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New ministers face screening today

By Turaki A. Hassan

THIRTY three ministerial nominees whose names were sent to the Senate by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan last week as well as four others whose names

were added to the list at the weekend are expected to appear before the full Senate this morning for screening and possible confirmation. While some of the nominees are expected to have an easy time at the

screening, some others are expected to have a very difficult time and may not make it through to secure confirmation.

Four members of the dissolved cabinet, namely Alhaji Ibrahim Isa Bio

from Kwara, Mr. John Odey from Cross River, Mr. Remi Babalola from Oyo and Mr. Humphrey Abbah from Kogi had their names added to the nominees' list at the weekend, bringing the total to 37. That leaves

about 5 ministerial seats yet to be fulfilled.

From early indications, the most contentious screenings are likely to be for Professor Dora Akunyili and Senator Mohamed Sanusi Daggash.

Daily Trust learnt from a senator last night that the decision to scuttle Mrs. Akunyili's confirmation was taken by senators immediately after Acting President Goodluck Jonathan's confirmation. **Continued on page 5**



PHOTO: NAN

FROM left: Reverend Father Micheal Gokun, Parish Priest, SS Peter and Paul Parish, and Reverend Father Micheal Ekpenyong, Secretary-General, Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria, at a Palm Sunday procession in Abuja, yesterday.

Lar: Jang should meet Sultan, 8 governors

By Andrew Agbese, Jos

PLATEAU State Governor Jonah Jang should hold a meeting with his colleagues in eight neighbouring states as well as with the Sultan of Sokoto in order to work out a solution to the protracted communal crises in the state, the presidential advisory committee headed by Chief Solomon Lar has recommended. It said such meetings should hold before another meeting is held with Acting President Goodluck Jonathan in Abuja.

The recommendation is contained in the committee's interim report which was submitted to the Acting president in Abuja last week. The governors that Jang should meet with, according to it, are those of Bauchi, Nasarawa, Taraba, Kaduna, Gombe, Benue, **Continued on page 5**

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'Adamawa PDP yet to be informed of Atiku's return to party'

From Ibrahim Muhammad, Yola

THE Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Adamawa State says though it was aware of meetings in Abuja between some party chieftains and former Vice President Atiku Abubakar for his possible return to the party, the PDP in the state was yet to be briefed.

Our correspondent learnt that for some time now, consultations have been going on in the political circles on Atiku Abubakar's return to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

In a telephone chat with our correspondent, the Secretary of the party in the state, Mr P.P.Elisha, said he heard a rumour

that Atiku had returned to the party, but that the state leadership was not briefed on the Abuja meeting.

He said if Atiku wants to be reabsorbed into the party, he should follow the right channel and avoid short cuts, saying the party had laid down procedures that should be followed.

A source in Yola said, "The move is already making its leadership edgy as it will alter its plans for the 2011 presidency.

When he finally makes the move, he will run with Acting President Goodluck Jonathan, who has already entered into agreement with the former vice president."

A former member in the state House of Assembly told our correspondent that, "Everybody is just keeping mum about it because it will change the configuration.

You know this is a deciding moment for the North and Atiku still enjoys follower-ship in the region as well as some good links in the South."

Police confirm death of suspected kidnapper, arrest man with guns

THE Rivers State Police Command has confirmed the death of a suspected kidnapper and armed robber, Gift Onwugbuta.

The command's spokesperson, Mrs Rita Abbey, told newsmen in Port Harcourt on Saturday that the suspect and one Oporum Anaele had been on the wanted list since November. Abbey said the notorious Onwugbuta hailed from Omuma in Etche Local Government Area of the state.

She said the two men went into hiding when the police declared them wanted and later resurfaced to continue kidnapping. Abbey said the police apprehended them and were being taken to their hideout on Friday for arms recovery when some people suspected to be members of their gang opened fire on the police.

"In the ensuing gun battle, the suspects received gunshot wounds and died on the way to the hospital while other members of the gang escaped.

(NAN)

FAAN suspends construction of Jalingo Airport

THE Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) has ordered the suspension of construction at the Jalingo Airport, following detection of a major defect. Mr Habila Jaman, Permanent Secretary in the Taraba State Ministry of Works disclosed this yesterday during a tour of the Peer Review Team of the Nigerian Governors' Forum (NGF). Jaman said the suspension order demonstrated FAAN's commitment to aviation safety. According to him, FAAN's inspection team discovered that the airport runway had certain undulations and rock formations at some portions, both of which would adversely affect flights.

(NAN)



ALHAJI Umaru Maina being turbaned as the Dan Malikin Mubi at the Emir of Mubi's palace in Adamawa State on Saturday.

190 Nigerians killed by measles in 2009-NPHCDA

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

ABOUT 190 Nigerians died from Measles in 2009, the Executive Director of the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) Dr Mohammad Pate has said. He said this Friday at the opening ceremony of the national meeting of experts

on Measles in Minna.

He added that the effect of disease was on the decline due to immunization.

He said the agency would intensify its campaigns on immunization to ensure that the effect of the disease remained on the decline, adding that it had one million doses of Measles vac-

cines for distribution to all parts of the country. He added that Nigeria had since 2008 witnessed a decline in the number of confirmed Measles cases from 5,000 to 1,000.

Dr Pate urged parents and guardians to ensure that their wards are properly immunised against the six killer diseases.

He said plans had been concluded by the agency to target children between the ages of one and five for immunization. Pate urged the National Assembly to appropriate sufficient funds for the agency to enable it discharge its responsibility of immunizing children against preventable killer diseases.

Jos crisis: Task force averts another crisis

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

THE special task force maintaining peace in Plateau State has so far arrested 252 persons for various offences.

The special task force made up of the military and other security agencies took over the security of the state after the January crisis.

Brig. General Donald Oji in a statement on behalf of the commander of the task force said the 252 persons so far arrested have

all been handed over to the police for investigation and possible prosecution.

He said the men of the task force had been doing their best to maintain law and order in the state, saying they had so far foiled not less than four attempts to cause a breakdown of law and order in the state.

Brig. Gen Oji said last Thursday, the task force averted a crisis when some herdsmen grazed into some farms at Ghero in Jos

South Local Government Area, which he said led to a protest by the farmers and owners of the farms. "But for the timely arrival of the task force, the situation would have escalated into full scale violence," he said.

Ten herdsmen he said had been arrested in connection with that incident. He added that on Friday, nine youths were arrested and handed over to the police. The youths had attempted to lynch some herdsmen in Jebu

Miango in Bassa Local Government Area of the state.

Oji added that his men also foiled a robbery attempt at Farin Gada area of Jos on the same day.

It would be recalled that last Wednesday, three persons including the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) of 'B' Division Bukuru were injured in a skirmish involving some youths in Bukuru.

The scuffle which started around 5 pm on Wednesday was said have lasted for about an hour.



FROM left: General Counsel and Head, Legal Services, BGL Plc, Loratto Onyenorah, Head, Corporate Communications, BGL Plc, Flora Fabyan, Ebi Brisibe, also of BGL Plc and Managing Director/CEO, Bank of Industry, Ms Evelyn Oputu, at the annual public lecture of Women in Management and Business (WINBIZ) in Lagos at the weekend

Senate disenfranchises 98% of electorate - Sen Aminu

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

THE amendment of qualification to stand for election which the Senate raised from O level as contained in the Constitution to tertiary level will disenfranchise about 98 percent of Nigerians from contesting elections, Senator Jibril Aminu (PDP, Adamawa Central) has said.

Speaking to *Daily Trust* in an exclusive interview, Professor Aminu said only about 1.8 percent of the people have acquired tertiary education and going by the Senate amendment which was adopted last week, only 2 percent

can contest elective positions in the country.

Senate has amended all sections of the 1999 Constitution dealing with qualification for election raising the requirement from O level to tertiary level of education.

Aminu said "Total enrolment for higher education is about 1.8 percent. Higher education is simply defined as three years post secondary education. In other words, over 98 percent of the population will not be qualified to stand election to House of Representatives. Is that democracy, is that fair play, is that common sense? What are

you going to gain by raising the level from school certificate to tertiary education if by doing so you will disenfranchise over 98 percent of the population."

He said the amendment is unfair to majority of the people saying that "So theoretically, if you come back again in ten years, they will say now you must have masters degree to contest for election and then later on for those that will be alive to see those dark days, they will insist on a Phd. That is ridiculous; you don't do this type of thing. We should look at what the rest of the world is doing."

The former education minister

also opposed the deletion of the Section that restricts cross carpeting as it will encourage one party system in the parliament.

He expressed support for the amendment which limits tenure of governors to four years even when their elections are annulled and they win rerun elections.

Aminu also expressed support for the amendment that the President should appoint chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) saying that as the only one with the most of popular votes in the country, the president is most qualified to appoint the electoral umpire.

Reps, stakeholders want legal backing for N2tr leasing equipment

By Nasidi A. Yahaya

THE House of Representatives and stakeholders in the leasing of equipment in the country have said there is no legal backing for the N2 trillion investment operating in the country for that purpose.

Mr Kehinde Lawason, vice chairman of ELAN, said this while speaking at the two-day public hearing on a bill for an Act to regulate the business of equipment leasing in Nigeria and for connected purposes 2009, expressed concern over the disposition of Federal Government to the growth of the industry.

