World Bank report on sustainable management of mineral resources project (SMMRP) in Nigeria indicates.

SMMRP Project Coordinator Mr. Linus Adie made the dis-

closure at an interactive meeting with dimension stone operators in Abuja. He said the report indicates that Nigeria can be self-sufficient in marble and granite products, adding that "We are told that in sharpening the manpower in this country Nigeria can also be self-sufficient in the required manpower to drive this industry. We are told that because of

your product can cut cost by 100%."

Adie said the World Bank is ready to assist Nigeria to display its potential dimension stone at the Carrara Marmotetic Stone Fair in Italy by May this year.

He said neither the Ministry of Mines and Steel Development nor the SMMRP can achieve the enviable target alone, which was why

the World Bank accepted to assist financially by paying part of the operators' accommodation.

The operators eventually formed themselves into a group and adopted some suggested names such as Dimension Stone Association of Nigeria and Association of Dimension Stone Operators in Nigeria, which the SMMRP

pledged to finance its registration at the Corporate Affairs Commission.

The stakeholders however conducted an election for protem officer from which, Group President, Rich Group, Alhaji Kabir Umar emerged president with Mrs. Vivian Wya of the Ministry of Finance emerging as the vice president.

Why I resigned from AC, by Atiku Abubakar

FORMER Vice President Atiku Abubakar said he resigned his membership of the Action Congress (AC) because his efforts to help build a strong national opposition party have been frustrated by factionalisation, intrigues and divided loyalties to particular individuals. He said in his letter of resignation dated April 6 that these factors have made opposition parties incapable of rising to the challenges of national leadership.

"No doubt I owe a debt of gratitude to the leaders of AC for inviting me to be their presidential candidate in the 2007 presidential election, after I reluctantly left my party following my unjust expulsion," he said in the letter.

FCT minister suspends all plots from 2007

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housing without regard to the Federal Executive Council (FEC) approved guidelines were among several reasons that informed the suspension. He however said the suspension does not translate to revocation of allocations as all allocations and development control approvals made in line with due process would be sustained.

Others reasons for the suspension, the minister said, include glaring lopsidedness in land allocation resulting in a situation where allocations to applicants were based on selfish and personal interests; as well as bank draft payment scam in the Abuja Geographic Information System (AGIS), where certain officials have succeeded in exploiting certain loopholes and hacking into the billing system to defraud government.

He also said there also exists a files scam at AGIS/Land Department, where some land speculators have been able to break through the electronic system with active connivance of AGIS staff to duplicate genuine allocations and obtain C of Os ahead of genuine applicants which often results in several cases in court arising from previous wrong revocation/allocation of titles.

The minister said there were long standing cases of unresolved double allocations, some dating as far back as the 1980s; non-upgrading of document management system with requisite personnel to aid land administration process; undue delay in the processing of building plans; conflicting land use plans originating from AGIS and Urban and Regional Planning Department; and issues of fake layouts in Area Councils.

He said the suspension was not done to malign or denigrate anyone but added that he will not spare anyone, including past ministers, who are found wanting in the exercise.

Sen. Mohammed said a committee has been set up to streamline and look at each case on its own merit and advised the general public to refrain from open-market land transactions pending further announcement on this matter.



FROM left: Former NUJ Presidents Malam Sani Zoro, George Izobn and Lanre Ogundipe, representatives of the Minister of Information and Communications, Labaran Maku (Minister of State for information Communication), presenting a book 'Journalism in Nigeria: How far, How well'. With them is former Minister of information, Prince Tony Momoh and NUJ President, Malam Mohammed Garba, during the 55th anniversary of the Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ) in Abuja yesterday.

Chairman's absence stalls FG's withdrawal of suit against Ribadu

By Atika Balal

ABSENCE of the Acting Chairman of the Code of Conduct Tribunal (CCT) yesterday made it impossible for the Federal Government to formally withdraw a case of non-declaration of assets against former Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) Nuhu Ribadu.

Ribadu was asked to appear before the tribunal for allegedly failing to declare his assets as required by the public officers Code of Conduct laws of Nigeria.

Yesterday was slated for the formal withdrawal of the suit, but the tribunal could not sit as its acting chairman, Justice Murtala Sani, who is bereaved had travelled.

Two sittings ago, the Attorney-

General of the Federation (AGF) applied to withdraw the case but Justice Murtala Sani advised the Prosecutor to formalise the application for withdrawal for proper documentation at the next sitting of the tribunal.

Dr. J. O. Olatoke had told the tribunal that his application for withdrawal had nothing to do with a new application Counsel to Ribadu intended to file before

CCT seeking that the case be struck out.

He had also told newsmen that the withdrawal of the case was the decision of the former AGF, Prince Adetokumbo Kayode (SAN), who on assumption of duty, reviewed the cases on ground and directed that it should be withdrawn. No date has been fixed yet for the next sitting of the tribunal.

State govts may go broke in June

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top federal civil servant also said.

Monthly revenue accruing to the federal, state and local governments has been on the decline since January this year. The three tiers of government shared N333 billion in January and N273 billion in February.

The allocation for the month of March is not yet out but a source at the Federation Account Committee said Nigerians should expect lower postings to states for the month. The depletion of the Excess Crude Account came on top of continuous downward trends in funds accruable to the Federation Account. The excess crude account was created by the Olusegun Obasanjo government when the prices of crude oil in the international market were far above Nigeria's budget benchmark. The Excess Crude Account is divided into two parts. There is the dollar part which comes from the sales of crude oil outside the shores of Nigeria by the NNPC. The other part comes from Domestic Excess Crude Sales.

Nigeria's deepening financial crisis is further captured in the envisaged 35 per cent or N1.5 trillion budget deficit for 2010.

The 2010 budget is predicated on oil production of 2.88 million barrel per day at \$67 per bar-

rel. This is against last year's \$57 a drum. The price of sweet crude at the international market yesterday stood at \$87 a barrel. Most states depend on the funds from the federal government to pay their workers and to carry out major projects.

Government has been augmenting revenue shortfalls by withdrawing from the Excess Crude Account. The account is now down to about \$3 billion from a balance of \$20 billion in January 2009.

In February 2009, the Federation Account Allocation Committee recommended the sharing of \$2 billion after the state governors pressurized the federal government to share \$4 billion from the account. In April 2009, \$5.3 billion was withdrawn from the Excess Crude Account to fund

the federal government's power project. Between June and August 2009, \$4 billion was shared by the governments, after the state governors went to court praying that the whole Excess Crude fund be shared. Another \$2 billion was shared by the government in the heat of global economic crisis that drastically reduced international oil prices last year. Towards the end of 2009, federal government withdrew \$2 billion from the account and injected it into the economy as economic stimulus.

In the same vein, *Daily Trust* has also learnt that since January, in an unprecedented manner, the Federal Government has been dipping its hands into oil proceeds to offset Joint Venture Cash Calls. Nigeria has 60 percent joint holding and

40 percent to the multinationals in the JVCs.

Corroborating this fact, Central Bank of Nigeria [CBN] Governor Sanusi Lamido Sanusi and former minister of finance Ngozi Okonjo Iweala recently said budget 2010 is not realistic.

Meanwhile, a top government official said unless the states aggressively embark on harnessing their internally generated revenue and relying less on revenue from the federation account, they may also not be able to execute any capital project for the rest of the year.

How revenue from the Federation Account and the Excess Crude Account were shared by the Federal Government, 36 States and the 774 Local Government Councils.

Federation Account (N)

September '09: N351 billion

October '09 : N354 billion
November '09 : N374 billion

December '09: N370 billion

January 2010: N330 billion

February 2010: N273 billion

Excess Crude Account (\$)

The account had a balance of \$20 billion as at January 2009.

\$2 billion was shared in February 2009
\$5.3 billion was withdrawn for power emergency fund in April 2009

\$4 billion was shared between June and August 2009. Another \$2 billion was shared in the heat of global economic meltdown in 2009

In October 2009, another \$2 billion was withdrawn as economic stimulus package approved by NEC
In March alone this year, \$3 billion was shared by the federal states and local governments

How Aliero favoured Kebbi in FCT land allocation



SENATOR Mohammed Adamu Aliero

By Nasir Imam

POLITICAL loyalties and favouritism appeared to have influenced the allocation of lands in the Federal Capital Territory during the reign of Senator Mohammed Adamu Aliero as minister, senior officials in the Federal Capital Territory Administration told *Daily Trust*.

ALSO, Aliero, according to accounts of several sources, sidestepped the due process in allocating lands without recourse to the Land Use and Allocation Committee as required by law.

Aliero, a former governor of Kebbi State, was FCT minister from December 2008 to March 18, 2010.

Documents from the Abuja Geographic Information System (AGIS) show that the former minister allocated a total of 2,778 residential plots of land during his stay in office. Of this number, people from his home state Kebbi received the highest number of plots with 262 residential plots, followed by Katsina State with 164.

Others are Kano 155, Kaduna 154, Niger 150, Sokoto 125, FCT 124, Borno 115, Kogi 109, Adamawa 100, Anambra 94, Edo 93, Imo 88, Nasarawa 87, Benue 84, Delta 65, Kwara 64, Plateau 62, Gombe and Yobe 55 each, Jigawa and Bauchi 54 each, Zamfara, Abia and Lagos 50

each, Ogun 47, Taraba 43, Oyo 40, Osun 38, Rivers 34, Ondo 26, Akwa Ibom 25, Cross River 22, Bayelsa and Ebonyi 20 each, while Ekiti got none.

Aliero assumed duties as FCT minister on December 17, 2008, six months after his predecessor established an 11-member FCT Land Use Allocation Committee (LUAC) on June 16, 2008. But throughout the period of his reign as minister, the lands committee did not meet and did not recommend any plot allocation in the FCT, *Daily Trust* learnt.

The former minister's method of allocating land was to send a list of his approvals for plot allocations to the AGIS through two of his special assistants, whom he later co-opted into the lands committee as additional members vide a letter to his chief of staff and chairman of the committee dated February 2, 2010, according to reliable sources within the FCT Administration.

These aides, sources said, were throughout Aliero's tenure responsible for all the plot allocations in the FCTA.

The former minister could not be reached directly for comments, but his media aide Abdullahi Zuru, responding to the allegation of favouritism in allocating lands to Kebbi indigenes, said people from Kebbi also have the right like every other Nigerian to apply for land in the FCT and the minister had the power to allocate those lands to them.

Documents obtained from AGIS show many instances where Aliero allocated lands without recourse to the lands committee.

For instance, Garba Mahuta of 2 Kasuwa Road, Mahuta, Kebbi State with file number KB 60495 applied for a residential plot of land on August 5, 2009 after the payment of the required N50,000. A week later, on August 14, 2009, Mahuta was given letter of offer for a statutory right of occupancy for plot 1281 in Jahi district of Abuja, signed by AGIS director Nana Buhari, who is also secretary of the lands committee.

This same plot of 883 square meters was offered for sale and recently sold for about N250 million, sources in the real estate business said.

Another plot No. 512, offered to Isah Zuru Gajere from Kebbi State, on the same August 14, 2009, after applying a week earlier with file number KB 60493, was also recently

sold for N10 million.

Other infractions by Aliero include allocating lands in excess of the approved sizes. On February 15, 2010, the FCT Administration published the revised guidelines of its mass housing programme, to check abuses in the scheme where large chunks of land allocated to developers were re-carved and re-sold illegally.

The guidelines say for the city, the maximum sizes for mass housing plots was pegged at 10 hectares and 20 hectares for the satellite towns.

But Aliero did not abide by the guidelines, according to information from the FCTA. For instance, a day after the publication of the guidelines, Fisque West Africa Ltd, with file no. Misc 101207, was allocated a 24-hectare plot No. 1 Cadastral Zone D03 of Idogwari; and Capp Nig. Ltd., with file no. Misc 106450, was allocated 18 hectares at plot no. 7, Cadastral Zone D07 of Sabo Gida.

Excel Realtors Ltd., with file no. Misc 1011197, on February 16, 2010, were allocated a 19 hectares at plot no. 8 in Cadastral Zone D02 of Karsana South; while Exclusive Class Ltd., with file no. Misc 106448, was allocated 25 hectares at plot no. 5 in Cadastral Zone D07 of Sabo Gida.

Responding to this, Sam Kargbo, special assistant to the then FCT minister, told *Daily Trust* by telephone that such allocations were "no allocation at all. They are mere dummies or at best letters of intent because they were given out to developers under pressure and the tenure of those allocations was for only two weeks."

Aliero quit as FCT minister on March 18 after the dissolution of the federal cabinet.

When contacted, a very senior official of AGIS, who preferred anonymity, confirmed the report but said that it is not only FCTA that is guilty of such sharp practices by those given land to hold in trust for its citizens.

"The same situation exists in most land administration ministries and department in various states of Nigeria because land is a very valuable commodity and provides easy platform for government officials to corrupt themselves through the allocation of land," the official said.



The former minister could not be reached directly for comments, but his media aide Abdullahi Zuru, responding to the allegation of favouritism in allocating lands to Kebbi indigenes, said people from Kebbi also have the right like every other Nigerian to apply for land in the FCT and the minister had the power to allocate those lands to them.

FG approves N10bn housing loan for workers

By Francis Okeke

THE Federal Government has approved the sum of N10 billion as part of efforts to empower federal civil servants in the area of housing acquisition.

This was revealed yesterday in Abuja by the past Chairperson of the Federal Government Staff Housing Loans Board (FGSHLB) Dr. Adugie Abebe who is

the current permanent secretary in the Ministry of Transport.

Dr. Abebe, represented by Mr. Geoffrey Tabansi while handing over chairmanship of the Board of FGSHLB to the new permanent secretary in the Common Service Office (CSO) of the Office of Head of Civil Service of the Federation (OHCSF) Mr Pius Major said government approved the amount

to enable the board settle the backlog of approved applications for the housing loans by workers.

She said that the scheme, which is funded through annual budgetary provisions, got the appropriation of N3.5 billion from January 1999 to May 2009 for disbursement to eligible public servants.

According to her, only N2.3 billion was released to

the board within the period and that repayment of loans by benefitting public officers for the same period amounted to N860 million.

The new chairman of the board Pius Major who commended the Head of Service Mr. Stephen Oronsaye for facilitating the approval of the money said the new board has a duty to make the best use of the amount which is the largest ever to

be approved for the board.

Also speaking, the Executive Secretary of the board Hajiya Hannatu A. Fika said the board had never had it so good "because in previous years, we have only received between N100 million to N160 million annually for the same purposes."

The loan is granted at 3 per cent annual interest with a maximum repayment period of 25 years.



HCSF Stephen Oronsaye

Military pensioners ask for arrears

From Ruqayyah Yusuf Aliyu, Kano

THE Kano State chapter of the Retired Army, Navy, Airforce Officers club (RANAO) has urged the Federal Government to release funds for the payment of the approved 12.5 and 15 percent pension increments as approved by the government in 2003 and 2007. Speaking to *Daily Trust* in

an interview in Kano, the spokesman of the club, retired Captain Yusuf Abdulmalik said the military pensioners were finding it difficult to survive in their retirement years despite serving the country for several years.

"It is really unfortunate that the arrears for military pensioners as approved by the Federal Government in 2003 and 2007

are yet to be released. It is equally unfortunate that after serving the country for years, ex officers at their retirement years are suffering and finding it very difficult to cope with the challenges of life", he said.

He also said the present condition of retired military officers in the country was discouraging young men who are interested in

serving the nation in the military, saying, "The present condition of retired military officers is quite discouraging to our sons who want to join the military and this is because they are witnesses to our suffering at retirement and instead of following our footsteps, they resort to other professions with particular interest in politics". Abdulmalik therefore

called on the Federal Government to come to their aid by releasing the approved N17.2 billion for the ex officers, saying they had concluded the verification exercise which was conducted on September 27, 2009.

He further called on the ex officers to remain patient as they anticipated a response from the Federal Government.

PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE



A fallen PHCN high tension wire at Ado in Nasarawa State.

Sokoto approves sale of houses to civil servants

From Abdulfatai Abdulsalami, Sokoto

THE Sokoto State Health Commissioner Dr Jabbi Kilgori said yesterday that the state executive council Wednesday approved the sale of 745 units of houses to civil servants on its payroll on owner-occupier basis.

Dr. Kilgori said this in Sokoto yesterday while briefing newsmen on the outcome of the council's meeting. He explained that the beneficiaries would include the state's civil servants, its indigenes working outside the state, other federal workers and the general public among others. He added that a three-bedroom house goes for N 5.5 million while a two-bedroom would be sold for N 4.3 million.

The commissioner further disclosed that the council also approved a 20 per cent subsidy for the beneficiaries, saying all successful civil servants would pay for the houses in 20 years while the rest would pay upfront.

Kaduna tops North-west HIV/AIDS prevalence rate

From Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna

KADUNA State has the highest HIV/AIDS prevalence rate of 7.0% in the North-west geo-political zone according to a survey carried out by the Federal Ministry of Health in 2008, Mr Patrick Katuka, the Executive Secretary of the Kaduna State Action Against Aids (KADSACA) disclosed yesterday.

The executive secretary who was represented by Mr Barnabas Anthony at the presentation of a comprehensive HIV prevention project for youths in Kaduna and Benue States, also listed Sokoto and Zamfara States which have

prevalence rates of 6.0 percent and 2.9 percent respectively as following Kaduna in the prevalence survey.

The states were closely followed by Katsina (2.6%), Kano (2.2%) and Zamfara (2.1%) while Jigawa has the least prevalence rate in the zone with 1.6%. The executive secretary also said Kafanchan town has the highest prevalence rate of 17.7 percent within Kaduna state.

According to him, Kwoi followed Kafanchan with 7.3% prevalence rate while Zaria has 3.4% and Kaduna town followed closely with 2.3%. The 2008 sur-

vey also showed that Saminaka has the least prevalence rate in Kaduna State, Anthony said. He said, "HIV/AIDS is not just a health issue but a development issue and in fact a global problem."

He said the state government in collaboration with international development partners had done a lot to fight the pandemic.

In his goodwill message, NACA's Director General who was represented by Mr Tobias John said the programme was a component of the NACA world bank project which aims at providing support to civil society

organisations and faith-based groups in Nigeria so as to improve response to the pandemic. He said that "so far three cycles have been implemented with a total of 165 organisations supported in different thematic areas nationwide."

According to him, the Holy Order of Cherubim and Seraphim church HIV/AIDS project is very strategic to NACA because it has the multiplier effect of reaching other branches, building the staff capacity and also pooling resources for the other branches. Mr John commended the church for its laudable achievements in the fight against AIDS.

NAPEP battles poverty with N386m in Sokoto

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

THE National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) in Sokoto State has disbursed N386.9million to various beneficiaries to reduce poverty in the state.

State Coordinator of NAPEP Bello Ibrahim Gusau disclosed this at the disbursement of the Poverty Reduction Accelerator Investment (PRAI) to beneficiaries of its Conditional Transfer Programme which included physically challenged and vulnerable groups held at Goronyo Local Government Area.

A total of N42 million was disbursed under the PRAI programme with each of the 500 beneficiaries going home with N84,000.

Giving a breakdown of the N386.9m, Gusau said under the Village Solution Programme of NAPEP, N169million was released and 19 small scale industries and cooperative groups benefited from it.

He disclosed that under the multi-partner micro finance, NAPEP collaborated with the Sokoto State government and disbursed N86million to 1,769 beneficiaries in form of micro-credit revolving scheme.

UNIMAID pays tribute to late Borno Commissioner

From Sharafa Dauda & Yahaya Ibrahim, Maiduguri

THE Department of Mass Communication, University of Maiduguri has described the contributions of the late Borno State Commissioner for Health, Alhaji Zubairu Maina Shani, whose burial was yesterday attended in Maiduguri by thousands of sympathizers, including the State Governor, Ali Modu Sheriff, as "unrivalled in the history of the institution", thus making him a "rare gem

worthy of emulation." Late Zubairu died Wednesday, April 14, 2010 at the Jos University Teaching Hospital after a protracted illness.

According to the Staff Adviser to the Mass Communication Student Association (MACOSA), Malam Mohammed Gujbawu, the contributions of late Zubairu, who was an alumnus of the department, had greatly assisted the department in maintaining high professional standard when he swiftly swung into action with the donation of studio

equipments over N1.5million when the department's studio was burgled in 2008. He added that the late commissioner had at various times assisted the department and as chief launcher during the African Council for Communication Education (ACCE) National Conference hosted by the department in 2009, he emerged as the highest launcher ever in the history of the council, when he launched copies of publications of ACCE with the sum of N500,000. His last appearance according with

the department, was during the Award and Graduation Dinner for outgoing students held Saturday,

April 4, where he was awarded by the student association in honour of his untiring contributions to the department. A one time lecturer at the Kaduna Polytechnic, late Zubairu also worked as a reporter with the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) as well as the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) as Information Officer.



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION KEBBI STATE

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION AND TENDER

The Kebbi State Ministry of Education plans to award contracts for the under-listed projects under the year 2009 Education Trust Fund Intervention. The Ministry is therefore inviting eligible and competent contractors to apply for qualification and to tender for the projects.

SCOPE OF WORK

The scope of work includes the following:

- i). Construction of 2No Blocks of students' hostel (I – Type).
- ii). Repairs of students' burnt hostel.
- iii). Supply of Science Laboratory equipment.

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

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

1. Evidence of registration with Corporate Affairs Commission
2. Three years income tax clearance certificate or evidence of tax relief.
3. Evidence of registration with Kebbi State Tenders Board.
4. List of similar projects successfully executed in the last three years indicating name of clients letters of award, and certificate of completion.
5. Bank statement from a reputable Bank indicating financial capability of the contractor to execute the job.
6. List of major Plants/Equipment.
7. List of managerial, technical and administrative staff of the company.

COLLECTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS

Interested and competent contractors who wish to collect the tender documents of the projects must pay **NON-REFUNDABLE** fees as follows:

PROJECTS FEES

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 1. Construction of 2No Blocks of students' hostel (I – Type) | N50,000.00 |
| 2. Repairs of students' burnt hostel | N50,000.00 |
| 3. Supply of Science Laboratory equipment | N50,000.00 |

SUBMISSION OF TENDER/PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS.

The completed pre-qualification and tender documents must be in sealed envelopes and items for which interest in being expressed clearly indicated on top of the envelop and returned to the office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Birnin Kebbi.

Receipts of Pre-qualification/Tender bids will be closed two weeks from the date of publication of this invitation. All bids will be opened at 2:30pm on the closing date in the office of the Permanent Secretary.

All bidders or their representatives are expected to be present.

Signed

HAJIYA MAIMUNA M. BALA
PERMANENT SECRETARY

Aviation college rector flies into hotel with helicopter

By Shehu Abubakar

RECTOR of the Nigerian College of Aviation Technology (NCAT) Captain Dele Araba stole the show when he flew into the New Chelsea Hotel in Abuja in a helicopter for an meeting on Wednesday.

The helicopter is among the 26 choppers obtained by the Federal Government for training of students at the aviation college in Zaria.

The helicopter with registration number 5N-BKA landed at the car park of the hotel located at the Central Business District of Abuja and remained there while the meeting of aviation stakeholders lasted on Wednesday.

The source said before the present adminis-

tration intervened in equipping the institution, NCAT Zaria had only one functional trainer aircraft.

Former Aviation Minister Babatunde Omotoba announced the purchase of the helicopters in February, saying "A situation where such an important institution will be left with only one functional aircraft and without a single helicopter will not be tolerated.

Effort to obtain comments on the matter from the rector, and the Aviation Minister Mrs Fidelia Njeze were frustrated by ministry officials who would not let the reporter access into the meeting hall.

Several calls put across to NCAT Public Relations Officer (PRO) Mr Jude Amadi could not be answered.



THE NCAT helicopter parked at New Chelsea Hotel, Abuja on Wednesday.

FG to set target for contractors over Abuja-Lokoja road

By Mustapha Suleiman

CONTRACTORS handling the Abuja-Lokoja roads will soon be given target to ensure quick completion of the projects, Minister of Works Senator Sunusi Daggash has said.

The minister said this yesterday while inspecting ongoing road projects along Abuja-Lokoja road, where he urged the contractors to ensure that they work in accordance with the set target.

He was accompanied by the Minister of State for Works Engineer Chris Ogiemwonyi Daggash said that the Abuja-Lokoja road

is important because of its link to the federal capital, adding that the ministry will begin a monthly inspection and assessment of various contractors handling the road projects.

He said that the accidents being experienced on the road are as a result of the bad state of the road, hence the need for its speedy completion.

He asked the contractor handling Airport expressway to put hazard notice to alert motorists in order to reduce the rate of accidents as they work on site.

He lamented that most of the vehicles are overloaded, adding that weight bill will soon be put in place to solve this problem.

ECOWAS to abolish resident permit requirements

By Aisha Umar Agale

HEADS of Immigration from Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) plan to abolish resident permit requirement for its community citizens, Commissioner for Trade, Customs, Industry, Mines and Free Movement, Mohammed B. Daramy has said.

He made the statement at 3rd annual expert meeting of Heads of Immigration in ECOWAS, adding that other issues to be discussed include entrenchment of protocol of free movement in the curriculum of training institutions in member states.

Daramy also said that the deployment of the ECOWAS harmonised passport in member states and challenges of free movement,

and elimination of harassment within the ECOWAS space will be addressed.

He stated, "The challenges before you may seem quite herculean, especially considering the behavioural disposition of security operatives on our highways. However, the region is endowed with enormous human resources, whose potential could be developed to implement policies generated by member states improve the living standard of citizens and to promote regional development".

He said he expects the meeting to make significant contributions to the ECOWAS commission that will fast track the integration process and eliminate all obstacles to the free movement of community citizens within the West African region.

Child rapists to get life jail in Niger

From Ayegba Israel Ebiye, Minna

PEOPLE convicted of raping children in Niger State are to spend the rest of their lives in jail, as the state government has passed into law, the sentence for such offenders.

This is contained in the Child Rights Bill signed by Governor Muazu Babangida Aliyu in Minna yesterday.

Dr Aliyu while signing the bill into law said such convicts would also pay a compulsory fine of

N200,000.

He said there was nothing in the Child Rights law that was inimical to Islam or Christianity, adding that the law which had come into effect in the state was to compliment existing provisions in the country's statute books.

Aliyu added that the provisions of the law were such that in any conflict between it and the existing Sharia laws, the Sharia law takes precedence in delivery of judgment.

The governor said the measure was in order, adding that the rising cases of child rape in the state needed to be addressed with such type of sanction to rid the state of such menace.

While calling on the judiciary and security operatives in the state to combat the trend, Governor Aliyu maintained that the bill needs strict compliance by all stakeholders to get desired results. He urged the judiciary to handle child rape cases without fear or

favour as he stressed that the law should take its course on whoever contravenes it with full legal wrath. The Niger State Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice Barrister Adamu Usman speaking after the signing of the bill, said it was carefully drafted to reflect the penalty in its simplest terms.

He added that despite the weight of opposition that attempted to slow the passage of the bill into law, it was finally passed, saying in the near future,

the importance of the bill would present itself clearly and cases of child abuse in all forms would be a thing of the past. The Attorney General further stated that a part of the provisions of the Child Rights law also made it a serious crime for any adult to recruit the services of a child under 18 years. On ground to witness the signing ceremony of the child rights act were members of the state children's parliament led by its Speaker, Mamood Mudi.

21 Fadama associations get N56m in Sokoto

From Abdulfatai Abdulsalami, Sokoto

SOKOTO State Governor Alhaji Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko has presented cheques to the tune of N56 million to 21 Fadama Community Associations (FCAs) as the first disbursement out of the total sum of N146 million earmarked for the Fadama programme.

Making the presentation, he said more communities would soon benefit from the programme as soon as their Local Development Plans (LDPs) are cleared in line with the World Bank procedure. He said this was intended to be achieved by direct delivery of resources to the benefiting rural communities to empower them, to collectively decide on how resources are allocated and managed for their livelihood through the Community Driven Development (CDD) approach.

State Project Coordinator Mallam Bashir Mustapha noted that the approach was intended to ensure optimal participation of the primary beneficiaries on resources, noting that for Fadama resource users to benefit from the project grant, they are required to form viable Economic Interest Groups (EIGs) (known as Fadama Users Groups (FUGs).

Dead farmer not Zimbabwean

— KWSG

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

THE Kwara State Commissioner for Agriculture and Natural Resources Prof. Mohammed Gana Yisa has debunked the publication in some national dailies associating the dead Mr. Harmish Chisholm to one of the white farmers engaged to oversee the Shonga Farms in Edu Local Government Area of the State.

The commissioner who stated this while reacting to the publications said, "We wish to clarify that the claim as reported in the media is untrue and the imagination of the authors of the publications. There was no Zimbabwean farmer who was ever reported missing or dead, as all 13 farmers in the service of Shonga Farms Holdings Nigeria Ltd are hale and hearty".



FRESH beef being transported to a market in Kano yesterday.

Libyan deportee held over rape of 11 year-old

From Benjamin Auta, Lagos

POLICE in Lagos say a 29-year-old man who was recently deported from Libya last Wednesday in Iju area of Lagos raped an 11 year old girl after sending her to buy food for him.

The suspect, Ademola Aroboto, however denied raping the girl but admitted that she went to him and requested that he make love to her.

Ademola who is a tenant in the house of the girl's parent, was said to have called her to buy him food at about 12:30pm Wednesday and when she returned from the errand, he allegedly dragged her into his room and raped her.

According to the police, the suspect, a university drop-out, had travelled to Libya from where he was deported for unknown reasons

last year.

The police said the parents of the girl became suspicious when they sent a neighbour to look for their daughter who had earlier gone on an errand for the accused with no trace of her whereabouts.

"One of the neighbours who was looking for her knocked at the front door of the accused but got no answer and when he went to the back of the house, he found the accused person making love to the girl," the police said.

The police added that the neighbour raised an alarm and the accused was subsequently arrested. The suspect told journalists that when the girl came to his room, she asked him to make love to her and she held

his hand.

"She held me and asked me to make love to her and I carried her on my laps but I did not penetrate," he said. He said he used tissue paper to clean up himself after ejaculating and she did not shout or scream. Also speaking to crime correspondents, the mother of the girl, Mrs. Bose Ige, who said her daughter is a primary six pupil said she scolded her and asked why she did not shout when the accused was raping her.

Meanwhile, Lagos State Police spokesman, Mr. Frank Mba, said the accused if found liable to Section 218 of the Criminal Code by the court would be sentenced to life in prison which is the penalty for such offence in the constitution.

Katsina emir defends endorsement of Shema for 2011

From Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

EMIR of Katsina Abdulmumini Kabir Usman has defended his public endorsement of Governor Ibrahim Shema for the 2011 election and accused his critics of politicizing what he said, saying it was an expression of his personal opinion.

The emir had during the recent commissioning of the civil defense training college

concurred with the opinion of a cultural drama troupe who threatened to drag Governor Shema to court if he does not re-contest for governorship in 2011.

The emir's pronouncement generated a lot of reactions from many politicians and other stakeholders from within and outside the state who saw his declaration as falling short of an emir's role as a father to all.

Responding to the reac-

tions while receiving the newly appointed Minister of Mines and Steel Development Architect Musa Sada during a courtesy visit in his palace, the emir said he was only expressing an opinion to which he was entitled. He said it was wrong to accuse him of being biased on account of his endorsement of the governor because the governor had performed creditably well and had done for them what no other governor had ever done.

He said if any of his sons had done wrong, he would call and tell him to correct him, just as he now commended one of his sons, Ibrahim Shema, who had done well for the people of the state.

"I spoke my mind during the occasion and you can quote me anywhere, it is my mind, I tell you, even if it is Yar'adua that has done anything wrong here, I will tell him, so who else is there?, he said.

Nigerian roads in bad state - Minister

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

MINISTER of Works and Housing Senator Mohammed Sanusi Daggash has said that most of the roads in the country are not in good condition. The minister said this Wednesday in Lokoja, the Kogi State capital during an inspection tour of the Abuja-Lokoja road. Daggash, who said he was currently inspecting all federal roads in the country, regretted that the Abuja-Lokoja road project which started in 2007 had not yet reached an appreciable stage.

He said only 45 percent of the work had been done. He however assured that his ministry would embark on a monthly inspection of the project to ensure that it is completed before the end of the year. He said he was on the inspection tour with a team of engineers to ensure that the contractors work in line with the contract specifications. Governor Ibrahim Idris said the Abuja-Lokoja road project, when completed would reduce accidents on the road, especially during festive periods.

Edo denies indebtedness

From Vincent Egunyanga, Benin

THE Edo State government has denied allegations by the Peoples Democratic Party that the Oshiomhole administration had incurred a high debt profile for the state. A statement by the state Commissioner for Finance John Osagie Inegbedion said the allegations were made by people who were out to divert the focus of the administration.

"We would have ignored it, but for the fact that we owe the Edo people an explanation on how their resources are being deployed. Governor Oshiomhole on assumption of office had stated clearly said the Osunbor led administration left a N5 bank debt and over N5 billion unpaid vouchers. It must be restated that at the heart of the policy of this government is its commitment to fiscal discipline, transparency and accountability which is aimed at effectively deploying resources for development. We need to reassure the ever discerning Edo people that the attempt by the PDP to resort to propaganda will not divert this administration from its chosen noble path," he added.

My Pikin: Transfer of IPO stalls trial

From Benjamin Auta, Lagos

A Federal High Court in Lagos State presided over by Justice Okechukwu Okeke yesterday could not continue hearing in the trial of Mr. Kola Okunola and three others, who were taken to court over the "MY PIKIN" teething baby syrup saga due to the absence of the Investigating Police Officer.

Earlier in the proceedings, counsel to the prosecution, the National Agency For Foods, Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC), Douglas Pepe, told the court that the matter could not continue because the

original case file was with the Investigating Police Officer (IPO) who had been transferred out of Lagos State.

He also told the court that the defence counsel had been duly briefed on the development. Responding, the defence counsel, Ola Bakare, who confirmed the position of the prosecution, urged the court to order the re-opening of a part of the factory, which had nothing to do with the production of the syrup. According to the defence counsel, only one of the four blocks that make-up the factory was used by the accused persons for the produc-

tion of the teething syrup. Justice Okeke ordered the defence counsel to present his case formally so that the other party can respond appropriately and adjourned the matter till the 10th and 11th of June. Okunola with two of his staff, Adeyemo Abiodun, Egbele Eromosele and the Barewa Pharmaceutical Limited were in March last year arraigned before the court on a six counts charge by NAFDAC.

The accused persons were alleged to have in October 2008 manufactured an adulterated drug with the intent to cause death or grievous bodily harm to

members of the public.

The three were also accused of conspiring among themselves to distribute and sell the adulterated drug to Roca Pharmacy of 34 Balogun road Agege, Lagos with the intent to cause death or grievous bodily harm to members of the public.

The offences according to NAFDAC are punishable under Section 1 (a) and Section 1 (18) of the Miscellaneous Offences Act No. 20 of 1984 as amended and punishable under Sections 1 and 3 of the same Act. The accused person pleaded not guilty to all the counts.

...As absence of judge stalls trial of Jos crisis suspects

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

HEARING in the trial of the Jos crisis suspects was yesterday stalled at the Federal High Court in Jos, Plateau State due to the absence of a judge.

The police arraigned 70 suspects in court yesterday for the trial as directed by the court, but the presiding judge, Justice Stephen Adah, who gave the order has been

transferred and the newly appointed judge was not available to hear the case. Assistant Commissioner of Police in charge of the State Criminal Investigation Department Mr Femi Oyeleye said, "The suspects were arraigned at the Abuja Federal High Court after the crisis, but were brought back to the Jos Federal High Court for the continuation of the trial. The court directed that we should bring them and we brought them

from Abuja Tuesday night".

Mr Oyeleye said since the judge was not around, they would return to court next week, Wednesday April 21, 2010.

The suspects' charges were mentioned in court early this month, where the office of the Attorney General of the Federation charged them with terrorism and unlawful possession of fire arms and rioting which led to the death of several people.

PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE



FROM right: Deputy General Manager, Unity Bank, Yemi Adeyinka; Unity Bank Regional Manager, Aminu Baffa and Ndu Eze of the bank's Corporate Affairs during the bank's special day at the 5th Abuja International Trade Fair in Abuja, yesterday

3,500 orphans living with HIV/AIDS in Kogi

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

ABOUT 3,500 orphans in Kogi State are currently living with HIV/AIDS, the Special Assistant to Governor Ibrahim Idris on HIV/AIDS, Mrs. Mercy Okpe has said.

Speaking with our correspondent yesterday in Lokoja, she said the lackadaisical attitude of most pregnant women

was responsible for the high number of orphans living with HIV/AIDS in the state. Okpe said she arrived at the statistics during her recent visit to orphanages in the state, saying most of the children acquired the virus through the mother-to-child transmission.

"During my visit to all the homes in the 21 local government areas of Kogi State, I saw a lot of orphans whose parents

died of HIV/AIDS. We have about nine of such homes in the state and at present, I can say it without any fear of contradiction that in this state, we have over 3,500 orphans, who have been confirmed to be HIV positive. It is very unfortunate. We treat them as vulnerable children", she said. Okpe added that 10 of the orphans had died since the beginning of the year. She said the orphans were on antiretroviral drugs.

Sultan urges free, fair election

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

THE Sultan of Sokoto Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar III has called on all stakeholders to ensure free and fair polls in the 2011 elections in the interest of peace and stability.