He said the sector supported at least five million jobs and attract foreign investment to the tune of \$40 million as at March 2010 and receives technical support from IFC and DFID on training of practitioners in the sector.

According to him, over N1 billion worth of leasing equipment have been given to various cooperative societies in the country, pointing out that there is need for enabling laws to regulate the activities of companies involved in leasing businesses in the country with the view to stem the operations of quacks.

He said previous efforts by the

stakeholders to ensure passage of the bill by both chambers of the National Assembly was frustrated before the expiration of the immediate past administration.

Gilbert Nnaji, chairman of the Committee who expressed displeasure over the inordinate attitude of government's agencies to the growth of the sector, said "if leasing business worth over N1.3 trillion over the past five years without law, then where government is? These are important questions Nigerians are asking."

While reacting to the issue, some lawmakers including Reps Ubale Jakada Kiru and Ita Enang, decried the danger posed

by non availability of legislative framework on major businesses being carried out in various sectors of the nation's economy.

Kiru urged the stakeholders to provide financial outlook for a period of 10 years for the agency to take off as done during the consideration of the National Health care bill was initiated.

In his contribution, Enang who sponsored the bill explained that the establishment of the regulatory agency will go a long way to reduce cost of project execution and procurement by government as well as improve on the completion of the critical projects in the country.

Cleric urges Jonathan to be decisive in dealing with sectarian crisis

AN Islamic cleric, Sheik Abdul-lahi Abdulhamid, yesterday urged the Acting President, Dr Goodluck Jonathan to invoke relevant legislations to deal with incessant sectarian crisis across the country.

Abdulhamid, who is Chairman, Lagos Chapter of the Nigerian Muslim Council (NMA), told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Lagos that the crisis required concrete efforts of the FG to end hostilities.

"The crisis with its attendant human and material casualties has done more harm in Nigerian than terrorism has done in other parts of the world.

"The acting president can do the nation good by getting the crisis listed as a matter requiring urgent national attention in their FEC and Security Council meetings," he said.

He argued that the crisis with its ethno-religious undertone if not properly checked could escalate to other regions and draw the country back in its socio-political and economic developmental efforts.

The cleric said the call became necessary in view of the serious challenges it posed to the build up and successive conduct of the 2011 general election.

Abdulhamid decried "the situation whereby substantial amount of tax payers' money are expended as security votes without fruitful result".

"The Federal Government should get to the root of the matter and fashion out an amicable solution to the crisis once and for all," he said.

According to him, the Federal Government can use the same approach it adopted for the Niger-Delta crisis to get those with weapons to surrender them to government.

"We can not continue to behave as if all is well when some parts of our country has been turned to slaughtering field," he said.



ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan

Federal civil servants threaten strike

By Francis Okeke

FEDERAL civil servants on the platform of the Joint Public Service Negotiating Council (JPSNC) have vowed to go on strike on April 8 following government's refusal to increase their salaries and stop the "wide disparity" among the different cadres in the public service.

The workers are kicking against the wide gap in salaries of

permanent secretaries and directors-general and what others in the service earn.

Chairman of JPSNC Comrade Olakunle Olaitan who is also the President of the Association of Senior Civil Servants of Nigeria (ASCSN) stated that the eight unions in the public service under the JPSNC have decided to go on strike because government was not addressing their grievances.

"We have been saying this

times without number that in the core civil service, you have some groups earning N1.4 million in a month while their immediate subordinates, the directors are earning N130,000 and we are now saying that the gap is too wide, bridge it.

"The scenario is that we presented our position papers to them, we are asking them for 50.86 percent relativity that existed as at 1st January, 2007. They are saying

that was not practicable, then we shifted ground that they should bridge that of directors at the moment.

"A permanent secretary is earning the salary of ten directors and who are those people that are doing the work. Is it not the directors and down the ladder? So, how can one person earn the salary of ten people, ten immediate subordinates? That is the issue and along the line there is distortion

and these are what we ask them to do," he said.

Olaitan said; "as from 8th of April, it will not be the same if nothing is done about the situation.

We are mobilising on that day and from that day onward, they will know if the core civil servants are important or not.

"We have started mobilising already but the 8th April gathering will be different.



CHIEF Michael Ade Ojo, Chairman, Toyota Nigeria Limited (left) presenting the Evergreen Customer Award won by UBA Plc to Mr. Kennedy Uzuoka, Group Director of Resources, UBA Plc, at the 6th Annual Toyota Awards held in Lagos, recently.

Pomp as Emir of Fika weds Keffi princess

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

PROMINENT people from across the country at the weekend thronged Keffi in Nasarawa State as the Emir, Alhaji Muhammad Chindo Yamusa II gave out his daughter, Aisha in marriage to the Emir of Fika and chairman Yobe State Council of Chiefs Alhaji Muhammad Abali Ibn Muhammad Idrisa.

Yobe State deputy governor Engineer Abubakar

Ali and Madaki of Fika, Mallam Adamu Ciroma were among the dignitaries who attended the wedding Fatiha. The Emir of Bade Alhaji Abubakar Umar represented the groom.

Chief Imam of Keffi, Ustaz Ladan Kambari advised the new couple to take as their watchwords, love, care, unity, humility and patience, saying they are the necessary ingredients for any marriage.

Ustaz Kambari also tasked the couple on serv-

ice to Allah and humanity as a necessary sacrifice in seeking his blessings upon the union and their home in general.

Describing the marriage institution as "sacred", he cautioned the couple against going outside of its dictates.

The bride, Aisha is also the grand daughter of the Emir of Lafia, Alhaji Mustafa Agwai.

She has since been conveyed to the Emir's palace in Potiskum.

FG declares Friday, Monday public holidays

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

THE Federal Government has declared Friday April 2 and Monday April 5 as public holiday to commemorate Good Friday and Easter Monday respectively.

Declaring the holiday on behalf of Federal Government, the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Interior, Dr. (Mrs.) Dere Awosika called on Christians across the country to reflect the lessons of Easter in their daily lives.

According to her, Christ's simple and sacrificial life and strict adherence to his teachings as enshrined in the "Holy Book" should be the guiding light for all Christians.

Dr Awosika therefore urged Nigerians to use the celebration to pray fervently for peace and progress of the nation.

Immigration promotes senior officers

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

ABOUT 2,586 seniors officers of the Immigration Service have been promoted to the next rank, the Nigeria Immigration Service has said.

The Civil Defence, Immigration and Prison Service Board approved the promotion for the Service.

Giving the breakdown of the promotion, Immigration spokesperson Ekpeme King said 16 comptrollers were promoted to the rank of assistant comptroller general, 40 deputy comptrollers to comptroller, 63 assistant comptrollers to deputy comptroller, 86 chief superintendents to assistant comptroller, and 196 superintendents to chief superintendent.

Others include 242 deputy superintendents to superintendents, 277 assistant superintendents 1 to deputy superintendent, while 80 moved from the rank of assistant superintendent 2 to assistant superintendents.

Also promoted in the inspectorate cadre are 242 chief inspectors, 443, deputy chief inspectors, 468 assistant chief inspectors, and 433 principal inspectors.

The Board said a circular on the "Clarification on the Progression of Post-Graduate Diploma Holders and Placement of Officers Seeking Advancement/Conversion with Masters Degree without a First Degree" from the office of the Head of Service of the Federation was applied as one of the criteria in the exercise.

Immigration also listed promotion of 415 junior staff of the service that had stagnated for up to 10 years to the next rank.

The Comptroller General of Immigration, Mr. Chukwurah Udeh urged all the newly promoted officers to reciprocate government's gesture by renewing their dedication to service and ensuring best practices.

Jang should meet Sultan, 8 govts

Continued from page 1

Adamawa and Kano states.

The committee said a crucial meeting should be held between Jang and Sultan of Sokoto Muhammadu Sa'ad all in a bid to find a way out of the sectarian violence that has bedevilled the state over the years.

Daily Trust gathered yesterday that the nine governors' meeting with Jonathan has been fixed for tomorrow (Tuesday), while the committee would travel to Sokoto to meet with the Sultan on Wednesday.

The committee's interim report, according to a reliable source, made it clear that since the crisis in Plateau State is posing a security threat to the country, it was necessary for Jang to meet with the other governors that either share borders with Plateau or are close to Plateau in order to find lasting peace in the state.

The committee also said the latest attack on some villages in the state occurred after the committee had been constituted and had started, hence was not among its terms of reference.

It therefore suggested that in view of the Dogo Nahawa and Biye attacks, since the matter is also connected with its terms of reference, there was a need to speak with the leaders of the Fulani community on the issue and it requested for an audience with the Sultan of Sokoto.

The committee said these actions needed to be taken for it to make meaningful progress in its work, and made it known that it has constituted a sub-committee to draft all the final recommendations after the meeting with the acting president, the Sultan and the state governors.

Our correspondent further learnt that the issue of involving Fulani leaders on the committee had been resolved as two leaders of the Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association (MACBAN), Alhaji Saleh Bayeri and Haruna Boro, have been included in the committee. The Fulani leaders had not been included earlier due to division in MACBAN.

Copies of the letters recognising the inclusion of MACBAN, made available to our correspondent, showed that their membership of the committee had been backdated to March 6, 2010 and they are expected to be part of the committee's meeting activities henceforth.