He made the call while receiving the newly appointed members of the Sokoto State Independent Electoral Commission (SIEG) led by the Chairman

Alhaji Usman Abubakar. The Sultan urged the commission to ensure that the exercise is devoid of violence, noting that the commission had a vital role to play.

He urged them to conduct their duties without fear or favour and warned that injustice in election would only tarnish the image of the state and the nation.

He expressed optimism that with the calibre of peo-

ple appointed, the commission would live up to expectation. The Sultan expressed readiness to assist the commission where necessary. Earlier, the Chairman SIEC, Alhaji Usman Abubakar told the sultan that they were at the palace to pay homage and solicit support and prayers.

He assured the people of Sokoto of free and fair elections in the state and solicited their support.

Nasarawa plans overhaul of health sector

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

PLANS are underway by the Nasarawa State government to overhaul the health sector through the expansion and upgrade of health facilities, the state Commissioner for Health Dr. Bawa Abimiku has said. Dr. Abimiku, who disclosed this in an interview with our correspondent in Lafia said he had received the approval of Governor Aliyu Akwe Doma to carry out reforms in the sector.

"We are going to change the face of the health sector in this state and I can assure you that we will not fail," he added. He acknowledged that the health sector in the state

was facing some problems, but commended the governor for his efforts in boosting the sector.

The commissioner who just began an inspection tour of the health facilities also announced the decision of the governor to renovate six general hospitals, two in each of the three zones. "In addition to the 150 MGDs primary health centres, we will also pick some general hospitals and renovate them. In fact, the governor has just given out a drawing of what they will look like. I have gone through them, they are very laudable.

Almost all of them are going to have twin theatres and one or two of them will even have residential quarters," he said.

Imo workers suspend strike

From John Kennedy Uzoma, Owerri

WORKERS in Imo State have suspended the four-day warning strike embarked upon on April 13, 2010. Announcing the suspension, the Chairman of the Joint Public Service Negotiating Council, Comrade Chris Aharanwa, said the suspension followed series of meetings between the workers' union and government officials. He said though they had recorded some success, the meeting was still on-going.

He said the workers embarked on the strike to demand improved welfare among other things. Com-

rade Aharanwa advised the workers to return to work.

He listed the issues for which they went on strike to include, study leave without pay, the implementation of the biometric staff audit of the local government system, the posting / swapping of local government directors of administration and general services and the redeployment of staff of the Board of Internal Revenue. Comrade Aharanwa commended the government officials for ensuring industrial harmony in the state and expressed hope that the government would address the issues.

Rain destroys houses in Lafia

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

RAIN yesterday destroyed several houses in Lafia, the Nasarawa State capital.

The rain, which was the first in the year started at about 1:15am after a heavy wind and lasted for only about an hour. Our correspondent gathered that some residents are now homeless.

Areas worse hit by the rain are Sabon Pegi, Amba and Kilema, adjoining the emir's palace and Doma Road. Houses in these areas were flooded while some of them collapsed. "This is always the case anytime it rains in Lafia," said a resident.

Residents, who spoke blamed the development on the poor network of drainages in the metropolis.

Minister interacts with lottery commission staff

By Romoke W. Ahmad

THE new Minister of Special Duties retired Navy Captain Caleb Olubolade Tuesday visited the corporate office of the National Lottery Regulatory Commission to interact with the staff.

He visited the administrative section, finance department, open

registry among others. After the inspection, the minister said he was still being briefed on the activities of the commission, but expressed satisfaction with the infrastructure on ground.

"If with limited funds I can see this, then the management can handle greater responsibilities if given more funds," he said.

Ondo govt supports varsity with N122m equipment

From Kehinde Akinyemi, Abeokuta

THE Ogun State government has purchased laboratory and workshop equipment worth N121.5 million for the College of Engineering and Technology in the Olabisi Onabanjo University (OOU), the state Commissioner for Information and Orientation Sina Kawonise has said.

In a statement in Abeokuta yesterday, he said

those to benefit from the gesture include the Department of Agricultural Engineering, Computer Engineering, Electrical/Electronics Engineering and Mathematical Engineering. Others are the Department of Architecture, Fine and Applied Arts, Urban and Regional Planning as well as the Central Laboratory Department.



FEDERAL Capital Territory Minister, Senator Bala Mohammed (left) with his Chief of Staff Architect Baba Muhammad Dadi, at a press briefing on the suspension of land transaction in Abuja yesterday.

NHIS gets N9b in 2 years

From Abdulfatai Abdulsalami, Sokoto

The Executive Secretary of the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) Dr Waziri Dogo Mohammed says the Federal Government has allocated over N9 billion to the NHIS/MDGs project from 2008 to date.

He disclosed this while speaking with newsmen in Sokoto after a 4-day inspection tour of the six local governments benefiting from the project in the state. He said a take-off grant of N5 billion

for the project was given in 2008 while N4 billion was allocated in 2009, adding that of the 2009 allocation of N4 billion, about N1.2 billion was returned to the treasury as they could not expend everything. He said though the 2010 allocation for the project could not yet be ascertained, the Federal Government was fully committed to the project.

He added that 12 states were now benefiting from the project and that it would be extended to 12 more states between now and 2011. Dr Mohammed said

eventually, the project would be extended to all the 36 states and the FCT.

"The project has so far saved over 450,000 pregnant women and children below the ages of five. In Sokoto State alone, over N337 million has been spent on the project from January 2009 to date in the six benefiting local governments. The beneficiaries are, Sabon-Birni, Tangaza, Yabo, Kebbe, Isa and Binji," he said.

He stressed the need for the government to provide quality health care to the people.

Ohakim's second term bid gets women's support

From John Kennedy Uzoma, Owerri

IMO women have endorsed Governor Ikedi Ohakim for a second term. The women under the aegis of Women wing of the Peoples Democratic Party declared their support for Ohakim yesterday in Owerri, during a rally tagged, "Imo PDP Women Speak".

The state's Woman Leader of

the PDP, Barr Ugochi Okoro, said women representation in politics between 1979 and 1983 was very poor, but that since Ohakim assumed office, women have been given active roles in politics, citing the state's deputy governor as an example. She said that Governor Ikedi Ohakim had done a lot to empower women in the state.

She however appealed that

more women should be encouraged to contest the 2011 general elections. Governor Ohakim, who was represented at the rally by his wife, Barr. Chioma Ohakim, urged the women to remain focused, promising to carry them along. He said the event was a sign of greater things to happen in the state, adding that he would ensure good governance.

SAN: NBA makes case for Falana, former AGFs, NBA presidents

By Adelanwa Bamgboye

THE Nigeria Bar Association (NBA) has called for the conferment of the rank of Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN) on all former presidents of the association and former federal attorneys-general who are not yet SAN.

The association also called for the conferment of SAN rank on the immediate past President of the West African Bar Association Femi Falana.

The former NBA presidents are: Ebele Nwokoye (now over 80 years and still practicing in Ebonyi State), Charles Idehen, Mrs. Priscilla Kuye and Prince Lanke Odogiyian.

In an address read by 1st Vice-President of the NBA Ikeazor Akaraiwe, the association said that the conferment

of the rank of SAN on the above may be subject to the proviso that they have not been indicted for professional misconduct in any material particular.

According to the NBA, the president of the NBA is the president of the entire Bar, including Senior Advocates.

The association argued that having led the entire bar it will be incongruous that a former president belongs anywhere but the inner Bar, the same argument goes for the leader of the official bar: the Federal Attorney-General.

"In addition, we extend the same argument to Mr. Femi Falana, the immediate past President of the West African Bar Association, who has just handed over that office to a lawyer from Niger Republic", the NBA said.

'11 out of 27 airline operators close shop'

By Shehu Abubakar

CHAIRMAN of Airline Operators of Nigeria (AON) Captain Mohammed Joji said 11 of the 27 airlines operating in the country have closed down due to high cost of doing business in the sector.

Speaking at a meeting with stakeholders in the aviation industry in Abuja on Wednesday, Captain Joji however refused to elaborate saying "I will reserve comments on the issue until during the closed door session."

Also speaking at the meeting, Aviation Minister Mrs Fidelia Akuabata Njeze said debts accumulated for services rendered to airlines operating in Nigeria by agencies of the aviation ministry hamper efforts to standardise services in

the industry.

The minister said, "Virtually all the parastatals including the Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA), the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria (FAAN), Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET), Skyway Aviation Handling Company (SAHCOL) etc are reeling under the weight of staggering debts owed them by airline operators for important and essential services rendered."

She said the case NAMA is worrisome. "I have been made to understand that NAMA commenced the billing and collection of domestic en-route charges since 2000. The move met stiff resistance from the airline operators of Nigeria resulting in the accumulation of N2.1 billion debt as at 2007.

Delta communities behind Ibori

By Hamisu Muhammad

OGHARA National Congress (ONC) has condemned the decision of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to declare former Delta State Governor James Ibori wanted.

The congress consists of Oghara sons and daughters in Ethiopie West Local Government and the Urhobo community. The communities said in a statement that dismissed claims by the EFCC that Ibori has been in hiding for fear of being arrested. The statement signed by Sir. Solomon Ejase-Tobrise Udele (KSC) on behalf of the communities said "We believe in the rule of law but we abhor the slaughter of a perceived political enemy on the slaughter slab of the rule of law orchestrated by men who have sold their conscience to the wild spiritual beast".

The communities' leader said it is instructive that the action of the agency is contrary to the grand norm of the land and an unpardonable infringement of Chief Ibori's fundamental rights.

They said the EFCC action is political especially now that the country is approaching another election year and Ibori is seen as threat by some politicians.

CORRIGENDUM

Institute of Chartered Chemists of Nigeria ICCON in *Daily Trust* Advertisement publication of Friday, 9 APRIL 2010 (page 24) on the above institute; we erroneously published the UBA account number 049100040000015. The correct account number is 04910040000015. We regret any inconvenience the error might have caused our esteemed client.

FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRE BIRNIN KUDU BIRNIN KUDU, JIGWA STATE

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PREAMBLE:

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- LOT A- Construction of OPD/A&E Complex Phase iii Building & Mech./Elect.
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- LOT C- Construction of hostel block for School of Basic Midwifery.
- LOT D- General Renovation of Staff Quarters & Medical Director's Residence.
- Purchase & Supply of Medical Equipments.

PRE-REQUISITE:

- Evidence of registration with Corporate Affairs Commission.
- Evidence of registration with Centre.
- Audited Account of the Company (recent 3 year)
- Recent 3 year TAX Clearance.
- Company profile; this should contained among others:
 - Evidence of technical competence (staff & equipment);
 - Letter from the company's Bank stating financial capability of the company.

SUBMISSION:

- The pre-qualification documents should be sealed and returned to the Medical Director on or before 2 weeks from the date of this advert.
- Payment of pre-qualification fee of N20, 000.00 PER each lot shall be made at the Hospital branch of sterling Bank with certified bank draft payable to Federal Medical Centre Birnin Kudu.
- All pre-qualification submission will be opened on the closing date at 12.00noon in the hospital Conference Hall.
- Only those pre-qualified will be invited to tender. All Contractors should include valid email address and phone numbers on which they can be contacted.

PLEASE NOTE:

- The hospital reserves the right to reject any or all pre-qualification submission.
- The hospital will not enter into any correspondence with any firm or individual on why a contractor was or was not qualified.

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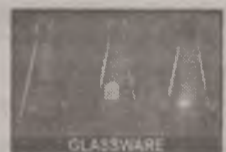
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Islamic Microfinance bank launched

ALHAMDU lillah. This should be a wakeup call to Jaiz as our patriotic investments in the outfit for almost a decade is yet to see

the light of the day. One wonders what politics is being played by the so called promoters of Jaiz.
Abubakar Muhammad

amamman63@yahoo.com

This is a significant milestone in our collective efforts to uplift

the generality of our people out of poverty.
Congratulations to those behind the launch and hoping

other communities will follow soon.
Usman Neji Mohammed
usneji2000@yahoo.com

Buhari opts out of Mega Party ...As AC, DPP agree to merge

DESPITE the conspiracy on 2003-2007 election against, that experience cannot discourage you, I know. We will always be with you.

Nasiru Shuaibu
nashuaib01@yahoo.com

Buhari and co. I don't know what is really happening to you. A simple issue that can be understood easily, you will not tackle it until it comes out visibly. You should know from the beginning that all those other people you pitched tent with where only deceiving you. Bafarawa was the first to split ANPP with Lorio... for Buhari to fall. Atiku was the brain behind 2003 electoral shenanigans and yet Buhari brought them close in the name of a merger and insisted that they can unite and bring change to Nigerian Democracy.

Alkasim Wudil
alkasimhussien@yahoo.com

I strongly agree with the general. The people in the alliance are power mongers whose leadership will not be significantly different from PDPs. It is high time for Nigerians to accept the fact that politics is not just about winning election but your ability to deliver the trust which is actually little if one consider the caliber of the people in the alliance. I heartily congratulate the general and his team for taking this courageous decision. This is the kind of ideology-based politics Nigeria needs and not desperation to win elections. It is unfortunate that many Nigerians think politics is just about winning election and that is why people rush to PDP despite the



GEN. Muhammadu Buhari

failures recorded in her eleven years... have realized that with the caliber of the people in the proposed alliance, effective and honest leadership is just impossible.

Belyus
belyus2000@gmail.com

Thank God for that because we have been expecting it since. Whether you are in the mega party or not, the masses are always with you. But be absolutely sure that you cannot win election because the ruling party power is beyond your capability.

Abubkr Badru Jkamshi
damurna@yahoo.com

It was clear from the start that the mega party was composed of individuals with different ideologies. Since they don't share the same ideology, they are doomed to fail. Now that the mega party talk seems to have broken down, I urge Gen. Buhari to use his platform and seek the votes of Nigerians who believe in his vision for Nigeria and Nigerians.

Ibrahim Tsadu Ibrahi

elkutigi@gmail.com

This is the best decision to take in view of prevailing circumstances. Posterity will surely be on your side.

Babangida Dangora
babangidadangora@yahoo.com

I am in total support of Buhari's decision because most of the people calling for the mega party are not sincere. All they are after is power. May God save Nigeria.

Sani Ayuba
ayubasani@yahoo.com

I identify with those that are enduring for the cause of justice and honesty at all times because they know an end with God is ultimate. To those that are not enduring for the cause of justice and honesty, I will continue to pray for you to toe the line of the likes of General Buhari's exemplary qualities for you may be heroes meeting with God at the end of the day soon. Faruk Adamu Aliyu, keep that spirit alive, for you are sure of living a happy and sustainable legacy of your life, now and in the hereafter with God. I believe that truth prevails all the time and sooner or later, Nigerians will follow the path of justice for the sake of 'Great Nigeria' if only we do not wish ourselves aspersions from our grand children when in our graves. Thank you and God bless Nigeria.

Salihu Kakshak
skakshak@furmanite.com

It has always been very difficult for people with different ideologies to come together and form an alli-

ance especially at a crucial moment like this. They rather collaborate than forming an alliance and this collaboration is aimed at ousting PDP alone. It will not be easy for them to compromise for each other. The decision taken by the CPC, AC, and DPP is an achievement for democracy as they pledge to work with each other when the need arises. May God help them in their crusade.

Usman Ahmed Danbaba
danbaba1986@yahoo.com

ambition and self-projection, greed and avarice will never allow a mega party to work in Nigeria. Nigerians are generally selfish and greedy

Lamidi
bengbamiwa@yahoo.com

I am very happy that Buhari has done what is right for his supporters. It is only God that can give power and insh Allah this is your time. Nobody can stop us. I wish general Buhari good luck!!!!

Isah Lawal Kurfi
kurfi70@yahoo.com

Gen. Buhari should understand that only the masses need him as a leader in Nigeria. The leaders on top don't want anything to do with him because of his ideology which obviously is to deal with corrupt wolves. Be that as it may, we know God gives power to whosoever He wishes. May God choose unto us leaders that have the interest of our dear country at heart and not selfish ambition to amass wealth to themselves. AMEEN

Tarfa
hemantarfa@yahoo.com

Court allows teen to marry grandma

YOUNG girls who are lucky to be married should be careful and patient in their matrimonial homes because it seems older women are on the verge of giving them serious competition for young boys as the Gusau episode shows.

Tasiu Muhd Ringim
tmringim@gmail.com

I believe the groom's mother. Teenagers nowadays don't like marrying old women, so I believe the boy was enchanted.

Muhammad
malamustee@gmail.com

The Gusau judgment was unfortunate. Could it be possible that the judge was unaware of the Prophetic Hadith that gives parents the leverage to instruct their male sons to divorce their wives? The case of Abdullah bn Umar, son of Umar Bn Al-Khattab (may Allah be pleased with both of them) should immediately come to one's mind: he loved his wife but his father instructed him to divorce her but he hesitated and reported the matter to the Prophet (SAW) who told him that he should obey his father and oblige, which he consequently did. As the saying goes, a stitch in time saves nine!

Haruna Abdullahi Bir
habirniwa2004@yahoo.co.uk

Why June 12 elections succeeded, by Prof Nwosu

ELECTIONS can be conducted transparently in Nigeria if we stop calling the criminals 'cabal'. It makes this worthless, shameless and wicked Nigerians happy. Also, those that have accepted their role and position in Nigeria as thugs should be made to know they are also humans and can voted for. I am sure with the proposed electronic voting we will get there in 2011.

Kolawole J. A
kolajac@yahoo.com

I believe the open secret ballot system has failed us and not even the data capturing machine can lead to credible elections. It's time

for us to try other options like the open ballot system wherein eligible voters will queue up and be counted. Maybe we should try the open ballot in 2011 elections.

Ibrahim Tsadu Ibrahi
elkutigi@gmail.com

We Nigerians want an open ballot system. It amazes me to see some politicians insisting on secret ballot system. A genuine and grass root politician will not be afraid of the open ballot system.

Aminu Abdullahi
aminu.abdullah@yahoo.com

We've been talking about free

and fair election every now and then. But let us be sincere to ourselves, open and frank...we all know the problems and we all know the prospects. So the issue of round table or triangle table does not arise. I strongly agree with the speakers at the function but at the same time, the comment of Alh. Bashir Tofa, though not present at the round table is worth believing, "blame the system not Iwu". It is a total collapse of the whole electoral system and we all have our hand deep in it.

Mukhtar Sani Mukhtar
mukhtarkazaures@yahoo.com

The open ballot system is the



PROF. Humphrey Nwosu

best for our country if credible elections are to hold in Nigeria to the satisfaction/standard of the international community. Those opposed to it are afraid because they rely on rigging to succeed.

T. T. Hamza

damanawa_9@yahoo.com

With due respect Prof., it is not only the balloting process that is behind the success of the process sir. For me, it is not even the most important factor but your integrity and ethics. Today, you are considered as an important resource person because you respected yourself and didn't allowed yourself to be used by some selfish leaders and that is what differentiate the leadership of the electoral body of your time and the present one.

Usman Ahmed Danbaba
danbaba1986@yahoo.com

Hajiyayye Liman

(maumarzuq@yahoo.com)

Leaders and the led

Kaduna State - Abba Musa Rimi
Kano State - Abubakar Rimi

That was how we got to know the late Alhaji Abubakar Rimi as Governor of Kano state. As class six students we had to memorize names and states of all state governors for the common entrance examination.

As I grew up, he was one leader whose face we saw often on television, pages of news papers and heard on the radio. 'Allah ya jikan shi'. He too has gone the way of his mentor, Malam Aminu Kano. These were leaders who stood up for the *talakawa* and Rimi's hard work for them during his tenure has been attested to by numerous commentators since his demise.

The causative agents were fellow Fulani boys, *talakawa*, a lost generation who should be at school or at a career giving in their best at this age *da suke gabar karfinsu*. Unfortunately these guys, somehow have been sidelined in the scheme of things perhaps due to their migratory nature and our collective negligence, thus lacking both 'boko' and 'arabi' education. So what conscience could you expect from them who were once on the path of misguidance?

As soon as the news broke, my

Is speed imperative in providing them security? What hazard's greater than going at that crazy speed?

thoughts went to Hajo who was leaving Bauchi for Kano the following morning. I put a call to her. "Hello", the sleepy head answered. "Ai gara a wartsake". I said to her as I narrated the sordid tale. Allah ya jikan shi' she kept saying. Then suddenly like she'd been struck, she asked 'where did you say the attack took place, Kano - Bauchi road, the same Bauchi - Kano road we are taking?' she asked, a hint of worry in her voice. 'Bari mu shirya' so we can make Kaduna ido na ganin ido'.

By 4.00 pm, Hajo was home. I went over with some food to say welcome. She looked shaken. "Allah yayi zamu iso gida lafiya". What happened? I inquired and she told me of their encounter with reckless drivers, in the convoy of one of our leaders. "They almost pushed us off the road", she said, "as they came at high speed foolishly daring to venture on to the left side of the road nearly pushing a mini bus into a ditch and almost colliding head on an oil tanker". I shivered, thinking of the chain reaction had something happened. Hajo's anger stemmed from the fact that despite the near accident, these so-called leaders didn't even bother to slow down, and to find out if someone was hurt. They drove off in their tinted-glass jeeps, 4 in number with 'yan barandan su' in a maroon Opel, throwing expletives at those who questioned their action. 'Allah dai ya rufa asiri'. A BASG-marked vehicle was among a convoy of

cars while one other had some covering over its number plates. "Anytime I meet Malam Isa I am sure going to mention this encounter". 'Hajo ayi hakuri mana, since you are home safely'. But Hajo was still fuming. Knowing her, this won't be the last I'll hear of it.

The sort of recklessness drivers of our leaders display, send shivers to the spine of who ever encounters them. Are these leaders not also mortals like us? Or is it that they are so power drunk, they let themselves go with the thrill of the ride, not cautioning these drivers who seem more power drunk, forgetting they have not left 'wani ran a gida'. Their security operatives feel they are 'Rambo'. Does being security details to these personalities, give them the right to harass you on a road built with your money? You who put the "oga" there in the first place, you that they are suppose to be serving. Is speed imperative in providing them security? What hazard's greater than going at that crazy speed? One should do the right thing and resign to fate, for where were the security details the day the life of one of our heads of state was taken right in their midst? If death were to borrow any human mannerisms on that day it would be laughter, just to laugh at the guards as it stole their prize right under their noses.

The fact is, should they lose their lives, their families suffer the most, because Oga has probably stashed something away for his children, who being in different schools with yours, are better educated. And however the love or pity they might have for your children 'bade a rabon gado da su'. And do they think of all the 'alhaki' on their heads as they send shivers down our spines as we lose many a heart beat? With the number of Nigerians suffering ailments like hypertension, can you absolve yourself from blame if a life is lost after an encounter due to your recklessness? It is murder, just as was committed by those boys who came out to rob the highway and ended up killing the 'Limamin Chanji'

As Hajo ate, we discussed further on these issues and believed lessons abound in the circumstances that led to the death of Alhaji Abubakar Rimi. This lack of security affects us all. These days even if your earnings are 'halak malak' you are a target for these boys who think you have stolen their share of the National cake. It is time our leaders note it is not enough for you to rule well, you have to urge your colleagues too, for you never know where you will find yourself. With good education, jobs to occupy our youths, optimum security, something else would have been the causative agent for Rimi's death. The other day a former Governor waited several hours to be airlifted after a ghastly motor accident, despite the proximity to a teaching hospital in the vicinity. And such cases abound, leaders run away from the hospitals they provided for the masses for lack of infrastructure and drugs.

I read Malam Adamu Adamu's Friday column last week. His last but one paragraph is enough home truth for any clear thinking person.

Allah yayi kan Alhaji Abubakar Rimi. It is sad. His death surely is 'ishara' for those who care to ponder.

By Mansur Lawal

Gombe: Who steps into Goje's shoes?

As 2011 eleven approaches, and feverish preparations for the election then begin, the question that is often being asked is, Whose feet will fit into the big shoes that Governor Mohammad Danjuma Goje would leave when he departs Government House at the end of his tenure?

It's a pertinent question, given that from all the jury is virtually unanimous in its verdict about the administration that took office in 2003, and changed the face of Gombe State forever.

Just like yesterday, the second term of four years of Goje has come almost full circle. While the ruling parties in many states worry about their tenacious grip on the reins of power, the situation is quite different in Gombe state. This is largely because the opposition parties have been rendered inactive in the face of the hyperactive administration of the last eight years. There is a sense therefore that the continuation of the PDP in the governance of the state is taken as certitude.

But Gombe is one of the few states where the fiercest of contests is likely to be encountered due to the array of politicians overtly or covertly preparing for it.

So, who succeeds Goje is the question.

Not succession in the sense of the incumbent governor grooming a political scion or anointing candidate; but in the sense of right person filling out for the top job in the Jewel

Little wonder that the only headache Goje really feel right now is leaving office for someone with a heart and concern for Gombe and the people of the state

state. Little wonder that the only headache Goje really feel right now is leaving office for someone with a heart and concern for Gombe and the people of the state, someone who is capable of building on Goje's widely-acknowledged achievements.

Standing out among these achievements are the prevailing peaceful atmosphere in the state which has continued to be a lure to all and sundry, the breaking of pipe-borne water jinx through the multi-billion Naira Gombe Regional Water Supply Scheme, Kumo, Filiya and Dukku water works as well as construction of new water schemes at Bojude, Pindiga and Boh. Similarly, over 300 new boreholes and 128 hand pumps were sunk in different parts of the state, among many others that have been documented and commented upon nationally.

These projects may have received

several mentions but it would be unfair to complete a piece like this without recalling them because they represent the jewel that Goje would now have to showcase on the national scene, since the people's wish that a third term exists remains just that, a wish.

As much as the people value the sustenance of the infrastructure, Goje said it would be the last thing on his mind to handover the state

Whose feet will fit into the big shoes that Governor Mohammad Danjuma Goje would leave when he departs Government House at the end of his tenure?

to someone who would only regard high office as opportunity to short-change the people, instead of serving them. It was on that score that Goje for the umpteenth time promised to put heads together with the PDP caucus in the state in order to decide on who the party would nominate to prayers by religious leaders and residents that the people should get it right when choosing of who takes over from him.

"Governance" most interestingly "is nobody's private property which goes to say that I, Goje must leave at the appointed time and the position must not be left vacant" said the governor while speaking at a public function. "But my prayer is that you make the right choice that will not only deliver your dreams but at least keep up this pace we are setting if he cannot surpass it".

It is an open secret in Gombe that some politicians at the federal and state levels are identified with nursing gubernatorial ambition, post-Goje. And these men are busy, discreetly, employing various deft moves to warm their ways into the hearts of electorates.

Goje has however made it clear that PDP would not sit back, relax and watch power shift to another party. That is perhaps as good as settled because his administration's performance these last seven years has cowed the opposition into a state of stupor. In fact, the opposition in the state has been rendered virtually impotent because their memberships have shrunk as a result of defections to the PDP.

The task ahead for Goje likely successor is therefore enormous. First, he must muster past Goje's and then the PDP's exacting scrutiny. Then he must match, or, as Goje himself said he would wish, surpass his own record. There are interesting times ahead.

Lawal is a Special Assistant to Governor Goje on Media and Publicity.



Your Letters

Send your letters to letters@dailytrust.com

Ogbulafor on imposition

If anyone is qualified to speak against imposition, it is not the PDP national Chairman, Prince Vincent Ogbulafor, because he was a beneficiary and also perpetrator. Ogbulafor has claimed that Andy Uba was imposed on the people by former President Olusegun Obasanjo and thereafter was rigged into Anambra governor's seat for 17-days before Uba was booted out of office through court pronouncement.

The matter of rigging by the PDP is not what this piece is trying to address. Yes, PDP had always

been in the habit of imposing candidates on the electorate by ensuring that those imposed are rigged to positions. This imposition thing got the bitter pill when the imposed Prof Chukwuma Soludo failed to make it to Anambra governor's seat.

Soludo was imposed by Prince Ogbulafor; Ogbulafor was imposed by Obasanjo's kitchen cabinet against the more preferred former Senate President Anyim Pius Anyim; so also did Obasanjo impose on PDP the Yar'Adua/Jonathan ticket in the 2007 presidential election and eventually rigged them to victory. But it is not yet over until it is over as the evolving scenario would ensure that Ogbulafor leaves the position for the right person who probably

is Anyim and not any northerner, a dummy Ogbulafor has tried to sell to Arewa Youth Forum insinuating that Jonathan was aiming so in order to pave way for his possible contest for the Presidency come 2011.

Ogbulafor has made it his stock-in-trade to cause avoidable disorders in the ruling party and to members who are watching and taking stock. Ogbulafor and Ike Nwachukwu-led PDP elders committee are in court with Oyo PDP; so also Ogbulafor is with factional chairman of PDP in Enugu, among others. Confusion in many PDP state chapters is Ogbulafor's handiwork.

Biodun Bashiru Lati, Solomon Lar Way, Utako District, Abuja (latinwob@yahoo.com)

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

Re: Yar adua, Goodluck, et al

I disagree with my revered former DIG Danmadami. Though you said you are not being a partisan, the views expressed by you clearly depict your partisanship. It is never faithfulness, nor insincerity to express one's own opinion. Democratic norms and values allow for divergence of opinion. 08034024469.

Re: Bukola pension plan and Kwara politics

HOW did this Bill pass the 1st reading in the House of Assembly? Haba, is this what the masses need at this moment? Let's do things with fear of the Almighty in us, please. KELECHI, Asokoro, Abuja, 08038891118.

What IBB should do

ASK Nigerians to forgive you. We are yet to recover from the wounds of poverty and corruption that afflicted us in the period 1985 to 1992. Please concentrate on your wedding plans, instead of presidential ambition. USMAN H. Red Bricks, Kano, 08037941995.

Watch this duo

THE Nigerian masses and the electorate have learnt nothing and forgotten everything about Babangida and Humphrey Nwosu. What are they up to nowadays?

ANDI Neple, Jos, 08065960007.

Incredible!

SO the acting president has not set his eyes on the president he is acting on behalf of since November 2009. It is only in Nigeria that this type of thing can happen.

KEN Ololo, Abuja, 08036439596.

Lost vision

GOVERNOR Babangida Aliyu of Niger State appears to have derailed from his vision of making the state one of the best three by the year 2020, because most of his envisaged projects are misplacement of priority: three arms zone, airport city, technology institute, etc when the citizens have no potable water to drink.

BALA
08034061361.

Mohammad,

Jonathan in America

WE hope you didn't give away too much to the Americans, because they appear to be more concerned of our internal issues, using the so-called summit on nuclear security as cover. IBRAHIM Yahaya, Dambatta Goron-maje, Kano State, 08038050115.

Smokescreen?

THE move by so-called world leaders at the just concluded World Nuclear Summit (in Washington) to is nothing but part of the continuing campaign to deny nuclear access to "Islamic" countries, regardless of whether they have peaceful intentions.

SALISU, Tudun Fera, Jos, 08065340453.

Overkill

WHEN ex-Governor Kachalla, the Shehu of Borno, the S.S.G.Terab, and Sangayama died, there was no public holiday declared in their honour, despite their status. Why only declare a holiday for Zubairu Shani?

KAMSELEM S. Umar, Ramat Poly, Maiduguri, 08069432587.



By Adamu Sani Katuru

Shinkafi, a self-assessment

In 2007 when Governor Mahmud Aliyu Shinkafi took office as Governor of Zamfara state, he pledged that the prime target of his government was to leave a good legacy of service for the people of Zamfara.

Looking back at the past three years, it appears that the journey for him, and the people of the state, has been a march to posterity. Beginning from May 29, 2007, when he took over the mantle of the state's leadership, Shinkafi has typified a visionary leader with an insatiable hunger for action and positive transformation of his domain. And with just a few months to go before the end of his first term in office, he has left no one in doubt that his resolve all through the past three years is a holistic re-building of the State, from a rural entity, lacking in infrastructure and development, to an enviable modern state, where amenities and every conceivable requirement of modernity, welfare, social and economic empowerment are served the governed by the government.

For Shinkafi, popularly known as MAS, quite unlike many of his peers, service delivery are not the privileges to the governed, but the basic essence of governance and government.

Zamfara is arguably one of Nigeria's most complex states to govern, but MAS does not give the impression of a man who could be intimidated by such challenges. In three years, he has shown that government can actually be made to work for the people. The level of civil and infrastructural works going on in the state at the moment is unprecedented, all aimed at improving the quality of life of people living in all parts of the state.

This has attracted praises and honours from diverse interest groups, organizations, institutions and communities across the country and beyond to him.

Bearing in mind the need for good road network in the development and improvement of economy, it is understandable why the state government invested billions on the reconstruction and rehabilitation of many federal and state roads in the state.

Through the various road construction and rehabilitation carried out by Shinkafi's administration, the whole state has become closely linked. On several occasions the governor has bared out his concern for good road networks without which there can never be meaningful development.

Notable among the major road projects which hitherto suffered decades of neglect but are now being undertaken by the MAS administration are the Dandabi-Katuru-Tubali road, dualisation of Sokoto by-pass road in Gusau, Kotorkoshi-Mada Road, Gusau-Abarma-GRA road, Umaru Musa Yar'Adua road, Mallamawa-Bukkuyum road, Danmarke-Kanoma road and Gusau-Magami-Dansadau road. Others are Magami-Dangulbi-Dankurmi road, Tauna-Talata Mafara-Tashar Kuturu road, Kwata road, Jangebe-Wuya road, Mafara-Faru-Kpoko-Gora-Kaya-Rini road, Nahuche-Karakkai, among others.

In all, the government has set a target of constructing a total of 1100 kilometre of roads in four years. So far, about 300 kilometres of road has been completed, with 500 additional kilometres reaching 90% completion rate, while the remaining 400 kilometres will be completed before 2011.

Gusau the state capital today wears a new and bold look of regeneration. It is perhaps the most daring signpost of the transformation that has occurred in the last three years in Zamfara. Gusau now possesses dual-carriage township roads that branch out and intersect in all directions. The aesthetic appeal of the roads is enhanced by their well-manicured shoulders. Across the capital, new projects are sprouting up or getting completed. From the newly-built Hotel Roundabout, which was built from the scratch, to the ultramodern Millennium Hospital, to at least three completed state of the art housing estates, to the massive new state secretariat (under construction), to ubiquitous urbanization projects, Gusau is a city reborn.

As a result of all these, Governor Shinkafi is today acclaimed by many as an achiever. Among intellectuals in particular, especially those with residential, professional, or emotional stakes in Zamfara and neighbouring states, he is celebrated as an exemplary leader.

Katuru is media aide to Governor Shinkafi.

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EDITORIAL

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Halting soccer's decline in Nigeria

A couple of weeks ago, the B team of the senior national soccer team crashed out of the African Cup of Nations for the home-based players playing in the nations' domestic league scheduled to hold next January in Sudan. The team lost 2-0 to their MENAD opponents of Niger Republic and managed a barren draw in Kano in the return leg. Niger is considered a minion in African football, compared to Nigeria. The defeat by Niger Republic was by no means a fluke, because Nigeria failed to qualify for the very first edition of that championship which held in Cote D'Ivoire last year, losing to perennial soccer rival Ghana. With the latest result, Nigeria would be missing from two consecutive editions of the championship. These consecutive failures to qualify are a pointer to something wrong with our soccer on the domestic front.

The unfortunate turn of events for Nigerian soccer is an eye-opener that we have in recent times been living on false glory. Our exploits at the senior level in soccer are not the product of a carefully conceived and executed strategy and the coaching and administrative prowess of our coaches and administrators. The reality is that we have been largely depending on raw talents exported to Europe and elsewhere in the world, and re-import as finished products to use during important competitions to make the minimal impact we have been making in recent times.

The African Cup of Nations for home-based players was conceived by the Confederation of African Football Associations (CAF) to help African nations to develop their soccer as it realised that many African nations were increasingly relying on their nationals playing in elite clubs abroad for major competitions. The failure of soccer giant Nigeria to qualify for two consecutive events underscores the wisdom in the CAF idea. It also exposes the terrible decline in the development of our soccer.

Soccer means much more than a game to millions of Nigerians who love it with a passion. The game is one of the most important uniting factors in the country. It has also done much to raise the international profile of the country. Given all these, we expect that our leaders would pay especial attention to the development of this game. Sadly, that is not the case.

There is no programme for scouting out local talents and honing their skills for them to become stars. The collegiate competitions that used to throw up potential talents have all but been forgotten. This helps to explain why even in the age-grade competitions Nigeria has not been doing as well as she ought to given the abundance of talents in the country.

Until recently, the domestic league was chaotic. Teams had no history of winning away matches because of poor officiating. Things can be turned around for the better if those charged with administering the nation's sports take their assignment more seriously. The senior national team the Super Eagles may have qualified for the FIFA World Cup coming up in South Africa in June but that should not give us the impression that all is well with our soccer. It is not. What has happened is that we relied on the import of professionals for the qualification as home based players were not found good enough to be an important part of that successful campaign. The danger is that now that some of those foreign-based professionals are ageing fast with no viable replacement from the domestic scene, our soccer faces a bleak future if nothing is done and done very fast to change the situation.

This is a wake-up call to our sports administrators to go back to the drawing board and revive and revitalize school competitions. Unless we do this, the days of our soccer glory may be over. We can not continue to depend on coaches and administrators in Europe and elsewhere to nurture local talents for us to import to project our image. Football or sports in general is no longer just a mere recreational event; it is big business and source of employment for millions of young people. It has also become a veritable tool for international diplomacy. The sooner our sports administrators imbibe this lesson, the better for the nation.

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2011: Party realignments, mergers and alliances (I)

By Eugene Uwalaka

Our political parties will continue to waste the resources of this nation until we strategically roll back the political parties by legislation limiting a party's capacity to contest to predetermined minimum number of states under its control. Multi-party system we have now seen has its pros and cons. From experience we have seen that the system is a noble ideal but realism suggests an optimum number of political parties. Legislation can be nuanced and fine tuned even under multi-party system to throw up a predetermined number of contesting parties. Our politics will continue to be volatile and futile; it will continue to breed dichotomies and acrimonies until Nigerians begin to realize that politics is by its very nature gregarious. People who have common interest, morality and values congregate in a party. Politics is not an atomistic expression of personalized power. Rather it is the synergized and socialized power of the dominant majority interest. In politics interest groups congregate and close ranks to form large aggregates for synergy. It is surprising that the Bearabe Musas, the pat Utomis, the late Gani Fawehinmi, the Braithwaites, the Tony Enahoros of this nation have allowed their personal interest to sway more than their reason. Reason demands that leaders with similar vision, mission and ideology come together. Because of the principle of majority-carries-the-day implied in democracy, elections can only be legitimately won through pervasive interest aggregation, and the expression of this preponderant interest through the ballot box.

It is time for the atomistic operators and tribal parties to realign their policies, programmes and manifestos to coalesce or for synergy while in small players like the Buharis, the Braithwaites, the Enahoros, the Okoties, the Utomis, the Balarabe Musas et al showcase the nation as an anarchical bunch of discordant players that conceive liberty as the absence of discipline and organization. They are the ones that complicate INEC's work, they are the ones that confuse voters by confronting the illiterate voter with too many choices, and I've not come face to face with Gen. Olusegun Obasanjo. Thus I'm not the proper person to characterize his personality except by way of snippet droppings from his kinsmen who know him to his roots. It has become fashionable to accuse OBJ for anything that goes wrong in the nation.

Akinsman likened the political OBJ to a dogged wrestler who not only seeks to knock down his opponent but also to bite him to pieces he is down. The rationale is that if the opponent recovers from the fall he will not recover from probable hydrophobia. General Obasanjo is one with Acting President Jonathan Goodluck in that he has for the umpteenth time refused to be unlucky. As a political system analyst OBJ was able to read the handwriting on the wall, to quickly cash in on the reckless

and feckless demand for the proliferation of political parties. Obasanjo saw that it was to the advantage of the dominant ruling party that the nation be swarmed and then swamped with small players and place-seekers. He did not prevail on INEC to limit the number of parties to be registered after their victory at the court. This enabled the People Democratic Party (PDP) to stand tall like a great colossus above myriads of small players, midgets and Lilliputians that now parade themselves as political parties. In order to collect the honorarium usually paid out by INEC to registered parties, some non-governmental organizations, social clubs and tribal associations sought registration with the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

politics is largely a game of numbers where a participant gets nothing for coming second. The party's board of trustees chairman usually says, PDP has plan A but no plan B. This invariably translates to the do-or-die or win-win jingoism.

Fighting such a monster must go beyond the extant chaotic, tactless and disorderly approach the so called Mega Summit Movement (MSM) has so far adopted. If a mortal enemy declares war against you it is naive and foolish to rely on institutions created by the constitution, driven and manned by people who have no honour, integrity and patriotism. It is possible for the PDP government to accept all the electoral and constitution reforms the so called diminutive (or is it) Mega Summit Movement (MSM)

Our politics will continue to be volatile and futile; it will continue to breed dichotomies and acrimonies until Nigerians begin to realize that politics is by its very nature gregarious

Having collected their honorarium, why can these Lilliputian parties not merge and pose the desired level of threat to the PDP. Both OBJ and the PDP knew that it was to the advantage of the dominant party to confute and confuse the electorate with too many alternatives. In the 2007 general elections, the electorate could not discern the cacophony and babble in election sloganeering and disparate manifestos put before it by over 54 registered political parties. In spite of this unwieldy number what is still before the electorate could be called a 1½ party system. This system could be defined as one where there is one dominant party, where all the votes earned by the minority parties added together will be barely half the size of the dominant party's. Chief Ogbu-lafor is an empiricist. His psephological analysis of the political system must have led him to interpolate 60years tenure for the PDP. Chief Ogbu-lafor may have rightly predicted that the Balarabe Musas, etc, cannot submerge their differences to come together even in the next 60years. This disaggregate group of patriots and statesmen has failed to discern from our 50years experience that a state has not higher duty than to preserve and strengthen itself whether it is ruling well or not! This is why it is fool-hardy if not naive to expect the dominant ruling party to take measures to dis-empower and dethrone itself. This bunch of atomistic players must quickly organize itself to tackle headlong a monstrous enemy that has not minced words defining its brand of sit-tight-but-do-nothing-politics.

PDP politics has not ceased to be a do-or-die affair. PDP realizes that

may demand.

In theory this may foster the enabling framework for ensuring pervasive enfranchisement of Nigerians sequel to a free and fair election. But this is not conclusive evidence that in practice the PDP election rigging machine will be dismantled. What is the guarantee that this change in policy structure will alter the prevailing political climate of rigging, dishonesty, disenfranchisement, corruption of voters' register and the unperceived credibility damage done by press agents?

Press agents can white-wash an inveterate robber, criminal and murderer to ingratiate himself and then present him to the voting public as the legislator, counselor, governor or president the nation direly needs! Note that wars are fought and won first inside the general's closet or tent. Victory is first recorded in the mind-field before it can physically manifest in the battle field. This writer watched one Olawole Okunniyi flaunt the designation "Mega Summit Movement secretary of the Harmonization Team" on the TV Continental last month. Mr. Olawole Okunniyi unbundled and reeled out a scheme under which some groups, some leaders of conscience in the Mega Summit Movement, the Nigerian Labour Congress and the Trade Union Congress, will submerge their fundamental differences and work as a team to press for electoral reform along the recommendations of the Justice Mohammed Uwais Electoral Reform committee report.

To be cont'd.

Uwalaka, author of *Ethics of Political Leadership*, wrote from Lagos.



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It is a golden opportunity to heartily express our deep seated happiness and that of my colleagues on the way and manner God has used you and is using you in directing the political affairs of the National Assembly and our great country, Nigeria. We are very proud of you.

Many a legislature would wish to emulate your enviable record built on humility, kindness and dogged democratic practice which you lead in accordance with the provisions of our constitution.

Your adherence to the tenets of rule of law and due process is worthy of emulation.

With you at the helm of affairs, Nigerians are sure of attaining the much needed enduring dividends of democracy, to our people.

Once more congratulations. Wishing you more devotive democratic years ahead.

Agabaidu! Agabaidu!! Agabaidu!!!

*May God continue to guide you
in the leadership of the
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Signed
Senator Abubakar D. Sodangi
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INTERNATIONAL

Police question some 70 people in Togo



SUPPORTERS of the Union of Forces for Change (UFC) rally in Lome.

TOGO police have questioned some 70 people found at the Lome headquarters of the main opposition party as they prepared a vigil to protest against President Faure Gnassingbe, officials said yesterday.

The police went to the headquarters of the Union of Forces for Change (UFC), shortly before the start of the candlelight vigil organised by the main opposition coalition Republican Front

for Change (FRAC). The protest could not be held due to lack of a permit.

"The gendarmes blocked all access to our party headquarters. They went in and arrested everybody.

About 70 people were arrested", a UFC spokesman, Eric Dupuy, told the media.

Officials of the gendarmerie police told private media that most of those interrogated had come

from neighbouring countries, especially from a Togolese refugee camp in Benin, to "breach public order."

"They were individuals from neighbouring countries. They chose to stay in UFC headquarters to breach public order. It was therefore urgent to question them as part of investigations," gendarme barracks platoon leader Amana Kodjo, said.

"After the investiga-

tions, UFC militants will be released, but those who came from outside will be taken to court," he said. The opposition in the small West African country has staged several protests in the past weeks against the reelection of Gnassingbe in a poll on March 4.

One demo on March 24 left some 30 people injured after clashes with police, according to the opposition. The authorities did not provide any figure.

Gabon oil workers go on strike

GABON'S main oil workers union late yesterday launched an "unlimited" strike as the government promised conciliatory measures if negotiations could resume. The union on Tuesday had given people 24 hours to stock up on petroleum products prior to the launch of a strike that it said "could be long" and would have "disagreeable consequences."

"We warn people, you have 24 hours to supply yourselves," Arnauld Engandji, the spokesman of the National Organisation of Petroleum Employees (ONEP), told a news conference. Long lines formed outside petrol stations after talks with the government were broken off on Monday.

ONEP planned to strike to protest against "the abusive employment of foreign labour" in Gabon's oil industry, where it objects to jobs going to immigrant Africans as well as expatriate Europeans, Engandji said.

Human Rights Watch denounces child labour in Senegal

HUMAN Rights Watch (HRW) yesterday denounced the abuse in Senegal of tens of thousands of children forced to beg and subject every day to "conditions akin to slavery", mainly in the name of religion.

"Senegal should not stand by while tens of thousands of talibe children are subjected every day to beatings, gross neglect, and, in fact, conditions akin to slavery," said Georgette Gagnon, Africa director at HRW.

The "talibes" are children who have come from their villages in Senegal and Guinea-Bissau and finish up in residential Koranic schools, or "daaras", where they are under the control of a marabout, who is their teacher and guardian.

In a report, HRW describes the systems of exploitation and abuse of young boys, of whom the vast majority are under 12 and many as young as four years old, yet forced

to beg "for up to 10 hours a day."

"At least 50,000 children attending hundreds of residential Koranic schools, or daaras, in Senegal are subjected to conditions akin to slavery and forced to endure often extreme forms of abuse, neglect, and exploitation by the teachers, or marabouts, who serve as their de facto guardians," HRW said.

A typical daara is an abandoned or partly built building that offers little protection from the elements. The children sleep as many as 30 to a small room, HRW investigators found. The talibes could often be seen shuffling through the streets barefoot and holding out small plastic bowls or empty tin cans. "Some steal or dig through trash in order to find something to eat," said the report, called "Off the Backs of Children: Forced Begging and Other Abuses Against Talibes in Senegal."

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International

Kyrgyzstan's deposed president flies to Kazakhstan



SUPPORTERS of the ousted President Kurmanbek Bakiyev hold posters at a rally in the centre of Jalal-Abad.

THE deposed president of Kyrgyzstan left the country yesterday for neighbouring Kazakhstan, allaying fears of new violence in the Central Asian nation that hosts a key US military base supporting the war in Afghanistan.

Kazakhstan said the presidents of the United States, Russia and Kazakhstan helped arrange for Kyrgyz President Kurmanbek Bakiyev to leave the country. It called Bakiyev's move an "important step toward stabilization of situation." Kyrgyzstan's interim rulers said that Bakiyev signed a formal letter of resignation before boarding the plane. Witnesses say Bakiyev flew out from the southern city of Jalal-Abad in a military transport aircraft.

Bakiyev's departure follows the provisional government's warning that he should either quickly leave the country or face a trial. "He had to leave the country because he was afraid of people's justice," deputy head of the interim government, Omurbek Tekebayev, told The Associated Press.

Bakiyev was driven from the capital, Bishkek, on April 7 after a protest boiled over into gunfire; protesters then stormed government buildings. At least 83 people died in the violence.

Bakiyev's efforts to gather support in Kyrgyzstan's south, his clan power base, suffered a severe blow earlier yesterday when he tried to speak to a rally in Osh, the region's biggest city. Within a few moments of his taking the stage, gunfire split the air and he was hustled into a car and driven away.

Egypt's president resumes duties after surgery

THE Egyptian president resumed his duties yesterday after recovering from last month's gallbladder surgery in Germany, the state MENA news agency reported. The report said Hosni Mubarak chaired a meeting of several government ministers in his first official appearance since the procedure. The president "discussed a host of domestic issues" at the meeting in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, it said.

Hamas executes 2 suspected informers for Israel

THE Hamas government yesterday executed two men accused of collaborating with Israel, signaling a sharp escalation in the militant Palestinian group's method of controlling the Gaza Strip.

It was the first time the death

penalty has been carried out in Gaza since Hamas violently seized power in the coastal area in 2007.

The bullet-riddled bodies of the men, convicted by military tribunals in 2008 and 2009, were dumped by armed men at Gaza

City's main hospital before dawn yesterday, a hospital employee said. A brother of one of the men said both families were summoned to the prison late Wednesday for a visit but were not told of the pending executions.

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Kano 700241 Nigeria. Tel: + 234- 8023031155

REPRESENTATIVE Mr. Shivan
IN MALAYSIA Business Development Manager
Mobile: + 6012-644 6944 Email: shivan@legendagroup.edu.my
molathi@legendagroup.edu.my

Legend
Education Group

Persiaran UTL, Bandar Universiti Teknologi Legenda (BUTL), Batu 12, 71700 Mantin, Negeri Sembilan Darul Khusus, West Malaysia
Tel: + 606-758 7266 Fax: + 606 - 758 2150
www.jati.edu.my

International

Pope may meet with abuse victims in Malta

IN a key test, Pope Benedict XVI makes his first foreign trip since the clerical sex abuse scandal erupted when he visits heavily Catholic Malta this weekend — and all eyes will be on whether he meets abuse victims as he has said he is prepared to do.

The two-day trip was planned as a pilgrimage among the faithful to commemorate the 1,950th anniversary of St. Paul's shipwreck, but it has since raised expectations that the pope would make a strong gesture to repair the damage of the worldwide abuse scandal.

Ten men who testified that

they were sexually molested by priests at an orphanage on the Mediterranean island of 400,000 people during the 1980s and 1990s have asked to meet with Benedict so what they call a "hurtful chapter" in their lives can be closed.

Vatican spokesman the Rev. Federico Lombardi, briefing reporters on the trip this week, declined to confirm the pope would meet with victims on this trip but didn't rule it out.

Benedict's previous meetings with abuse victims during trips to the United States and Australia in 2008 were not announced in

advance. Such an encounter must be "in a climate of meditation and reflection, not under media pressure," Lombardi said.

The trip comes as the Vatican is battling weeks of revelations about priests who molested children and church officials who covered it up. Several old cases have touched the pope himself.

Benedict yesterday made his first allusion to the scandal since he issued a letter to Irish Catholics on March 20 when he rebuked Irish bishops for "grave errors of judgment" in handling clerical sex abuse and ordered an investigation into the Irish church but did

not mention any Vatican responsibility.

"I must say, we Christians, even in recent times, have often avoided the word 'repent', which seemed too tough.

But now under attack from the world, which has been telling us about our sins ... we realize that it's necessary to repent, in other words, recognize what is wrong in our lives," Benedict said.

Recently, the Maltese church presented the first picture of sex abuse within its ranks, announcing it had received 84 allegations of child abuse allegedly involving 45 priests over the past decade.

Local bishops have apologized for the abuse.

With Vatican statistics listing a total of 853 priests on the island that comes down to about one alleged abuser in every 20 priests.

The Maltese men who have spoken up say they were abused by four priests at a Catholic home for boys, alleging that if they resisted sexual advances they would be asked to leave the home, which was their only shelter.

The influence of the Catholic church on the island is heavily felt in the European Union nation. Abortion and divorce are prohibited.



CHINESE President Hu Jintao (left) and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva meet at Itamaraty Palace in Brasilia.

Chinese leader shortens Latin America tour due to quake

CHINESE President Hu Jintao cut short a tour of Latin America yesterday to return home to deal with a devastating earthquake in northwestern China, officials in Brazil said. Hu was to leave Brazil late yesterday after attending a BRIC summit hastily advanced by one day to accommodate his need to leave early, the Brazilian foreign ministry said.

Rescuers and aid supplies began slowly rolling into remote Qinghai province yesterday after it was flattened by a devastating 6.9-magnitude quake that left more than 600 people dead and 100,000 homeless.

The quake cut short talks Hu was due to hold yesterday and Friday with the leaders of other emerging economies Brazil, India, Russia and South Africa, and forced him to scrap planned weekend visits to Venezuela and Chile.

Brazilian officials said the BRIC summit gathering leaders of Brazil, Russia, India and China was brought forward to become a rapid, two-hour encounter late yesterday, instead of being held today.

"Due to the earthquake in China, President Hu Jintao... has to leave today," Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim told reporters. "We are squeezing two days' program into one."

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev was however still to meet Hu on the sidelines of the summit yesterday, his spokeswoman Natalia Timakova told Russian reporters. She added Russia had offered China assistance in dealing with the aftermath of the earthquake.

After a quick dinner with Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, South African President Jacob Zuma and Medvedev, Hu will leave for China at 11:30 pm (0230 GMT Friday).

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez confirmed in Caracas that Hu would not be seeing him. Hu "called me and explained to me... that unfortunately he had to suspend the Saturday trip to Caracas," Chavez told a news conference.

Michelle Obama boosts US-Mexico ties in first solo trip

MICHELLE Obama was yesterday to meet US embassy employees in Mexico City after US interests were caught up in spiralling drug violence in northern Mexico. The US first lady was also due to talk to Mexican youth leaders at the end of a first solo foreign trip during which she hugged and danced with dozens of children, and told several thousand university students: "Yes, we can," in a rousing speech.

"I intend to focus my international work as first lady on engaging young people just like you all around the world," the US first lady at the Ibero-American university on Wednesday.

The US first lady also discussed the treatment of migrants and youth drug addiction with her Mexican counterpart Margarita Zavala, in a nation reeling from drug-related violence in which more than 22,700 people have died since the end of 2006.

Zavala's husband, President Felipe Calderon, has received growing support from the Obama administration in his brutal drug war, and Michelle Obama's trip followed a string of high-level visits to Mexico. The US State Department on Monday updated a travel advisory for Mexico, including a warning against unnecessary travel to some border areas.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 33rd Annual General Meeting of Oando PLC (the "Company") will be held at The Landmark Village Events Centre, Water Corporation Road, Off Ligali Ayorinde, Victoria Island, Lagos, Lagos State, Nigeria on Friday, the 7th day of May 2010 at 10:00 a.m. for the purposes of:

1. Transacting the following ordinary business:

- 1.1 To present the annual financial statements of the Company and of the group for the year ended 31 December 2009 and Reports of Directors and Auditors thereon;
- 1.2 To receive the Report of the Audit Committee;
- 1.3 To declare the dividend of N3.00 kobo recommended by the Directors of the Company;
- 1.4 To elect members of the Audit Committee;
- 1.5 To re-appoint the Auditors;
- 1.6 To authorise the Directors of the Company to fix the remuneration of the Auditors;
- 1.7 To elect the following Directors appointed to the Board of Directors of the Company with effect from January 31, 2010 as Directors. In accordance with Article 88 of the Articles of Association of the Company ("the articles"), their terms expire but being eligible offers themselves for election.
 - Chief Sena Anthony
 - Ms. Amal Inyingiala Pepple CFR
 - Ms. Genevieve Sangudi
- 1.8 To re-elect the following Directors who in accordance with Articles 91 and 93 of the Company's Articles of Association, retire by rotation, but are eligible and offer themselves for re-election:
 - Major General Mohammed Magoro (Rtd), OFR, PSC, USAWC, Galadiman Zuru
 - Mr. Omamofe Boyo
 - Mr. Mobolaji Osunsanya
 - Mr. Navaid Burney

2. Transacting the following special business:

- (i) To consider, and if approved, to pass with or without modification, the following ordinary resolution to fix the remuneration of the non-executive Directors:

"It is hereby resolved that the fees payable to the non-executive Directors of the Company be increased from N1,000,000.00 per annum for the Chairman and N900,000.00 each per annum for all other non-executive directors to N2,500,000 per annum for the Chairman and N2,000,000 for all other non-executive Directors with effect from 1 January 2010 which fees are payable quarterly in arrears".
- (ii) To consider, and if approved, to pass with or without modification the following ordinary resolution:

"Resolved on the recommendation of the Directors and in accordance with Article 46 of the Articles of Association of the Company the Authorised Share Capital of the Company be and is hereby increased from N1,000,000,000.00 (One Billion Naira) to N3,000,000,000.00 (Three Billion Naira) by the creation and addition thereto of 4,000,000,000 new ordinary shares of 50 kobo each ranking in all respects pari passu with the existing shares of the Company and that clause 6 of the company's Memorandum of Association and article 3 of the Company's Articles of Association be and are hereby amended to reflect the new Authorised Share Capital of N3,000,000,000.00 (Three Billion Naira) divided into 6,000,000,000 (Six Billion) ordinary shares of 50 kobo each".
- (iii) To consider, and if approved, to pass with or without modification, the following ordinary resolution:

"Resolved on the recommendation of the Directors and in accordance with Article 141 of the Company a sum of N301,694,876 out of the balance standing to the credit of General Reserve as at the year ended 31st December 2009 be capitalized and that the

Directors be and are hereby authorized to appropriate the said capitalized sum of N301,694,876 to the members holding the shares of the company at the close of business on 20 May 2010 in the proportion of 1 ordinary share of 50kobo for every 2 ordinary Shares of 50k each held by them on that day on condition that the new capitalised sum of N301,694,876 be not paid in cash to members holding Ordinary Shares but applied on their behalf in paying up in full at par 603,389,752 shares of 50k each now issued to be allotted, distributed and credited as fully paid up to amongst the said members in the proportions aforesaid."

Voting and Proxies

On a show of hands, every member present in person or by proxy shall have one vote, and on a poll, every member shall have one vote for each share of which he is the holder.

A member of the Company entitled to attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting (the "Meeting") is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend, speak and vote instead of that member. A proxy need not be a member of the Company.

Registered holders of certificated shares and holders of dematerialised shares in their own name who are unable to attend the Meeting and who wish to be represented at the Meeting, must complete and return the attached form of proxy in accordance with the instructions contained in the form of proxy so as to be received by the share registrars, First Registrars Nigeria Limited at Plot 2, Abebe Village Road, Iganmu, Lagos, or Computershare Investor Services (Proprietary) Limited, 70, Marshall Street, Johannesburg, 2001, South Africa, PO Box 61051, Marshalltown, 2107, not less than 48 hours before the time of the Meeting.

Holders of the Company's shares in South Africa (whether certificated or dematerialised) through a nominee should timeously make the necessary arrangements with that nominee or, if applicable, Central Securities Depository Participant ("CSDP") or broker to enable them to attend and vote at the Meeting or to enable their votes in respect of their shares to be cast at the Meeting by that nominee or a proxy.

Dividend Payment

If the dividend recommended is approved and declared, those shareholders whose names appear in the Company's Register of Members kept in Nigeria as at the close of business on 20th of April, 2010, shall have dividend warrants posted to them or have their designated bank accounts credited directly on the 31st day of August 2010. Dividends due to Shareholders whose names appear on the South African Register of Members at the close of business on the 20th of April 2010 (certificated or dematerialized), will, on the 31st of August 2010, either be electronically transferred to shareholders' bank accounts or, in the absence of suitable mandates, have dividend cheques posted to them, or will have their accounts, at their CSDP or broker credited.

Closure of Registers of Members


The Registers of Members and Transfer Books of the Company (Nigerian and South African) will be closed between 21st April 2010 and 27th April 2010 (both days inclusive) in terms of the provisions of Section 89 of the Companies and Allied Matters Act Cap. C20 Laws of the Federation 2004 (the "Companies Act").

Nomination for the Audit Committee

In accordance with Section 359 (5) of the Companies Act, any member may nominate a shareholder as a member of the Audit Committee, by giving notice in writing of such nomination to the Company Secretary at least 21 days before the Meeting.

Dated this 14th day of April 2010

By the Order of the Board



Oredeji K. Delano (Mrs.)
Chief Compliance Officer & Company Secretary

Registered Office
2, Ajose Adeogun Street
Victoria Island, Lagos





Bureau of Public Service Reforms (BPSR)

No. 50 Mamman Nasir Crescent
 Off T. Y. Danjuama Street Asokoro-Abuja
 Tel. No. 09-3144611; 09-31444549
 Fax: 09-3144546

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

ECONOMIC REFORMS AND GOVERNANCE PROJECT
 WORLD BANK-ASSISTED (CREDIT NO: 4011 UNI)

CONDUCT OF TRACER STUDY ON THE FEDERAL CIVIL SERVICE STAFF SEVERANCE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME.

1. The Federal Government of Nigeria has secured a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the implementation of the Economic Reforms and Governance Project (ERGP). The Bureau of Public Service Reforms (BPSR), an agency of Government is a beneficiary of the credit and implementing some aspects of the reform programme. The Bureau intends to apply part of the credit to engage the services of a reputable consultancy firm to conduct a tracer study on the staff severance and social assistance programme that was implemented in the Federal Civil Service between 2006 and 2008.
2. As part of the reform programme, the Federal Government carried out a severance programme in the Federal Civil Service between 2006 and 2008. The severance programme had a social assistance scheme, with sub-component which included financial incentives to leave the service, a pre-retirement training curriculum, with entrepreneurial skills orientation, to mitigate the impact and hardship that might attend the transition of the retirees from civil service to post retirement life.
3. The Services include assessing/reviewing the severance programme that was conducted between 2006 and 2008, study the problems that was encountered during the programme and from best practices recommend, design and support the implementation of a simple tracking system that will assist government to find out what had happened to the severed staff under the public service reforms programme, including feedback information on financial benefits payment experience, as a basis for decision-making on policies, strategies, programme management as well as projects, and to improve knowledge sharing on results and performance and; provide technical advice to the Bureau in handling of problems of staff severance. A more detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) shall be provided with the Request for Proposal (RFP) and sent to firms that will be shortlisted for the assignment.

Qualification and Eligibility

4. Eligible Consulting Firms are invited to indicate interest in providing the above services. Interested firms must provide the following information and any more indicating that they are qualified to perform the service:
 - (i) Full details of the Company Profile;
 - (ii) CV of Key Personnel with a minimum of a Masters Degree in Human Resource Management, Public Sector Social Research, Change Management or related Social Sciences;
 - (iii) Evidence of incorporation in Nigeria;
 - (iv) Evidence of Tax Clearance for three (3) years and;
 - (v) Veritable evidence of similar jobs carried out in the last three (3) years
5. A Firm will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by the World Bank Borrowers, January 1997 (Revised September 1997, 1999, 2002 and May 2004)
6. Interested Consulting Firms may obtain information at the address below from 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. local time Monday to Friday, except public holidays. Expression of Interest must be submitted in five (5) hard copies with one electronic copy on CD/USB to the address below on or before 4.00 p.m. of Friday 7th May, 2010 clearly marked at the top left side of the envelopes: "Expression of Interest for Conduct of Tracer Study on Severance Programme".

Permanent Secretary
 Bureau of Public Service Reforms (BPSR)
 No. 50 Mamman Nasir Crescent
 Off T. Y. Danjuama Street
 Asokoro-Abuja
 Tel. No. 09-3144611; 09-31444549
 Fax: 09-3144546

BUSINESS

0805 1000 536

PHOTO DESIGN: AA GEIDAM



Oil: Nigeria earns N166bn in 3 months

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

NIGERIA earned the sum of N166,081,202,194.95 as oil revenue between January and March, this year, the Director of Department of Petroleum Resources [DPR], Billy Agah has said.

He disclosed this yesterday during the agency's media briefing which held at its headquarters in Lagos.

The breakdown of the figure, according to the DPR boss, reveals that the country fetched N165,282,364,531.20 on royalties and N530,482,200.47 on gas flare penalty during the period under review.

He said the country raked in N52,208,651.97 on concession rentals while the sum of N216,146,811.31 was

realised from miscellaneous oil revenue.

Agah however said his agency would not relent in its effort to continually generate more revenue for the country while also ensuring sanity in the oil and gas sector.

He revealed that the agency is committed to reducing the incidence of gas flaring in the country to a tolerable extent.

According to him, gas flaring ratio which hovers around 2.5 billion cubic feet per day has now been reduced to 1.9 billion cubic feet per day.

He further explained that his agency is cautious of employing any drastic measures to compel oil companies in the country to stop gas flaring in order to maintain economic balance.

To this end, he said the DPR is now

using allowable oil and gas ratios to stop oil companies from flare.

"We have reduced gas flare down to 1.9 billion cubic feet per day from 2.5 billion cubic feet per day. We have reduced flare down without necessarily closing down the economy. We have put in place a committee on gas to keep tab on this trend".

The DPR boss also spoke on the performance of the nation's refineries during the period in view and revealed that it was nothing to write home about.

According to him, the performance was 19 percent capacity utilization, just as he said that eight private refinery operators that have secured licence from his agency have gone far in transforming the refineries.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Chanchangi Airlines
 Lagos-Abj: 07.15, 10.00, 13.10, 15.30, 17.30
 Abj-Lagos: 08.00, 11.45, 13.40, 15.30, 17.00
 Lagos-Kad: 10.45, (on Fri), 17.00(Mon/Fri/Sat/Sun)
 Kad-Lagos: 07.30(Mon/Fri), 08.00(Sat/Sun)
Nigerian Eagles Airlines (Virgin Nigeria)
 Abj-Kano: 18.40 (Mon-Fri)/sun
 Kano-Abj: 08.35 (Mon-Fri) /Sat
 Abj-Soko: 09:35, (Mon), 10:10 (Fri), 11:20 (Wed/Sun)
 Soko-Abj: 11.35(Mon), 12.00(Fri), 13:20 (Wed/sun)
 Lagos-Abj: 07.15, 11.40, 14.00, 16.30, 17.00, 17.20;
 18.30 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun), 8.00; 12.40; 13.10; 20:00 (Fri)
 Abj-Lagos: 07.00, 09.30, 10.30, 11.15, 16.15;
 19.15, 19.25, 19:35 (Mon-Fri/Sat/sun);14:55; 15:15;
 20:45(Fri); 19:45(Sun); 11:25, 13:35, 16:25(Mon)
 Lagos-PHC: 07.40, 09.30, 10.00, 12.20, 13.30, 14.00,
 16.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); PHC-Lagos: 10.50, 11.20,
 12.45, 15.30, 16.15, 17.15 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); Lagos-
 Owr: 12:15; (Tue-Fri/Sun); 12:40 (Mon/Sat)
 Owr-Lagos: 14:25 (Tue-Fri/Sun) 14:50 (Mon /Sat)
 Lagos-Cal: 08:00 (Fri), 09:10 (Wed-Thu), 12:40 (Tue/
 Sat/Sun), 13:10 (Mon)
 Cal-Lagos: 10.05 (Fri); 11.15(Wed/Thu); 14.55 (Tue/
 Sat-Sun), 15.15(Mon)
IRS Airlines
 Lagos-Abj: 09.45, 11.45, 12.45, (Mon-Fri) 09.30,
 12.45(Sat&Sun)
 Lagos-Kano: 06.15(Mon-Fri), 16.30(Sat/ Sun)
 Kano-Lagos: 07.30(Mon-Fri), 10.30(Sat/ Sun)
 Abuja-Kano: 10.30am (Mon-Fri/Sun)
 Kano-Abuja: 11.45, 5.00 Fri, 12.15 Sun

STOCK MARKET INDEX

| | |
|---------|--------------------------|
| Date: | Thursday, April 15, 2010 |
| Index: | 27,256.61 |
| Volume: | 932,596,441 |
| Cap.: | N 6,592,000,000,000.00 |

TRUST INDEX

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Inflation | 12.3% |
| GDP | 6.90% |
| Budget | N4.6tr |
| Ext. Reserves Acct | \$41bn |
| Excess Crude Acct | \$3.2bn |
| Poverty Ratio | 54.4% |
| Monetary Policy Rate | 6% |
| Banks | 24 |
| Oil Price | \$85 a barrel |
| Power Supply | 2,500MW |
| Oil output per day | 2.6mbd |
| Broad Money Supply | N10,796,734.5m |
| Credit to Private Sector | N10,018,035.3m |
| Inter-Bank Rate | 1.1600% |
| Treasury Bills | 2.02% |
| Deposit Rate | 12.28% |
| Prime Lending Rate | 18.38% |

CBN EXCHANGE RATES

| 14/4/2010 | Buying (NGN) | Central (NGN) | Selling (NGN) |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| CFA | 0.2861 | 0.2961 | 0.3061 |
| DANISH KRONER | 26.9413 | 27.0327 | 27.1241 |
| EURO | 200.6318 | 201.3126 | 201.9934 |
| POUNDS STERLING | 227.4937 | 228.2657 | 229.0376 |
| RIYAL | 39.2933 | 39.4267 | 39.56 |
| SDR | 224.8414 | 225.6044 | 226.3673 |
| SWISS FRANC | 139.6921 | 140.0758 | 140.5495 |
| US DOLLAR | 147.35 | 147.85 | 148.35 |
| WAUA | 224.0474 | 224.8077 | 225.5679 |
| YEN | 1.5749 | 1.5803 | 1.5856 |

Bureau de Change Rates

| BUYING | |
|---------|------|
| Dollar | N151 |
| Euro | N204 |
| Pound | N234 |
| SELLING | |
| Dollar | N152 |
| Euro | N206 |
| Pound | N236 |

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



Business/Energy

The odds against the new Petroleum Minister

By Hamisu Muhammad

APPARENTLY, Ann Pickard, Shell's outgoing Regional Executive Vice President, Exploration and Production, Africa had no inkling that one of her own will be

Nigeria's next petroleum minister when she launched a blistering criticism of a proposed legislation intended to reform the country's oil industry at a recent summit in Abuja.

Pickard, famous for her uncommon ability to speak her mind, told the annual Nigeria Oil & Gas conference in Abuja that the draft Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB), now, before the National Assembly was, "a cumbersome document that lacks insight into the very basics of our industry."

And for good measure, she added that the fiscal provisions of the proposed law were the "harsh-est in the world which is forecasting a bleak future for the oil and gas industry post-PIB."

Now, it does look like the joke is on Pickard.

Minister's quandary

Diezani Allison-Madueke is the newly appointed Nigeria Minister of Petroleum Resources. She was also the first female Executive Director of Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) in 2006 and now the first female minister of Nigeria's powerful Petroleum Ministry.

Mrs Alison-Madueke's new position leaves her in a quandary, one Ms Pickard would no doubt be keen in how it is resolved in the end. Will the new minister close her ears to her former employers' far-reaching concerns about the proposed law? Or, would she turn a deaf ear and go on ahead with her predecessor's plans to reform the industry in a way that made Nigeria the bigger beneficiary of its oil wealth? Or, as one analyst puts it, would she, as player and umpire, be impartial in driving the much-needed reforms?

Certainly, not only Pickard of Shell has raised concerns over the reforms contained in the PIB, but she was merely echoing a refrain that is quite popular among International Oil Companies (IOCs) operating in Africa's top oil producer. The 'Seven Sisters', comprising Shell, ExxonMobil, Chevron, Total and Agip are angry with the Bill.

Their reasons are that the Nigerian Government wants to grab more portions of their returns of investment through the new taxes introduced in the Bill which will, obviously, affect their balance sheets quite negatively.

Sticking point

This the biggest sticking point in the proposed legislation, as far as the IOCs are concerned. But being masters of euphemism in



businessspeak, the IOCs say the government did not give them enough room to make input into the bill. Will Mrs Alison-Madueke give them that room?

The former petroleum minister, Dr Rilwanu Lukman was considered the main driver of Nigeria's oil sector reforms, a task he began some 10 years ago in the Oil and Gas Reform Implementation Committee (OGIC) which put together the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB).

Sources said all efforts by the IOCs to penetrate him failed during his tenure, which is why some of the IOCs opted for a public confrontation instead of dialogue.

But with the appointment of Mrs Allison-Madueke as the substantive minister of petroleum resources some stakeholders are already worried that the IOCs might have their way after all. Some even fear the worst: that the reforms might meet an untimely end under the current minister.

A strong member of the OGIC who does not want to be named said "our only concern is for the continuation of the PIB. We hope that the Acting President and the new minister of petroleum will not tamper with the PIB's structure."

Reforms driver?

He said since 2000, the ministry was highly influenced by the multinational oil companies, adding that there are certain pro-

visions that they don't like and unfortunately this woman is one of their own and even her aids are all from multinational oil companies which means the interest of the state is not likely to be well protected.

"When you have somebody from the multinationals as Minister of Petroleum Resources and this is the person expected to drive the reforms, it is not likely that you'd have the best outcome," he added.

"What we want is for the OGIC or the reform implementation to be independent of the ministry and the politics and as this is the only to keep the multinationals at bay."

But it is possible to actually keep the IOCs at bay? In Abuja, the IOCs constitute a very powerful and are known to have departments specially dedicated to influencing public policy as it affects their operations.

"Because of the importance of these reforms it is very necessary to have a high-powered committee to run the reforms," the unnamed OGIC member said. "That woman is member of the international oil organisation and you can not be a judge in your own cause. This is the problem. And because for the past 10 years we have been doing this work; we know all the politics; we know all the interests."

Second struggle for the Nige-

rian state

The reforms are also intended to boost local fertilizer production for Nigeria's rural farmers as well as increase gas production for domestic utilization as well as export.

"Look at what the Venezuelans did. By the time we are through with the reforms, Nigerians will be better off. In fact, the petroleum industry reforms are the second struggle for the Nigerian state after the independence."

Also the unions were not left behind in asking the new minister not to compromise the status of the laws as it were. The National President of the National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG), Comrade Achese Igwe said that any attempt by the new minister to put her interest above the interest of the nation will be rejected by the union.

"We are 100 percent watching to ensure that she has not come with her personal interest against the nation's," Igwe said. "We are watching. We will not allow individual interest or organisational interest to supersede the interest of Nigeria."

Doctrine of profit

Analysts say although, as a judge in this matter, the new minister has the right to review all the issues be fair to all involved, it is important to listen to all parties but not to favour one side at the

expense of the other.