Nigeria's ambassador presents credentials to Obama today

NIGERIA'S new Ambassador to the US, Prof. Ade Adefuye, is expected to present his letter of credence to President Barack Obama at the White House today.

The ambassador-designate arrived Washington D.C last week is expected to formally assume duties after the ceremony at the White House.

Until his appointment, Adefuye was the Adviser, Governance and Democracy, at the Economic Community of West African States Commission. (NAN)



PRESIDENT, Shaw University, North Carolina, USA Dorothy Yancy (middle), Vice Chairman Board of Trustees (BOT), Prof. Joe Bell (right) and Executive Chairman, African Global Advancement Programme John Kester during the official opening of Shaw University information Center in Abuja at the weekend.

Nigeria at 50: N3m for grabs in writing competitions

From Ibrahim Chonoko, London

MORE than N3m is to be won in prizes in writing competitions as part of activities to mark Nigeria's Golden Jubilee Celebrations in Nigeria and the Diaspora.

A UK-based company, Nigeria Is Fifty Ltd, which announced this in a press statement in London on Wednesday, said the Short Story and Essay Competitions were

open to all Nigerian students in primary, secondary and tertiary institutions.

Winners for both Short Story and Essay categories will each receive N50, 000 for primary; N75, 000 for secondary; and 100,000 for tertiary institutions competitors, with runners up receiving various amounts in prizes.

There is also a general cate-

gory, open to anyone over 18 years in Nigeria and abroad, which attracts the highest first prize of N125, 000, with the runners up getting N100, 000 and N75, 000 as second and third prizes respectively.

The company however said competitors must pay entry fees of N200 each (£2 for Nigerians in Diaspora). The statement further said the finale of the Golden

Jubilee Anniversary "will be the crowning of Miss Golden Jubilee in Abuja and other parts of the world on October 2".

The chief Executive of the company, Mr Tunde Oyedoyin said activities lined up for the Golden Jubilee celebrations were designed "to help millions of Nigerians to unlock their talents and potentials, while also having great fun".

New ministers face screening today

Continued from page 1

Jonathan dissolved the last Federal Executive Council. He said last Thursday's sacking of Senator Joy Emodi from the Senate by the Court of Appeal Enugu division had nothing to do with their position on Akunyili.

He said, "Senate has already decided unanimously long before her re-nomination that we will not confirm her if she is re-nominated because of her recent utterances and behaviours which are unbecoming of a public servant. It has nothing to do with the exit of Senator Emodi and contrary to what other people are saying, it is not Northern Senators that are against her. It is the decision of the entire Senate.

"We knew that she wanted to be Anambra State governor. She went to the First Lady and begged, but the First Lady refused to inter-

fer. We also know that she had been going to her to cook for her, and the First Lady took her as a daughter. When she visits Hajia Turai, Mrs. Akunyili would not even sit in a chair, she always sat on the carpet. But the moment she heard that President Yar'adua was incapacitated, she went out and continued to run her mouth, after which she went to Chief Tony Anenih and begged and apologized that she was sorry."

Another reason why the Senate will not confirm Akunyili, according a ranking Senator, is because of her role in the crisis bedevilling the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Anambra state. He said, "She went to Anambra and said she was the party leader and called a meeting, during which youths hurled water sachets at her and said they didn't know her. So, with all these, you can see that she cannot escape,

that is why we are saying that instead of Anambra State to lose the ministerial slot, let Emodi, who has been a very loyal party member, replace her. And let me tell you that, even the Anambra senators themselves don't want her. That is the opinion of the Nigerian public."

Daily Trust had reported last Friday that, shortly after Senator Emodi's election was quashed, Senators began lobbying for her to replace Akunyili as the ministerial nominee. Several senators also told *Daily Trust* that they had taken a stand on former Minister of National Planning Senator Mohammed Sunusi Daggash, with whom they had a very frosty relationship when he was a minister in the first Yar'adua cabinet.

Sources however said Daggash mounted a strong lobby at the weekend and visited most of the senators in their houses, with

the help of one of the principal officers who urged his colleagues to forgive their former colleague.

Although he did not mention the names of those who might have visited him to lobby for his support at the weekend, Senator Adamu Garba Talba (PDP, Yobe South) confirmed that several nominees were at his house. "They have been lobbying, but you know it is normal in democracy," he said.

Chairman of the Senate Committee on Information and Media Senator Simon Ayogu Eze (PDP, Enugu North) however denied knowledge of a Senate decision not to confirm Akunyili. He said, "Where did that happen? We will only confirm or not confirm a nominee based on his/her performance during screening. We cannot single out anybody from the list and say we won't confirm that person."

Sylva alleges campaign to oust him from office

By Boco Edet

GOVERNOR Timipre Sylva of Bayelsa State has alleged that there is a campaign spearheaded by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to remove him from office and send him to jail over alleged corruption. This was Sylva's reaction to an interim report submitted by the EFCC to Acting President Goodluck Jonathan on an alleged N101 billion fraud in the state government. In the report, it was alleged that the governor and six of his aides were involved in the fraud.

Others who the EFCC established a prima facie case against include Frances Okokuro (Accountant-General), Abbot Clinton (Director of Treasury), Ikobho Anthony Howells, Reginald Dede (Chairman, Bayelsa Environmental Agency) Thomas Zidafamo (Permanent Secretary, Finance) and Dr. Charles Sylva Opuala, who has been declared wanted.

Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Doifie Ola said, "We do not see it as a coincidence that on the same day, two other newspapers carried another story about the Bayelsa State governor, saying he was contesting "power" with the Acting President. This story about grand larceny in Bayelsa is bogus and carefully planned to tarnish the image of Governor Sylva and remove him from the Government House. If the EFCC has established a prima facie case against senior officials of the Government of Bayelsa State as it claimed, the road to travel is the law courts, not the pages of newspapers."

This story about grand larceny in Bayelsa is bogus and carefully planned to tarnish the image of Governor Sylva and remove him from the Government House.

Robbers kill 12-yr-old, two others in Jigawa

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Dutse

A 12-yr old boy and two others were at the weekend killed by a gang of armed robbers in Jahun town of Jahun Local Government Area of Jigawa State. The police have arrested one of the armed robbers.

According to a witness, the five-man gang attacked one

Alhaji Sa'idu Danjumai, a provision dealer around 10pm. The witness added that the robbers injured three others including the owner of the shop, Alhaji Sa'idu Danjumai.

The owner of the shop was said to have engaged the armed robbers in a combat and in the process, they killed three persons including a 12-yr old boy and also

injured their member.

"The armed robbers attempted to rescue the injured member of the gang, but later abandoned him and ran away", he said.

Confirming the incident to newsmen, the state Commissioner of Police Alhaji Abdullahi Salisu Fana said the injured armed robber had been arrested and that the police would get use-

ful information that could lead to the arrest of the other robbers. He said the injured armed robber had identified himself as Muhammad Ya'u Kwanar-Huguma. He added that the two injured victims were taken to the Jahun General Hospital while the shop owner, Alhaji Sa'idu Danjumai, was rushed to the Federal Medical Centre, Birnin-Kudu.



VEHICLES restricted from moving along Utako-Berger road, during Abuja's environmental sanitation exercise on Saturday. Pic: NAN

Resident doctors deny threatening strike

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

THE National Association of Resident Doctors of Nigeria (NARD) has denied reports that it is planning to embark on strike over non-payment of the Consolidated Medical Salary Structure (CONMESS). Dr John Tunde Aremu, National

President of the association said this after the association's National Executive Council (NEC) emergency meeting in Minna yesterday.

"The NEC condemns in strong terms the recent newspaper publication by one Dr Atiloye, who claimed to be speaking on behalf of NARD,

calling for a purported nationwide strike. We categorically state that NARD has not given such ultimatum and we urge our members to disregard the call," he said.

He however urged the Federal Government to pay the CONMESS.

"NARD has patiently waited

for the implementation of the new salary and with the passage of the 2010 appropriation bill, we demand the immediate implementation of CONMESS," he added.

The communiqué urged Nigerians to prevail on the Federal Government to expedite action on the implementation.

Shema prevents newsmen from covering PDP caucus meeting

GOV. Ibrahim Shema of Katsina State on Friday barred newsmen from a PDP caucus meeting which held at the Government House, Katsina, in the night.

The governor's order was delivered to the newsmen by one of the security operatives attached to the Government

House.

The newsmen started arriving at the Government House around 9:30 p.m. to cover the meeting which was scheduled to commence at 10:00 p.m., but were told that Shema had directed that no journalist be allowed into the venue.

The governor's directive provoked the journalists, leading to an exchange of words between them and the security men.

The Chairman of the Correspondents Chapel of the NUJ, Danladi Buba, appealed to his colleagues to calm down and leave the venue with a promise

to tackle the issue later.

When contacted, the Special Adviser to the Governor on Media and Publicity, Alhaji Nasiru Abdul, confirmed that "the directive is from above." Also reacting, the correspondent of the Daily Independent Newspaper, Abdulhamid

Sabo, said this was the first time journalists were being barred from the caucus meeting.