They remind her that it is important to make sure that investments by the oil companies are also considered in the new law and give them some concession to pay back at the right time.

The anger by the IOCs, no doubt has meaning because no corporate-minded business owner will be willing to give up his return easily without protest. After all, profit is the *raison d'être* of business.

But it is clear that whatever happens, Nigerians are very keen to see the oil and gas industry reformed in a way that makes them real beneficiaries of their natural wealth.

Perhaps, then the country would be able to generate enough gas to power its electricity-generating plants and local industries might once again roar back to life after being comatose for lack of power.

The petroleum wealth has been regularly mismanaged, lack of transparency by both the IOCs and the Government officials ruin down the industry as such all sister-nations are far above Nigeria.

Now the ball is in Mrs Allison-Madueke's court: she either defends her country's interests or yield to pressure from former employers who made her who she is. Which ever way she decides to, Nigerians are watching. Very closely!

Business

Stock market loses N78bn

THE Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) has closed on a negative note with market capitalisation going down further by N78 billion at the end of transactions.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that market capitalisation, which opened at N6.670 trillion, closed at N6.592 trillion on Wednesday, making a loss of 1.17 per cent.

The benchmark of the All-Share Index dropped by 323.73 points to close at 22,254.61 points compared with the 27,578.34 points recorded by the market on Tuesday.

Of the 99 companies whose shares were traded, 59 lost in share price value compared with the 39 whose share prices appreciated.

On the other hand, Total Plc, for the second time run-

ning, topped the price gainers' table, garnering an extra N8.38 to close at N176.11 per share.

Mobil again took the second position among the gainers, growing by N6.54 to close at N137.37, while Julius Berger inched up by N2.31 to close at N48.51 per share.

Benue Cement Company (BCC) led the price losers' chart, depreciating by N2.89 to close at N63.81 per share.

UACN's shares fell by N2.89 to close at N54.05, while Flourmill went down by N2.68 to close at N69.99 per share.

The NSE sector performance report indicates that the Insurance sub-sector was the toast of investors, trading 270.57 million shares valued at N213.37 billion in 1,380 deals.

The shares of Interna-

tional Energy Insurance accounted for the bulk of trading in the sub-sector with 55.49 million shares worth N41.03 million exchanged in 196 deals.

The Banking sub-sector followed with N1.64 billion invested in 157.12 million shares in 4,349 deals, while investors in the Mortgage Companies sub-sector transacted 58.14 million shares worth N40.86 million in 205 deals.

Overall, the investors exchanged 668.36 million shares worth N4.53 billion in 11,745 deals in contrast to a total of 955.73 million shares valued at N6.67 billion sold in 12,054 deals on Tuesday.

Below are the major price gainers and losers at the close of trading on the NSE on Wednesday.

NNPC, oil majors to resolve conflict on PIB

From Kayode Ekundayo, Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

THE Group Managing Director of Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) Shehu Ladan said in Lagos yesterday that the corporation would soon meet with the multinational oil companies in the country to resolve once and for all controversial issues surrounding the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) currently before the National Assembly.

Multinational Oil companies particularly the joint venture partners had kicked against some clauses in the bill, which they believe would hinder their operations in Nigeria once it's passed by the National Assembly. Such issues include royalties' payment, government's percentage stake in the oil companies and ownership

structures among others. But Ladan at this year's Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE)'s Olobiri lecture held in Lagos yesterday said all those issues would be looked into at a meeting which would be convened very soon by the corporation, emphasizing that regular dialogue is the only solution to solve problems in the nation's oil industry "Dialogue is what we can use to resolve these issues. This is not the first time we will be having problem with our joint venture partners. You will recall that Nigerian LNG was on the drawing board for over 14 years because of these type of problem, government had to bent a little bit and JV did that too and today we are celebrating NLNG as a fastest growing gas company in the world. To my mind, we will need to sit down with the operating

oil companies and iron out finally all aspects of the bill that they have problem with", he said

He said he wants the NNPC and the oil companies to be dialoguing regularly, though not frequently. This he said would not only improve maximization of profit for Nigerian government but also for the oil companies.

"That is the style I want to employ and I believe this can yield maximum benefits for the two parties", he said.

The group managing director of NNPC also identified some challenges which include completion of the transformation process; supplying adequate gas to fire the gas-power stations in the country, maintain the integrity of the nation's gas line and to also ensure availability of fuel across the country.

KPMG to transform NEXIM

By Idris Ahmed

KPMG, an international consultancy firm, has been engaged by the Nigerian Export-Import Bank (NEXIM) to help transform its internal process to make the bank more vibrant.

The firm is to reposition NEXIM to effectively deliver on its mandate of providing export credit, insurance and guarantee facilities.

At the end of the exercise, the bank hoped to

achieve a balance between the private sector model of efficiency and the federal government's economic drive in order to heighten its relevance as a proper export credit agency.

A team of KPMG has already commenced the enterprise transformation exercise of the bank aimed at placing the bank on a new performance pedestal, the Managing Director/CEO of NEXIM Roberts Orya said yesterday in Abuja.

Starwood to open 12 new hotels in Africa

By Romoke W. Ahmad

STARWOOD, the owner of Sheraton and Le Meridien hotels in the country has promised to open more hotels in Africa that will create employment opportunity for Africans, Mr. Roeland Vos, the President Europe, Africa and Middle East Division Starwood hotels and resorts worldwide has said.

The president made this known yesterday in Abuja during his visit to Nigeria to discuss development strategies and expansion possibilities in the major cities around the country as well as to pass information to Nigerian that they are the first international chain in

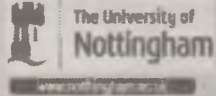
Nigeria that is developing the people and Nigerian tourism with their new brand growth.

He said as part of their development strategy, the company will open more twelve hotels in Africa that will create new jobs and training opportunities for the people of the region, adding that Nigeria is more important to them because of the level of growth of their hotels in the country.

"With the kind of relationship we have in Nigeria we hope to double the number of our hotels in the years to come which will create opportunity for many people including those that are working in the country.


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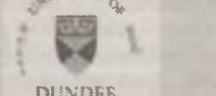
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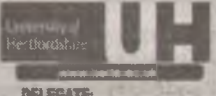
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Business/Energy

Jonathan is very serious about power — Minister

By Ben Atonko

IMPROVING power generation and transmission across the country is one of the biggest things the Jonathan government is pursuing vigorously, Minister of Special Duties, Navy Captain Caleb Olubolade said on Wednesday.

Exchanging views with the Minister of Defence, Prince Adetokunbo Kayode, during a familiarisation visit to the defence minister, Olubolade maintained, "We will monitor ongoing projects, especially power project to ensure that they are executed satisfactorily."

He sought the collaboration of the defence ministry in the endeavour. The defence minister promised full support.

The special duties minister was accompanied by the Director General of the National Lottery Regulatory Commission (NLRC), Mr Peter Igho.

Olubolade also visited the Minister of Works Alhaji Sanusi Daghush where discussions were held behind closed door.

The Ministry of Power has been without minister since 17th March 2010 when Acting President Goodluck Jonathan dissolved the cabinet.

The acting president announced a new crop of ministers on 6th April 2010 declaring that he himself would take over affairs of the power ministry. But with numerous responsibilities before Jonathan, many wonder how he will effectively discharge the duties of a power minister beside his presidential schedules.

Critics liken his action to what former President Olusegun Obasanjo did, combining presidential duties with those of the petroleum ministry.



'Investors in electric power should get 10 years tax holiday'

FROM Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

THE Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry has urged the Federal Government to grant a minimum of 10 years tax holidays to all investors in the power sector.

President of the Chamber Ounba Femi Deru who spoke at a press conference in Lagos yesterday said the development became necessary in order to boost the sector and ensure efficient supply of power to Nigerians.

Canvassing for diversification of the nation's power sources, Deru advised that all equipments necessary for the deployment of these sources should be exempted from import duties, levies and taxation. "We need to take urgent steps to diversify our energy sources away from gas. Excessive concentration on gas powered station constitutes a major risk to the power sector and the economy. We should begin to quickly focus on other sources such as coal, solar, wind, hydro and nuclear energy sources".

Deru commended the decision of Acting President Goodluck Jonathan to supervise the power ministry, adding that the development is a reflection of his appreciation of the critical nature of the sector and the extent of the challenges.

PHCN worried over vandalism in Kaduna

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

THE Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) has expressed worry over the incessant attack of its equipment in Kaduna by unknown persons. The company said the act was responsible for the problem of power supply in the state.

The business manager of Barnawa business unit of the company, Engineer Kabir Ado, who stated this during a customer consultative council meeting said the acts have assumed a new dimension. "These incessant acts of vandalism assume various dimensions ranging from stealing cables, siphoning of transformer oil as well as vandalism of High Tension cables which put our numerous customers in darkness. They take the cables to panteka market where they melt it and use it for other things," he said.

He enjoined customers to assist in safeguarding the installation of the company from being vandalized by forming vigilante groups in their various localities, adding that safeguarding the equipment was a civic responsibility which should be exercised to eradicate vandalism.

PHCN boss challenges workers on ethical values

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

THE Managing Director of Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN), Engineer Hussein Labo, has challenged staff of the company on the need to imbibe ethical values in the discharge of their duties.

He said the development would go a long way in not only fighting corruption but also rebranding the operations of PHCN.

Labo spoke in Lagos Wednesday at a two-day retreat on anti-corruption and transparency unit (ACUT) with the theme: "Sustaining the campaign against

corruption in PHCN" and emphasised the need to create a system of value that rejects abuse of public position to pecuniary gain.

The MD who was represented by the Executive Director of Finance and Administration Mr Pius Apuye also said that PHCN need to redouble its efforts to re-brand the sector.

The PHCN boss said that if the war against corruption must be sustained in the power company, it must be holistic inward looking and must emerge as a deliberate and conscious effort by all ACTU members of PHCN present here.

He said that the retreat was designed to re-engineer and re-

invigorate the tempo of activities in all the ACUTs. "We need to brainstorm, co-coordinated push operating from all fronts. To this extent, the organizer of this all important ACTU retreat deserve very warm congratulations for bringing together these and women of impeccable character to dialogue on the way forward in chatting and harmonised a new plan for ACTU in PHCN.

"We are all aware of the damaging effects of corruption on our society. It has remained the bane of our growth and development as a nation and so I considered today's event as a contribution by the management of PHCN in

eradicating corrupt practices in our private and public life.

Speaking chairman, Anti-corruption and Transparency Unit (ACTU) Mr Christopher Enendu said that he was particular inspired by the commitment and selfless interest demonstrated by the management of the PHCN in sustaining the campaign against corruption.

"We are all aware of the damaging effects of corruption on our society"

Business/Energy

Jonathan govt will fix electric power — Minister

Architect Nuhu Somo Wya last week resumed as the minister of state in the Power Ministry which is now under the direct supervision of the acting President. Shortly after addressing staff of the Ministry he fielded questions from energy reporters on a wide range of issues affecting the electric power sector. Our reporter was there.



ARCHITECT Nuhu Somo Wya

By Fidelis Mac-Leva

YOU described at your handover your coming back to the ministry as a return journey to a normal course. What and what would constitute your immediate priority towards giving Nigerians the much needed power?

Like I said, we are back to a normal course. We have a mandate to improve electricity to the generality of Nigerians. I have been appointed minister of State (Junior Minister) under the direct supervision of the Acting President. I must say that the Acting President has passion for power as an individual and he is very concerned for the development of this nation.

Without power we cannot have any meaningful development. Our immediate objective would be to improve on power to the generality of Nigerians, get sufficient gas, re-enforce our transmission and distribution network, to ensure that whatever has been put on ground is improved upon and sustained, to create an enabling environment for the private sector to come in to invest and to make the power sector a very conducive environment for both the present and new participants in the sector. We are going to explore in the medium term, other sources of power. We have many dams that are already constructed by water resources and they have hydro electricity potentials. We are going to tap into those resources so that we can give Nigerians more electricity and electricity delivered to the point of consumption.

Does this new structure imply that the Acting President has declared the so-called emergency in the power sector?

There is no declaration of state of emergency. But we are working in an emergency manner. We are getting all the stakeholders involved to participate in this committee because power is a chain of many stakeholders. From the fuel to the generation, to the transmission, to the distribution and to

the consumers, people are involved. The oil companies are in charge of the fuel, the water resources are in charge of the water, because these are the two types of fuel that we need for the power sector at the moment. The fuel would come from the oil companies and water for the hydro electricity power plants. They are going to be involved. We are getting the Central Bank of Nigeria to be involved to facilitate our transactions, as most of our accounts at the apex bank. We also want to sort out issues about clearing our goods, to also ensure that whoever is giving us power, his investment is protected.

We have the Bureau for Public Procurement which is also part of the Committee to ensure that procurement is processed quickly. We have the Ministry of Finance which is in charge of financing our operations so that whenever there are challenges, the ministry will handle it quickly and then we have people from the private sector that are coming to assist us. So, we expect that the Presidential Advisory Committee on Power with the Acting President as Chairman and me as Deputy Chairman will ensure that all issues militating against the prompt execution of power projects are concluded within the shortest possible time.

How does this committee intend to tackle the issue of gas that has defiled all efforts in the past?

The major issues, as I understand, are those of where gas is available in the eastern flank of the country and there are not enough plants to consume all the gas whereas, in the western flank, we have so many plants without gas. There is a need for a connection between the two lines because they are two parallel lines. That committee, which the ministry is part of will fast track that line so that gas can circulate both sides. We will ensure that there is no gas shortage. Where there is shortage, we will ensure that we get from the other side and vice-versa. The vandalism of the pipelines, we are partnering with ministry of defence also to ensure that the amnesty programme brings peace to the Niger Delta so that there will be no more vandalism.

Recently, the Kaduna State Governor was quoted as saying that Rural Electrification has been handed over to states. Can you confirm this and what is the ministry's plan for the Rural Electrification Agency?

Nobody can tell you that there is no rural electrification. It is the system of going about rural electrification that we are addressing. It is the agency that we are addressing. We believe that rural electrification can best be addressed by the distribution companies. There are 11 distribution companies. They are the ones that connect people to the grid. What we had before was an agency that was sitting in Abuja going to award contracts to people to do rural electrification without a connection to the distribution companies that are in charge of delivering the power to the people. We are saying that there should be a re-think. Who is in charge of giving the power and who are in charge of giving the power to the people?

They are the engineers, even better engineers from the Power Holding Company of Nigeria. Is that assignment not better handled by the distribution companies who are nearer to the people, who are going to run the system; who are going to manage the infrastructure at the end of the day? So, what we are doing is dismantling the rural electrification agency and establishing a rural electrification bench in each of these eleven distribution companies to ensure that our people in the rural communities do enjoy electricity. They are also entitled to electricity such like any other person. The concept of saying that the federal government has handed over rural electrification to states is not true. The federal government is very concerned about delivering electricity to the rural communities.

Where state governments want to fast track the execu-

tion of rural electrification project because of restriction or limitation in budget provision by the federal government, yes! If a state governor wants to fast track the completion of a rural electrification project in his state, we are supposed to be partners in progress; same thing applies to local governments which may want to fast track the completion of any such project in their domain. We are ready to partner with anybody to ensure that there is power to every Nigerian.

How does the failed Presidential mandate of 6000MW target of last year play out in this new Power Committee arrangement?

I do not want to delve into the issue of figure. We have a committee. We have not sat as a committee yet. The committee is being chaired by the Acting President, my boss. I will not want to comment on any figure yet, because it will be a team work. We will unfold our plans to Nigerians as soon as possible. But, let me assure you that there will be remarkable improvement in electricity to Nigerians in the shortest time possible.

What is the fate of the National Integration Power Projects (NIPP) to which contracts running into billions were awarded the other time?

Yes, NIPPs are going very well. All the projects are on course. Some of the units will deliver power within this year, but the bulk of them will deliver power next year. Everything is going on according to plan. The company, NIPP is a well established company. It is operating on its own. The Steering Council of the NIPP has now been converted into a Governing Board of the NIPP. They report directly to the board. The Ministry of Power is a member of the board.

What about the issue of Power Purchase Agreements (PPA)? Another issue of concern is the vacuum at the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission that is discouraging private investors from coming in?

These are some of the issues that the committee is looking into. The PPA and other related issues will be looked into thoroughly. The reforms in the sector will come back on board. That is why we are having BPE as parts of the Committee. I assure you that Nigerians are going to smile because this is a Committee that is made up of very serious minded Nigerians and experts in the power sector chaired by His Excellency, the Acting President himself. The NERC issue, like you know, is still in court, but we are going to look into it with a view to fast tracking greater service to the public. We are conscious of the fact that without a well constituted NERC investors cannot come into the sector.

What about the MYTO funds that is supposed to end next year? The whole idea was that power would have improved. Now that power has not improved, what would happen? Would government take the burden of paying the N11 subsidy for Nigerians?

Like I have said, part of the issues that the committee will consider would be to look at all the issues in their total ramifications. If we get to our destination by next year, there may be no need to review it. If we do not get to our destination, the committee will have to think of the way forward.

“That committee, which the ministry is part of will fast track that line so that gas can circulate both sides. We will ensure that there is no gas shortage. Where there is shortage, we will ensure that we get from the other side and vice-versa.”

Business/Commerce



FROM left: Senator Sylvester Anyanwu, Chairman, Senate Committee on Communication; Alain Sainte-Marie, Chief Executive Officer, Zain Nigeria; and Shamel Hanafi, Chief Commercial Officer, Zain Nigeria, during the 2010 Trade Partners Awards at which Zain's outstanding Distributors were rewarded for their performance in Abuja, Nigeria...recently.

Traders want Export Act repealed

By Sunday Williams

THE National Association of Nigerian Traders (NANTS) has expressed its support for the bill to repeal the Export (Prohibition) Act No. 7 of 1989 which is presently going on at the House of Representatives.

The Act absolutely prohibits the export of certain items such as: beans, cassava tuber, maize, rice, yam tuber and all derivatives of the items.

The bill which was initiated by the House Committee on Commerce is currently going through the second reading and is expected to be presented to the joint House for final reading and passage very soon.

NANTS parliamentary liaison officer, Ifeoma Ijemba

said their support for the legislation is borne out of the fact that the repeal will spur local farmers to strive to expand their production base (improved capacity).

She said it will make the farmers seek ways to improve on standards that meet export criteria, engage more hands, expand our foreign exchange earnings base, promote the birth and resurgent of auxiliary industries and ultimately improve farmers earning thereby reducing poverty.

She said: "In essence, the Bill will help to deepen the practice for the value-addition for locally produced goods. It has been noted that, all things being equal, auxiliary industries will emerge to seek more inventive ways to use these itemized produces to create new markets."

NACCIMA okays 2010 budget

By Sunday Williams

THE 2010 Federal budget of N4.6 trillion recently passed by the National Assembly is adequate to take care of the activities in the various sectors of the Nigerian economy, the President of Nigerian Association of Chambers Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA) has said.

Dr. Simon Okolo made the remarks at the 5th Abuja international trade fair with the theme: "Economic reforms as a panacea to restoring investor's confidence."

Represented by NACCIMA Vice President/President KACCIMA, Hajia Saratu Aliyu, the Chambers urged the government to ensure that the budget is fully implemented in order to bring about rapid and sustainable economic growth as well attract more FDI into the country.

He appealed to the government through its various reforms to ensure the full restoration of investors' confidence in Nigeria as well chart a new course for the country's sustainable national

growth and development.

He called on government at all levels to ensure the enhancement and development of the private sector by putting in place appropriate policies that will make business to thrive in the country.

Speaking earlier, the first Deputy President of ABUCCIMA, Engr. Solomon Nyagba said as organized private sector, they appreciate some of the steps taken by government to create good business environment but added that more need to be done especially in the area of infrastructure.

He regretted that during the last ten years that the power sector has been going through challenges, government has continued to deploy non-professionals to supervise the power sector.

"During the last ten years the power sector has been going through very deep crises yet all the supervising ministers of power have been non-Engineers. The situation is bound to compound the effective and efficient management of the current energy crises in Nigeria," he said.

BGL, CONSCCIMA partner on dev in North

By Sunday Williams

IN a renewed effort to bring economic development to the Northern Nigeria, the Conference of Northern States Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (CONSCCIMA) has entered into a partnership with the nation's leading investment banking institution, BGL Plc with a view to attracting investments into the area.

The hint was dropped by the Chairman of CONSCCIMA, Alhaji Jani Ibrahim at the annual general meeting of the Conference in Minna, Niger State, a statement from General Manager, IMS/PR Limited Sayo Akintola said.

The statement said that the partnership with BGL would facilitate the development of the infrastructure in Northern Nigeria with particular emphasis on Energy and agriculture infrastructure.

To this end, he said CONSCCIMA has entered into an agreement with BGL Plc and Studiocraft Limited, publishers of Energy News to develop a three-year programme to attract huge investments towards the development of the infrastructure in Northern Nigeria particularly in the areas of Energy and Agriculture infrastructure.

"It is our firm belief that at the end of this process the public private sector partnership that will be developed will

greatly enhance the capacity of Northern Nigeria to be able to be the leading contributor to Nigeria's quest to be among the top 20 economies by the year 2020", he said.

The Group Managing Director/CEO of BGL Plc, Albert Okumagba disclosed that BGL and Studiocraft would begin the process with an annual CONSCCIMA conference and exhibition with an opportunity to develop Northern Nigeria by focusing on development in CONSCCIMA focus areas.

According to Okumagba who was represented by BGL's Head of Investment Banking Sales & Distribution, Olumide Bolumole, the event, with the support of the 19 State Governments, will showcase he numerous investment opportunities to prospective investors as well as technical partners.

Okumagba added that the event would comprise of various focused technical sessions and exhibitions occurring simultaneously paving the way for relevant discussions between key participants as well as allowing investors to get an in-depth exposure to various opportunities.

"Investors will have the opportunity to have private meetings with project sponsors and vice versa for the purpose of attaining an in-depth knowledge of projects", he said.

SON seals 8 steel firms

THE Standard Organisation of Nigeria (SON) has sealed eight steel companies in Lagos for producing sub-standard iron rods and steel materials.

A correspondent of the NAN who accompanied officials of the Enforcement Unit of SON, reports that the companies were located in Ikorodu and Ogba areas of Lagos.

Mr. Sulaiman Isa, the Head of the unit, said the clamp down was to check the incidences of building collapse in the country.

He said the action would discourage the use of sub-standard iron rods and other materials in building construction in the country.

Isa said that SON decided to seal the companies after they failed to meet the minimum industrial standards in spite of a series of meetings.

He said the companies failed to meet the NIS 117:2004 standard while their products lacked the required strength and other chemical properties.

"All efforts to encourage and persuade them to comply fell on deaf ears. So, the

closure is the last resort.

"We do not have any option than to close the companies to save the lives of Nigerians and their properties.

"Although it is the policy of SON and the Federal Government to encourage local manufacturers to generate employment, the government cannot fold its arms and allow the production of sub-standard steel bars," Isa said.

Some of the affected companies are Phoenix Steel Mills Ltd., Metafrigue Ltd., Sunflag Steel Ltd., Mayor Engineering Ltd., Craft Ltd, and Sankyo Ltd.

Workers in some of the companies expressed satisfaction with the closure, alleging that they were working in unfriendly environment and were poorly paid.

Mr Emma Adekoya, a graduate in engineering and father of two children, told NAN that they were not provided with safety materials like boots and safety helmets to work with.

"We support and appreciate the efforts of SON to bring sanity to the steel industry," he said. (NAN).

ta dawo!

garabasar

9ja taik 4 free



yi magana na minti daya, ka samu minti daya kyauta!

babu gasar mai rabo ka dauka

- Sayi layin etisalat daga shagunanmu na etisalat mafi kusa ko dillalanmu
- Saka kudi a layinka na etisalat ka kirawo layin etisalat
- Samu kyautar kashi dari bisa dari na mintinan da ka kira daga layin etisalat zuwa etisalat
- A takaice zamu mayar maka da minti daya kyauta! na duk minti daya (dakika 60) da ka kashe daga layinmu na etisalat zuwa etisalat
- Yi amfani da kyautar mintinanka ka kirawo ko wanene akan layin etisalat kyauta!

Saboda haka me kake jira? garzaya yanzu ka sayi layin etisalat ka fara magana don ka samu kyautar mintinan kira

*Wannan garabasar a bude take ga duk masu amfani da layin etisalat na easy starter ko easy cliq

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Travelogue

Western Sahara: humanity in cups

Recently, **Is'haq Modibbo Kawu** travelled to the Western Sahara, where he witnessed the highly symbolic tea drinking habits of the people there.



TEA is ready and the process of pouring the different cups commences.

DESERT life is not your average cup of tea, and there is no intended pun here! The refugees of the camps of the Western Sahara live a very difficult life, torn as they are from their homeland. The days roll by, day in, day out. The Moroccan occupation grinds away, eating up the resources of the occupied country: Phosphate

riches and some of the best fishing resources in the Mediterranean Sea. The impasse between the occupation and the forces of national liberation is all there is at the political level, since the strategic decision was taken to end the armed struggle, and work instead, for a referendum to determine the fate of the Western Sahara.

Tea brewing and drinking have

become an avenue to while away time, as well as catch up on whatever news there was about life, if refugee existence can be so described. But the human spirit is incredibly resilient, and in the camps of the Western Sahara, they express that resilience in cups of tea! The ceremony around tea is one that you immediately get used to, if you visit with the Saharawi peo-

ple. For as long as you are with them, you will drink tea and the cups come in waves! They have a saying about tea in the Western Sahara. A visitor ends up drinking a total of three cups in the first wave. The taste of each cup varies: coming first is the very strong and bitter cup. That first cup is said to be as bitter as life. Saharawi existence resembles the bitterness of life,



THE preparation of tea never stops, for as first at fir Lehtu, and the process is repeats

what with continued occupation of their country and the years they have had to endure refugee existence. The second cup will come within a fifteen minute interval, and it is not quite as bitter as the first cup; in fact, it is smooth tasting. Well, they say it is as smooth as death! Who can doubt

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“Tea brewing and drinking is a way to while away time. When there was a news there was a be so described.

Expressions of of desert tea



ing as there are visitors to serve: A new woman takes the place of the old.

experiences of pain, death, longing and hope for freedom. Discussions are unrelenting, and there is a lot of laughter and exchange of opinions. Saharawi people are remarkable hosts. They abandon their tents for the visitor, with a total surrender which touches the depth of your own emotions, because deep down you know these people do not have much in terms of material possessions. But for them, they are extremely delighted that you have been moved by their condition, to have travelled from so far away. The hospitality is therefore heart-felt and sincere. Maybe, fifteen minutes later and the third cup of tea is served. This third cup is the sweetest and it is not a mistake. The third cup of tea is said to be sweet as love!

Love is the motif of existence for the people here. There is unrestrained love of the homeland

and that is why people can willingly make the sacrifice which marks daily life here. And there is also romantic love, of course. The Saharawi population is quite young and the young people are the future of these people. They are in school; some are learning trades and yet others are cultural workers, while many are also in the army. The building blocks of a nation are being carefully constructed by the POLISSARIO movement, and these efforts draw in the young men and women of the Sahara. There is therefore a lot of space for the romantic expression of love as well, but it is not vulgarly expressed. It is as smooth as that third cup of Saharawi tea!

From the February 27th camp in the south west of Algeria, through to the liberated zone of Western Sahara in Bir Lehlu, tea brewing and drinking rituals have a very similar pattern. We got sucked

into it, because you cannot run away from this expression of solidarity. For me, the problem was that it went a long way to worsen my insomnia, but I could not resist the three cups: one is bitter as life; the second is smooth as death, while the third is as sweet as love. There is a deeply philosophical undertone to these descriptions, because they speak to our human experiences of the life process. We are stalked by the bitterness of the life process; death takes away life in well, a smooth manner, according to the Saharawi people. Then we enjoy the sweet taste of love, or don't we, at least for as long as it lasts! So in expressions of desert hospitality, the Saharawi people also teach lessons of life, as they have learnt them within the in hospitable environments of the deserts. Truly, there is no one way of being human; and furthermore, there can be no inferior or superior human tradition.



'THE third cup of tea is said to be sweet as love!'

description, coming from a people who have had a fair share of martyrdom, in the struggle to achieve freedom and independence.

The significant thing about the rituals around tea is that it is not sexist. A man could

take up the challenge of brewing the tea or it might be a woman. Usually, people gather around, and amongst the Saharawi dwellers of the desert, there is no forcible segregation of the sexes. Men and women freely mingle, and there is a flow with a rhythm of life, that is underscored by shared

drinking have become an avenue to catch up on whatever about life, if refugee existence can

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(Source: APT Securities)

Thursday, April 15, 2010

| STOCK Name | Prev Day Close | Open | High | Low | Price | Change | Deals | Volume Traded | Value |
|------------|----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|---------------|----------------|
| ZUP | 39.03 | 40.98 | 40.98 | 40.98 | 40.98 | 1.95 | 34 | 325,916 | 13,320,922.00 |
| ABCTRANS | 1.23 | 1.18 | 1.18 | 1.17 | 1.17 | -0.06 | 19 | 358,103 | 423,941.38 |
| ACCESS | 10.70 | 10.28 | 10.60 | 10.21 | 10.50 | -0.20 | 267 | 7,464,395 | 77,372,104.00 |
| AFRIBANK | 3.25 | 3.09 | 3.41 | 3.09 | 3.09 | -0.16 | 154 | 10,012,630 | 31,764,042.00 |
| AFRINSURE | 0.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.50 | 0.00 | 1 | 20,000 | 10,000.00 |
| AFROMEDIA | 0.55 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.55 | 0.00 | 1 | 2,000 | 1,140.00 |
| AGLEVENT | 5.10 | 5.35 | 5.35 | 4.99 | 4.99 | -0.11 | 36 | 879,737 | 4,512,622.50 |
| AIICO | 1.71 | 1.79 | 1.79 | 1.63 | 1.63 | -0.08 | 255 | 22,450,142 | 38,159,572.00 |
| AIRSERVICE | 3.36 | 3.52 | 3.52 | 3.52 | 3.52 | 0.16 | 32 | 931,500 | 3,278,880.00 |
| ALUMACO | 9.02 | 8.57 | 8.57 | 8.57 | 8.57 | -0.45 | 1 | 50,001 | 428,508.56 |
| AP | 43.39 | 43.01 | 43.01 | 41.23 | 43.00 | -0.39 | 185 | 1,359,758 | 57,640,320.00 |
| ASHAKACEM | 24.90 | 23.66 | 23.66 | 23.66 | 23.66 | -1.24 | 41 | 1,276,618 | 30,204,782.00 |
| ASOSAVINGS | 0.64 | 0.67 | 0.67 | 0.61 | 0.66 | 0.02 | 118 | 48,973,925 | 31,578,216.00 |
| BAGCO | 3.62 | 3.46 | 3.80 | 3.46 | 3.75 | 0.13 | 613 | 5,489,694 | 20,033,870.00 |
| BCC | 66.70 | 64.00 | 64.00 | 63.81 | 63.81 | -2.89 | 52 | 651,399 | 41,679,608.00 |
| BECOPETRO | 1.65 | 1.60 | 1.63 | 1.60 | 1.63 | -0.02 | 35 | 645,576 | 1,052,338.75 |
| BERGER | 7.21 | 7.57 | 7.57 | 7.57 | 7.57 | 0.36 | 33 | 470,307 | 3,439,571.00 |
| BETAGLAS | 16.41 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 16.41 | 0.00 | 1 | 1,215 | 18,941.85 |
| BIGTREAT | 1.22 | 1.26 | 1.26 | 1.16 | 1.16 | -0.06 | 91 | 3,973,239 | 4,748,447.00 |
| CADBURY | 19.45 | 18.80 | 18.80 | 18.80 | 18.80 | -0.65 | 86 | 412,483 | 7,785,148.00 |
| CAP | 29.67 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 29.67 | 0.00 | 3 | 1,138 | 33,764.46 |
| CAPOIL | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.52 | 0.50 | 0.50 | -0.01 | 22 | 1,396,965 | 709,555.81 |
| CCNN | 23.25 | 22.09 | 22.09 | 22.09 | 22.09 | -1.16 | 25 | 280,490 | 6,196,024.00 |
| CHAMS | 1.01 | 1.06 | 1.06 | 0.96 | 1.06 | 0.05 | 210 | 19,522,631 | 20,393,630.00 |
| CHEVRON | 69.79 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 69.79 | 0.00 | 3 | 9,998 | 732,553.44 |
| CILEASING | 4.18 | 4.36 | 4.36 | 3.98 | 3.98 | -0.20 | 49 | 2,660,564 | 11,033,758.00 |
| CONOIL | 46.20 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 46.20 | 0.00 | 30 | 33,412 | 1,584,958.75 |
| CONTINSURE | 0.99 | 0.99 | 1.02 | 0.96 | 0.96 | -0.03 | 27 | 9,635,000 | 9,397,652.00 |
| CORNERST | 0.69 | 0.72 | 0.72 | 0.72 | 0.72 | 0.03 | 22 | 4,910,435 | 3,535,513.25 |
| COSTAIN | 8.25 | 7.84 | 7.84 | 7.84 | 7.84 | -0.41 | 112 | 3,585,256 | 28,108,408.00 |
| COURTVILLE | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.00 | 3 | 213,500 | 106,750.00 |
| CRUSADER | 0.94 | 0.94 | 0.94 | 0.90 | 0.90 | -0.04 | 21 | 3,366,859 | 3,039,782.00 |
| CUSTODYINS | 3.61 | 3.52 | 3.70 | 3.51 | 3.70 | 0.09 | 12 | 360,368 | 1,286,191.62 |
| CUTIX | 3.42 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3.42 | 0.00 | 3 | 9,000 | 32,310.00 |
| DAARCOMM | 1.58 | 1.65 | 1.65 | 1.51 | 1.51 | -0.07 | 111 | 7,440,353 | 12,113,634.00 |
| DANGFLOUR | 23.00 | 22.50 | 22.85 | 21.85 | 22.01 | -0.99 | 779 | 11,636,402 | 256,524,432.00 |
| DANGSUGAR | 19.90 | 19.10 | 19.10 | 18.91 | 18.93 | -0.97 | 117 | 1,501,478 | 28,461,876.00 |
| DIAMONDBNK | 9.70 | 9.56 | 9.70 | 9.52 | 9.61 | -0.09 | 166 | 6,336,327 | 60,536,776.00 |
| ECOBANK | 6.50 | 6.21 | 6.30 | 6.18 | 6.18 | -0.32 | 70 | 1,422,493 | 8,833,820.00 |
| EQUITYASUR | 0.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.50 | 0.00 | 4 | 29,700 | 14,850.00 |
| ETERNAOIL | 8.39 | 8.60 | 8.60 | 8.31 | 8.31 | -0.08 | 62 | 502,316 | 4,234,856.50 |
| ETI | 20.00 | 20.00 | 20.00 | 19.50 | 19.50 | -0.50 | 32 | 1,461,225 | 28,918,464.00 |
| EVANSMED | 1.64 | 1.72 | 1.72 | 1.72 | 1.72 | 0.08 | 35 | 1,874,798 | 3,224,652.50 |
| FCMB | 9.00 | 8.56 | 8.80 | 8.55 | 8.80 | -0.20 | 53 | 1,000,572 | 8,579,664.00 |
| FIDELITYBK | 3.01 | 2.95 | 3.16 | 2.95 | 2.98 | -0.03 | 191 | 8,477,092 | 25,612,712.00 |
| FIDSON | 3.60 | 3.42 | 3.42 | 3.42 | 3.42 | -0.18 | 50 | 966,897 | 3,389,257.00 |
| FIRSTALUM | 0.54 | 0.52 | 0.52 | 0.52 | 0.52 | -0.02 | 8 | 281,951 | 149,862.56 |
| FIRSTBANK | 16.21 | 15.89 | 16.16 | 15.87 | 16.16 | -0.05 | 1118 | 22,068,337 | 352,055,904.00 |
| FIRSTINLND | 0.75 | 0.74 | 0.74 | 0.72 | 0.72 | -0.03 | 56 | 2,648,503 | 1,916,321.12 |
| GLAXOSMITH | 26.63 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 26.63 | 0.00 | 10 | 15,059 | 398,596.16 |
| GNI | 0.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.50 | 0.00 | 2 | 500 | 250.00 |
| GOLDINSURE | 0.95 | 0.91 | 0.91 | 0.91 | 0.91 | -0.04 | 24 | 2,985,760 | 2,717,041.50 |
| GTAASSURE | 3.04 | 3.04 | 3.04 | 2.89 | 2.89 | -0.15 | 30 | 2,678,200 | 7,773,507.00 |
| GUARANTY | 22.05 | 22.00 | 22.57 | 21.98 | 22.36 | 0.31 | 616 | 10,597,733 | 234,475,824.00 |
| HMARKINS | 0.54 | 0.56 | 0.56 | 0.52 | 0.54 | 0.00 | 41 | 8,595,704 | 4,686,950.00 |
| INTENEGINS | 0.73 | 0.75 | 0.76 | 0.70 | 0.71 | -0.02 | 196 | 55,495,237 | 41,030,656.00 |
| INTERCONT | 2.06 | 2.01 | 2.16 | 2.00 | 2.10 | 0.04 | 128 | 6,532,108 | 13,599,830.00 |
| IPWA | 1.20 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.20 | 0.00 | 1 | 40,000 | 45,600.00 |
| JAPAUOIL | 2.08 | 1.98 | 1.98 | 1.98 | 1.98 | -0.10 | 499 | 26,127,361 | 51,732,176.00 |
| JBERGER | 46.20 | 46.40 | 48.51 | 43.90 | 48.51 | 2.31 | 101 | 5,162,961 | 240,181,728.00 |
| LINKASSURE | 0.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.50 | 0.00 | 2 | 43,000 | 21,500.00 |
| MOBIL | 130.83 | 137.37 | 137.37 | 137.37 | 137.37 | 6.54 | 24 | 146,289 | 20,095,720.00 |
| NEIMETH | 2.34 | 2.45 | 2.45 | 2.45 | 2.45 | 0.11 | 38 | 504,265 | 1,235,449.25 |
| NIGERINS | 0.97 | 1.01 | 1.01 | 1.01 | 1.01 | 0.04 | 24 | 1,318,061 | 1,331,241.62 |
| OANDO | 110.25 | 115.76 | 115.76 | 110.25 | 111.31 | 1.06 | 401 | 7,042,537 | 804,292,288.00 |
| OASISINS | 0.93 | 0.89 | 0.89 | 0.89 | 0.89 | -0.04 | 1 | 500,000 | 445,000.00 |
| OCEANIC | 2.09 | 2.01 | 2.09 | 1.99 | 2.09 | 0.00 | 209 | 9,499,000 | 19,140,062.00 |
| PZ | 31.26 | 30.99 | 30.99 | 30.99 | 30.99 | -0.27 | 54 | 368,929 | 11,205,971.00 |
| REGALINS | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.00 | 3 | 218,480 | 109,240.00 |
| SKYBANK | 7.89 | 7.92 | 7.95 | 7.80 | 7.95 | 0.06 | 177 | 8,613,288 | 67,929,144.00 |
| SOVRENINS | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.00 | 22 | 7,050,314 | 3,525,157.00 |
| SPRINGBANK | 1.03 | 1.08 | 1.08 | 1.08 | 1.08 | 0.05 | 13 | 130,193 | 139,096.34 |
| STDINSURE | 0.60 | 0.61 | 0.62 | 0.57 | 0.62 | 0.02 | 90 | 15,465,735 | 9,233,663.00 |
| STERLNBANK | 2.50 | 2.38 | 2.38 | 2.38 | 2.38 | -0.12 | 15 | 896,177 | 2,132,901.25 |
| TOTAL | 167.73 | 176.11 | 176.11 | 176.11 | 176.11 | 8.38 | 13 | 266,373 | 46,910,948.00 |
| TRANSCORP | 0.52 | 0.51 | 0.54 | 0.50 | 0.53 | 0.01 | 64 | 9,968,349 | 5,215,093.50 |
| TRIPPLEG | 4.37 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4.37 | 0.00 | 1 | 2,000 | 8,320.00 |
| UAC-PROP | 25.00 | 25.01 | 25.01 | 25.00 | 25.00 | 0.00 | 31 | 579,461 | 14,489,687.00 |
| UACN | 56.89 | 54.05 | 54.05 | 54.05 | 54.05 | -2.84 | 85 | 1,073,764 | 58,047,460.00 |
| UBA | 16.51 | 16.54 | 16.98 | 16.52 | 16.94 | 0.43 | 427 | 25,030,173 | 418,787,264.00 |
| UBN | 6.20 | 6.18 | 6.18 | 5.89 | 5.90 | -0.30 | 207 | 4,747,495 | 28,320,324.00 |
| UNHOMES | 1.03 | 1.03 | 1.07 | 0.98 | 1.00 | -0.03 | 86 | 9,159,956 | 9,279,037.00 |
| UNIC | 0.99 | 0.99 | 0.99 | 0.98 | 0.98 | -0.01 | 21 | 3,148,370 | 3,116,066.50 |
| UNILEVER | 27.50 | 26.25 | 26.50 | 26.25 | 26.50 | -1.00 | 60 | 618,472 | 16,274,435.00 |
| UNIONDAC | 0.98 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.96 | 0.99 | 0.01 | 83 | 7,027,413 | 6,943,037.00 |
| UNITYBNK | 1.15 | 1.10 | 1.10 | 1.10 | 1.10 | -0.05 | 22 | 252,214 | 277,435.41 |
| UNITYKAP | 0.60 | 0.60 | 0.60 | 0.60 | 0.60 | 0.00 | 3 | 1,801,000 | 1,080,600.00 |
| UNIVINSURE | 0.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.50 | 0.00 | 4 | 70,000 | 35,000.00 |
| UPL | 7.99 | 7.60 | 8.00 | 7.60 | 8.00 | 0.01 | 23 | 391,626 | 3,000,257.50 |
| UTC | 0.93 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.93 | 0.00 | 5 | 23,247 | 22,549.59 |
| VITAFUAM | 7.09 | 6.90 | 6.90 | 6.74 | 6.74 | -0.35 | 46 | 1,290,616 | 8,784,789.00 |
| WAPCO | 46.17 | 46.17 | 46.70 | 45.01 | 45.03 | -1.14 | 82 | 2,330,488 | 106,667,624.00 |
| WAPIC | 0.90 | 0.87 | 0.93 | 0.87 | 0.93 | 0.03 | 17 | 1,016,306 | 901,235.25 |
| WEMABANK | 1.27 | 1.21 | 1.23 | 1.21 | 1.21 | -0.06 | 78 | 5,150,062 | 6,242,933.00 |
| ZENITHBANK | 14.48 | 14.48 | 14.48 | 14.48 | 14.48 | 0.00 | 238 | 17,651,247 | 255,590,064.00 |

THE HOME FRONT

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Facts about elephantiasis

By Ogechi Ohalee

ELEPHANTIASIS is a disease caused by the inflammation of the fibrous connective tissue leading to excessive swelling of the leg, scrotum, arm or breast and more rarely other parts of the body. It is caused by the parasitic worm *Filaria* which blocks the lymph vessels, and at the same time causes irritation of the skin.

According to Dr. Taiwo Oyelade of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Abuja office "Elephantiasis or Lymphatic Filariasis is a rare disorder of the lymphatic system caused by parasitic worms such as *Wuchereria bancrofti*, *Brugia malayi*, and *B. timori*, all of which are transmitted by mosquitoes. It involves massive swelling of a limb or of the scrotum. The leg of an individual suffering from elephantiasis can become abnormally big."

The disease can be very painful. It causes the affected persons so much discomfort and reduces their ability to lead a normal life. A serious complication of elephantiasis can be obstructed blood vessel, which limits blood supply and causes the skin to become infected.

Symptoms

Dr. Oyelade said Elephantiasis is characterized by the gross enlargement of a limb. There is an abnormal accumulation of watery fluid in the tissues (edema) causing severe swelling. The skin usually develops a thickened, pebbly appearance and may become ulcerated and darkened. Fever, chills and a general feeling of ill health are one of the visible symptoms.

Elephantiasis may also affect the male and female genital organs. In a male, there may be enlargement of the scrotum, and the penis may be retracted under skin which has become thickened, non elastic, hot and painful. The external parts of the female genital organs (vulva) may also be affected by elephantiasis. A long, tumorous mass covered by thickened and ulcerated skin may develop between the thighs.

Causes

The extreme enlargement of the limbs and other areas of the body characterized by elephantiasis is the result of obstruction of the lymph flow and possibly of blood circulation. It is not definitely known if the parasite itself is the sole reason of the swelling, or if the fact that the immune system is working to fight the parasitic infection contributes to it. But the lymphatic blockage can



be due to recurrent attacks of a bacterial infection which causes inflammation of the lymphatic vessels.

When the lymphatic obstruction is large enough, back pressure in the lymphatic channels produces dilation of the superficial vessels, resulting in extreme

swelling. Without medical intervention, the cycle continues until the affected area is grotesquely enlarged. Death of surrounding tissues may also occur from an obstructed blood supply (gangrene).

The doctor said sometimes small chemical particles found in

the soil may enter the skin through the bare feet. These particles then lodge in the lymphatic tissues and produce irritating effects.

Prevention

Prevention of elephantiasis is very difficult, if not impossible, for people living in the areas where the causative nematodes are commonly found. Travelers to such areas can minimize exposure to the mosquito vectors through use of insect repellent and mosquito netting to avoid contact with the disease.

Treatment

Treatment could include chemotherapy to attack the adult worms as well as symptomatic treatment to repair damage caused by the body's reaction to the presence of dead worms.

Treatment of elephantiasis depends on the type of the disorder the person is afflicted with. There is medication designed to kill the parasite. Medicines must be taken early after the primary infection.

It involves massive swelling of a limb or of the scrotum. The leg of an individual suffering from elephantiasis can become abnormally big

Rape: How women are blamed

From Halima Musa, Kano

I was staying with a patient at the emergency unit of one of the hospitals in Kano when a girl of about 13 years was brought in. This young girl was raped, stabbed around her waist and if not for the timely intervention of some people, she was about to be thrown into a well by the rapist who is an elderly man in their ward. The culprit now in police custody had probably attempted killing the girl to preserve his 'honour'.

This is one among so many cases of minors being defiled by men of different ages. To defile a minor or rape a woman is indeed a traumatizing experience that brings about severe physical and psychological pain on her. It can also have serious reproductive consequences including unwanted pregnancies, complications in child birth, sexually transmitted infections including HIV/AIDS and even death.

This could probably be the reason why some people are advocating for death sentence as a punishment for rape cases. Women activist are at the forefront of condemning the act, saying it is one of the violence against women that got its root from gender bias.

I was at a wedding banquet when I overheard some women discussing about the high rate of rape cases in the society. They were particularly discussing the causes of the despicable act. It will perhaps baffle you to hear that instead of men, women were blamed for the crime.

One of the discussants, Asabe Musa, a civil servant said any time she hears of a rape case, the first thing that comes to her mind is rage. She becomes so bitter and wishes she could deal with the rapist herself. She added that the next thing was to blame the women for perpetuating the dastardly act. "I feel bad. I pity the victim most especially if she is a minor and I condemn the women that parade themselves naked in the nooks and crannies of our towns and villages in the name of fashion and modernism," she said.

Blaming the wanton display of nudity by women on the high cases of rape, she said by nature men could be easily provoked sexually by seeing nude or semi nude women. Asabe cited an incident her husband had told her about. She narrated that an old man was walking along the road when he beheld a lady in a provocative dress coming towards him, fascinated by what he saw the old man stopped walking and followed the lady with a lustful gaze until she disappeared. Having disappeared from his sight, the old man decided to continue with his movement. As he turned round to go, he noticed that some youths were watching him. When he saw them they all burst into laughter and said to him, 'this is you, father, what about young people like us?' She said, "The comment made by these



Rape victim

agile youths according to her was pregnant with meanings. It could be interpreted that men, generally are affected by the tantalizing dresses of these women. Another thing that can be envisaged from the comment is that only God knows what would follow; would that be the end of it or would it have led the young men to certain despicable actions?

Was an innocent child defiled because of the action of the older lady? Could it have endangered the sanctity and honour of the lady herself? Only God knows what the woman's dress had caused the old man and the robust young men."

According to her, if blame could be apportioned, women should carry 80% of the blame while 20% should go to the men. She however hastened to add, "But that does not mean the men should not be made to face the wrath of the law."

The other speaker said older women who expose their bodies to the men in the name of fashion were doing so at their own peril. "What they are doing can only expose them to the danger of being raped or their younger ones being defiled," she posited.

She explained that many agile youths could not get married because of the high cost of marriage, saying it was wrong that they should be provoked sexually by the womenfolk again.

Another woman, Salamatu Ibrahim described the way women dress as provocative. She condemned the companies that

are also using women to advertise their products. "The way our women are dressing these days is unfortunate. Whichever way one turns in our society, you sight naked and semi naked women. Some in mini wears, some in topless and sleeveless wears and others in tight fitting and transparent attires," she said.

Salamatu said the way the ladies dress is synonymous to advertising themselves to the opposite sex, "with this temptation everywhere, it will be hard for our society to be free of rape cases," she said.

She urged parents and government to find ways of curbing this menace that is fast emerging in different parts of our country.

A social worker in Kano who prefers anonymity also blamed the way women dress provocatively for cases of rape. "The provocation is too much. The man cannot get married because of the high cost of marriage. He is young and agile and all round him are naked and semi naked women, what can one expect from him?" he asked.

He therefore called on government to come up with a law that would ban indecently dressed people from entering government offices.

He said the same measure should be taken in all institutions of learning and any other public establishment. He also urged parents to stop the indecent dressing of their wards and children with a view to curbing the incessant cases of rape.

FRAGMENTS

By Safiya I. Dantiye
safiadantiye@yahoo.com

How can we trace phone calls?

IN my teens, I had always found it fascinating in crime and espionage novels how phone calls were traced to certain phone booths by detectives. This was a long time before the advent of mobile phones, then not every household had a telephone (now called land line).

Although it may be easy to trace phone calls made from land lines in Nigeria, it may not be so easy with the GSM. This is especially because they are not registered; a SIM card can be bought by the roadside. Some buy a new one to send abusive text messages to people or even call them to abuse them, and because SIM cards are cheap, they can afford to throw it away when they are done or even keep it until another need for it arises.

Since we don't have a policy to monitor such things, many people are threatened, and there is nothing they can do. Even in the case of kidnapping, the phones used by the kidnappers cannot be traced (though in some cases, they use their victims').

About three weeks ago, I came back from Kano. During the day, I had just laid down to get some rest when my phone rang with a hidden identity. There was a time I resolved not to answer such calls, because I considered it an insult for somebody to hide his number while he expects me to eagerly answer the call. I later realized from my sister whose call I refused to take because of a hidden ID, that she didn't know how it came about, because she never hid her identity in the first place. From that day I answered such calls even if guardedly, because it could be my children, relatives or other people I know whose phone play tricks with hidden ID.

"Is that Hajiya Safiya?" the caller asked in fluent Hausa.

"Yes," I answered.

"Are you at home now?"

"Yes," I said, and then I asked quickly, "Who is that?"

"You will soon know who the person is," he answered, and I switched off the phone in anger, wondering who this could be. Some people could be so uncouth, and this might be someone I have known and haven't seen for several years that learnt that I was in Kano and wanted to surprise me.

To see how some people could be so irresponsible was an instant few years ago where my heavily pregnant friend whose husband travelled was 'flashed' a couple of times with a number she didn't know. She became worried, thinking that her husband was involved in an accident, and she had no credit and nobody to send to buy for her. So in her condition, she picked her small son and trekked from the estate to a long distance for a commercial phone. You can imagine her anger when she called the number and the person answered that he was her primary school classmate and that he got her number from someone!

She said she asked him angrily why he couldn't call her instead of flashing, and told him not to call her again.

So assuming it could be such a person, I waited for about fifteen minutes then called my niece in Kano and asked her whether somebody had gone to see me and she said no, that was when I became worried, then I told our security guard to tell anyone who came asking after me that I was not around.

This could be a threat or as I initially believed just the foolishness of an innocent man, like my friend's primary school classmate, but if you want to trace such a call where do you begin, can the police and the GSM operators trace it, that is if the number appears, much less with hidden ID.

The following day a colleague called me with a strange number, I answered warily, and then he told me it was his other line. Even though I don't believe in refusing to take calls from strange numbers because it could be someone you know who wants to contact you urgently, like it happened several times with my children, there may be some wisdom in not answering strange phone calls after all.

Because if I were one of those people who did, I wouldn't have answered that call with a hidden ID which got me worried and made my sister call me several times after, asking if the man had called again. So the earlier we regulate things in this country, the better, we should stop that culture of anything-goes-in Nigeria.

“She said she asked him angrily why he couldn't call her instead of flashing, and told him not to call her again”

Health interactive

Write in confidence to healthinteractive@hotmail.com; www.healthinteractive.wordpress.com or send a text message to 080-89972539 or P.O.Box 14807, Kano, Nigeria

Advice by Dr Aminu Magashi

Pregnancy and diabetes

Is it true that a diabetic woman should not conceive, due to the risk attached to the pregnancy?

Thanks

NN

A Diabetic woman can conceive, only that she needs to be aware of the risks associated with pregnancy and take measures to prevent such from occurring.

Diabetes is a condition which is often detected in women during the childbearing years and can have a profound effect upon the health of both the mother and the unborn baby. When diabetes is out-of-control in a pregnant woman, there is an increase in the chances for birth defects and other problems for the baby, as well as difficulties and complications for the mother.

Diabetes is a condition in which the body is unable to convert the sugars and starches it takes in as food into energy. The pancreas either produces too little insulin or it is unable to utilize the insulin it does make in order to convert the sugars and starches into energy.

The result is the collection of the surplus sugar in the blood and the release of some of the sugar through the urine. The extra sugar in the blood system causes damage to organs such as the heart, eyes and kidneys, if it remains in the body too long.

The three most common types of diabetes are Type 1, Type 2, and Gestational diabetes. A person with Type 1 diabetes suffers with a pancreas that makes so little insulin that the body is unable to use blood sugar for energy. This type of diabetes requires daily insulin shots to control.

Type 2 diabetes is either the low production of insulin or the inability of the body to use the insulin it does make to convert blood sugar to energy. This type of diabetes is controlled through proper diet and regular exercise. Some people with this type of diabetes take pills or injections.

A pregnant woman who has never had diabetes may contract it while she is pregnant and this is called gestational diabetes. Proper diet, exercise and sometimes injections are used to control this type of diabetes which often disappears after the birth of the baby.

People with diabetes are susceptible to high blood pressure, kidney disease, nerve damage, heart disease and blindness. This type of damage usually happens in people whose blood sugar has been out of control for years. Also,

if the blood sugar is too high a diabetic coma may occur. Hypoglycemia, a case where the blood sugar is too low, can be dangerous as well. Both of these conditions, diabetic coma and hypoglycaemia, can be fatal. Controlling diabetes can help prevent damage or death.

If a pregnant woman with diabetes does not control the disease she may get some of the problems associated with diabetes, or those problems may become worse if she already has them. Diabetes that is out-of-control could lead to miscarriage or stillbirth. High blood pressure during pregnancy may cause an early birth, seizures or a stroke in the mother during labor and delivery. A woman may also produce too much amniotic fluid which also may lead to a premature birth. One of the common effects of out-of-control diabetes in a pregnant woman is that her baby grows too large or is born with birth defects.

Diabetes can be controlled. A woman who is pregnant and has diabetes does herself and her baby a great service by getting control of the disease prior to, and during, pregnancy.

Nipple discharge during pregnancy

I am a regular reader of your column. I am 5 months pregnant and milk keeps discharging from my breast. My doctor told me it is normal. Recently I noticed blood also coming out. I am worried, please help

Worried lady

Nipple discharge during pregnancy is normal. But the presence of blood in the discharge is not.

It is possible that you have a mild infection in the breast with inflammation in the ducts. If the breast are handled roughly especially during sex, there may be bleeding from the inflamed ducts.

You could also be suffering from a condition called 'Rusty-pipe syndrome'. During pregnancy, the blood supply to the breasts increase. There can be engorgement of the blood vessels surrounding the ducts. Mild trauma, which sometimes occur when the breast is roughly handled during sex can cause rupture of the blood vessels and blood stained nipple discharge. Other causes for blood in the nipple discharge in the childbearing age could be conditions like Ductal Papilloma or Fibrocystic disease.

You need to undergo tests like ultrasonography of the breasts. The nipple discharge also needs to be examined under the microscope for blood and other cellular structures.

If no definite problem is discovered, then the blood stained nipple discharge is due



to the rusty-pipe syndrome and this will clear up spontaneously.

Miscarriage, my dilemma

I keep on having miscarriages, I am disturbed. Please what are the causes?

Rebecca

Majority of Miscarriages occur during the first 3 months of pregnancy, called First Trimester, among them are;

1. Chromosomal abnormalities are found in more than half of embryos miscarried in the first 13 weeks. A pregnancy with a genetic problem has a 95% chance of ending in miscarriage. Most chromosomal problems happen by chance; they have nothing to do with the parents, and are unlikely to happen again. Genetic problems are more likely to occur with older parents; this may account for the higher miscarriage rates observed in older

women.

2. Another cause of early miscarriage may be progesterone deficiency. (A chemical agent responsible for maintaining pregnancy). Women diagnosed with low progesterone levels in the second half of their menstrual cycle (luteal phase) may be prescribed progesterone supplements, to be taken for the first trimester of pregnancy.

3. Up to 15% of pregnancy losses in the Second trimester (4th – 6th Months) may be due to uterine malformation, growths in the uterus (fibroids), or cervical problems. These conditions may also contribute to premature birth.

4. Pregnancies involving more than one fetus are at increased risk of miscarriage (Multiple Pregnancy)

5. Uncontrolled diabetes greatly increases the risk of miscarriage. Women with controlled diabetes are not at higher risk of miscarriage.

Because diabetes may develop during pregnancy (gestational diabetes), an important part of prenatal care is to monitor for signs of the disease.

6. Polycystic ovary syndrome is a risk factor for miscarriage, with 30-50% of pregnancies in women with PCOS being miscarried in the first trimester.

7. High blood pressure and certain illnesses (such as rubella and chlamydia) increase the risk of miscarriage.

8. Tobacco (cigarette) smokers have an increased risk of miscarriage.

9. Severe cases of hypothyroidism increase the risk of miscarriage. The effect of milder cases of hypothyroidism on miscarriage rates has not been established.

10. Physical trauma, exposure to certain chemicals, obesity, high caffeine intake, high levels of alcohol consumption, and use of NSAIDs have also been linked to increased risk of miscarriage.

Cassakero: An alternative household cooking fuel

By Akor Ojoma

KEROSENE has been the predominant domestic cooking fuel for most households in the country. Out of the current total national importation of kerosene (DPK) for all purposes estimated to be 7 million litres per day, household fuel constitutes over 90% while its use in other sectors of the economy, including aviation constitutes the rest.

However, the use of kerosene in the home has not been without some problems: its price has never been steady and sometimes the hike in price is such that many families spend most of their income on it and become left with little or nothing for the remaining household expenditure.

Added to this are cases of adulteration of the cooking fuel with other products by some disgruntled elements which has resulted in many people getting burnt, in some instances even to death in their innocent attempt to light lamps or cook. It has therefore become imperative to make alternative cleaner and safer cooking fuels available, affordable and accessible to the Nigerian household. Cassakero, a newly introduced household cooking fuel is one alternative cooking fuel that will fulfil the yearnings of most families.

According to the Chief Executive Officer of Cassava Agro Industries Services Ltd (CAISL) Abuja, Mr Boma Simeon Anga, "The Cassakero initiative is a project designed to replace kerosene and wood fuel with an alternative ethanol liquid cooking fuel; it is produced using cassava as the feedstock."

He said the new fuel, which will be locally produced, will be cheaper, cleaner, and safer than kerosene. It can be used to cook, in generators, refrigerators and for heating.

"Considering the number of cassava required, the project will not jeopardise food security as we are using non-food industrial variety of cassava that will be planted on fresh land. Also the four-year renewable out grower contract would benefit over 250,000 cassava farmers across the country with additional 400,000 hectares to be deployed for cassava cultiva-



CASSAKERO

tion."

The project is targeting the installation of 10,000 small scale bio ethanol refineries in the 36 states of Nigeria including the FCT over the next four years from December 2009 to December 2013 to produce the daily ethanol cooking fuel requirement for 4 million families.

In line with this, the Nigeria Cassava Growers Association (NCGA) has also signed a N56 billion contract with the

Cassava Agro Industries Services Ltd (CAISL) for the supply of 8 million tons of industrial non food cassava tubers to bio ethanol refineries for use as raw material in the national Cassakero cooking fuel programme.

It will be denatured with Bitrex, a bitter substance to render it undrinkable, and a colorant to give it a distinguishing colour.

The second component of the Initia-

tive is the circulation of the CleanCook stove that will utilize the Cassakero cooking fuel. Since this fuel cannot be used with ordinary kerosene stoves, households need to acquire stoves meant specifically for the fuel "the Clean Cook Stove".

The stove is a non-pressurized alcohol stove that absorbs and retains its liquid fuel in a manner that prevents spilling, leaking, fires and explosions. It is equipped with a refillable fuel canister containing a permanent, porous, refractory fibre that will absorb the Cassakero and only make it available to the flame by capillary action.

Each CleanCook burner has its own fuel canister that holds 1.2 liters of fuel, sufficient for 4½ hours of cooking. Thus, a two-burner stove provides approximately 9 hours of cooking before the fuel canisters have to be refilled.

The project is such that it makes ethanol as a cooking fuel available and affordable to low income earners. Even people in small villages can have their own refineries to produce Cassakero. At the moment the cooking fuel is not available for purchase by members of the public but will be shortly.

In addition to providing the people with safer and more affordable energy to power various household appliances, the project will integrate the agricultural sector with the industrial sector, thereby stimulating sufficient economic activity that will empower and help propel rural communities towards the realization of their potentials and the nation towards attaining the MDGs.



A woman cooking with cassakero

“The Cassakero initiative is a project designed to replace kerosene and wood fuel with an alternative ethanol liquid cooking fuel

Add beauty to your eyes with contact lens

By Akor Ojoma

OVER the years contact lenses have moved from the use of their optical power for medical purpose to satisfying another need in the world of fashion. If you want your eye colour enhanced or made more attractive a pair of coloured fashion contact lenses will do.

Several ladies have attested to the fact that fashion contact lenses give them an edge over other ladies particularly due to its hypnotic effect where a suitable one is used. This then makes it an invaluable asset at social gatherings, auditions, and other genres of the entertainment world where beauty may be required.

Irrespective of skin colour or race, fashion contact lenses are worn by ladies from all walks of life. There are different colours of fashion contact lenses to suit everyone such as:

Colour fusion contact lenses - they are available in different colour like misty grey, green, amethyst, sky, aqua, vanilla and Miami blue.

Colortones contact lenses - are coloured contact lenses ideal for cosmetic wear and is use to attain a very natural look and comes with different prescribed colours such as hazel, aqua, dark brown, green, dark blue, light blue and grey.

Enhance coloured contact lenses - are best in transforming the natural colour of your eyes and they are available in different colours such as ice blue, lilac, glacier, green and a lot more.

Cooler fashion contact lenses - very ideal to wear to make you look so cool with hot effect to the crowd and are available in colours such as green, brown, ultra violet, grey violet, hazel yellow, honey,

Are you the type who likes fun added to fashion? The good news is that there are freaky contact lenses that could give that short cut from human to vampire look or for fun-partying.

What about the fear of the health implications of wearing them expressed by some?

Experimenting and having fun with various eye colour is not as easy as grabbing a box of hair dye from the drug store. Here are a few tips to turn those brown eyes blue or whatever colour you want.

According to Fashion Contact Lenses website the first thing you have to do is talk to your optometrist. It may sound strange, but even if you don't require corrective lenses, you'll still need a prescription for your coloured contacts. This is a relatively new requirement, but in the interest of health and safety, coloured contacts have been put under this restriction. Once you're in the room with your doctor, ask to try on a sample of regular contacts. Contacts are not for everyone, so before you invest in the coloured lenses, make sure you can handle sticking your finger in your eye. Also, just like with regular contacts, the lenses may irritate your eye until you get used to wearing them.

Picking a colour is obviously the fun part. The important thing to remember is that your natural eye colour will play a part in the final look. For people with extremely dark irises, it might be difficult to turn your eyes into a glass blue without it looking extremely fake.

It's also important to remember that the lenses themselves may affect your vision. You are, after all, putting a coloured film over your eyes and if the contacts move during the day, the coloured part might obscure your pupil. Because of this, you might want to practice wearing your lenses for a while before you pop them in and get behind the wheel of a car.

The end result after taking these little tips into cognisance is not just the beauty of your eyes but that beautiful you, you have always wanted or dreamt of.



DIGEST

Fairytale wedding turns into holiday from hell as couple and all guests get food poisoning

A British couple jetted off for a fairytale wedding in the sun, but ended up in holiday hell after they fell ill with food poisoning - along with every single guest.

Kevin Sturman, 33, and his fiancée Abbie Otter, 30, were taken violently ill along with their 20 members of the wedding party after arriving at a Turkish hotel.

A bridesmaid was rushed to hospital and the best man spent seven days attached to a drip.

The couple had spent £4,000 on the wedding and two-week break at the Holiday Village Hotel in Sarigerme, near Dalaman, and are now suing their travel agent.

The ceremony went ahead despite the entire wedding party and guests suffering from vomiting, gastro-enteritis, diarrhoea and salmonella.

Immediately after the wedding, Mr Sturman's sister, 23-year-old pregnant bridesmaid Beckie Cooper, was rushed to hospital.

She spent two days being treated for gastro-enteritis and dehydration, while best man Aaron Morris, 33, spent a week in his hotel room attached to a drip.

The group are among 659 holidaymakers suing travel giant First

Choice for a total of £6million.

Mr Sturman, from Kirk Sandall, Doncaster, said the bill from the 22-strong wedding party came to nearly £10,000.

'It was an absolute nightmare,' he said.

'Holiday from hell just about sums it up. We were all taken ill a few days after arriving, ranging from stomach upsets to vomiting, gastro-enteritis, diarrhoea and salmonella.

'We were still ill when the wedding took place but we just had to smile and get on with it. The holiday reps didn't seem to be bothered.' Mr Sturman said one of the bridesmaids collected 300 signatures from hotel guests who had suffered the same symptoms.

'We all ate out for the second week because it wasn't safe to eat the hotel food and that added to the cost,' Mr Sturman said.

'The hygiene standards were terrible, food wasn't cleared away and the swimming pools were filthy.' A writ has been issued by Manchester law firm Pannone.

Paul McClorry, a partner at the firm, said First Choice had not admitted liability.

A First Choice spokesman said:



DISASTER: All of the couple's guests were struck down after arriving at their Turkish hotel in Sarigerme, near Dalaman

'The Holiday Village Turkey is one of the biggest and most popular resorts in our programme.

'Whilst we accept that any level of sickness is unacceptable the numbers of holidaymakers

falling sick remains very low when the larger population is taken into consideration.'

Women 'have inbuilt fear of being fat'

WOMEN have an inbuilt fear of being fat which is triggered when they see an overweight female stranger, but men have no such reflex, scientists say.

Brain scans of women who were shown pictures of overweight strangers triggers activity in a part of the brain that processes identity and self-reflection.

The results show how women are conditioned to be afraid of being fat because they are constantly bombarded with messages and images of thin being the ideal. But the same tests done on men revealed they showed no interest in their own weight indicating why women are much closer to developing eating disorders. Researchers from America's Brigham Young University found that women felt scared of being overweight without consciously thinking about their figure. Neuroscientist Mark Allen said: "These women in our study had no history of eating disorders and project an attitude that they don't care about body image. "Yet under the surface is an anxiety about getting fat and the centrality of body image to self."

The research, published in the May issue of the psychological journal *Personality and Individual Differences*, is part of long-term project to improve treatment of eating disorders by tracking progress with brain imaging.

Dr Allen said when anorexic and bulimic women view an overweight stranger, the brain's self-reflection centre known as the medial prefrontal cortex lights up in ways that suggest extreme unhappiness

and in some cases, self-loathing.

The motivation for this new study was to establish a point of reference among a control group of women who scored in the healthy range on eating disorder diagnostic tests.

Surprisingly, even this control group exhibited what Dr Allen calls "sub-clinical" issues with body image. The results prompted Dr Allen to do the same tests on a healthy group of men but found they did not think about their own weight when looking at images of fat men. Dr Allen said that the results showed that even confident, healthy women were much more likely to have eating disorders than men.

"Although these women's brain activity doesn't look like full-blown eating disorders, they are much closer to it than men are," he said.

Dr Allen said women are bombarded with messages that perpetuate the thin ideal, and the barrage changes how they view themselves.

"Many women learn that bodily appearance and thinness constitute what is important about them, and their brain responding reflects that," he said. "I think it is an unfortunate and false idea to learn about oneself and does put one at greater risk for eating and mood disorders."

"It's like the plant in my office. It has the potential to grow in any direction, but actually only grows in the direction of the window the direction that receives the most reinforcement."

Culled from telegraph.co.uk

Good things do come to those who wait, scientists say

THE old saying "good things come to those who wait" may in fact be true, a new study suggests. Evidence disclosed yesterday suggested that people were now more willing to hang on for large rewards than go for instant but small gratification.

Experts claimed to have pinpointed a circuit in the brain which tells the human mind to delay seeking immediate satisfaction, suggesting that the creators of those popular Guinness adverts were on to something.

A person has the ability to resist an on the spot reward and delay it for months or even years if it means a better return in the future, the researchers claimed.

The report to be published in this month's issue of the medical journal *Neuron* said that a person's decision to delay or seek an instant reward was based on a quick prediction of how successful each outcome would be.

Dr Jan Peters, from the Department of Systems Neuroscience at the University Medical Centre in Hamburg, said: "Humans normally prefer larger over smaller rewards, but this situation can change when the larger rewards are associated with delays.

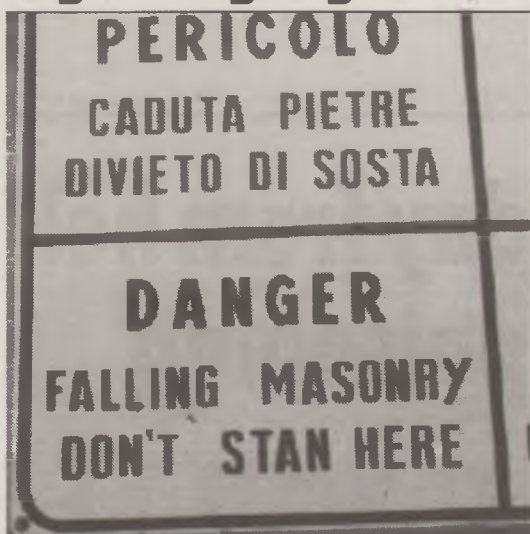
"Although there is no doubt that human's discount the value of rewards over time, in general, individuals exhibit a particularly significant ability to delay gratification." Dr Peters, who led the study and Professor Christian Büchel conducted tests in which they measured the brain activity of participants who had to choose between smaller immediate and larger delayed rewards. They discovered that individuals put a different value on rewards at different points in time.

Those tested were also given hints as to what would happen in the future. The more hints given the more the participants opted for longer-term choices, the scientists discovered.

"Our results reveal that vividly imagining the future reduced impulsive choice," Dr Peters said.

Culled from telegraph.co.uk

Sign Language



Tragic! He didn't even live long enough to check the spelling on his sign.

Photo location: Padua, Haly, by Dominic Guastavino

Culled from www.signspotting.com

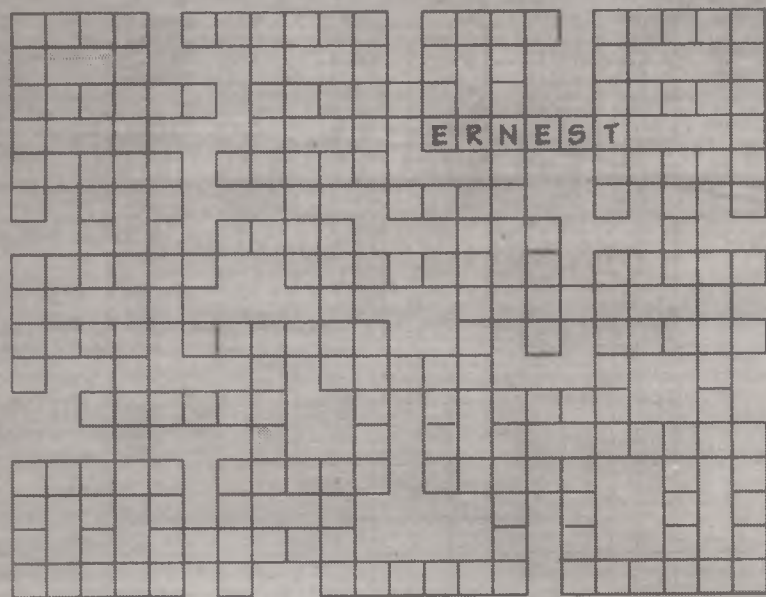
KRISS KROSS

5

The expert took 27 minutes to solve this Kriss Kross with "ERNEST" already entered into the diagram.

Your solving time: _____

- | | | | | |
|------------------|------------------|-------|------------------|-------------------|
| 4 Letters | Icon | Crimp | Prime | Drains |
| Anew | Idea | Drape | Trend | Driver |
| Arab | Orbs | Dried | Triad | Ermine |
| Argo | Orca | Droll | Troop | Ernest |
| Dali | Pout | Droop | Wears | Ironed |
| Drab | Prod | Greed | | Ironic |
| Drat | Wrap | Greer | 6 Letters | Ornate |
| Drub | | Irate | Arabic | Prince |
| Ease | 5 Letters | Irene | Archer | Truism |
| Eras | Arbor | Irish | Arctic | Truman |
| Erat | Arena | Occur | Armlet | Urgent |
| Erin | Arise | Ogres | Arnold | Wretch |
| Etna | Cream | Order | Around | |
| | Cried | Pasta | Brahma | |



SOLUTION TO KRISS KROSS

4

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 9 |
| 9 | | 2 | | 6 | 0 | 6 | | 7 | 5 | 0 | 1 |
| 7 | | 2 | | 7 | | 3 | | 3 | | 1 | 3 |
| 2 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 5 | | 7 | | 0 | 9 | 0 | 6 |
| | | | | 7 | | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 0 |
| 8 | 2 | 3 | 7 | | | 9 | | 0 | | | 9 |
| 4 | | | 1 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 2 | | 4 | 7 | 1 |
| 1 | | | | 3 | | | 1 | | 8 | | 8 |
| 0 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 1 | | | 3 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 5 |
| | 8 | | | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | | 9 | | 1 |
| 6 | 7 | 9 | 0 | 4 | | 6 | | 8 | | 3 | 1 |
| 1 | | | 3 | | | 5 | 0 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 2 |
| 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | | | 3 | | 9 | | 2 | 5 |
| 0 | | | 4 | 2 | 0 | 8 | | 6 | | 4 | |
| 7 | 3 | 0 | 4 | | | 1 | 0 | 8 | | 8 | 1 |

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.