"Journalists have never been prevented from covering such meetings in the Government House. This is not good," he said. (NAN)

16 policemen killed in Ebonyi communal clash

By Misbahu Bashir

INSPECTOR General of Police Ogbonna Onovo said 16 policemen were feared killed in the communal clashes between the Ezza and Ezillo people in Ishielu Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.

Ovovo said in Abuja that in

spite of efforts by government and religious leaders to settle the two communities since 2008, violence erupted and claimed the lives of 16 policemen and vehicles belonging to the police destroyed. He ordered the arrest of 27 persons suspected to be behind the disturbances. He said many people have been killed in the com-

munal disturbances which threatens national peace. Many travellers along Enugu-Abakaliki Road were caught up and killed in the crossfire during the crisis, Onovo said.

"The carnage must stop as the police is prepared to do all within its constitutional powers to restore peace in the area," he said.



DEPUTY Speaker, House of Representatives Usman Bayero Nafada (left) with House Member Paulinus Igwe after Nafada was honoured with the chieftaincy title of Onwa Na Etiri in Abakaliki, Ebonyi State on Saturday.

Perm sec urges civil servants to be resourceful

By Misbahu Bashir

THE Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Police Affairs, Bukar Goni Aji has called on the police and civil servants in the ministry to be resourceful.

He made the remarks during the inauguration of the Ministry's SERVICOM committee in

Abuja. He said civil servants should be fair and efficient so as to redeem the dented image of the service.

He said the level of socio-economic development in the country depends on quality of service delivery and appealed to police officers and top ranking officials in the ministry to

ensure compliance with the service delivery.

He said civil servants needs to be industrious, cultivate good public relations and change their mindsets from the old notion of "inducement before service."

Aji said efficient the essence of service delivery is to ensure that people are catered for.

PTDF trains 10,000 youth in welding, fabrication

By Hamisu Muhammad

ABOUT 10,000 young Nigerians will be enrolled by the Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF) for professional training in welding and fabrication within the next five years, Muttaqah Rabe Darma, Executive Secretary of the PTDF has said.

The programme, according to Darma, is the initiative of the management of the PTDF in collaboration with the Nigeria Institute of Welding aimed at empowering

Nigerians in the oil and gas industry. He said the reason for the support was to encourage Nigerians to partake in welding and fabrication in the oil and gas industry which he said constituted about 60 percent of the total job requirements in the industry. He said the welding jobs have been dominated by expatriates as such Nigerians must engage in it because of the high demand of the profession in the coming years due to the ongoing reforms in the industry.

"We have completed recruit-

ment of 500 people as a pilot stage," he said.

He said four institutions have been chosen for the training which includes Defence Industry Corporation of Nigeria (DICON), Petroleum Training Institute (PTI), Effurum, Air Force Training Institute and Naval Training College, Sapele.

Darma said the FUND will upgrade institutes in order to train these young Nigerians to come out as professional welders recognised by the international Institute of Welding.

Traditional ruler wants North, South-South ties strengthened

By Muideen Olaniyi

THE Torukongo I of Okrika in Rivers State, Chief John Ochi, yesterday called for the strengthening of the tie between the North and the South.

Speaking in Abuja, Chief Ochi recalled that the creation of states from the Eastern part which favoured the South-South region was made possible through the help of the Northerners.

He said: "The former Head of State General Yakubu Gowon in collaboration with the Northern Elders Council made it (state creation) a reality. Prior to this time, the people of the then "COR STATES" (Cross River,

Ogoja and River State) were denied their natural birthright.

"It is the cry of the same set of people in the North who listen to them that assists to actualize that which seem to be an illusion in the mind of the Southern people," he stated.

He said there have been intercultural marriages among people of the two regions, adding that land was even allotted to the Hausa-Fulan who have been in some parts of Rivers, Bayelsa and Delta states for rearing of their livestock. Chief Ochi appealed to all traditional rulers from the two regions to support Acting President Goodluck Jonathan in order to move the country forward.

CIPPO establishes pensioners' e-complain unit

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

THE Custom, Immigration and Prisons Pension Office, CIPPO has established pensioners' e-complaint unit that will address complaints of the retirees within 24 hours.

CIPPO Acting Director Abdurashid Mana said with the introduction of the unit, pensioners need not to leave their home as they can easily channel their complain via e-mail.

Mana, who made this known at the prison headquarters while interacting with Controller General Nigerian Prison Service, Mr. Olusola Ogundipe, said the unit would reduce the danger pensioners are usually exposed while travelling from their homes to lodge complaint at the headquarter or any CIPPO zonal office.

He explained that the office had already sent 65 staff for training in Kaduna on pension management and information

technology for the online management of pension and effective interaction with pensioners.

"In case any retired officer has any complain, we have a telephone number and we have established a very vibrant complain unit in case any retired officer has complain, we created a website, and telephone are available for that purpose, so whatever complain comes it goes direct to Complain Unit", he said.

He said the new system has stabilised the payment of pensions, and established what he called "Files Treatment Score" for the officers to treat received complains and treat it within twenty four hours explaining "that is why if you go to CIPPO you will not see any pensioner now."

Responding, the Comptroller General dismissed the allegation of pending files, saying "it is surprising that somebody who retired in 2002; his file is yet to be sent to CIPPO that might not be totally true."

No governor saw Yar'adua - Shekarau

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

KANO State Governor Ibrahim Shekarau yesterday said none of the 36 state governors in the country saw ailing President Umaru Yar'adua in his sick bed.

Speaking on Radio Kano programme, Da Bazar Ku, Shekarau said none of the members of the Governors' Forum claimed to have seen Yar'adua so far. He said they only wish the bedridden president well through some people who claim to have access to him.

Governor Shekarau also said their decision, as governors, to support the idea of vesting presidential powers on the Dr Goodluck Jonathan was because there was nothing like acting president in the constitution. "In the constitution, there is nothing like acting president or acting governor," said the governor.

He said it was not the spirit

and letter of the constitution that guided their decision but the doctrine of necessity and their sense of right and wrong.

"In a situation whereby the president is around in the country, and cannot run the affairs of government, the constitution remains silent. So even a judge sometimes uses conscience to adjudicate," said the governor.

The governor also said the recently dissolved Federal Executive Council (FEC) was divided, and for the country to move forward there was need for the FEC to be restructured so that we can move forward."

"I think a divided FEC can't deliver the best to the nation," said he. Shekarau noted that the governors cautioned Acting President Goodluck Jonathan on what he should do to ensure that he did not make any decision that would threaten the peaceful coexistence of the nation.

Shagari, Wayas for Tarka's book presentation

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

FORMER President Shehu Shagari and former Senate President Joseph Wayas are part of those expected at the launch of a book on the life of late Joseph Saawuan Tarka.

The book titled, "Legacies of J.S. Tarka" was written by a veteran journalist, Mr. Simon Shango, and it is coming 30 years after Tarka's death. Shango, a former editor with the New Nigerian Newspaper (NNN) first covered the late political leader

when he was the Minister of Communication.

Tarka was the founder of the defunct United Middle-Belt Congress (UNBC) which struggled to give identity and recognition to the North Central region. Shango, who spoke to our correspondent on phone yesterday, said all friends and contemporaries of the late politician are expected at the book launch in Makurdi, the Benue State capital. He said they include: Shagari, Wayas, former Vice President Alex Ekweme, former Head of State General Yakubu Gowon,

former Governor of old Plateau State Solomon Lar, former Senate Leader Olusola Saraki and former Governor of Gongola (now Adamawa) Bamanga Tukur. Shango

"I had interviews with all the writers whose works I collected for Legacies of J.S. Tarka and I discovered that Tarka was a complex personality. It took a lot to know him. The book is the outcome of a literary work spanning 30 years. I started this work when I was still on the field as a reporter", Shango said.

'98% NECO failure worst in Nigeria's history'

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

THE 98 percent failure recorded by the National Examination Council (NECO) is the worst in the history of examinations in Nigeria, the head of an Islamic group, The Muslim Congress, Malam Luqman AbdurRaheem has said.

Abdul Raheem who spoke with our correspondent yesterday said there was a need for all well-meaning Nigerians, Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs), NGOs and religious groups to identify factors responsible for the failure and work hard to tackle them.

He urged the Ministry of Education to go back to the two students per seat policy in order to check overcrowding and loitering in schools. He urged the federal and state governments to provide schools with adequate learning materials.

Zuru indigenes want constitutional backing for traditional rulers

SOME indigenes of Zuru in Kebbi State have called for constitutional backing for traditional rulers, saying that it would help to check political, religious and communal clashes in the country.

Alhaji Mohammed Danjuma, a businessman, told newsmen yesterday in Abuja that, "People tend to respect their traditional rulers and empowering such rulers constitutionally will facilitate their job of monitoring and controlling their subjects".

"It is also our belief that if the traditional institution is constitutionally empowered, ethno-religious crises would be drastically reduced," he said. The businessman commended the tenure of the current Emir of Zuru, Alhaji Muhammadu Sani-Sami, saying that he is the best leader the community has ever had. Also commenting on the issue, Alhaji Sule Sami said there was need to constitutionally empower traditional rulers to serve as agents of peace.