129

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

Solution to Sudoku 128

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

News Extra

US bank raider is held in bear hug by heroic 19-stone customer



GIVE me the money: Kim Komenich (right) watches as bank raider Victor Fernandes threatens the cashier

A bank robber thought he would have no problems with the bank cashier as he demanded: 'Give me the money.'

But he wasn't counting on the bravery of the giant of a customer who was standing right behind him in the queue who just happens to be a Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer who has seen his fair share of crime and violence.

Kim Komenich, who stands 6ft 2ins and weighs nearly 19 stone, simply grabbed the raider

in a giant bear hug and waited for the police to arrive in San Jose, California.

Komenich, a former *San Francisco Chronicle* photojournalist, who now teaches at San Jose State University, joked: 'Between classes, I go out there and do what I can do to make the world a little better for people.'

The 53-year-old was in line at the Wells Fargo Bank bank when he saw a man, whom police later identified as Victor Anthony Fernandes, 45, walk in with two other people.

Fernandes got in line while

the others sat down in chairs in the lobby.

'They appeared to be a little down on their luck and, possibly, they had a bit to drink,' Komenich said.

Fernandes began talking to a teller, and they appeared to be having a normal conversation, Komenich said. But then the suspect raised his voice and told the teller, 'Give me your money,' Komenich said. The teller complied.

When Fernandes reached into his pocket, Komenich said he thought to himself: 'If anything



ZERO and hero: Bank raider Victor Fernandes, left, and Kim Komenich

bad is going to happen, it's going to happen next.'

Komenich walked over to Fernandes who is about 5ft 10ins.

'I clamped him down in a bear hug,' said Komenich, who said he may have lifted the raider off the ground for a moment.

'That sort of established that I had him,' he said. Fernandes didn't resist as Komenich held on for five minutes until police arrived.

They found no weapon on Fernandes, whom they arrested along with his two companions, Johnnie Dale Gray, 39, and Tamara Leeann Rennert, 40. All three were being held at Santa Clara County Jail on suspicion of robbery.

'We're applauding the heroic acts of this professor, by all means, but we're not necessarily encouraging this kind of activity,' Sgt. Ronnie Lopez, a San Jose police spokesman told the *San Francisco*

Chronicle.

Even though the suspect wasn't armed, the potential was there, Lopez said.

'But more importantly, the two other suspects lingering in the background could have had a gun,' he said.

'Sometimes, taking matters into your own hands could lead to a deadly confrontation.'

Komenich said: 'My main reason for doing it was that it seemed like the guy was down on his luck. I just didn't want things to escalate. It was sort of a half-baked attempt at a bank robbery.'

'My main reason for doing it was that it seemed like the guy was down on his luck'

'All my life, I've been a witness. I haven't really intervened because it was my job to watch.'

Komenich has covered stories in Vietnam, the former Soviet Union, El Salvador, Iraq and Guyana.

In 1987, while working for the *San Francisco Examiner*, Komenich won the Pulitzer Prize for his coverage of the People Power Revolution that forced Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos from office.

Komenich worked at *The Chronicle* from 2000 to 2009. On Wednesday he was back in class at San Jose State, where he is an assistant professor of new media.



I'M out of here: Fernandes grabs his cash and reaches for his pocket as Komenich moves in



OH no you don't: Komenich grabs Fernandes in a bear hug and holds him there until the police arrive

News Extra



RESCUERS try to find survivors from a commercial plane after it skidded off the runway at Manokwari airport in West Papua, Indonesia

Jet with 100 passengers skids off runway and snaps in two

A passenger plane with about 100 people on board skidded off the end of an airport runway and snapped in two while landing in heavy rain Tuesday on Indonesia's remote Papua province.

But there were no fatalities and just 20 people were injured, officials said.

The Boeing 737, operated by Merpati Nusantara Airline, was landing at Manokwari airport when it slid into a small canal at the end of the runway, police official Didi

Zaenal said. He added that the plane flew in from the nearby city of Sorong. About 20 passengers, most with bruises and some with broken bones, were taken to a local hospital for treatment, paramedics and hospital officials said.

Local police chief Bambang

Ricky told Indonesia's official Antara news agency that the plane's fuselage was split open in the accident.

He said there were 103 passengers and six crew on board.

Papua, about 1,830 miles east of the capital, Jakarta, is one of the most isolated and underdeveloped

regions of Indonesia.

There are few roads in the province, which occupies the western half of the island of New Guinea, and air travel is a common form of transport.

Indonesia has seen a string of air crashes in recent years.



INDONESIAN soldiers and police examine a Merpati airline 737. The jet carrying about 100 passengers skidded off the runway into a shallow river

News Extra

Black box reveals pilots of Polish president's jet knew they were doomed

Pilots of Polish President Lech Kaczynski's plane knew they were doomed to crash in the final seconds of their flight, analysis of the black boxes shows.

A member of the investigation team has revealed there was 'dramatic' speech on the flight deck moments before the Tupolev-154 hit the ground in dense fog killing all 96 passengers and crew.

Polish expert Colonel Zbigniew Rzepa declined to reveal more but the country's attorney general Krzysztof Parulski admitted: 'Three to five seconds before the crash the pilots were aware that it was unavoidable.'

And he made clear that, with the plane travelling at 150 to 180 meters per second, there was sufficient time for Captain Arkadiusz Protasiuk and his flight crew to realise the catastrophe that was about to hit the plane and its passengers.

He did not say if investigators believe that the passengers, including the Polish president, his first lady Maria and many members of the Warsaw political and military elite, would also have realised they were doomed to crash.

Another anonymous source close to the investigation claimed that a fatal pilot error in the final moments of the flight led to the disaster.

He claimed the black box analysis plus a reconstruction of the flight has shown that a final manoeuvre by the pilot plunged the plane into the trees and that he lost a vital chance to save the aircraft.

Having ignored warnings not to land due to severe fog, the black box shows he belatedly aborted his fatal attempt to land after realising the Russian-made jet was not properly



RUSSIAN soldiers stand guard beside the wreckage of the Polish government Tupolev Tu-154 plane which crashed in Smolensk on Saturday

aligned with the runway at a military airport near Smolensk.

He used the engines to gain altitude but in the process the plane lurched to the right, and the wing hit the tree tops.

'At this moment the head pilot made a fatal mistake. He switched on the thrust, rocking the plane to the right. The reason for this is unknown but he aimed too high... and to turn simultaneously. As a result, his plane clipped the tops of the trees and he lost control. If he had only switched on the engine thrust to go straight up, he would have had all chances to avoid hitting the ground.'

This analysis suggests the pilot was unaware of how low he was, which puzzles investigators since his jet was equipped with a spe-

cial UIS-made safety device called a Terrain Awareness and Warning System (TAWS) that warns the flight deck when they get too close to the ground.

Russian officials have ruled out fire or explosion as a cause of the crash on Saturday at Severny military airbase. Analysis of the evidence, including the first results from the decoding of the black boxes, shows that an error in piloting led to the disaster, said another source close to the probe.

One theory yesterday was that the crew were not familiar with a key peculiarity of the Tupolev-154. As the plane came into land it levelled from its oblique descent approach to a horizontal angle to

compensate for bad visibility.

'A particularity of this aircraft is that if its speed of descent is more than six metres a second, when the plane levels out, it loses altitude,' said the source. 'That means that it loses altitude much quicker than usual.'

Russian and Polish investigators are examining the cockpit voice recorder boxes, and paying special attention to communications between the pilots after they were warned by the control tower about the dangers of landing.

This could show whether Kaczynski insisted on landing against the advice of his pilots.

Poland's chief prosecutor Andrzej Seremet said Wednesday that in time the full content of the black boxes will be made public.

'The conversations, their content, will be vital in terms of proving or disproving the various hypotheses. I will not oppose revealing the contents unless they are of an intimate nature,' he said.

Language problems were a factor in the failure of communication between air traffic controllers and the pilots, Russian sources have made clear.

But one Russian airport employee said: 'We are all guilty of this tragedy.'

'We cannot only blame the pilots. Because of the bad weather conditions we should have closed the airport. But we could not do it because the Poles would have seen it as a diplomatic scandal.'

Kaczynski and the presidential delegation were killed as they were heading to a memorial service at Katyn, near Smolensk, for 22,000 Polish officers and troops killed

Another anonymous source close to the investigation claimed that a fatal pilot error in the final moments of the flight led to the disaster



LYING in state: The late president and his wife's coffins are on public view in the Column Hall of the Presidential Palace ahead of their funeral on Sunday

by Soviet forces in World War II 70 years ago.

Poles queued in the rain for several hours yesterday to pay respects to the late President Lech Kaczynski and his wife Maria, whose coffins were displayed at the presidential palace.

The coffins went on public viewing after Mr Kaczynski, his wife and 96 other passengers died in a plane crash on Saturday in western Russia.

'They loved one another so much, it was obvious when they lived and now they lie here together,' one mourner said.

The line stretched through much of the street to a nearby square and back to the presidential residence where people laid flowers and knelt in front of the coffins covered with Poland's red and white flags.

Poland's ruling party said that presidential elections are likely to be held on June 20.

PROPERTY

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Lafia modern market abandoned

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

THE multi-million naira Lafia Modern Market in Nasarawa State has been completed for more than a year now, but the government is yet to put it to use.

State commissioner for commerce and industry, Mohammed Barki Sameel, had on Tuesday, sought for two days to tell Daily Trust the reasons behind non-use of the market. But he said yesterday that he was not ready to say anything at the time our correspondent sought his comment. He how-

ever did not deny that government has not put the market to use, more than a year after executing the project.

The project was initiated in 1999 by the administration of Abdullahi Adamu, Governor Aliyu Akwe Doma's predecessor. Adamu could not commission the project, however, as he left office in 2007 without completing it.

Although Doma completed the project more than one year ago, according to the specification and drawing he inherited from the past administration, he has continued to drag with the commissioning and the allotment of the stores

to traders. It has continued to lie waste since then.

Daily Trust inquiries revealed many factors militating against the utilization of the multi million naira market project. Traders in Lafia alleged that top government officials went for the allocation, manipulating the actual traders out, with the intent to sell back their allocation at outrageous price to traders. This is just as they added that the completed project has no standard of a modern market since it lacks space for car park, adequate toilet facilities and other considerations.

PIC: HIR JOSEPH

Gov Idris commissions LG House

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

GOVERNOR Ibrahim Idris of Kogi State on Tuesday commissioned the newly built Local Government House in Lokoja.

The governor noted that his administration had identified office accommodation as a major challenge confronting the state civil service; hence the resolve to construct the house.

Idris also pledged that the gesture would be extended to other ministries in the state, adding that the on-going

of the State Secretariat would be completed before the end of his administration.

Speaking earlier, the Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Chief Joseph Faniyi, who disclosed that the construction of the building gulped a sum of N28 million, commended the governor for according the welfare of civil servants a priority.

The commissioner however lamented what he described as the deplorable condition of the palaces of the traditional rulers in the state; a situation which he said was not in the best interest of the traditional institutions.

"The deplorable condition of the palaces of our traditional rulers has become a major issue of concern. There is therefore the need to build and renovate most of the palaces to make them conducive for habitation," he said.



A major lane at the completed but abandoned Lafia Modern Market, in Lafia, the Nasarawa State capital.

Doma, FHA, UK firm sign agreement for 'Little City'

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

NASARAWA State Governor, Aliyu Akwe Doma, the management and board of the Federal Housing Estate (FHA), as well as the UK based private partner in the federal government planned 11,450 housing unit at Karu, Sharp Little City Limited, yesterday signed a tripartite agreement to regulate the partners in the execution of the project called "Little City".

The project which will be executed at the estimated cost of N453 billion, entails the private firm developing the structure, the state government providing the land, security and

other inputs while the FHA monitors the implementation.

"We will be physically present on site to monitor progress and encourage those involved in the implementation. This project will not fail and should not fail", the FHA Board Chairperson, Mrs. Chidi Onyemelukwe, said at the agreement signing ceremony at Government House in Lafia.

The first phase of the project entails the delivery of 106,000 housing units with all the facilities, utilities and attractions of a world class city, in four years. "Today's event is a major step in achieving that target", the board

chairperson added.

Governor Doma who was flanked by members of his State Executive Council (SEC) including the Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Timothy Anjide expressed delight with the beginning of implementation into the project which he said, was part of his socio-economic development blueprint called 13-Point agenda for a decent, affordable and adequate accommodation.

FHA Managing Director, Terver Gemade said Little City will support a decent and healthy living with all income groups provided for in the master plan.

Lagos reads riot act to owners of defective buildings

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

LAGOS State Government has called on landlords in the state to give adequate attention and ensure regular maintenance of their buildings or be ready to forfeit their property to the government if such building collapses.

State Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development Francisco Abosede gave the advice at weekend as he declared that there is more structurally defective

building in the state than expected noting that such defective buildings are common at Lagos Island and Ogba area of the state.

He explained that since the beginning of the present administration in Lagos, no fewer than 74 buildings have collapsed including the 17 storey Bank of Industry (BOI) adding that all the collapsed building has been acquired by the state and gazette.

According to the commissioner, all the collapsed build-

ings were demolished while the land on which they were built have been used for public use like recreation centres, hospitals and the likes.

Meanwhile, Abosede said the contract award that will lead to relocation of traders from the popular Computer Village in the heart of the state capital Ikeja to Amikanle community, a suburb settlement in Alimosho Local Government Area of the state will take place any moment from now.

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The appointment is no doubt but a recognition of your outstanding career records and immense contributions to the growth and development of oil and gas sector in Nigeria.

Therefore, we are optimistic of your resilience, humility and excellent capacity in discharging national task. As we indeed, join million of well-wishers to felicitate with you, we equally pray to Almighty Allah to protect, guide and grant you the wisdom to discharge your new assignments with every sense of responsibility.

Once more, Congratulations!

GMD NNPC Alh. Shehu Ladan

Signed:
Alh. Abbas Likoro



Govt gives Edo a facelift

THE Edo government has embarked on the building of infrastructure to give the state a face lift, the state's Assembly Speaker, Mr Bright Omokhodion, has said.

The speaker made this known in Benin on Wednesday when members of Edo National Association in the United States of America and Canada visited him.

He told them that the facelift was evident through the massive provision of modern roads in Benin metropolis and across the state.

Omokhodion assured them that by December 2010, Benin would have transformed into a tourist site when ongoing construction and beautification projects would have been completed and inaugurated.

He noted that the Edo House of Assembly was determined to collectively contribute its quota to the development of the state.

The speaker commended the association for its efforts toward actualising the promises made during its last con-

vention in San Francisco.

Responding, the National President of the association, Mr Samuel Isokunwu, said the visit was to unveil its planned convention scheduled to hold in Benin in December.

Isokunwu said that the association wanted to establish its presence in the state and work toward fostering growth and making its contributions to the development of the state. (NAN)



L-R: Engr. Ozodinobi Anthony Zikora, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, and the minister Mr. Nduese Essien during the minister's meeting with directors and chief executives of parastatals in the ministry on Monday

Lagos generates N18bn from land sale in 2009

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

LAGOS State government has said it has made over N18 billion from sale of land across the state last year, the Permanent Secretary Lands Bureau, Mr. Gbenga Ashafa disclosed this in Lagos.

The revenue generated by the agency according to Ashafa, is an equivalent of 66% performance of the target noting that the performance was affected due to the global economic meltdown that affected almost all countries of the world.

Addressing news men at the state secretariat on Thursday, Ashafa said the budget expectation for year 2009 was 232% of the previous year. He said in the year 2008, the revenue budget for the Bureau was N12.225 billion compared to the budgetary figure of N28.4 billion for last year.

Thus, he said the performance of his bureau in spite of the economic meltdown could be assumed as encouraging. He added that the bureau is presently re-strategizing to the expectation of 100% realization of target this year.

Meanwhile, the Permanent Secretary however warned people who cares to buy land anywhere in the state to contact Lands Bureau or the office of Surveyor-General to avoid fallen victim of land grabbers.

According to him, his office has received series of complaints from victims of land grabbers who bought land from them. He said some unscrupulous Nigerians have been going round Lagos to sell a plot of land to five or more people in some instances.

Renovation of Ilorin central mosque to gulp N1.2bn

THE renovation of the Central Mosque of Ilorin will cost N1.2 billion, Alhaji Shehu AbdulGafar, the Chairman of the mosque renovation committee, has disclosed.

He made this known during the signing of the contract with Chaervet Nigeria Limited, the contractor that would handle the renovation works.

AbdulGafar said that the mosque's renovation would be completed within 10 months.

He said that the committee members and Governor Bukola Saraki of Kwara visited

some mosques in some foreign countries before reaching a conclusion on the choice of the materials to be used for the mosque's renovation.

AbdulGafar gave the assurance that when the renovation works were completed, Ilorin Central Mosque would be one of the best mosques in the world.

He, however, urged donors, who had yet to redeem their pledges toward the project, to promptly do so to ensure the timely completion of the project.

"No international organisation has so far

made donation toward the project.

"We have not made contact with many foreign donors because we want them to appreciate what we are doing before doing so," he said.

AbdulGafar said that all the shops and stalls within the vicinity of the mosque had been demolished.

Speaking on behalf of the contractors, Mr AbdulRasak Olayanju, the Project Manager, pledged that the company would not disappoint the Muslim community and general public on the project. (NAN)

'Compensation, traffic delay Zuba-Kubwa expressway'

By Hamisu Muhammad

THE expansion of Zuba-Kubwa Expressway is seriously challenged by delay in compensating owners of existing structures and the traffic chaos caused by the motorists along the construction sites, the contractor has said.

Speaking to the members of the Presidential Projects Assessment Committee at the site, Assistant Project Manager, Dantata and Sawoe, Engr. Sunusi Dantata said on Wednesday that despite the challenges the project is on schedule and will be completed within the time limit of 30 months.

He said the issue of compensation especially around the Kubwa Junction has delay the construction of the inter-

change, although he said the Federal Capital Territory Authority is doing all it can to settle the owners of the existing structures.

"We need the compensation of the existing structures to be done so that as soon as possible we can complete the interchange there" said Dantata.

"Another challenge is the traffic on the way, sometime it takes us so much time before we move our concrete and other materials to our job locations. So we want appeal to public to understand that this is a construction site, they have to be exercise patient while they are moving on the site".

When asked on the possible delay to be caused during the rainy season, Dantata said the rainy season is not a chal-

lenge to the company because they have a full programme which will allow them to go ahead rain or not.

"We are already ahead of our programmes which give us a buffer during the rainy season, if we are not able to do our required performance, so if you look at it on the average over the year we are on target".

At the construction site of the Vice President resident, the Committee members were told that the work is on schedule. The contract handled by Julius Berger Plc.

Chairman of the Committee Engr. Ibrahim Bunu said the committee's assignment was not aimed at witch-hunting any person or group of persons, but to assist the Government achieve good governance through quick delivery of basic infrastructure to Nigerians.



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ACTIVATING THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF ACTION ON ROAD SAFETY IN NIGERIA: 2011 - 2020

| | |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| Date | Monday, April 19, 2010 |
| Venue | Congress Hall, Transcorp Hilton Abuja |
| Time | 10:00am Prompt |

Special Guest of Honour

His Excellency, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, GCON
Acting President, Federal Republic of Nigeria

Chairman of the Occasion

Gen. Yakubu Gowon (Rtd), GCFR

Invited Guest

Rochelle Sobel,
association for safe international
road travel (asirt), Washington DC

The Panelists include:

Tawia Aashong
World Bank, Washington DC

Babs Omotowa
VP Logistics & Infrastructure
Shell Nig

Resident Coordinator
UN Office, Nigeria

Hon. Femi Gbajabamila
Minority Whip, House
of Representatives

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Trader arraigned over fight with task force

By Usman A. Bello

A 24-year-old trader was yesterday arraigned before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly fighting members of the Abuja Market Management task force.

Emmanuel Okize of Wuse Zone 3 Shopping Complex, Abuja was charged with assault, an offence punishable under Section 265 of the Penal Code Law.

Prosecutor Francis Tanko informed the court that on April 8, one Brown Iferi and two others from Abuja Market Management's task force reported to the police that while they were on patrol at Wuse Zone 3 Shopping Complex, they saw the accused hawking at the premises.

"When they tried to arrest the accused, he fought with them and in the process inflicted injuries on

Rabiu Usman by hitting him with a stick," the prosecutor added.

The accused denied the charge and requested for bail, which was not objected to by the prosecutor.

Magistrate Grace Eisape Adebayo granted him bail in the sum of N10,000 with sureties in like sums, who must be civil servants of any grade level.

The case was adjourned to May 3 for hearing.

In another court, a 27-year-old bus conductor was on Tuesday arraigned for allegedly stealing recharge cards belonging to one Blessing Umoru of Karmo village.

Police prosecutor, Francis Tanko, told the court that on April 12, the complainant reported to the police that the accused of no fixed address and two other at large stole her recharge cards of different network valued at N30,000.

"The accused after stealing the cards passed them to his accomplices and they absconded to unknown destinations, before he was later arrested," the prosecutor said.

The accused pleaded not guilty and Magistrate Ann Katsina Alu granted him bail in the sum of N50,000 with one surety in like sum, who must be a civil servant of any grade level.



FIREMEN lecturing Area 10 traders of fire preventive techniques in Abuja recently.

Bizman Jailed six weeks for cheating

By Usman A. Bello

AN Abuja magistrate court yesterday sentenced a 27-year-old businessman to six weeks imprisonment for cheating one Igwe Chinenye and Igwe Arinze.

Ewah Emeka, who resides in Lagos, was arraigned on a two-count charge of criminal breach of trust and cheating offences punishable under Sections 312 and 322 of the Penal Code Law.

The prosecutor, Adamu Abdullahi, had earlier told the court that on April 12, Igwe Chinenye reported to the police that sometimes in March 2009, he entrusted the sum of N50,000 with the accused to produce 500 copies of hard cover note books for him but he dishonestly converted the money to his own use.

The prosecutor stated further that the accused absconded with 60,000 copies of office files valued at N270,000 that belonged to one Igwe Arinze.

When the charges were read, the accused pleaded guilty and begged for leniency, saying it was a mistake and he will never cheat again.

After the confession, the prosecutor urged the court to try the accused summarily under Section 157 of the Criminal Procedure Code, (CPC) and Magistrate Folashade Oyekan sentenced him to three weeks imprisonment on each count of the charges.

The convict was however given an option to refund the N50,000 as well as 600,000 copies of the office files to those he cheated.

AC petitions INEC over Abaji council poll

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

ABAJI chapter of Action Congress (AC) Tuesday petitioned the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) over irregularities it alleged were recorded in Saturday's poll.

The petition addressed to Prof. Maurice Iwu, INEC chairman, was signed by Abaji AC chairman, Alhaji Muhammed Angulu Bello, and copied to FCT Minister Senator Bala Mohammed, FCT INEC

commissioner, Abaji INEC electoral officer, the FCT director of State Security Services (SSS), FCT police commissioner, Abaji DPO as well as the Ona of Abaji, Alhaji Adamu Baba Yunusa.

In the petition, the AC alleged that the council poll was marred by a lot of irregularities, particularly in the suburb areas of the council that was perpetrated by a particular party.

According to the chairman, there was multiple voting in some

polling units during the election that was perpetrated by the party, who engaged the services of thugs.

He also revealed that some opposition party agent's assigned to rural communities to represent their party at polling units were allegedly assaulted as well as denied entering into villages by thugs.

The party chairman further condemned the late arrival of voting materials at polling units by INEC officials, adding that its members

were disenfranchise, which made the party reject the poll's result.

Reacting to the petition, Secretary of Abaji's PDP, Alhaji Alhasan Suleman, wondered why only the AC was crying foul out of other parties that contested the election, adding that other parties have confirmed the transparency of the council poll at Abaji and even congratulated the winner, Alhaji Yahaya Musa Mohammad.

He described the petition's content as baseless and unfounded.

...As ANPP congratulates Abaji council boss

By Ogechi Ohalee

THE Chairmanship aspirant of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) at Abaji, Alhaji Nuhu Aliyu, has congratulated the candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) for winning last Saturday's council poll.

Alhaji Aliyu told Alhaji Yahaya Musa Mohammad (winner of the poll) to carry everybody along in his new administration as well as to fulfil most of his campaign promises to the electorate so that development can be enhanced at Abaji.

In his response, Mohammad,

who is also the council's incumbent chairman, thanked the aspirant for having the courage to congratulate him and praised the ANPP aspirant for campaigning as well as organising his supporters to conduct themselves in a peaceful manner before and after the campaign.

He called the AC to stop protesting and embrace peace, noting that one person died as a result of their protest after the poll.

"Thugs who planned to snatch ballot boxes as well as those that attempted to snatch such boxes during the poll were arrested by the police and are in detention for

further investigation," the chairman stated.

The chairman assured that he has directed a report of a group trying to instigate youths into violent acts to the State Security Service and was optimistic that it will be acted upon so that the suspects are held.

Mechanic charged with breach of trust

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

THE police on Monday arraigned an 18-year-old auto mechanic before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly removing tyres from a car entrusted in his care for repairs.

Aso Chidi of Jabi Garage, Abuja, was accused of committing the offence in March and later arrested by the police.

Prosecutor Joseph Christopher stated in court that on April 8, one Kafor Chima reported to the police that on March 22, he entrusted his Mitsubishi Gallant car to the accused for repairs and gave him N21,000 to buy a new gear box for the vehicle.

"The accused converted the money to his personal use and took the car to an unknown place and removed it, after removing the car's tyres valued at N85,000," the prosecutor added.

He also stated that the offences the accused committed are punishable under Sections 312 and 327 of the Penal Code Law.

When the two-count charge was read to the accused, he denied them and requested for bail.

Magistrate Idayat Akanni granted the accused bail in the sum of N50,000 with a reliable surety in like sum, who must reside within the court's jurisdiction and swear to an affidavit to produce the accused in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to May 3 for hearing.

Trader arraigned over N.15m fraud

By Hussein Yahaya, Ibraheem A. Fatai & Bunmi Omolehin

THE police yesterday arraigned a 33-year-old trader before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly cheating one Chidinma Oshala of N150,000.

Uche Izuala of Jabi Daki-Biyu, Abuja, was accused of committing the offence in February.

Prosecutor Christopher Roko told the court that on April 4, Chidinma Oshala of Jimmy Carter Street, Asokoro, Abuja, reported to the police that the accused fraudulently collected N150,000 from her.

"The accused fraudulently took

her to an unknown place, deceived, collected N150,000 from her and later disappeared to an unknown destination," the prosecutor said.

He said the accused promised the complainant N1 million returns on her investment, adding that the offence the accused committed is punishable under Sections 312 and 322 of the Penal Code Law.

When the charges were read to the accused, he denied the allegations and requested for bail, which was not objected to by the prosecutor.

In her ruling, Magistrate Idayat Akanni granted the accused bail in the sum of N100,000 with a reliable

surety in like sum, who must reside within the court's jurisdiction.

She also ruled that the surety must be a civil servant of not below grade level 07 and must swear to an affidavit to produce the accused in court on the adjourned date.

In another case, a 45-year-old mother and her 20-year-old daughter and son were arraigned before an Abuja Upper Area Court for alleged joint act, criminal force, assault, mischief and obstructing a public servant.

Juliet Ekeje, Akuna Ekeje and Chinedu Ekeje of AYA Junction Asokoro, Abuja, were accused of committing offences contrary to

Sections 79, 267, 148 and 327 of Penal Code Law.

Prosecutor Philips Akogbu told the court that on March 2, Adeleke Oluayemi of Abuja Environment Protection Board reported to the police that Juliet Ekeje, Akuna Ekeje and one other person now at large, jointly assaulted her, her colleagues and the police men attached to them.

The accused persons denied the charges and requested for bail, which was objected to by the prosecutor.

Judge Umar Kagarko granted them bail in the sum of N70,000 each with reasonable sureties in like sums and adjourned the case to May 4 for hearing.



UNDERAGED boys begging for alms at 'Zimbabwe' near Abuja, last Saturday.

PIC: FIDELIS MAC-LEVA

Man accused of threatening neighbour

By Romoke W. Ahmad

MR. Emeka Nwakanma of Area F, Nyanya, Abuja, was on Monday arraigned before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly threatening to deal with a man and his family.

The man was charged for criminal intimidation, which runs contrary to Section 397 of the Penal Code Law.

Prosecutor Silas Nanpan told court that on March 13, 2010, complainant, Godwin Usuk,

reported to the police that while his children were bathing outside, the accused threatened to kill his family as was done in the recent Jos crisis.

The accused pleaded not guilty to the charge and Magistrate Asmau Yusuf granted him bail in the sum of N60,000 with two sureties in like sums, out of which one must be a civil servant of grade level 10.

The case was adjourned to April 21 for hearing.

In another case, a 58-year-old

man was on Monday arraigned for allegedly conniving with two persons to cheat a lady.

Barry Nwosu of Mammy Market, Nyanya, was accused of committing the offences, which are contrary to Sections 79 and 322 of the Penal Code Law on March 31.

Prosecutor Ali Otijele told court that on the April 9, one Blessing Okala of Area D Nyanya reported at Nyanya Police Station that the accused with two others now at large, stopped her at Nyanya Check Point and deceived her by

pretending to pray for her in order to multiply the money she had.

The prosecutor said they collected N15,000 and a Nokia handset valued at N11,000 from the complainant after assuring her they will remove poison from her body.

"The accused is a habitual criminal, having graduated from the University Nigeria Nsukka in 1975 and has since been engaged in 419 and duping as a profession," he said.

Prosecutor Otijele disclosed

that the accused has been arrested, arraigned on several occasions in various FCT courts for similar offences and refused to heed the advice of his family to stop the practice.

The accused denied the charges and requested for bail, which was objected to by the prosecutor.

Magistrate Nkwadimi I. Buba ordered that the accused be remanded in prisons custody and adjourned the case to May 3 so that a formal application can be made for his bail application.



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST:
Procurement of Group Life Assurance for employees of NCAA

Ref. No...NCAA/DFA/03/1090/Vol.1

The Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) since inception in 2000 has strived in the provision of enabling working environment and standard condition of service for its workforce in order to achieve high level staff performances.

NCAA has over Eight hundred (800) workforce working at four Regional offices namely: Port Harcourt, Kano, Abuja and Kaduna as well as the Aviation House MMIA Domestic wing, Ikeja Lagos.

Consequent upon the enactment of Pension reform Act in 2004 and upon the approval of the rates to be applied in the procurement of Group Life Assurance for employees of Federal Government in 2010 by the Federal Executive Council (FEC), Management of the Authority is therefore desirous of engaging suitable and reputable prospective Insurance Brokers and Underwriters to provide Insurance cover for the Authority's staff group Life Assurance Policy.

A. SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Interested prospective insurance Brokers and underwriters are to submit the following documents:

1. Certificate of Business Registration with Corporate Affairs Commission.(CAC)
2. Evidence of Three (3) years Tax Clearance Certificate.
3. List of companies previously insured with values not less than Twenty Million Naira (₦20,000,000.00)
4. Letter of reference from any reputable bank.
5. Current Company Audited Accounts for the last three years
6. Company's profile which should include names, qualifications and experience of key personnel.
7. Evidence of payment of non-refundable tender fee of ₦20,000.00
8. Evidence of registration with relevant professional body

B. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Technical and Financial proposals comprising of technical descriptions and methodology as well as financial computations to be stated clearly in the expression of Interest proposal.

The Tender fees stated above is to be paid in cash to the cash office at Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority, Aviation House, Murtala Mohammed International Airport, Domestic Wing, Ikeja Lagos.

C. COLLECTION OF BRIEFS

Interested insurance Brokers and underwriters should collect briefs from the office of GM (Human Resources) Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority, Aviation House, Murtala Mohammed International Airport, Domestic Wing, Ikeja Lagos.

D. SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS

All EOI are to be dropped into a box provided for the purpose at the Address below signed and sealed in an envelope clearly marked 'CONFIDENTIAL' and boldly written 'Expression of Interest' to provide insurance cover for the Authority's staff group life assurance policy address to:

**THE SECRETARY,
PROCUREMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE (PPC)
PROCUREMENT UNIT,
NIGERIAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY
AVIATION HOUSE
MURITAL MOHAMMED INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT,
DOMESTIC WING,
LAGOS.**

E. Note:

- i) Please note that due diligence will be conducted.
- ii) The absence of any of the criteria A and B above would considered **NON RESPONSIVE** and that automatically disqualified any insurance firm.
- iii) The original documents for criteria A and B above must be produced for sighting during the opening session.
- iv) This advertisement shall not be construed as a commitment on the part of NCAA, nor shall it entitle the tenderer to make any claims whatsoever and or seek any indemnity from NCAA by virtue of such tenderer having responded to the advert.
- v) EOI documents will be opened at 2.00pm in the conference room of Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority, Aviation House Murtala Mohammed International Airport, Domestic Wing, Ikeja-Lagos two weeks from the date of this publication.

Signed:
Management



JIGAWA STATE GOVERNMENT,
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Block 40-42 Old Secretariat, P.M.B. 7017, Dutse, and Jigawa State, Nigeria

**INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF
CONTRACTORS FOR ETF 2008/2009
INTERVENTION PROJECTS**

A. PREAMBLE

Further to the release in principle by the Education Trust Fund (ETF) to embark on the years 2008/2009 projects the Ministry wishes to invite suitable qualified contractors for pre-qualification to execute the projects. The projects include:-

- a- Library development
- b- Fabrication of 1320 seats of 3 seater students' furniture
- c- Supply of science laboratory equipment and materials
- d- Supply of instructional aids, delivery equipment, facilities and materials
- e- Supply of Hand tools and machines to 4 Technical colleges

The projects are spread across the 3 Senatorial Districts of the State.

B. PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Prospective contractors are expected to submit companies' corporate profile containing the following information/documents:

1. Certificate of incorporation
2. Evidence of registration with the state works registration board in relevant category
3. Company audited account for 3 years including tax clearance certificate
4. Evidence of financial capability and or banking support
5. Evidence of experiences and technical qualification of key personnel
6. Equipment, plant and technology capability
7. Record of similar previous project executed and evidence of knowledge of the industry.
8. Evidence of settlement of PAYEE and other withholding taxes due to Jigawa State.
9. VAT registration and evidence of past VAT remittance
10. Annual turnover of the company
11. Local resources utilization
12. A sworn affidavit certified as follows:
 - i. Those documents submitted are genuine and correct.
 - ii. That none of the directors/partners of the company has been convicted by any court of law.
 - iii. That the firm/company is not bankrupt.
 - iv. That none of the officers of the procuring entity is a former or present director of the company.

C. SUBMISSION OF COMPLETE PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

1. Pre - qualification (technical) documents should be submitted in 2 copies, marked original and a copy respectively, sealed in envelopes and levelled "pre- qualification to tender"..Itemised in the PREAMBLE (ETF 2008/2009 Intervention funds); with the name of the firm at the back of the envelope and addressed to:

**The Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
Block 40-42, Old Secretariat, Dutse.
Jigawa State.**

2. All documents should be submitted to the above address within 2 weeks from the date of this advert, late submission will be rejected.

3. Names of successful pre-qualified firms/contractors will be published in one of the daily news papers. Only successful pre-qualified Firms/Contractors will be allowed to purchase tender documents.

SIGNED
MANAGEMENT



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

Invitation for Bids

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COLLEGE, RUBOCHI - ABUJA
**Procurement of Science Equipment,
Chemicals, Office Equipment, ICT
and Instructional Materials.**
IDA CREDIT No. 4304-UNI
Date of Issuance: 16th April, 2010

1. This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in Development Business, issue no. 591 of 2nd July, 2007.
2. The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has received a credit from the International Development Association towards the cost of Science and Technology Education Post Basic Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the Contract for the Procurement of Science Equipment, Chemicals, Office Equipment, ICT and Instructional Materials

CONTRACT NO: STEP-B/FGC/RB/GDS/NCB/01/10

3. The Science and Technology Education Post Basic Project, Federal Government College Rubochi, now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Procurement of the following:

| Lot No | Description | Qty | Bid Security | Bid Validity Period | Delivery Period | Delivery Location |
|--------|-------------------------|---------|----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Science Equipment | Various | At least 2.5% of Bid Price | 90 Days | 60 days | FGC RUBOCHI |
| 2 | Chemicals | Various | At least 2.5% of Bid Price | 90 Days | 60days | FGC RUBOCHI |
| 3 | Office Equipment | Various | At least 2.5% of Bid Price | 90 Days | 60 days | FGC RUBOCHI |
| 4 | ICT | Various | At least 2.5% of Bid Price | 90 Days | 60 days | FGC RUBOCHI |
| 5 | Instructional Materials | Various | At least 2.5% of Bid Price | 90 Days | 60 days | FGC RUBOCHI |

4. Bidding will be conducted through the **National Competitive Bidding (NCB)**, a procedure specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from STEP-B FGC RUBOCHI at the address below and inspect the Bidding Documents from 8:00am to 4:00pm Monday to Friday excluding public holidays.

6. Qualifications requirements include:

- Evidence of previous supply (sale) of similar Equipment proposed for the last 5 years.
- Audited Financial Statements for the last 3 years to demonstrate the financial capability of the Bidder in terms of Profitability and adequate working capital.

A margin of preference for eligible national contractors **shall not be applied**; Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.

7. A complete set of Bidding Documents in **English** may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee of N 10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Naira) only. The method of payment will be Bank Draft in favor of STEP-B FGC RUBOCHI or by cash. The Bidding Documents will be collected by the representative of the Bidder or by courier services on request.
8. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before **2:00pm on Thursday 20th May, 2010**. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders or bidders' representatives, who choose to attend in person at the address below at **2:00pm on Thursday 20th May, 2010**. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of 2.5% of the bid price in a freely convertible currency or bank draft from a reputable Nigeria commercial bank.
9. The address referred to above is:

**The Project Manager,
Science and Technology Education Post -Basic Project, (STEP-B),
Federal Government college,
Rubochi,
Abuja,
Nigeria**
E-mail: fctstepbfgc@yahoo.com
Telephone: Principal- 08023071336, PM-08033940952, PO-08036576733,
CO-08036457262, M&E- 08033978187

Signed: MANAGEMENT

PIX: FIDELIS MAC-LEVA



A craftman displaying his items along Kubwa road yesterday.



CULTURAL dancers entertaining guests at Craft Centre in Abuja recently.



RESIDENTS fetching water at Gishiri community recently.

Trust Islamic Forum

In the name of Allah the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful. All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the worlds. We testify that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, and that Muhammed (peace be upon him) is His prophet and messenger. May the benediction and blessings of Allah be on Prophet Muhammed who is the noblest of mankind, his household, his companions and those who follow their foot steps till the day of resurrection.

Sticking to the middle course

By Shayk Tajudeen M.B. Adigun

BECAUSE Qur'an was revealed in Arabic and since it used the word Wasatiyyah to indicate middle course or moderation in a variety of contexts, it will be necessary to introduce this word and its meanings to make sense of what this concept means. Words associated with Wasatiyyah or being in the middle and moderate in the Arabic language are rooted in wasata, which implies fairness and justice. The straightest part of a thing is its wasat. It is also that part of 'anything' which lies between its two ends.

The word is originally a noun, but it can be used as an adjective to indicate, "Being the best." This explains a common Arabic proverb that says, "The best of all things is their middle." The word was also used as an adjective in the verse of the Noble Qur'an, which says, "We have made you a middle nation [2:143] which means here a just nation or a benevolent one. The scholar of Qur'an and Arabic, Al-Asfahani says: "The word moderate is sometimes used to describe something that has two unpleasant extremities. An example of this is generosity, which is middle between stinginess and extravagance. Thus it is used to refer to something free from extremism in either direction. In this sense, it is used as a word of praise, the same way that words like straight, just and fair are used. An example of this is the verse: "We have made you a nation justly balanced." In other places, the Qur'an uses it to describe something between one praiseworthy, extremity and another, offensive one, such as good and evil. Examples of figurative use of words in the verses of the Holy Qur'an are abundant.

Moderation that leads to balance describes an Islamic term called Wasatiyyah, which is a fundamental and distinguishing feature of Islam. The Qur'an for example describes the Muslims nation as a "Wasat" or moderate nation, it says, "We (Allah) have made you a nation justly balanced." [2:143], meaning we provided you with laws and ways- both at the individual and community levels- that will make people of moderation and fairness. And those who know the hundreds - literally - of textual injunctions and directions stated in the Qur'an and the sayings of Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) would realize that moderation and balanced - middle-

most choices in all things, are authentically unique characteristics of Islam that were clearly established in its original revealed texts. By contrast, the concept of moderation, in all other religions and philosophies, is fairly a recent development.

And despite the extensive writings - detailing and expanding on this concept and its application in the society - throughout history by Muslims, which kept this beautiful idea alive until it reached us today, certain elements of deviation of our contemporary life, from within the Muslim community and outside of it, have negatively influenced the way Islamic moderation is perceived. Ignorance, laxity, as well as extremism on the part of some Muslims together with misunderstanding, misinformation as well as some blunt lying from non-Muslims (the majority of this is carried out by Hollywood and extremists in Western media) all have 'manufactured' a very distorted - and - violent picture of the religion of Islam. And even though the events of the Muslim world untold amount of devastation and materials loss, the awakening they induced within Muslims and the education they instilled in others are tremendous. And despite the tragic events of 9/11,

Muslims as well as non-Muslims are trying more than anytime in the past to understand Islam, and many are succeeding in getting to know it free from what distort it for a long time. With this in mind, moderation is discussed here hoping to shed light on some aspects of this beautiful and uniquely Islamic concept.

Let us look at some aspects of moderation and compare them to some of the other religions, and philosophies.

FAITH: Muslims' faith is a middle way among other known faiths. It is not excessive, as it is the case with the faiths that deify their clergy and monks, including Jesus, the son of Mary, alayhemus Sallam. Nor do Muslims go to the other extreme by disrespecting or not revering their prophet or pious and good people. History is littered with stories of those who have disrespected and sometimes killed their prophets and pious men. The Qur'an spoke of some of these incidents. Some religious books disrespected their Prophets to the extent of accusing them of lying and adultery. Muslims, on the other hand, believe

in, support, revere, and love all Allah's messengers, but do not worship or deify them. They also believe in all the Books revealed to Prophets and Messengers of Allah such as the original Torah and Injil. Thus, there is a course that is middle one, a course that strikes a benevolent balance between two incorrect extremes.

Another point, in which the Muslim faith strikes a very delicate balance, is the middle way it takes between material and spiritual interests. Each is given its due in the right proportion. Thus, man can work for his life on earth. When he does that, in the right way, it is considered for him/her as worship of Allah and fulfillment of the purpose of human existence. Muslims say, "Live in this world as if you were to live in it eternally, and work for the one to come as if you were going to die tomorrow." Other creeds fluctuate between emphasizing and renouncing material aspects. The modern Western civilization, for example, idolizes economic and social interests, wealth, power affluence and other material gains. On the other hand, there are sects and religions that promote frugality, monastic living, and even body abuse - in some cases - to achieve spiritual transcendence.

CONDUCT AND ETHICS: Islam also avoids extremes of moral obligations; it neither advocates utopian idealism, or austere realism. It does not demand a life that is lived only to satisfy the highest ideals of a perfect conscience, nor does it advocate a life controlled by desires and whims that leads to debauchery and indulgence. Rather, it provides man with ways of cultivating conscience to instill love and Taqwa (positive sense of fear) of Allah, the Creator, and devotion to Him. And it promotes high ethical values, which are exemplified by a great human being, Prophet Muhammad, sallallahu alayhi wasallam, who is described by Allah as being of sublime manners. This context applies to all personal affairs, social relations, and individual and group interests.

Allah says in Qur'an 68 vs. 4 "And indeed, you are of a great moral character." In Qur'an 33 vs. 21 Allah says "There is certainly for you in the Messenger of Allah an excellent pattern for anyone whose hope is in Allah and the Last Day and (who) remembers Allah often.

IJTIHAD: This aspect concerns itself with the sources of knowledge and reference. And so, sources of knowledge revelation, reason, and intuition are held in Islam in a perfect balance, which leaves no room for conflict between them, and none is given undue importance at the expense of another. Each has its sphere of influence, its role, and its characteristics. Islam tells us that they are all creations of Allah who provided man with them to use as tools that make easier for him to lead a successful and meaningful life. Again, it is not difficult here to see the difference between this and the attitude taken by the European Church and by secular ideologies, where the recognition of a source of knowledge implies by necessity the cancellation of the other.

Allah says in the Qur'an 4 verses 82 and 83: "Do they not reflect upon the Qur'an? If it had been from any other than Allah, they would have found within it much contradiction"

"And when there comes to them something (i.e. information) about public security or fear, they spread it round. But if they had referred it back to the Messenger or to those of authority among them, then the ones who can draw conclusion from it would have known about it. And if not for the favour of Allah upon you and His mercy, you would have followed Shaitan, except for a few."

The qualities of a moderate Muslim

1. Knowledge
2. Forbearance
3. Tolerance
4. Contentment
5. Organization
6. Sincerity
7. Du'a

Islam maintains a moderate stand and vision between the metaphysical and the physical, and between all opposite and differing extremes.

At this junction, we need to be reminded the response of the Prophet of Allah to the un-Islamic statements of three men who were trying to deviate from his tradition. He said to them "I am the most pious of you. I pray in the mid-night and I sleep, I fast and I eat, and I also marry, whosoever deviates and transgresses from my tradition is not part of me."

Shayk Adigun is the Chief Imam of Fouad Lababidi Mosque, Wuse Zone 3, Abuja.

ASK YOUR IMAM

Is it allowed in Islam for a lady to perform her prayers with nail-polish on?

It is permissible for a woman to colour her nails for the purpose of adornment, with materials that do not cause harm, and there is nothing wrong with her praying with that, unless it is a substance that prevents water from reaching what is beneath it, in which case wudoo' and ghusl are not valid unless it is removed. If the wudoo' is not valid then the prayer is not valid. And Allah knows best.

Ansarul-Islam tasks Muslims on Juma'at mosque

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

ANSARUL Islam Society of Nigeria, Kaduna branch, has urged Muslims in the country to assist in the completion of its Juma'at Mosque located at Abakpa in Kaduna metropolis.

Chairman of the mosque Alhaji Ahmed R. Adio who made the call in an interview with our correspondent said the building of the

one-storey mosque was started 10 years ago but they could not complete it as a result of non-availability of funds.

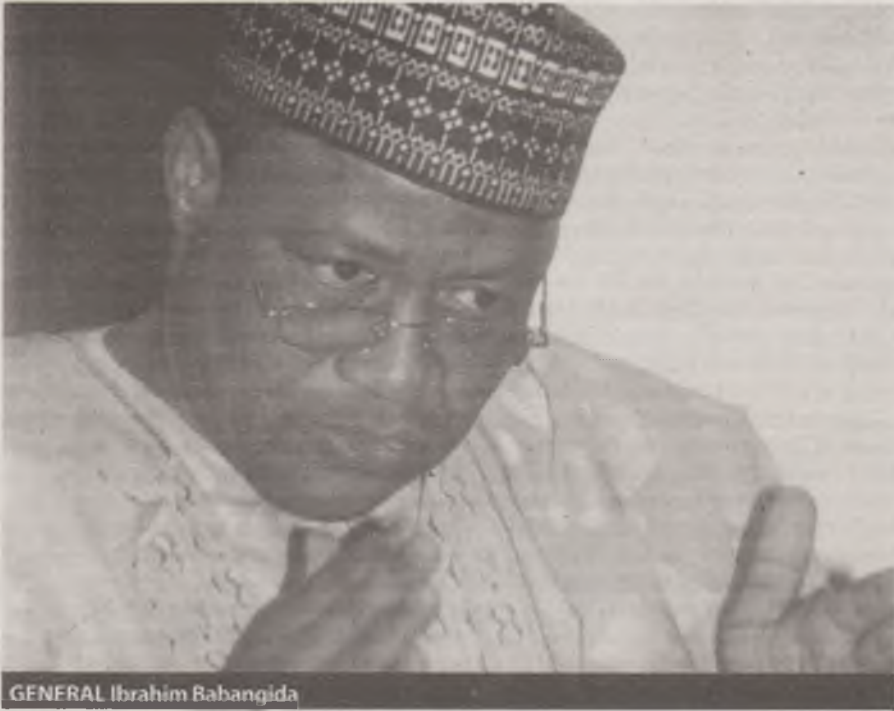
"We are dedicating the ground floor of the mosque for the males while the other one will be for the females. Each of the floors will have a library that will intend to stock with Islamic books and other literatures for the use of patrons of the mosque," he said.

He said a-4 man fundraising committee has been constituted to go round and solicited for donations from prominent and well-to-do Muslims for the project.

"We are about to start the second phase of the project which is the construction of the 1st floor. It is in this respect, that we are appealing for your contribution either financially or otherwise for the achievement of the project," he said.

Inside Politics

Vatsa's brother is wrong on IBB, Kundak says



GENERAL Ibrahim Babangida

From Muhammad Abubakar, Bauchi

A former leader of a pro-IBB group Abdulummini Muhammad Kundak has advised Nigerians to resist any attempt by any group or individuals bent on scuttling moves by former military president Ibrahim Babangida to stand for president in 2011.

Kundak, formerly Bauchi state coordinator of a coalition promoting General Babangida for president in 2007 and now special adviser on assembly matters to Governor Isa Yuguda, was reacting to reports quoting younger brother to the late General Mamman Vatsa threatening to mobilize protests against IBB.

Kundak told newsmen in Bauchi on Thursday that the plan by Jonathan Vatsa was diversionary and sentimental, and would not auger well for Nigerians at a time when a tested hand was required to steer the country to a right course.

"Under the present zoning arrangement of the ruling party it is still the turn of the North to produce the next president and I can tell you that the North in particular and Nigeria in general cannot afford to do away with a man of IBB's leadership credentials on the basis of sentiments and negative emotions. Nigeria needs this man who has remained a leader even after leaving office," he said.

Kundak, a former deputy speaker of the state House of Assembly, advised Northern elders to resist any move to discredit the former military leader who he said had wanted to contest the 2007 presidential elections but withdrew when his elders asked him to do so in favor of President Umaru Yar'adua.

"IBB would have contested and won the election but he withdrew because of the respect he has for elders and the leadership of this country. Over the years the man has demonstrated that he is a leader who knows the country very well. He should be supported in the interest of Nigeria and Nigerians. We don't have a better choice at the moment," he said.

I don't have problem with Kano govt ... says lone PDP LG boss

From Hisham Habib, Kano

THE only local government chairman elected on PDP's platform in Kano State Alhaji Mannir Babba Dan-Agundi has said he has not been having much worry with the state government over funds despite being in the opposition.

He was reacting to questions from journalists after a briefing on the activities of his council since inauguration, saying he had spent over a billion naira in executing projects in the metropolitan local government.

Dan-Agundi said the

state assembly in one of its oversight functions commended his administration as one of the best with less complexities and transparent activities. He said the local government, being the closest to the people, should be given more attention in the overall national development plan.

He said recently the fight against drug abuse was found to be more viable with cooperation from local governments, citing his experience with the NDLEA while fighting drug barons in Sheka, a cosmopolitan area under the council.

On the fiscal hardship faced by the councils across the country, Dan-Agundi said the excess crude oil money was used by his council in improving the education sector. He said there was also a tremendous development in the area of polio eradication and that the type A was cleared from the area.

Dan-Agundi said his council is also collaborating with Opportunity Industrialization Center (OIC), which has the backing of the Central Bank of Nigeria, to promote skills acquisition to youths in the area.

Why we quit mega party talks, by CPC

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

THE Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) yesterday said it opted out of the formation of a mega party that will challenge the People's Democratic Party (PDP) because of ideological differences with co-travellers in the project.

CPC's National Publicity Secretary Mr. Aghanya Dennis said they were sure issues of different political entanglements among the umpions of the mega

party project would eventually crop up. He said the CPC opted rather for an electoral alliance especially during the presidential poll.

Dennis said only the Action Congress (AC) and the Democratic People's Party (DPP) have so far agreed to collapse into a single political party, adding that since discussions were on political alliances should be encouraged ahead of the elections.

He said if a politi-

cal party could not file a popular candidate at any level, others should support a party that has a more acceptable candidate.

However, speaking on BBC Hausa yesterday, AC's National Secretary Dr. Usman Bugaje said those in the National Democratic Movement had already agreed to form a party, which would be announced soon. He said the decision by some politicians to opt out would only strengthen the movement.

INEC soon to register party for mega summit

By Muideen Olaniyi

THE Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) may issue a certificate of registration to the Mega Progressive People's Party (MPPP) next week, a party being proposed by the Mega Summit Movement (MSM).

This followed a meeting of the MSM held on Tuesday where Rasheed Adewale Shitta-Bey, the leader of the movement's secretariat underscored the need to register the new party to correct what he called the

"master-servant" political relationship between the people and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

Shitta-Bey, who dismissed the reported crack within the movement, stressed the need for Nigerians to oppose any undemocratic political parties that failed to fulfill their electoral promises.

"There is no political movement or party that will tell the people that it intends to incapacitate them. All political parties have basically the same manifestoes—better health care,

free and qualitative education, good roads, affordable shelter etc. Political parties in Nigeria have always proposed good manifestoes or programmes but would not implement the programmes and manifestoes as promised.

"This situation has worsened the present political and economic equation in the country because the president, the governors, local government chairmen run the government like an absolute monarch where the king is lord," he said.

Plateau MP says suspension illegal

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

CHAIRMAN of the Plateau State House of Assembly committee on information Emmanuel Jugul said his suspension by the Professor Dakum Shown-led faction of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in the state was null and void.

Jugul was suspended by the embattled Shown faction following his alleged anti party statements.

But he said yesterday in Jos, while receiving an award from the North-central chapter of the PDP Student Forum and the National Association of Plateau Students, that the constitution of the party does not give the chairman the power to suspend a

member of the state assembly.

"The constitution of the PDP...states that no chairman of the state has the power to suspend a member of the state assembly. I am appealing to the former chairman of the party to go back and read the constitution of the party again," Jugul said.

Speaking on the award, the lawmaker representing Riyom constituency said it was another challenge on him, and also amounted to him "simply being asked to do more for the community he is representing."

Meanwhile, dozens of youths gathered outside the venue of the event protesting against conferring the award on Jugul, holding placards with derogatory inscriptions.

THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF QUANTITY SURVEYORS (NIQS)



"VICTOR AKAN HOUSE"
17/19 IDOWU TAYLOR STREET
VICTORIA ISLAND
P.O. BOX 2666, LAGOS, NIGERIA
TEL: 08028303346

RESULT OF 2009 PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATIONS

The Nigerian Institute of Quantity Surveyors (NIQS) announces the Result of the 2009 Professional Examinations held at Abuja, Kaduna, Bauchi, Lagos, Portharcourt and Enugu centres:

A SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES

i) Test of Professional Competence Examination (TPC). Passes 333No.

2009 TPC SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES

| S/N | EXAM NO. | S/N | EXAM NO. | S/N | EXAM NO. |
|-----|---------------|-----|---------------|-----|---------------|
| 1 | TPC/01/09/001 | 131 | TPC/06/09/283 | 262 | TPC/06/09/350 |
| 2 | TPC/01/09/002 | 132 | TPC/06/09/284 | 263 | TPC/06/09/351 |
| 3 | TPC/01/09/003 | 133 | TPC/06/09/285 | 264 | TPC/06/09/352 |
| 4 | TPC/01/09/004 | 134 | TPC/06/09/286 | 265 | TPC/06/09/353 |
| 5 | TPC/01/09/005 | 135 | TPC/06/09/287 | 266 | TPC/06/09/354 |
| 6 | TPC/01/09/006 | 136 | TPC/06/09/288 | 267 | TPC/06/09/355 |
| 7 | TPC/01/09/007 | 137 | TPC/06/09/289 | 268 | TPC/06/09/356 |
| 8 | TPC/01/09/008 | 138 | TPC/06/09/290 | 269 | TPC/06/09/357 |
| 9 | TPC/01/09/009 | 139 | TPC/06/09/291 | 270 | TPC/06/09/358 |
| 10 | TPC/01/09/010 | 140 | TPC/06/09/292 | 271 | TPC/06/09/359 |
| 11 | TPC/01/09/011 | 141 | TPC/06/09/293 | 272 | TPC/06/09/360 |
| 12 | TPC/01/09/012 | 142 | TPC/06/09/294 | 273 | TPC/06/09/361 |
| 13 | TPC/01/09/013 | 143 | TPC/06/09/295 | 274 | TPC/06/09/362 |
| 14 | TPC/01/09/014 | 144 | TPC/06/09/296 | 275 | TPC/06/09/363 |
| 15 | TPC/01/09/015 | 145 | TPC/06/09/297 | 276 | TPC/06/09/364 |
| 16 | TPC/01/09/016 | 146 | TPC/06/09/298 | 277 | TPC/06/09/365 |
| 17 | TPC/01/09/017 | 147 | TPC/06/09/299 | 278 | TPC/06/09/366 |
| 18 | TPC/01/09/018 | 148 | TPC/06/09/300 | 279 | TPC/06/09/367 |
| 19 | TPC/01/09/019 | 149 | TPC/06/09/301 | 280 | TPC/06/09/368 |
| 20 | TPC/01/09/020 | 150 | TPC/06/09/302 | 281 | TPC/06/09/369 |
| 21 | TPC/01/09/021 | 151 | TPC/06/09/303 | 282 | TPC/06/09/370 |
| 22 | TPC/01/09/022 | 152 | TPC/06/09/304 | 283 | TPC/06/09/371 |
| 23 | TPC/01/09/023 | 153 | TPC/06/09/305 | 284 | TPC/06/09/372 |
| 24 | TPC/01/09/024 | 154 | TPC/06/09/306 | 285 | TPC/06/09/373 |
| 25 | TPC/01/09/025 | 155 | TPC/06/09/307 | 286 | TPC/06/09/374 |
| 26 | TPC/01/09/026 | 156 | TPC/06/09/308 | 287 | TPC/06/09/375 |
| 27 | TPC/01/09/027 | 157 | TPC/06/09/309 | 288 | TPC/06/09/376 |
| 28 | TPC/01/09/028 | 158 | TPC/06/09/310 | 289 | TPC/06/09/377 |
| 29 | TPC/01/09/029 | 159 | TPC/06/09/311 | 290 | TPC/06/09/378 |
| 30 | TPC/01/09/030 | 160 | TPC/06/09/312 | 291 | TPC/06/09/379 |
| 31 | TPC/01/09/031 | 161 | TPC/06/09/313 | 292 | TPC/06/09/380 |
| 32 | TPC/01/09/032 | 162 | TPC/06/09/314 | 293 | TPC/06/09/381 |
| 33 | TPC/01/09/033 | 163 | TPC/06/09/315 | 294 | TPC/06/09/382 |
| 34 | TPC/01/09/034 | 164 | TPC/06/09/316 | 295 | TPC/06/09/383 |
| 35 | TPC/01/09/035 | 165 | TPC/06/09/317 | 296 | TPC/06/09/384 |
| 36 | TPC/01/09/036 | 166 | TPC/06/09/318 | 297 | TPC/06/09/385 |
| 37 | TPC/01/09/037 | 167 | TPC/06/09/319 | 298 | TPC/06/09/386 |
| 38 | TPC/01/09/038 | 168 | TPC/06/09/320 | 299 | TPC/06/09/387 |
| 39 | TPC/01/09/039 | 169 | TPC/06/09/321 | 300 | TPC/06/09/388 |
| 40 | TPC/01/09/040 | 170 | TPC/06/09/322 | 301 | TPC/06/09/389 |
| 41 | TPC/01/09/041 | 171 | TPC/06/09/323 | 302 | TPC/06/09/390 |
| 42 | TPC/01/09/042 | 172 | TPC/06/09/324 | 303 | TPC/06/09/391 |
| 43 | TPC/01/09/043 | 173 | TPC/06/09/325 | 304 | TPC/06/09/392 |
| 44 | TPC/01/09/044 | 174 | TPC/06/09/326 | 305 | TPC/06/09/393 |
| 45 | TPC/01/09/045 | 175 | TPC/06/09/327 | 306 | TPC/06/09/394 |
| 46 | TPC/01/09/046 | 176 | TPC/06/09/328 | 307 | TPC/06/09/395 |
| 47 | TPC/01/09/047 | 177 | TPC/06/09/329 | 308 | TPC/06/09/396 |
| 48 | TPC/01/09/048 | 178 | TPC/06/09/330 | 309 | TPC/06/09/397 |
| 49 | TPC/01/09/049 | 179 | TPC/06/09/331 | 310 | TPC/06/09/398 |
| 50 | TPC/01/09/050 | 180 | TPC/06/09/332 | 311 | TPC/06/09/399 |
| 51 | TPC/01/09/051 | 181 | TPC/06/09/333 | 312 | TPC/06/09/400 |
| 52 | TPC/01/09/052 | 182 | TPC/06/09/334 | 313 | TPC/06/09/401 |
| 53 | TPC/01/09/053 | 183 | TPC/06/09/335 | 314 | TPC/06/09/402 |
| 54 | TPC/01/09/054 | 184 | TPC/06/09/336 | 315 | TPC/06/09/403 |
| 55 | TPC/01/09/055 | 185 | TPC/06/09/337 | 316 | TPC/06/09/404 |
| 56 | TPC/01/09/056 | 186 | TPC/06/09/338 | 317 | TPC/06/09/405 |
| 57 | TPC/01/09/057 | 187 | TPC/06/09/339 | 318 | TPC/06/09/406 |
| 58 | TPC/01/09/058 | 188 | TPC/06/09/340 | 319 | TPC/06/09/407 |
| 59 | TPC/01/09/059 | 189 | TPC/06/09/341 | 320 | TPC/06/09/408 |
| 60 | TPC/01/09/060 | 190 | TPC/06/09/342 | 321 | TPC/06/09/409 |
| 61 | TPC/01/09/061 | 191 | TPC/06/09/343 | 322 | TPC/06/09/410 |
| 62 | TPC/01/09/062 | 192 | TPC/06/09/344 | 323 | TPC/06/09/411 |
| 63 | TPC/01/09/063 | 193 | TPC/06/09/345 | 324 | TPC/06/09/412 |
| 64 | TPC/01/09/064 | 194 | TPC/06/09/346 | 325 | TPC/06/09/413 |
| 65 | TPC/01/09/065 | 195 | TPC/06/09/347 | 326 | TPC/06/09/414 |
| 66 | TPC/01/09/066 | 196 | TPC/06/09/348 | 327 | TPC/06/09/415 |
| 67 | TPC/01/09/067 | 197 | TPC/06/09/349 | 328 | TPC/06/09/416 |
| 68 | TPC/01/09/068 | 198 | TPC/06/09/350 | 329 | TPC/06/09/417 |
| 69 | TPC/01/09/069 | 199 | TPC/06/09/351 | 330 | TPC/06/09/418 |
| 70 | TPC/01/09/070 | 200 | TPC/06/09/352 | 331 | TPC/06/09/419 |
| 71 | TPC/01/09/071 | 201 | TPC/06/09/353 | 332 | TPC/06/09/420 |
| 72 | TPC/01/09/072 | 202 | TPC/06/09/354 | 333 | TPC/06/09/421 |
| 73 | TPC/01/09/073 | 203 | TPC/06/09/355 | 334 | TPC/06/09/422 |
| 74 | TPC/01/09/074 | 204 | TPC/06/09/356 | 335 | TPC/06/09/423 |
| 75 | TPC/01/09/075 | 205 | TPC/06/09/357 | 336 | TPC/06/09/424 |
| 76 | TPC/01/09/076 | 206 | TPC/06/09/358 | 337 | TPC/06/09/425 |
| 77 | TPC/01/09/077 | 207 | TPC/06/09/359 | 338 | TPC/06/09/426 |
| 78 | TPC/01/09/078 | 208 | TPC/06/09/360 | 339 | TPC/06/09/427 |
| 79 | TPC/01/09/079 | 209 | TPC/06/09/361 | 340 | TPC/06/09/428 |
| 80 | TPC/01/09/080 | 210 | TPC/06/09/362 | 341 | TPC/06/09/429 |
| 81 | TPC/01/09/081 | 211 | TPC/06/09/363 | 342 | TPC/06/09/430 |
| 82 | TPC/01/09/082 | 212 | TPC/06/09/364 | 343 | TPC/06/09/431 |
| 83 | TPC/01/09/083 | 213 | TPC/06/09/365 | 344 | TPC/06/09/432 |
| 84 | TPC/01/09/084 | 214 | TPC/06/09/366 | 345 | TPC/06/09/433 |
| 85 | TPC/01/09/085 | 215 | TPC/06/09/367 | 346 | TPC/06/09/434 |
| 86 | TPC/01/09/086 | 216 | TPC/06/09/368 | 347 | TPC/06/09/435 |
| 87 | TPC/01/09/087 | 217 | TPC/06/09/369 | 348 | TPC/06/09/436 |
| 88 | TPC/01/09/088 | 218 | TPC/06/09/370 | 349 | TPC/06/09/437 |
| 89 | TPC/01/09/089 | 219 | TPC/06/09/371 | 350 | TPC/06/09/438 |
| 90 | TPC/01/09/090 | 220 | TPC/06/09/372 | 351 | TPC/06/09/439 |
| 91 | TPC/01/09/091 | 221 | TPC/06/09/373 | 352 | TPC/06/09/440 |
| 92 | TPC/01/09/092 | 222 | TPC/06/09/374 | 353 | TPC/06/09/441 |
| 93 | TPC/01/09/093 | 223 | TPC/06/09/375 | 354 | TPC/06/09/442 |
| 94 | TPC/01/09/094 | 224 | TPC/06/09/376 | 355 | TPC/06/09/443 |
| 95 | TPC/01/09/095 | 225 | TPC/06/09/377 | 356 | TPC/06/09/444 |
| 96 | TPC/01/09/096 | 226 | TPC/06/09/378 | 357 | TPC/06/09/445 |
| 97 | TPC/01/09/097 | 227 | TPC/06/09/379 | 358 | TPC/06/09/446 |
| 98 | TPC/01/09/098 | 228 | TPC/06/09/380 | 359 | TPC/06/09/447 |
| 99 | TPC/01/09/099 | 229 | TPC/06/09/381 | 360 | TPC/06/09/448 |
| 100 | TPC/01/09/100 | 230 | TPC/06/09/382 | 361 | TPC/06/09/449 |
| 101 | TPC/01/09/101 | 231 | TPC/06/09/383 | 362 | TPC/06/09/450 |
| 102 | TPC/01/09/102 | 232 | TPC/06/09/384 | 363 | TPC/06/09/451 |
| 103 | TPC/01/09/103 | 233 | TPC/06/09/385 | 364 | TPC/06/09/452 |
| 104 | TPC/01/09/104 | 234 | TPC/06/09/386 | 365 | TPC/06/09/453 |
| 105 | TPC/01/09/105 | 235 | TPC/06/09/387 | 366 | TPC/06/09/454 |
| 106 | TPC/01/09/106 | 236 | TPC/06/09/388 | 367 | TPC/06/09/455 |
| 107 | TPC/01/09/107 | 237 | TPC/06/09/389 | 368 | TPC/06/09/456 |
| 108 | TPC/01/09/108 | 238 | TPC/06/09/390 | 369 | TPC/06/09/457 |
| 109 | TPC/01/09/109 | 239 | TPC/06/09/391 | 370 | TPC/06/09/458 |
| 110 | TPC/01/09/110 | 240 | TPC/06/09/392 | 371 | TPC/06/09/459 |
| 111 | TPC/01/09/111 | 241 | TPC/06/09/393 | 372 | TPC/06/09/460 |
| 112 | TPC/01/09/112 | 242 | TPC/06/09/394 | 373 | TPC/06/09/461 |
| 113 | TPC/01/09/113 | 243 | TPC/06/09/395 | 374 | TPC/06/09/462 |
| 114 | TPC/01/09/114 | 244 | TPC/06/09/396 | 375 | TPC/06/09/463 |
| 115 | TPC/01/09/115 | 245 | TPC/06/09/397 | 376 | TPC/06/09/464 |
| 116 | TPC/01/09/116 | 246 | TPC/06/09/398 | 377 | TPC/06/09/465 |
| 117 | TPC/01/09/117 | 247 | TPC/06/09/399 | 378 | TPC/06/09/466 |
| 118 | TPC/01/09/118 | 248 | TPC/06/09/400 | 379 | TPC/06/09/467 |
| 119 | TPC/01/09/119 | 249 | TPC/06/09/401 | 380 | TPC/06/09/468 |
| 120 | TPC/01/09/120 | 250 | TPC/06/09/402 | 381 | TPC/06/09/469 |
| 121 | TPC/01/09/121 | 251 | TPC/06/09/403 | 382 | TPC/06/09/470 |
| 122 | TPC/01/09/122 | 252 | TPC/06/09/404 | 383 | TPC/06/09/471 |
| 123 | TPC/01/09/123 | 253 | TPC/06/09/405 | 384 | TPC/06/09/472 |
| 124 | TPC/01/09/124 | 254 | TPC/06/09/406 | 385 | TPC/06/09/473 |
| 125 | TPC/01/09/125 | 255 | TPC/06/09/407 | 386 | TPC/06/09/474 |
| 126 | TPC/01/09/126 | 256 | TPC/06/09/408 | 387 | TPC/06/09/475 |
| 127 | TPC/01/09/127 | 257 | TPC/06/09/409 | 388 | TPC/06/09/476 |
| 128 | TPC/01/09/128 | 258 | TPC/06/09/410 | 389 | TPC/06/09/477 |
| 129 | TPC/01/09/129 | 259 | TPC/06/09/411 | 390 | TPC/06/09/478 |
| 130 | TPC/01/09/130 | 260 | TPC/06/09/412 | 391 | TPC/06/09/479 |
| | | 261 | TPC/06/09/413 | 392 | TPC/06/09/480 |

ii) Graduateship (GDE) Passes 213No.

2009 GDE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES

| S/N | EXAM NO. |
|-----|---------------|
| 1 | GDE/01/09/001 |
| 2 | GDE/01/09/002 |
| 3 | GDE/01/09/003 |
| 4 | GDE/01/09/004 |
| 5 | GDE/01/09/005 |
| 6 | GDE/01/09/006 |
| 7 | GDE/01/09/007 |
| 8 | GDE/01/09/008 |
| 9 | GDE/01/09/009 |
| 10 | GDE/01/09/010 |
| 11 | GDE/01/09/011 |
| 12 | GDE/01/09/012 |
| 13 | GDE/01/09/013 |
| 14 | GDE/01/09/014 |
| 15 | GDE/01/09/015 |
| 16 | GDE/01/09/016 |
| 17 | GDE/01/09/017 |
| 18 | GDE/01/09/018 |
| 19 | GDE/01/09/019 |
| 20 | GDE/01/09/020 |
| 21 | GDE/01/09/021 |
| 22 | GDE/01/09/022 |
| 23 | GDE/01/09/023 |
| 24 | GDE/01/09/024 |
| 25 | GDE/01/09/025 |
| 26 | GDE/01/09/026 |
| 27 | GDE/01/09/027 |
| 28 | GDE/01/09/028 |
| 29 | GDE/01/09/029 |
| 30 | GDE/01/09/030 |
| 31 | GDE/01/09/031 |
| 32 | GDE/01/09/032 |
| 33 | GDE/01/09/033 |
| 34 | GDE/01/09/034 |
| 35 | GDE/01/09/035 |
| 36 | GDE/01/09/036 |
| 37 | GDE/01/09/037 |
| 38 | GDE/01/09/038 |
| 39 | GDE/01/09/039 |
| 40 | GDE/01/09/040 |

TRUST CLASSIFIED

SHAMONS YOUTH FOUNDATION

This is to inform the general public that the above named foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act No. 1 of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Steven D. Yerima
2. Mrs Elizabeth Paul
3. Shadrack S. Yerima
4. Mrs Abigail Vincent

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. To create awareness on the effects of drug abuse especially among the youths.
2. To sensitise our people on the need to have a conducive living environment in addition to assisting with safe drinking water.
3. To harmonise the youths towards ensuring peaceful co-existence among diverse cultural and ethnic differences.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
Paul Sule Hakuri Esq.
07037376697

YOUTH AFRIQUE LEADERSHIP FORUM

This is to inform the general public that the above named Organisation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act No. 1 of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Nwani Chukwumogor Chris
2. Makwe Eugene Eric
3. Egekwu Odozaku
4. Anthonia Ekwey Ezech
5. Francis Odozaku
6. Paul Onyia
7. Goddamosi Okusolu Joshua
8. Salihu Ibrahim
9. Engr. Eam Inyang Jnr

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. To awaken every African Youth to reason and for active participation in nation building towards achieving a greater African personality and nations.
2. To help Youths worldwide identify and utilize their potentials for effective Leadership in the future.
3. To promote and enhance social, economic and physical empowerment of Youths in Africa and globally through enlightenment, empowerment workshops, conferences and seminars through collaborative effort with Government, Non-Government organizations and professionals in relevant fields.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
Felix Eki Esq

ASSOCIATION OF PRIVATE SECURITY PRACTITIONERS OF NIGERIA

This is to inform the general public that the above named Association has applied for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

The Trustees are:-

1. D.I.G. CHRIS OMEBEN (Rtd)
2. A.V.M. M. N. UMARU (Rtd)
3. MUSA UMAR PINDIGA
4. ALHAJI MUHAMMAD YUSUF
5. SIR. BARR. EDWIN I. ONAH
6. D.S.P. SUNDAY AJALA (Rtd)
7. CHIEF SIR EMMA OGBUAGWO
8. ELDERACHI DENOR

Aims and Objectives:-

1. To foster unity among private security operators in Nigeria.
2. To share information/experience among members towards better service to the public

Any objection (s) to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Maitama, Abuja, within 28 days from this publication.

Signed:
A. S. Amin Esq

AFRICA RAPID EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The General Public is hereby notified that the above named Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission Abuja for Registration under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act No. 1 of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. SIR IME NKEREUWEM BASSEY - Int'l. President/Chairman
2. MR. EMMANUEL MONDAY ESSIEN - General Secretary
3. PASTOR MACAULEY SUNDAY UBORIO - Member
4. MRS. IME IME BASSEY - Member
5. MRS. AGNES PAUL ETIM - Member

THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES ARE:

- 1) Eradication of illiteracy in Africa through rapid education.
 - 2) Establishment of rehabilitation centres for skill acquisition.
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B. 198, Maitama, Abuja within Twenty-Eight (28) days from the date of this publication.