Sami described traditional rulers as people with vast knowledge of the history and tradition of their people, saying that they had direct influence on their subjects. He sympathised with the people of Plateau over the recent crisis that rocked Jos, and urged Nigerians to live in peace with one another. (NAN)



PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE

FROM left: Executive Secretary, Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, Malam Haruna Sa'eed, Chairman Cateiffn Mr. Anthony George-Hill and Co-ordinator, Coalitions for Change, Hajiya Amina Salihu, during the presentation of research into processes of the Nigerian Extractive Industries in Abuja.

Female journalists urged on decent dressing

From Leye Adewumi, Akure

MANAGING Director of the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) Mrs Oluremi Oyo at the weekend urged female journalists to always dress decently while carrying out their duties. Oyo, who was delivering a lecture titled, "The Media Woman: Challenges, Pains and Gains" at the 2010 Nigeria Association of Women Journalists Week in Akure, Ondo State described journalism as a noble profession and call to service.

She said colour, sex and race were some of the challenges faced by female journalists. She maintained that there was a need for female journalists to be properly dressed saying, "You are addressed the way you are dressed".

Mrs Oyo, who admitted that it was difficult to be a media woman, urged women in the profession, not to allow tradition and family demands to put them down. She advised them to

always find a way to navigate. She also challenged journalists to ensure that future polls in the country are not hijacked by selfish politicians.

"Journalists have a major role in ensuring that the 2011 General election is conducted in a free and fair manner, through constant education of the electorate and the body saddled with the conduct of the election", she said.

Oyo appealed to journalists to shun acts that could drag the profession into disrepute.

"I want to urge all journalists including old and young ones to desist from anything that could soil the image of the profession. We have to uphold the ethics of the profession", she added.

The wife of the Ondo State Governor, Olukemi Mimiko, on her part said journalists have a crucial role in democratic entrenchment.

Uwais recommendation: Muslim group flays Senate's position

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

A Muslim group, the Muslim Congress (TMC) has flayed Senate's rejection of the Uwais Electoral Reform Committee recommendation on the appointment of the chairman and board members of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) by the National Judicial Council. The head of the group, Mallam Luqman AbdurRaheem, who spoke with our correspondent on phone yesterday called

on advocates of free and fair election in Nigerian to condemn the action.

COMMENTING on President Gaddafi's recent statement that Nigeria should be divided, Mallam AbdurRaheem condemned the advice. He said the statement was unnecessary and could aggravate the nation's socio-economic and political problems.

"THE North is not entirely made up of Muslim neither is the South made up of only Christians. The problem of Nigeria is

not the unwillingness of Christians and Muslims live peacefully, but bad governance by those at the helms of affairs", he said.

MALLAM Luqman said bad governance in the country was hampering justice delivery, positive thinking, love and equity. "GOVERNMENT officials place self before service and divert to private coffers, funds meant for rehabilitation, reconstruction and revitalization of the various segments of the economy", he added.

NUJ suspends activities at Radio Niger's Chapel

By Hussein Yahaya

THE Niger State Council of the Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ) has suspended activities at the Radio Niger Chapel. The state council also suspended for 12 months, the Chairman of the Radio Niger Chapel, Umar Muhammed, Secretary, Baba Alhaji Othman and other executive members of the chapel.

This was contained in a statement signed by the union's state Chairman, Mallam Iliya Garba. He added that the state executive committee of the union also suspended members of the chapel's credentials committee for allegedly conducting election at the chapel without following the union's constitutional provisions.

According to the statement, the union also ratified the suspension of the station's Director of News and Current Affairs, Alhaji Yakubu Adamu.

"The purported election illegally conducted by the chapel on March 16 is null and void and anyone who parades himself or herself as elected members of the NUJ under that so called election does so at his or her own risk," the statement added.

Sokoto govt to give pilgrims free food in Muna, Arafat

From Abdulfatai Abdulsalam Sokoto

THE Sokoto State government says it will feed the state's pilgrims in Muna and Arafat free during this year's hajj. Governor Aliyu Wamakko said this at the Northern Governors Forum in Kaduna State recently. Governor Wamakko said the gesture was aimed at making things easier for the state's pilgrims in the holy land.

Meanwhile, a five man committee has already been set up to secure accommodation for them. According to the Media Officer of the Sokoto State Pilgrims Welfare Agency, Mallam Faruku Umar, the committee members include the Sokoto State Special Adviser on Hajj Matters Alhaji Abdul-lahi Maigwandu, Director General of the Sokoto State pilgrims Welfare Agency Alhaji Bello Isa Ambarura, Director of Finance in the agency, Alhaji Ibrahim Umar Arkilla, Alhaji Sani Maieka Tam-bagarka and the acting Chairman of the Local Government Service Commission Alhaji Bello Adamu.

He said the committee members had already left the country for Saudi Arabia, adding that the committee members would attend a meeting with the Saudi Arabian authorities.

Oshiomhole wants Senate to reject INEC's plan on LGs

From Vincent Egunyanga, Benin

EDO State Governor Adams Oshiomhole has appealed to the Senate to reject plans by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to move two local government areas, Uhunmwonde and Orhionmwon from Edo South Senatorial District to Edo Central. The governor in a letter to the Senate President said, "Your gracious intervention is

required in the light of plans by INEC to cede two local government areas (Uhunmwonde and Orhionmwon) from Edo South Senatorial District to Edo Central Senatorial District during the constituency delineation exercise ahead of the 2011 elections.

The position of the government of Edo State is that, INEC's plans will disarticulate the geo-political stability, which the current arrangement has helped to sustain. By INEC's

proposal, the Bini-speaking Edo South Senatorial District, which is linguistically and culturally homogenous, would be compelled to lose two critical local government areas to another Senatorial district. The implication of this is that these local government areas will invariably be marginalised and disempowered in the new Senatorial district. Even for electoral purposes, this is undesirable, unnecessary, unacceptable and patently unjust."



FROM left: Alake of Egbaland, Oba Adedotun Aremu Gbadebo, Governor of Ogun State, Otunba Gbenga Daniel, the retired Archbishop, Dr. Peter Jasper Akinola and his wife, Susan, during the retirement thanksgiving service held in honour of the immediate past head of the Anglican Church in Nigeria at the Cathedral Church of St Peter, Abeokuta yesterday.

Plateau pilgrims board to repatriate absconded pilgrim

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

THE Plateau State Muslims Pilgrims Welfare Board says it is set to repatriate the pilgrim that absconded during last year's hajj exercise. The Executive Secretary of the board Alhaji Abubakar Dashe told newsmen in Jos yesterday that, "One pilgrim absconded during last year's hajj exercise and that the board had written

a letter to the National Hajj Commission on its plans to arrest the absconded pilgrim and bring him back to Nigeria."

Dashe said the board had already asked the hajj commission to contact the Saudi Consulate and other relevant authorities to search for the absconded pilgrim in Saudi Arabia, adding that the board would provide them with necessary information on the absconded pilgrim.

He said last year, they had a hitch free hajj exercise due to the assistance they received from the state government and the cooperation of pilgrims. He advised intending pilgrims to conduct themselves well to protect the image of the state and country. He said the board would consider those who deposited money with the board last year and couldn't complete payment.

Ekiti lawmakers to protest reduction of constituencies

MEMBERS of the Ekiti State House of Assembly plan to relocate to Abuja to protest against the reduction in the state's electoral constituencies.

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) plans to reduce the constituencies from 26 to 24. Mr Morakinyo Adebayo, the Chairman of the state House of Assembly Committee on Information, said at a news conference yesterday in Ado-Ekiti that the reduction was "an act of injustice" to the state. Adebayo said the 26 members of the House would stage a peaceful demonstration at the National Assembly and INEC office to register their displeasure. He said the responsibility of determining the state's constituencies

rested with the House of Assembly, noting that "INEC does not have any business in either reducing or increasing the constituencies."

"Today (Sunday), all the 26 lawmakers are relocating to Abuja to stage a peaceful protest at the National Assembly and INEC office. The reduction in the state's constituencies is an act of injustice."

"If INEC is increasing the constituencies of other states, why then is it reducing our own. The Assembly bears the cost of maintaining the constituencies and not INEC. INEC has nothing to gain in the reduction and we will not rest until the decision is reversed. As a matter of fact, we are even clamouring for additional six constituencies. INEC should, there-

fore, be careful about what they are planning to do," he said. A member of the House, Mr Rotimi Ajidara, representing Ekiti East Constituency I, whose constituency is affected, told journalists that the proposed reduction was an "aberration."

Ajidara said he had met with stakeholders in his community over the issue.

"Our resolve is to fight the scrapping of the constituency and we are ready to do everything to ensure that INEC reverses the decision," he added.

He appealed to the National Assembly to prevail on INEC not to scrap some of the constituencies since the legislators were the closest to the people. (NAN)

RE: OPEN LETTER TO ACTING PRESIDENT, DR. GOODLUCK EBELE JONATHAN, GCON.

March 29, 2010

Your Excellency,

Our attention has been drawn to an open letter to the Acting President, Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, signed by some people, claiming to be representing the people of Gombe South Senatorial District and published in the Daily Trust, March 25, 2010. Ideally, we should have ignored the letter, but we felt we should not allow some individuals, using fake names, to destroy the mutual understanding, harmony and relationship that exist between the various communities that made up Gombe State, thus create suspicion and mutual distrust among us. The sponsors of the letter are either economical with the truth or are just out to destroy the mutual understanding and trust, which is known and existed in Gombe State for long.