Signed:
MR. EMMANUEL MONDAY ESSIEN
(General Secretary)

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to notify the general public the loss of Original Documents relating to the Land Property of No. B5 and B6 located at Mogadishu City Centre, Kaduna. The said documents belong to Mohammed Adamu 'M' of No. 37, Inuwa Wada Road, GRA, Kaduna. Anybody with useful information relating to the recovery of the said documents should please contact:

Mohammed Adamu
No. 37, Inuwa Wada Road
G.R.A, Kaduna.
08023341524, 08098641524

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public that the Original Grant of Right of Occupancy NO BO/12114 situated along Kano Road Maiduguri, belonging to Alhaji Mohammed Zira & Company limited is missing while on transit within the metropolis. All efforts to trace the missing document proved abortive. If found please contact the nearest Police station or call 08062999307

CHRIST FOUNDATION MIRACLE INTERNATIONAL CHAPEL

The general public is hereby notified that the above named church has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the Company and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Prophet Dr. Josiah Chukwuma Ezemanya Onuoha
2. Brother Chionso Ezike
3. Deaconess Ngozi Unakeje
4. Elder Stephen Azubike Akilika
5. Bro. James Olajide Omitade

AIMS & OBJECTIVES:

To spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to all nations to produce effective and dynamic evangelistic body and have missionary schools and hospitals. Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi street, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed: Prophet Dr. Josiah C. E. Onuoha

IBILE ASSOCIATION OF LAGOS DIVISION

The general public is hereby notified that the above named church has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the Company and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Alhaji Tajudeen Ajadi Bolaji Tiamiyu
2. Alhaji Fatai Aremu Sulaimon
3. Dr. Solomon Akintola Fastino Bankole
4. Alhaji Simbiat Anke Adekunle

AIMS & OBJECTIVES:

1. To protest the spirit of fellowship and unity of the indigenes of Lagos Division.
 2. To create and seek employment opportunities for indigenes at both private and public sectors of the economy.
 3. To harness human material and other resources in Lagos division.
 4. To take part in all activities that will lead to even development and progress of the Lagos division.
 5. To protect assist and defend the traditional institution.
- Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi street, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed: Jumoke

CLASSIC FRIENDS MARINE SOCIAL CLUB OF NIGERIA

This is to inform the general public that the above named Club has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for Registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act No. 1, 1990.

TRUSTEES:

1. ADONU EWERE LUCKY - PRESIDENT
2. JOHN SUNNY - SECRETARY GENERAL
3. MARIO ONYEWENU - TREASURER
4. BIDE MI OLAIEJU - P.R.O
5. OLUSHEGUN VICTOR - EX-OFFICIO
6. JOHN BRIGGS - MEMBER
7. ASUQUO UDOH - MEMBER
8. OBINNA BIENACHE - MEMBER
9. AUGUSTINE BOYI - MEMBER
10. KAZEEM LAWAL - MEMBER

Aims and objectives:

1. To promote unity, peace and progress amongst members
2. To promote brotherhood among its members
3. To facilitate the social and economic well-being of members of the club.
4. To provide for and assist members in need financially or otherwise.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight (28) days from the date of this publication.

Signed:
Barr. Kate Ifumu
0803667402

MISSING PERSON



ZAKARI WAZIRI

The above person whose photograph appears, named ZAKARI WAZIRI of Saka, Uke village in Nassarawa state has been declared missing. He is 27 years, Hausa by tribe, about 6ft and fair in complexion.

Any useful information about him please call:

1. Mohammed bello buwayi on 0806558286
2. Malam sulaiman waziri on 08056383678.

Signed: Nasiru Waziri
FOR: THE FAMILY

CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly known and called MISS BADIYAT LAWAL MUSA now wish to be known and called MRS DEBORA BADIYAT AYUBA GORA. National Nursing Council, Bingham University Teaching Hospital and the general public to note. All former documents remain valid.

I, formerly known as MISS AJAYI BEATRICE ADUNNI, now wish to be addressed as MRS AKINTADE BEATRICE ADUNNI. All former documents remain valid. First Bank Plc, general public takes note.

I, MISS MARY NSE PAUL, now wish to be called MRS MARY EFFIONG NSA. Former documents remain valid. NYSC, Akwa Poly IkotOsunia IkotEkpene and general public to note.

I, formally ADAMU IBRAHIM BAGAUDA now ADAMU MOHAMMED IBRAHIM. All former documents remain valid. NIHOTOUR and General public to note.

I formally known as FARIDA ISMA'IL now wish to be called Mrs. FARIDA ISMA'IL USMAN. All former documents remain valid B.U.K, NYSC and general public to note.

I formerly MERCY E. AMEH now wish to be called MERCY E. OBAFEMI. All documents remain valid. Zenith Bank and General public to take note.

I formally known as NAFISA HARAZIMI now wish to be known as Mrs. NAFISA HARAZIMI YUSUF. All former documents remain valid NYSC and the general public to note.

Formerly MU'AZZAM HUSSAINI now wish to be known as ABDULLAH MU'AZZAM. Former documents remain valid. Nigeria Police Force and Public take note.

I, formerly known as ABRAHIM ISMAIL KANO, now wish to be known as IBRAHIM ISMAIL DOGARA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I formerly known as AKANBI GANIYAT ABIMBOLA, now wish to be called MRS IJAOBA GANIYAT ABIMOLA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly FATIMA AMINU, now wish to be known as FATIMA ARMAU AMINU. Former documents remain valid. NYSC and public to note.

I, formerly MISS ABIMBOLA ADEKOLU, E. now wish to be MRS OMOTOSHO ABIMBOLA ELIZABETH. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I, formerly MR. ADAGUNODU KOLAWOLE, A. now wish to be MR. OMOTOSHO KOLAWOLE ALEXANDER. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I, formerly known as CHINEKE CHRISTIANA CHINYERE, now wish to be known as UZUAKPUNDU CHRISTIANA CHINYERE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly SULE GINATU JEMIMAH, now MRS ALALADE GINATU JEMIMAH. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly MISS DORIS IFEOMA EMU, now wish to be known as MRS DORIS IFEOMA NWANJI. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I, formerly MS. DESTINY NKECHI AUGUSTINE, now wish to be known as MRS. DESTINY IDONGESITY NQUOT. Dorben Polytechnic, InterCellular Plc and the general public should take note.

I, formerly called MISS ADEYEMI ABOSEDE OLUWABUNMI, henceforth addressed as MRS EMENG OLUWA BUNMI ABOSEDE BEATRICE EMENG. Former documents remain valid. General public note.

I, formerly MISS UMEQZULU NJIDEKA EUPHEMIA now addressed as MRS EZEUNARA NJIDEKA EUPHEMIA. Former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public take note.

I, formerly MISS HAUWA BABA AHMED now wish to be called MRS HAUWA GABRIEL. All former documents remain valid. NURSING and MIDWIFERY COUNCIL of NIGERIA and general public take note.

I, formerly MISS RACHEAL SHABA now to be addressed as MRS RACHEAL YISA. Former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as MISS CHINYERE BRIDGET IKE now wish to be called MRS CHINYERE BRIDGET CHARLES HAAHYE. All former documents remain valid. UNIVERSITY OF ABUJA and general public take note.

I, formerly known as MRS MAUREEN IDOWU now wish to be addressed as MISS MAUREEN OMORUYI. Former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

I ASTA UMAR MANA now wish to be called DR. (MRS) ASTA UMAR MANA. All former documents remain valid. UNIMAID, MDCN, NYSC and the general public should please note.

I, formerly known as HUSSANINA TANIMU now wish to be called MRS HUSSANINA TANIMU. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS ANI MARY CHIDINMA now wish to be known as MRS OGBONNA MARY CHIDINMA. All former documents remain valid. ESUT, NYSC and the general public to take note please.

TRUST CLASSIFIED

LOSS OF C of O

This is to inform the general public of the loss of Certificate of Occupancy, Bauchi state Certificate of Occupancy No. BA/8524, held by Alhaji Mohammed Sani Abubakar. If found please contact the nearest police station or call the owner, Alhaji Sani on 08032870480

APPLY NOW

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- ◆ Opportunity To Live And Work Legally In CANADA
- ◆ Right To Permanent Residence
- ◆ Simplified And Fast Application Process

NOTE: For skilled workers, Businessmen, Professional, Medical Doctor and Nurses.

For Assessment and Application Guidance with Canadian Immigration Expert.

Contact: STEFORT CONCEPTS
3rd FLOOR, COOPERATIVE AGRIC BUILDING
HERBERT MACAULAY WAY, OPP. WUSE MARKET, WUSE
ZONE 5
CALL: 08077374669, 07093789639

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public that the original copy of my R of O with file NO KN532 and plot NO633 at KATAMPE DISTRICT belonging to BAKO MOHAMMED of NO 9 First Street Shagari Quarters Zoo Road Kano State has been missing. All efforts to trace the missing documents proved abortive. Please if found, return to the nearest police station or call 08035871796. AGIS should please take note.

LOSS OF C. OF O

This is to inform the general public that the original Certificate of Occupancy No. BA/2389 in the name of MRS HANSATU JIBRIN DADA CHINADE is missing. All efforts to trace the missing documents proved abortive. If found please contact the nearest police station or Ministry of Lands, Bauchi, Bauchi State.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly FELIX IFEANYICHUKWU NWOKO, now to be called DALLAS IFEANYICHUKWU FELIX NWOKO. All former documents remain valid. General public to note.

I, formerly known as AISHA MOHAMMED IBRAHIM, now wish to be called MRS. AISHA MAMI ALIYU. Former documents remain valid. FCMB & CSL and general public should take note.

I, formerly called MISS RABI MUHAMMAD KAKKE now to be called MRS. RABI IBRAHIM GARBA. All former documents remain valid. NYSC, public please note.

I, formerly called MISS HADIZA SULEIMAN SAMI now to be called MRS. HADIZA ABUBAKAR SULEIMAN. All former documents remain valid. NYSC, general public please note.

I, formerly called MISS HASSANA ANDIRYA DOGO now to be called MRS. HASSANA ADAMU FETUK. All former documents remain valid. NYSC, public please note.

I, formerly called MISS EMMANUELLA GODFREY IKPAT now to be called MRS. EMMANUELLA EMEM SAMUEL ENINEKIT. All former documents remain valid. Department of Public Administration, Faculty of Management Science University of Abuja, NYSC, general public please note.

I, formerly called MISS JAMILA MUHAMMAD now to be called MRS. JAMILU MUHAMMAD MURTALA. All former documents remain valid. General public please note.

I, formerly called MISS FAITH CHINONYEREM OGBONNA now to be called MRS. FAITH CHINONYEREM EMELOGU. All former documents remain valid. General public please note.

Loss of document

This is to inform the general public that the original certificate of occupancy No. BO/8554 covering plot No. 62 on BOTP/99 Maiduguri belonging to ALHAJI SADIQ MOHAMMED ALI got missings All efforts made to trace the document proved abortive. If found please contact the nearest police station or Ministry of Land and Survey, Maiduguri R/C No. 59193

PUBLIC NOTICE

Society for Development of Children Initiative cordially invites the general public to its National State Summit

Theme:- The Role of Legislature in Child Welfare and Development:

And

Unveiling Honourable Abdul Ningi as "Face of Hope for the Nigerian Child"

Venue: Yar'adua Centre, Abuja

Date: 16th, April 2010

Time: 9:00 am prompt

Signed:

Amina Mohammed
National Coordinator

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of original document of Conveyance of Provisional Approval of Plot B. 143 of 1500sqm in Mpape II, Abuja issued in the name of Michel Kazeem Haoddad by Bwari Area Council Abuja, Nigeria Land Planning and Survey department. All efforts made to trace the missing document proved abortive. If found, please return to the nearest Police Station, AGIS or the undersigned.

Signed

Mr. Michel Kazeem Haoddad



HEADQUARTERS
NIGERIAN AIR FORCE
AREA 7 GARKI, ABUJA NIGERIA

GENERAL NOTICE

INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR ETF 2009 INTERVENTION PROJECTS

1. The Nigerian Air Force now invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the construction and furnishing of classrooms at 305 Flying Training School (305 FTS), Enugu and construction of Operational Briefing Training Centre at 99 Air Weapon School (99AWS) Kainji.
2. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information and inspect bidding documents at the NAF Tenders Board office, Headquarters Nigerian Air Force, Area 7 Garki, Abuja.
3. Bids must be delivered to the Secretary Tenders Board, Headquarters Nigerian Air Force, Area 7 Garki, Abuja on or before 23 April 2010.
4. All Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend on 27 April 2010 by 1200 Noon at the address indicated at paragraph 2 above.

Secretary
Tenders Board
Headquarters
Nigerian Air Force
Area 7 Garki
ABUJA



NATIONAL BOARD FOR TECHNOLOGY INCUBATION

1] INTRODUCTION

The National Board for Technology Incubation (NBTI) invites interested and credible companies to apply for pre-qualification for the various projects of the Board for 2010 fiscal year.

2] SCOPE

The scope of work includes:

- LOT 1: Provision of Library Facilities
- LOT 2: Provision Quality Control Laboratories in Centres
- LOT 3: Provision of Standby Generators in 21 Centres
- LOT 4: Provision of Engineering Workshop in Centres
- LOT 5: Fire Fighting Equipment for Centres
- LOT 6: Acquisition of Demonstration Equipments for Incubatees
- LOT 7: Development of Permanent Site
- LOT 8: Development of Prototypes

3] The following requirement for pre-qualification must be submitted:

- (i) Evidence of Company Incorporation in Nigeria;
- (ii) Evidence of Tax clearance and VAT Certificates;
- (iii) Evidence of registration with the Federal Ministry of Works as appropriate;
- (iv) Evidence of registration with the National Board for Technology Incubation;
- (v) Company profile with list of Technical/Managerial staff with evidence of previous work Experience, detailed clients, nature of work etc;
- (vi) Articulated work plan and Methodology;
- (vii) Evidence of financial capability

4. Submission

Pre-qualification documents must be in sealed envelope marked:

CONFIDENTIAL PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR NBTI 2010 FISCAL YEAR CAPITAL PROJECTS and the LOT of interest clearly printed at the top left corner of the envelope and submitted within three (3) weeks from the date of this publication to:

THE DIRECTOR GENERAL/CEO
NATIONAL BOARD FOR TECHNOLOGY INCUBATION
NO. 10 ZAMBEZI CRESCENT
MAITAMA - ABUJA

Note: Submission for the pre-qualification documents is not a guarantee for the award of contract. Only pre-qualified companies shall be invited in writing or through publication.

Director General/CEO
National Board for Technology Incubation, Abuja

SPORT

NSC plans sports summit in May

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Changes imminent

... as Lagerback sends in squad list

By Ismaila Lere, with Agency reports

AS Super Eagles manager Lars Lagerback is expected to send in his provisional squad list of 45 to the Nigeria Football Federation this weekend, there have been strong indications that a sizeable number of players from less fancied clubs and lowly countries would find themselves in his provisional list.

Lagerback had told *brilafm.net* that he would be open-minded and fair in pursuit of rebuilding the Eagles ahead of the 2010 World Cup in South Africa in June.

The Swede tactician said has no qualms over the country or club where any of the players are plying their trade, as long as they can deliver when given a chance.

"We are going into this with an open mind. It doesn't matter where they are coming from or in which country they play.

"The most important thing is for us to spot the best players, wherever they are. We will try to value them for who they are as a player and what they are playing," he promised.

The Swede announced at his first press conference that he had drawn up a list of 45 players ahead of next month's World cup camping, but the composition of the list has so far been tightly guarded.

But, the NFF's Technical Committee is expecting to receive the 45-man list this weekend.

"Lagerback has informed us that he would be sending in the list by this weekend.

"At this time, we don't know who is in it, but as soon as he sends it to the technical committee, they and the coach will decide when it will be made public," NFF spokesman Ademola Olajire said.



Bio warns federations against dirty deals

By David Ngobua

SPORTS Minister and Chairman of the National Sports Commission (NSC) Alhaji Ibrahim Isa Bio yesterday warned presidents of sports federations against engaging in dirty deals which are inimical to sports development in the country.

The minister gave the charge yesterday in Abuja at the interactive session he held with presidents and secretaries

of all sports federations in Abuja.

Bio warned that in as much as he is willing to work with all the those he described as key stakeholders in sports, he would not hesitate to blacklist any federation that willfully perpetrates acts of insincerity and deliberate mischief all aimed at gaining undue benefits.

He reiterated that even if he is he deceived once or twice, such offenders may not be third time lucky as he would surely wield the big stick.

His words: "I am somebody who is very frank. I can say that about myself. Whenever I deal with any human being, I am doing so from the purest of his form. I will never deceive you. I will be frank and sincere with you. And I expect the same from you.

"Whenever I discover one or two shoddy deals from you, the second one, you will not see me for the third time. So the basis of us working together is for us to understand ourselves. We

have to be frank and sincere as we execute this national assignment".

The minister also sought the collaboration of all sports federation presidents in order to raise the standard of all the sports in the country.

He stressed the need for every stakeholder to exhibit the highest degree of sincerity and commitment in moving the sector forward.

"I want your collaboration. Let us work hand in hand so

that we can raise the standard of sports in this country. So ladies and gentlemen, I sincerely need your co-operation so that we can frankly identify the problems and try to solve them. This is the first step", he stated

The minister maintained that if everyone shows the desired honesty and commitment to work, sports in Nigeria will definitely witness remarkable improvement in the no distant future.



JUAN Carlos Ferrero of Spain in action against Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France during day four of the ATP Masters Series in Monte Carlo, Monaco, yesterday.

NSC plans sports summit in May

By Orkula Shaagee

THE National Sports Commission (NSC) has concluded plans to stage a national sports summit in the second week of May to find a lasting solution to the problem of funding sports activities and programmes in the country.

Sports Minister and Chairman of National Sports Commission (NSC) Ibrahim Isa Bio, who announced this, explained at a

meeting with presidents of national sports federations in Abuja yesterday that the long way in the development of the country's sports sector.

On the other hand, the minister yesterday said football is the most politicized sport in the country, where members engage themselves in legal battle to settle matters.

He stated this on a day the NFF was the only sports body not represented at a meeting the new minis-

ter held with all sports federations in Nigeria.

Speaking further, the minister said the summit would bring together government officials, sponsors and other relevant stakeholders in the sector to brainstorm and come out with a working document on how best to fund sports activities in Nigeria.

He added that the summit will be attended by chief executives of banks, oil companies and telecommunications firms.

"We have agreed in the National Sports Commission meeting in May where government officials, sponsors and others will meet to find ways of improving and funding sports.

"The summit is expected to produce a document that will guide us on what we want to achieve in the various sports so that we will be sure of the gold medals we will get at the Olympics and other international events," Bio stated.

NPL crisis: Court adjoins case to April 19

By Orkula Shaagee

AN Abuja Federal High Court presided over by Justice D.U Okorowo yesterday adjourned till April 19, hearing in the case brought before it by Dr. Sam Sam Jaja, former President of Nigeria Referees Association (NRA) against the Nigeria Premier League and the Nigeria Football Federation over his disqualification from the stalled NPL elections.

Jaja among other things is challenging his disqualification from contesting the forthcoming NPL election as arbitrary. He is also contesting the legality of the committee headed by Tony Rafua which he claimed was set up without due regard for relevant provisions of the NPL statutes.

He also wants the court to determine whether the NPL is properly constituted and registered in line with the Nigerian Companies and Allied Matters Act which says at least two legal practitioners form members of the electoral committee.

But NFF legal team on yesterday filed a preliminary objection in which it challenged the jurisdiction of the court to entertain the case, citing FIFA Statutes which forbid football matters to be heard in the ordinary court.

He also wants the court to determine whether the NPL is properly constituted

The football federation in the document is also challenging Jaja's locus standi to question the legality or otherwise of the status of the NPL as a public liability company insisting that that responsibility falls within the powers of the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC)

But when the matter came up for hearing yesterday counsel to Jaja Patrick Oguchukwu said that he had just been served the processes by counsel to NFF and therefore requested for a short adjournment to enable him look at the papers.

Justice Okorowo while noting the delay by the defendants to serve the necessary documents stressed the need for the matter to be dispensed quickly and therefore adjourned the case till 12noon on Monday.

Basketball: Coaches excited by league revival

THE resuscitation of the Division One Basketball League after a six-year absence will enliven the game and put the Premier League clubs on their toes, coaches said yesterday in Lagos.

The Nigeria Basketball Federation (NBBF) decided at its board meeting in Abuja in March to reintroduce the amateur division one competition.

The division one league serves as a buffer for relegated premier

league clubs and the top amateur sides aspiring for promotion to the premiership.

The league earlier scheduled to hold in Ilorin last month will now dunk off on April 17 till April 24 in Kaduna. It was last played in 2003.

Coach Sani Ahmed of Kano Pillars is excited at the return of the division one league, describing it as welcome development for basketball in the country.

Ahmed noted that the reintro-

duction of the league would make premiership clubs redouble their efforts to avoid relegation to the amateur ranks.

Peter Ahmedu of Dodan Warriors told NAN that the division one league would be of immense benefit to the top clubs to scout for players as there were abundant young talents in the division.

Coach of Royal Hoppers, Ogoch Odaudu, said it was good that the division one league would precede

the Premier League, adding that it would afford coaches the opportunity to strengthen their teams with new signings.

Odaudu urged the NBBF to ensure that the league was sustained as an annual event for basketball development in the country.

Police, Immigration, Oluoye, Ilorin, Imo, Chariot, Yobe, Jigawa and Nigeria Civil Defence and Security Corps will take part in the division one league.

Why I won't pay much attention to football - Bio

By David Ngobua

SPORTS Minister Alhaji Ibrahim Isa Bio yesterday in Abuja reiterated that he would not make the mistake of paying too much attention to the game of football to the detriment of all other sports which he said are equally important.

Speaking at the session he

had with presidents of sports federations, the minister noted that football is the leading sport in the country but it would amount to beautiful nonsense if too much attention is paid to it.

The minister said Nigerians' passion for the game of football is enormous but the truth remains that it can not fetch the country more than one gold medal at any

international competition.

He said that even when he was barely three days in office as minister of sports, he did not hide his resolve not to be minister of football but the minister of all other sports.

Bio stated that it is only when he embraces all sports that he would be in a better position to address holistically all problems that are

militating against the development of sports in the country.

He said: "Agreed football is a very popular game. Nigerians are very passionate about football. But nevertheless, we have to look at sports as a national pride in terms of international competitions. We can win only one gold medal in football. But when you look at other sports such as swim-

ming, weightlifting, boxing and athletics, we can win as many medals as possible that will put Nigeria in her pride of place among nations".

The minister emphasized that if every effort is concentrated on football, at the Olympics, even if Nigeria excels, it will be only one gold medal that will be awarded to the country.

Zaccheroni: Juve have matched Inter since I arrived

JUVENTUS coach Alberto Zaccheroni admitted Inter Milan have been better than his side this season but said the Old Lady of Turin has matched the champions since his arrival in January.

Inter host Juve on Friday night in a match crucial to both teams' aspirations this season with Jose Mourinho's men going for the title and Zaccheroni's aiming for fourth place.

And just to stoke up the heat before the game known here as 'the derby of Italy' Zaccheroni claimed his team have been as good as the champions since he joined the Turin giants in late January.

"This year Inter have proved better than us but since I arrived, in the last 12 matches, we've earned the same number of points," he said.

"Unfortunately for us the weight of our poor league position affects the way we're judged and our victories are belittled, like last Sunday against Cagliari."

Zaccheroni is right in what he says as both teams have picked up 18 points from their last 12 matches, but that should mislead no-one as it is due solely to Inter's stuttering recent form.

Three wins from their last 11 games has seen their once seemingly unassailable lead come into this game in second place, one point behind AS Roma.

Zaccheroni's assertion that he is being unfairly judged by Juve's poor league position is not backed up by the facts.

Under his leadership Juve have earned 1.5 points per game, but prior to his arrival they were averaging a slightly higher 1.57 points per game. He has not improved Juve's form, Inter's has simply dropped that far.

Zaccheroni does have an interesting history with Inter, though, having been the Lazio coach when the nerazzurri lost 4-2 in the capital on the final day of the 2002 season



JUVENTUS coach Alberto Zaccheroni believes that his side has matched Inter Milan since his arrival in January.

to miss out on the title to Juventus.

But repeating that feat does not interest Zaccheroni.

"Do I want to deny Inter another title? No, I'm only interested in getting points for the Champions League," he said.

"We're coming up against a team that is second in the league and in the semi-finals of the Champions

League and certainly won't be prioritising one over the other.

"I saw them Tuesday against Fiorentina and against Chelsea and they don't seem to be struggling.

"But maybe recently they've lacked a bit of intensity in games that seemed less important."

Juve are sixth in Serie A and need to make up three points

on both Palermo and Sampdoria above them in the standings if they are to snatch that crucial fourth place.

But as well as the trip to Inter on Friday, they will also return to the San Siro on the final day of the season to face AC Milan in a run-in that looks much tougher than their two immediate rivals.

Nadal leads 5 Spaniards into Monte Carlo q-finals

RAFAEL Nadal breezed into the quarterfinals of the Monte Carlos Masters with a 6-0, 6-1 win over Michael Berrer yesterday and joins four other Spaniards in the final eight.

Countryman Juan Carlos Ferrero also moved into the quarters with a 6-1, 3-6, 7-5 win over fifth-seeded Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France.

Top-seeded Novak Djokovic of Serbia also advanced with a 6-4, 6-4 win over No. 13 Stanislas Wawrinka. Djokovic, who lost to Nadal in last year's final, next plays Argentina's David Nalbandian.

Against Nadal, Berrer won his only game when serving at 0-5, prompting cheers from the crowd. The second-seeded Nadal has now won 29 straight matches at this event with his last loss coming in 2003.

Verdasco rallied from a set down to beat Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic.

"I played better than yesterday," said Nadal, the five-time defending champion. "I played higher, I played close to the lines, and my feeling is I had more control on the ball than yesterday."

He next plays ninth-seeded Ferrero, the Monte Carlo champion in 2002 and '03.

Ferrero held serve easily to lead 6-5 in the final set, forcing Tsonga to serve to stay in the match. The Spaniard clinched the victory when Tsonga's forehand went into the net after a short rally.

Also, sixth-seeded Fernando Verdasco, No. 11 David Ferrer and Albert Montanes all won their third-round matches.

Verdasco rallied from a set down to beat Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic 5-7, 6-3, 6-2; Ferrer beat No. 8 Ivan Ljubicic of Croatia 6-0, 7-6(4); and Montanes won 6-4, 6-4 against No. 4 Marin Cilic, dominating the big-serving Croat from the baseline.

Vinci, Schiavone roll into Barca semis

ROBERTA Vinci of Italy has reached the semifinals of the Barcelona Ladies Open with a 6-3, 6-0 victory over Timea Bacsinszky of Switzerland.

Top-seeded Francesca Schiavone of Italy also advanced Thursday with a 6-4, 6-4 win over seventh-seeded Carla Suarez Navarro of Spain.

Yaroslava Shvedova of Kazakhstan beat Iveta Benesova of the Czech Republic 6-4, 6-4, while Alexandra Dulgheru of Romania defeated Arantxa Parra Santonja of Spain 5-7, 6-2, 6-4.



SCHIAVONE

Woods to compete at Quail Hollow

TIGER Woods will play his second PGA Tour event since returning to the game after a five-month break at the April 29-May 2 Quail Hollow Championship in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The American world number one made his highly anticipated comeback to the sport following a sex scandal at last week's U.S. Masters where he tied for fourth.

"I'm excited about competing," Woods said on his official website (<http://web.tigerwoods.com>) yesterday.

"It's a wonderful venue, and they always have a great field. It's always been one of my favourite courses. I can't wait to go back."



WOODS



NADAL

Drogba, Rooney up for football prize

CHELSEA'S Didier Drogba and Manchester United hero Wayne Rooney were among three forwards included in four nominations for Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) player of the year award yesterday.

Manchester City's Carlos Tevez is the third striker in a list that also includes Arsenal midfielder Cesc Fabregas.

Ivory Coast international Drogba has scored 32 goals in all competitions this season, playing a key role in putting Premier League leaders and FA Cup finalists Chelsea in sight of a domestic double.

Rooney has won rave reviews for his performances in leading champions United's attack with 34 goals in a season which may end with the Old Trafford club, currently four points behind Chelsea with four games to play, winning 'just' the English League Cup.

If the 24-year-old Rooney does win the PFA award, which is decided by a vote open to professional players in England, it will be the fourth successive time it has gone to a member of Sir Alex Ferguson's side following Ryan Giggs's success last year and Cristiano Ronaldo's double in 2007 and 2008.

Arsenal captain Fabregas, 22, has, like Rooney, also been selected for the young player of the year award.



DIDIER Drogba has scored 32 goals in all competitions this season.



WAYNE Rooney has won rave reviews for his performances.

INNA LILLAHI WAINNA ILAIHIR – RAJIUN



Alhaji Abubakar Bello

With gratitude and total submission to the will of Almighty Allah we the family of Alhaji Abubakar Bello regrets to announce the passing away of our beloved father, grandfather, uncle, brother and in-law which sad event occurred on 6 April 2010 after a brief illness. A dedicated civil servant who retired as a Director at the Ministry of Agriculture Bauchi State has since been buried according to Islamic rites.

He is survived by:

- 1. Magistrate Shafa' L Yusuf – Daughter.
- 2. Dr. Sani Abubakar Bello – Son.
- 3. Surajo Abubakar Bello – Son.
- 4. Naibi Abubakar Bello – Son.
- 5. Ibrahim Abubakar Bello – Son.
- 6. Aminu Abubakar Bello – Son.
- 7. Ahmad Abubakar Bello – Son.
- 8. Abdulkadir Abubakar Bello – Son.
- 9. Tukur Abubakar Bello – Son.
- 10. Kubra Abubakar Bello – Daughter.
- 11. Haidar Abubakar Bello – Son.
- 12. Faiza Abubakar Bello – Daughter.
- 13. Kawwama Abubakar Bello – Daughter.

May his gentle soul rest in eternal peace in Jannatul Firdaus!!!

Signed:

Brigadier General LB Yusuf
Son – In – Law
for the family

GUEST COLUMNIST

By Abba Gana Shettima (agshettima@gmail.com)

Indifferent governments,
irresponsible citizens

I naturally detest the hurly-burly of markets—the hubbub, the haggles, the squabbles, and the babel of voices of the enticing traders—all act in a satanic combination to make the market a maddening place. What is more, in the market, any market in Nigeria, one must be on the alert despite the many distractions, for there may be a riff-raff patiently lurking somewhere to reap where he hasn't sown. A hard earned 'monthly take-home-pay', which sometimes hardly takes one to the end of the month, may simply end up as the 'daily-take-home-grab' of an idle bandit. The market, any market especially of the chaotic types we have here in Nigeria, is indeed a place to be avoided as much as possible.

Elsewhere, markets are not much different either. In September 2007, I was part of a group that went shopping in Addis Ababa's *Merkato*, described as the 'largest open air market in East Africa'. *Merkato* is a colourful market with the characteristic African hustle and bustle, and so we were naturally carried away, with insistent middle men following us from one shop to the other. I was amazed, when, all of a sudden, a colleague was robbed of some 600 Ethiopian Br (about US\$ 67) in the market, in broad daylight! Another colleague also nearly lost his digital camera, as he struggled with a thief and employed his strong elbow to push the intruder away, the Goliath that he was. The intruder immediately took to his heels and we could not help laughing.

Despite all the hazards and tumult, however, markets remain indispensable to both the citizens and the governments. Markets are the best places for the best bargains; and who doesn't care to look for a good buy, including people living in the developed world and have better disposal income? Markets are also a means of revenue generation for governments. Markets, together with motor parks, constitute some of the most economically and socially important places in our cities and villages. Paradoxically, they also constitute some of the most neglected and disorganised places.

The chaos in Nigerian markets is a reflection of the twin problems of indifferent governments and irresponsible citizens bedeviling the nation. While governments generate huge revenues from markets, little of such monies are ploughed back to improve the facilities and services in the markets. Even when the markets have become congested with legal and illegal structures, the passages are blocked by unscrupulous traders and the sewages are spilling over, the governments, indifferent to the terms of social contract, care the less so long as revenues keep flowing into the basket called the treasury, and more especially into the weather-proof pockets of state officials.

Now, the Nigerian state has been aptly described as 'fragile' and its fragility is manifested, above all, in its inability to provide basic services. As Harneit-Sievers, a former head of the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung in Nigeria once observed "most government institutions are weak, ineffective and subverted by corruption; public infrastructure (for example roads and energy provision) is in very bad condition; service delivery in virtually all areas continues to fail drastically, leading to the emergence of more or less viable alternatives in the form of private hospitals and schools, vigilante groups providing security services etc. While Nigeria is not a "failing state" in the political sense, its "failure to deliver" in many core areas of responsibility of a modern state is more than obvious..."

It is therefore not surprising that Nigerian markets have suffered a high level of dereliction over the years. Many of the markets, especially in the urban areas, are congested and lack basic

services, such as efficient water supply, fire services and access roads. Which is why, for example, when unfortunate fire incidents occur in the markets as it did quite recently at the famous *Kanti Kwari* textile market in Kano and Bolori market in Maiduguri, the scale of damage was enormous. One of the modern, most expansive and well-planned markets in northern Nigeria, the Maiduguri Monday market, which was reconstructed after a major fire disaster some 30 years ago, has been gradually defaced by 'attachments' and all sorts of illegal structures.

Thus, the poor attitude of indifferent governments, combined with the conduct of irresponsible citizens is recipe for a chaotic situation. Many of the roads leading to, and from the markets are often blocked by either heaps of garbage, lawless traders, irresponsible and haughty motorists or a combination of all. It is not impossible to find traders parking their vehicles in the car parks meant for the customers, as if the customers do not matter. In Nigerian markets, the trader is the king and

being the oppressive kings that they are, create barricades which make it difficult for the customers to access the markets. In the name of a famished life, it is not impossible to find hundreds of petty traders displaying their assorted wares on parts of the roads, bridges, culverts, everywhere—as if public spaces are our courtyards.

Here, in this country, everybody has an alibi to disobey the law and get away with it. The poor and weak feign poverty. Perhaps it is only in Nigeria that you can find a motor bike, meant to carry two

people, carrying up to five. Some commercial vehicles also carry people in the trunk of their cars, like some bundle of cloth or logs of wood—all in the name of poverty. The rich and powerful treat everybody and everything around them with disdain and detached hauteur. They drive recklessly and park as they wish. The rich has impunity; the poor has excuses all the time. The law enforcement agents collect bribes from the poor and let them go their way; they salute the rich and powerful that they dare not apprehend. The ultimate result is a chaotic society; a jungle of sorts. Lawlessness has become a social pestilence which must be stamped out if the nation is to make any progress. Things must change and both the citizens and governments at all levels should begin to do what is right.

Re-organising our markets, streets and general conduct especially in the politically vociferous cities is a daunting task and akin to handling the proverbial political hot potato. Yet, that is why nations have leaders, who must do the right thing, and tell the people *what they need to know* rather than *what they want to hear*. Consider, for example, the many markets especially in rural northern Nigeria which are weekly operating virtually on the highways—thereby endangering the lives of traders, customers and the road users.

Over the years, many lives of have been lost as a result of motorists losing control and ramming into market crowds as it did happen in December 2009 in Kogi State when an articulated vehicle lost control and crushed some 100 people in a village market. I have not passed through Kogi State in the recent past, but I will be pleasantly surprised if the government had acted rightly and moved the traders to a safer location from the main road—even if the people were violently protesting against it! The people must be saved from themselves, as it were. It is time to have responsive governments and responsible citizens.

(Editor's note: Adamu Adamu is attending an international nuclear disarmament conference in Iran)



Here, in this country, everybody has an alibi to disobey the law and get away with it. The poor and weak feign poverty. Perhaps it is only in Nigeria that you can find a motor bike, meant to carry two people, carrying up to five.

SPORTS
REPORT

THOMAS Vermaelen

Vermaelen out for
three weeks

Arsenal's Belgian defender Thomas Vermaelen will be out of action for up to three weeks after suffering a calf injury against north-London rivals Tottenham Hotspur on Wednesday.

The 24-year-old, who has scored seven league goals and missed just one game this season, lasted

only 19 minutes of the 2-1 defeat and will sit out Sunday's trip to Wigan Athletic and the home match against Manchester City.

"Certainly it is a calf strain. [He will be out for] two to three weeks," manager Arsene Wenger said on the club's website (www.arsenal.com) yesterday.



NEYMAR... Brazil wonderkid

Neymar scores 5 in
Santos' win

Young sensation Neymar scored five goals and Robinho added two more in Santos' 8-1 routing of Guarani in the round of 16 of the Brazilian Cup.

The victory Wednesday night at Vila Belmiro stadium all but secured a place in the quarterfinals for the team made famous by Pele. Santos can lose the return match in Campinas by as many as six goals.

Called the new Robinho, Neymar is one of the hottest players in Brazilian football and is reportedly being sought after by several European clubs.

Neymar scored three goals in the first half and two in the second on Wednesday, while Robinho—on a loan from Manchester City—added a goal in each half.

Santos has scored 53 goals in its last 10 matches.