We view this advertorial at this time as a deliberate attempt by some people to distract the Acting President from the arduous task ahead of him of selecting people of integrity that he can work with in this critical period of the nation's political history using distorted facts to derive home their selfish interest.

In order to put the records straight with regards to Federal Character rules, we wish to inform the Acting President and all Nigerians that the following people are from Gombe South Senatorial District:

1. Dr. John Lazarus Yoriyo, Deputy Governor, Gombe State;
2. Justice Hakila Y. Heman, Chief Judge, Gombe State;
3. Mr. Jack Gumpy, The Chairman Gombe State PDP;
4. Madam Christy Silas, Member, PDP National Board of Trustees;
5. Alhaji Suleiman D Kassim, - Former Head of Service and now Federal Permanent Secretary, General Services office of the Secretary to Government of the Federation;
6. General (rtd) Timothy Shelfidi - A well respected retired Army General, Member, Provisional Ruling Council during the late Head of State, Sani Abacha regime and present Nigerian Ambassador to Russia;
7. Alhaji Saidu Mohammed Fawu, Commissioner Representing Gombe State, Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission;
8. Madam Lami Buba - Commissioner Federal Civil Service Commission;
9. Mr Elkam Dangabas - Director, Federal Ministry of Aviation;
10. Honourable Zubairu Alkali, the Majority Leader in the present State House of Assembly is from Gombe South;
11. Alhaji Ahmadu Labilwa Madugu, Chairman, Local Government Service Commission;
12. Mr. Caleb Maina, Chairman, State Independent Electoral Commission;
13. Madam Egla Kassim, wife of Alhaji Suleiman D. Kassim, Member State Civil Service Commission;
14. 2/3 of all the Gombe State Civil Servants are from Gombe South Senatorial District;
15. 2/3 of all Directors/Permanent Secretaries in the State are from Gombe South Senatorial District;

16. In 1979, the Senatorial seat in the then Eastern Zone was meant for Akko and Tangale/Waja, but was conceded for the Tangale/Waja zone and Alhaji Uba Ahmed emerged the Senator, due to mutual understanding existing between the various political actors. Eventually he became a Minister, Federal Ministry of Labour and Productivity under the Late General Sani Abacha;
17. Alhaji Adamu Abdulkadir, Senior Special Assistant on Raw Materials during the Obasanjo regime;
18. Also Alhaji Ajuji Waziri was Nigerian Ambassador to Turkey;
19. In 1980, Alhaji Shehu Awak was the Nigerian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and was also Commissioner in the then Bauchi State;
20. Dr Danlami Arab Rukuje was the Chairman Gombe State Water Board and served as Secretary Health FCTA, later Assistant Chief of Staff to the Former FCT Minister, Alhaji Aliyu Modibbo Umar;
21. Alhaji Alhassan Fawu for several years was the Chairman National Fertiliser Distribution Commission;
22. From 2003-2007 the PDP State Chairman is from Gombe South. Mr. Nuhu Paloma

The combined Gombe Central and Gombe North Senatorial Districts which take more than 70% of the entire State landmass and population have seven (7) Emirates, which include:

- | | |
|------------|-----------------|
| 1. Gombe | (Gombe North) |
| 2. Akko | (Gombe Central) |
| 3. Dukku | (Gombe North) |
| 4. Yamaltu | (Gombe Central) |
| 5. Deba | (Gombe Central) |
| 6. Pindiga | (Gombe Central) |
| 7. Nafada | (Gombe North) |

While Gombe South alone has a total of six (6) Emirates

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1. Billiri | (Gombe South) |
| 2. Kaltungo | (Gombe South) |
| 3. Dadiya | (Gombe South) |
| 4. Cham | (Gombe South) |
| 5. Tula | (Gombe South) |
| 6. Waja | (Gombe South) |

Most of these emirates were created during this democratic dispensation, however, no one either in the North or Central Senatorial Zone has ever complain or petition about equity or of marginalisation, despite evidence of disparity and gap within the State Civil Service, Emirates and Federal Appointments that exists, especially between the South Senatorial District and the combined North and Central Senatorial Districts.

Sir,

We therefore, want to urge our peace loving brothers in Gombe South to dissociate themselves from the faceless and hired agents that are out to destroy the historical harmony that is existing between the heterogeneous communities in the state.

Signed:
Concerned Gombe State Citizens

Online Reactions

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON www.dailytrust.com



High cost of Abuja accommodation worrisome

LET the government have a regulation to guide housing in FCT. Honestly, the issue of housing in Abuja is becoming

alarming that government really has to intervene.

Imagine even in the satellite areas of the FCT, the rents are

no different.

Housing is meant to be a long term investment, but here in this country a landowner will

like you to pay for all monies invested in a property at once. Majority of the civil servants and employees of private organ-

izations including banks cannot avoid such.

Mr. Eric
mail_ariwa@yahoo.co.uk

700 NYSC corps members posted to Jos want redeployment –Coordinator

WHY should Plateau state government contest the redeployment of NYSC members? Since you can't halt the crisis please let them go or do you have a plan? We have heard of NYSC members that were killed during crises before. During my service year, I can't remember been given or signing a form that says I could be killed in the course of my service to the nation.

Igweisi Onyekwelu
princeiwesi@yahoo.com

This has proven beyond any reasonable doubt that Plateau state is no longer the 'Home of peace and tourism' and it is no longer habitable for Corps members. Where was Mr. Gregory when our fellow colleagues- Leke Akande, Tola Odusla and Ibukun Akinjogbin were killed in the state during the crises? Now because the DG want to relocate us they are shouting. We must go, we can't stay to be killed.

Muktar Garba
justwe247@yahoo.com

N/Assembly passes N4.6tn budget for 2010

THIS is an annual ritual that is gradually losing its meaning in Nigeria. Since our return to democracy ten years ago, budgets are either poorly implemented or not implemented at all and the money appropriated find their ways into private pockets.

Ibrahim Tsadu Ibrahim
elkutigi@gmail.com

WELL done Dr. Aliyu for your confession. I am sure you took note of those who contributed to the dwindling fortunes of the country which are the politicians, the bureaucrats, the elites, the traditional institutions and the followers; but what is the solution to it? I believe all corrupt leaders must be made to face the full wrath of the law. The same way an area Court Judge will sentence a pick pocket to a one year jail term for stealing N300, so also should a bureaucrat or an elected official go to jail without any favor according to the level of his theft or misappropriation.

Lamara Garba Azare
lamaragarba@yahoo.com

It is so encouraging that people like Babangida Aliyu can remain focused and consistent. In these trying times in Nigeria, this Governor has demonstrated that honor and integrity coupled with fearlessness are indeed salient characteristics for measuring leadership and performance in the political arena. Many Nigerians need to take special notice of the role he has so far played without the bias of ethnicity and religion. If the Governors' forum had been legitimate and constitutional, Babangida could proudly be the leader. To accept that this nation is at the brink of a becoming a failed state, is symptomatic of quality leadership.

Merem Emeribe
emeokoro@yahoo.com

Your Excellency, if leaders of high estate and integrity like you are showing skepticisms towards the Nigerian state, then who do you expect us, the masses, to look up to for hope? We expect encouragement in the midst of the storm from our leaders.

Ali Jeb Adamu Chitum
ajchitumu@yahoo.com

This is a clear vote of no confidence passed on the political office holders in the country that they have failed in meeting the yearnings and aspirations of the people. And for us in Niger State, there is nothing better to capture our state of affair than being a failed state!

Ibrahim Tsadu Ibrahim
elkutigi@gmail.com

Governor Aliyu Babangida, has always been one of the few Nigerian politicians who have the courage to say things the way they are. Kudos for this unequivocal critique. The Northern Governors Forum in particular and the Governors Forum, have been nothing but fora that lacked will and direction. The poverty and illiteracy still prevalent in our society 50 years after independence is inexcusable. Let these Governors get down to the task of real governing and desist from needless jamborees.

Uyi Edogamhe
uyiboy@hotmail.com

Only Allah the great can save us. Before all of them came on board,



NIGER State Gov Babangida Aliyu

they made us understand that they really know the problem of Nigeria, and they all made promises to fix Nigeria for the better. Now most of them are confused. Making promises and failing is a terrible sin in the sight of the Originator (Allah). If we escape here, verily the day of reckoning shall be tough because no one of us shall even think of escaping.

Bala A M Egiyaya
egeeyayaadee@yahoo.com

It felt like I was dreaming while reading this comment from a Nigerian in power. Usually our leaders tell us that all is well, they call black white to protect their self interest. A budget of 4.6 trillion has been passed but at the end of the fiscal year, you will not see anything on ground. God Bless you Governor for saying what the USA has already said.

V. Raphael

Emodi may replace Akunyili ...As Appeal Court sacks Senator

MUST Emordi be in government? What a country. If she rigged an election to sit at the Senate, why find her way into the Cabinet? Doesn't she have a house, husband and kids to take care of? If Nigeria was a good country, the fact that a court has pronounced that she fraudulently got to the senate would have been enough reason for her to go to jail, but in Nigeria, she's aiming higher to be a member of FEC.

Tony Obed
tonyobed@rocketmail.com

I think there should be legislation on the presiding officers at polling booths to be sentenced to at least 10 years imprisonment for falsifying records and announcing false figures at polling stations. I believe this will reduce the alibi of the presiding officers at the polling booth to commit electoral fraud and injustice on innocent candidates and people who cast their votes. If one or two of them are sentenced, the others will take cue.

Ayodeji Omolaja

gosisanya@yahoo.com

I thought she will be punished for being in the Senate when she should not have been there at all and refund all the remunerations she received while there. Why is any right thinking member of the public recommending her for a public appointment? Please let us have morality at least to show the world we are responsible people this time around.

Maikudi Abdulkadir
maikudiabdulkadir@yahoo.co.uk

Nigerians should wakeup to their challenges. I am too ashamed of the Kangaroo politics we are playing here. How can the senators decides



PROF. Dora Akunyili, former Minister of Information

how will be representing Anambra state? Is it their duty or that of the Governor and the people of Anambra State? All these senators come from one state or the other but I have not heard the House deciding on who is going to represent their own states as Minister. They are not happy with what Mrs Akunyili did, but the average Nigerians were very happy because it showed she was patriotic and a good democrat. If anyone has to return to the FEC, it should be Mrs. Akunyili.

Chijioko Richard
ivanrich3@yahoo.com

It will be unfortunate if the Senate will allow itself to be manipulated by those who do not want to hear the truth. Dora owes no one any apology for speaking the truth which in many cases is 'bitter' to the ears of those that care less about integrity. I am sure there are still people with sound judgment of mind who will withstand the evil plot. The court has declared that Mrs. Emordi did not win the election in the first place

so why do you need to compensate her with a ministerial appointment? Please Let Prof. Akunyili be!

Theo Faruna
thefarus@yahoo.com

The need for a time frame for the court to dispose of matters before swearing-in becomes inevitable. Looking at the case of Emordi she has sat in the Senate unlawfully, collected sitting allowance for 3 years. It is a pity.

Ibrahim
ibrodma@yahoo.com

Akunyili should be replaced by Mrs. Emodi based on the grounds of her last comments as Minister which were destabilizing and unguarded. Also, she had been a Minister for some years but achieved nothing. Such a person should not be returned to FEC as she might continue with same, just to achieve her interest and that would lead to problems for this great country.

Idris H.
idrisharon4real@yahoo.com

'Divorce occurs in every 2 marriages in Kano'

COUPLES these days go into marriage contract without clear understandings of their spiritual, social and moral responsibilities. Love and beauty are considerations in marriage but more importantly are morality, respect and responsibility.

Shamsudeen Abdullahi
mohammed_it2k5@yahoo.co.uk

This is not surprising but shameful as there is gross misunderstanding of religious teachings by most northern men. I always urge men to read and understand the position of religion and marriage while understanding that the role of a husband extends beyond sex.

Zara
myfriendzara@yahoo.com

I doubt the authenticity of this research though divorce is a common phenomenon among Hausa/Fulanis. How come 35.5% equals half of 100%?

Engr M S Liman
engrliman@gmail.com

v. raphael@orange.nl

It's quite interesting that he understands the problems and I say kudos to him for saying it out despite the fact that he may threaten his second term ticket with statements like this. The underlying issue here is that the PDP must take more than 80% of the blame and yet he said we should support the present administration which is a product of the PDP.

Again who would he blame for the continuing street begging in the north? I am not an anti-immigrationist but laws should be made so that one must reach at least 18 for that person to migrate. The solutions are so obvious that can be pointed out by everyone. I was so frustrated when I heard that states like Kaduna that find it difficult to provide basic things like chairs, adequate infrastructures and even pay a relatively good salary to service its existing schools is thinking of building schools for the street beggars who are not their citizens. When are we going to stop politicking everything as pointed out by the chief servant of Niger state?.

Usman Ahmed Danbaba
danbaba1986@yahoo.com

In spite of all your Excellency knows about the state of the Nigerian nation, all that matters to you is building a three-arms-zone in your state. I hope this is not another 'misquote'. O God heal our land.

Maikenti
ymaikenti@yahoo.com



By Amos Giandam

Before we crucify Gaddafi (I)

Truth is ageless, indestructible and has no duplicate. Throw it far away into the wilderness and you will be sure that you have given it enough space to germinate, grow and dominate. Bury it deep into the earth and you have planted it with its roots well entrenched far and firmly into the ground. Cast it into fire and that refines it like Gold.

Apart from ignorance which is absence of truth in a form that is not deliberate, the cause of every problem that had bedevilled human race and caused irreversible havocs and great pains has been in the attempt, though always unsuccessful to suppress truth and vilify the messenger because of our selfish and pecuniary considerations. No wonder Jesus said that you will know the truth and the truth will set you free (*John 8 v 32*)

Muammar Al Gaddafi, an illustrious and historic son of Africa, the immediate past head of African union and the president of Libya for about 41 year now frankly offered a suggestion on how the problem of Nigeria's underdevelopment, fragile unity and religious crisis will be solved in his suggestion that Nigeria should be divided into two nations along religious lines

“Many Nigerians have criticized Gaddafi, though unintelligibly. Prominent among them are Prof. Shuabi Balogun

of Christian south and Muslim north. His suggestion was predicated on so many indices in the country that point to that and on the Indian experience of 1947. Prior to 1947 India was known for poverty, underdevelopment, religious violence between the Hindus and the Muslims, unemployment etc. A degree certificate from India was not recognized in any part of the world including Nigeria at that time.

In 1947 Ali Jinnah established a sovereign state for Muslims and called it Pakistan and the remaining he left as India. The economic growth and industrial development India achieved from 1947 led to the country producing her own aircraft and becoming a major exporter of computers. The energy wasted and dissipated fighting for political and religious dominance and prominence was channelled into healthy rivalry and this engendered economic prosperity and peace.

Many Nigerians have criticized Gaddafi, though unintelligibly. Prominent among them are Prof. Shuabi Balogun, whose only reason for Nigeria unity is the fact that we have stayed together for 50 years (*Daily Trust* March 18). The bane of this country is that we obstinately brush truth aside for personal interest, yet this has never proffered a solution to any known problem. This is akin to a sick person who suppresses and denies

the fact that he is sick and rejects the advice of people who are knowledgeable in his ailment

However, the case of Czechoslovakia will prove to my Prof. that long years of staying together is not a strong fabric or bound that can hold a country together if other preponderance indices are pushing for a division. In 1991 the dwindling of Czechoslovakia's GDP, the dropping of consumption by 37% and unemployment which was virtually non-existent before, rose to 8.4%. These provoked controversial discussions both inside and outside the country. This country was created in 1917 after the 1st world war. The pain of underdevelopment, insecurity, unemployment, coupled with intellectual debate; created two sections, one led by Klaus, which was asking for one tighter federation and the other led by Meciar, asked for confederation or a total sovereign Slovakia.

It is interesting that the two sections met in Bratislava and agreed to dissolve Czechoslovakia peacefully in what is known as Velvet Divorce, after 76 years of togetherness as a nation. On 13th November 1993 their national assembly passed an act on how to share whatever they own together. Many others including honorable members of National Assembly called Gaddafi mad man others said he is ignorant of Nigeria and Nigerians. While the likes of Patricia Ette, Obahiagbon, Ike Chinwo, Alex Ukam believe that Nigeria is actually moving towards a precipice and that Gaddafi's opinion is based on many prevalent indices manifesting in Nigeria, that point to disintegration (This Day newspaper and daily trust of 19/3/10). It is instructive to note that this mad Gaddafi has ruled his country Libya prosperously for 40 years and is still ruling and has also written his name in gold in Africa and world politics.

However, let's look at some of these indices of disintegration and our inclination to them and know actually whether Muammar Gaddafi has gone mad.

(1) *Resource control*: This is a demand by the south to control certain percentage of revenue accruing from their area. This demand grew from verbal and political demand to a full blown war in oil rich delta region of Nigeria which is still raging and has resulted in great losses both in human and in oil revenue. Fortunately or unfortunately this demand is gaining popularity by the day, especially among the southerners.

(2) *Rotation of the post of the president*: The Peoples Democratic Party entrenched in its constitution that the presidential seat or post shall rotate alternately between the Muslim north and the Christian south. This arrangement has already shut the door for the acting president, Goodluck Jonathan, no matter how well he performs. Further any section that waited for its turn and was denied in future due to one reason or another may go for Gaddafi's option.

To be cont'd.

Giandam wrote from No 35 Danmua Road, Maiduguri.



By Surajo Oyewale

In defence of Mohammed Haruna

Perhaps I would have had better results in my secondary school if I had not spent more time reading newspapers than my school notes. I remember being caught by daddy sometime in 1997 as a J.S.S 3 student at Offa Grammar School, Offa, Kwara state, when I skipped school lessons to go and read papers at the vendors stand. That was how early I have been following Nigerian newspapers. And I am not talking about reading cartoons.

Give me a fine analysis written in good grammar, and you will earn my respect, even if I disagree with your view. This explains why the parts of a newspaper I enjoy most are the column and opinion pages. From Tribune's Festus Adedayo (Flickers) and Lasisi Olagunju (Lasgunju), to Punch's Yomi Odunuga (Knuckles), Casmir Igbokwe (Musings from Cardiff) and Azubuike Ishikwene (Azul) and those big grammar writers in The Guardian, my day was not complete without tip-toeing to Daddy's room to pick his papers. That was in the late 90's to the middle of last decade. At the university between 2001 and 2006, I remained loyal to Punch and their columnists, thanks to their online editions. During service year in 2007/2008, The Sun and Daily Trust were my daily companions in Sokoto, and it exposed me to the writings of

“These are just few of the avalanche of vitriol Haruna's columns elicit almost every week, which he publishes at times

Daily Trust's Bala Muhammad, Mohammed Haruna, Mahmud Jega, Adamu Adamu, Idang Alibi, Farooq Kperogi and the Sun's team of Louis Odion (he is no longer with them), Femi Adesina (Kulikuli), Funke Egbemode and a host of others.

The clinching of a job in Lagos after service year exposed me to the elitist *ThisDay* with their fine writers: late Stanley Macebuh, Simon Kolawole, Ijeoma Nwogwugwu, Chidi Amuta, Bisi Ojedian, Yusuph Olaniyonu, Dele Momodu (much as I don't agree with his take on most issues), etc. With its website permanently bookmarked on my system, *Daily Trust* still has in me a loyal reader, if not for anything, because of their detailed supply of Abuja news and those columnists I itch to read every morning. The Nation, with its famed Commentariat (Olatunji Dare, Segun Gbadegesin, Mohammed Haruna, Gbenga Omotosho, Yomi Odunuga, Sam Omatseye, etc) completes my day.

At the risk of making 'the address more lengthy than the content of the letter', as my mother, may God continue to bless her, used say, the foregoing only sets on record my familiarity with the writings of virtually all Nigerian top columnists. This article was prompted by the accusations by some fellow read-

ers of these columnists that Mohammed Haruna, who writes on Wednesday in *The Nation* and *Daily Trust*, is a religious and ethnic bigot. Haruna is not the only object of attack by these people, Dr. Muhammad Bala, also of *Daily Trust*, was equally accused of ethnic and religious bigotry. One writer, George Omonya, was even more unsparing, as he dismissed all *Daily Trust* columnists as religious and ethnic bigots.

In a world where many people turn reason on its head on the hearing of the word 'Muslim' or 'Islam', I am not surprised at the torrents of attacks Mohammed Haruna in particular, and other Muslim columnists in general, receives. Responding to Haruna's piece, 'Genocide on the plateau: the way out', published in his column at the back page of *The Nation* on March 10, 2010, one Steven Wande, who claimed to be a junior journalist, said Haruna, who should be a model for journalists of his generation, 'has lost his steam as a journalist...and your (Haruna's) dispositions on all issues have denied you(him) of such(deserved, as a senior journalist) honour and respect'.

Interestingly, that same article was the best another reader, Ola James, said he had read from Haruna, and, in a rather funny tone, he said he did not feel like 'wringing' Haruna's neck for the first time.

These are just few of the avalanche of vitriol Haruna's columns elicit almost every week, which he publishes at times.

In his *Weekly Trust* column of Saturday, March 27, 2010, Muhammad Bala also published reactions of writers who accused Muslim columnists of religious fundamentalism.

While not holding brief for any of these columnists, I think the writers are being unfair to these columnists, obviously due to their tribal and religious affiliations.

In Haruna's 'Genocide on the Plateau: the way out' for example, he strongly condemned the actions of the Fulani herdsmen, calling it genocide that it was, but his offence was reminding us that when the Berom killed almost as many Muslim Fulani in the January massacre, nobody remembered to add 'Christian' when mentioning Berom, even as the whole incidence did not receive as much media coverage as it received when the Muslim Fulani struck.

Make no mistake; I believe the action of the Muslim Fulani is most ghoulish and condemnable. Going on shooting spree in a village, wantonly killing innocent, defenceless, feeble women and children is, by all standards, height of cruelty. To the best of my knowledge, as I can see from his writings, Haruna also saw it that way. Where he differs with most other commentators (except maybe Reuben Abati, who also mentioned the gravity of Berom's January genocide) is the failure of media to give balanced reportage on the whole issue. I agree fully with Haruna here.

Many readers have also accused Haruna of exhibiting ethnic bigotry in his writings.

Oyewale wrote from Dideolu Estate, Victoria Island, Lagos



Your Letters

PDP chieftain in North Central

I write with reference to a report published recently when a number of PDP chairmen were said to have hailed the manner Alhaji Yusuf Ayitogo, National vice chairman of PDP in the North Central zone conducts the affairs of the party.

It was indicated in the said report that Ayitogo as the leader of the ruling party in the region has left no stone unturned in ensuring peace and tranquillity in the zone.

I use simply want to use this medium to say that I agree with the comments of the PDP chieftains because Ayitogo actually took his time to go round the states in the zone to preach peace to members of his party.

His style of leadership even

made the Attah of Igala, His Royal Highness to recently honour him with a chieftaincy title. Even as the chairman of PDP in Nasarawa State, he contributed greatly to the advancement of democracy in the state.

I call on other leaders of political party to emulate the sterling qualities of Ayitogo.

Ikenna Chukwudi, Lafia, Nasarawa.

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

Good ministers, good government

MAY Allah give us good ministers, able and honest people that will move this country forward. 08039788892.

Up you, Senate President

YOU have made me to change my views about your person. I congratulate you on the good job you're doing on the constitution amendment, the Senate and the ship called Nigeria. But please kindly include in your discussion with Senator is on the issue of National I.D. card being used as part of electoral process, for it will greatly improve on Immigration control and national security. Alexander Eneye Atabong, Fegge, Kano, 08033119559.

Any connection?

NIGERIANS have refused to

understand the evils of corruption. It produced the recent NECO results, it caused the Jos crises, it cripples healthcare, it breeds insecurity. You can only achieve ruination with corruption in the saddle.

ABDULLAH Musa, Kano, 08036368112.

No way!

THE attempt by the NECO Chief to justify the mass failure in Nov/Dec 2009 exam by rationalising that even primary school dropouts wrote the exam cannot hold water. After all the pass level for May/June NECO exam was 10.7%. The stark reality is that we are in trouble as a nation. *DR Leo, 08032016425.*

Stop the secret killings

GOVERNMENT should hold ward heads responsible for any secret killing. The Plateau State government should adhere to

Chief Solomon Lar's committee recommendations, because that will go a long way in sanitising the polity on the crisis-ridden Plateau. Politics is a game of number and not age, sex, tribe or religion. *ISHAKU, Jos, 08065263636.*

PHCN, over to you

AT Earth Hour, Nigerians should plant trees as our contribution to save planet earth, as we have no lights to switch off. 8036136967.

Arms for NSCDC?

DAILY Trust, to every sensible Nigerian, giving freedom to journalists is more dangerous than giving arms to the NSCDC which is due to the nature of their job and the level of patriotism shown by them since inception, or do you want them to be killed helplessly by armed terrorists? *AUWAL M. Ibrahim, Makurdi, 08035874158.*



By Isa Tafida Mafindi & Adamu Baba Tatu

Ministerial nomination: Light at the end of the Taraba tunnel?

Nigeria is a great country, no doubt blessed with abundant human and mineral resources, but facing so many challenges that makes the impact these blessings less visible. However, the fact that democracy is growing stronger in the last ten years, shows there is hope. The nation is going through what it has never been into, with the political uncertainty that lingered for over three months, and rise in outbreak of communal clashes that wound the soul of the nation. But as ever Nigeria is still purging ahead despite the challenges. But one challenge is now looking everyone in the eye. This challenge is that of consolidating on the gains of democracy. The nation will soon have a new cabinet. In so many states, who is nominated and who should not be nominated is still generating vitriol. Some consider this as the moment to flare up tension in the polity, some use this moment for backstabbing and witch hunt. In fact some states will never recover from the bitterness associated with who is nominated for ministerial position.

Taraba state is one of the few states in Nigeria where diversity is strength. With so many ethnic groups and religious difference, Taraba state is showing the way for harmony in diversity. Taraba is called "Nature's gift to the nation" as the state is rich and have many ethnic groups, including Jenjo, Kuteb Chamba, Mumuye, Mambila, Wurkum, Fulani, Jukun, Ichen, Tiv and Ngoro. The strength in diversity of Taraba state was consolidated recently with the nomination of Malam Aliyu Umar for a ministerial position. His nomination shows how every state with diversity similar to that of Taraba should manage itself. One good example set by Taraba state is ensuring equitable balance in the distribution of government patronage and political offices so that every tribe and religion is included. Governor Danbaba Suntai has demonstrated his sensitivities to these issues; recognising merit is also another way of ensuring equity.

In Umar there could have been no better choice; and he has come a long way, from his excellent career in the Gongola State Ministry of Lands and Survey as Surveyor from 1981 to 1983. Umar rose to his present position as director Maritime service and Geo-information Technology at the National Boundary Commission. He is also in charge of all maritime boundaries between Nigeria and her neighbours, as well as the Technology Centre of the Commission. He also took the ECS Project through the Phase III and made the Technical presentation to the United Nations when Nigeria submitted claim for extension of its continental shelf on 7th May 2009. He was also posted to manage the Office of Nigeria's Extended Continental Shelf Project in New York.

While in some states the issue of who should be nominated as minister is still on, in Taraba state the issue has been sealed, because the right thing has been done. One will wonder why re-emphasizing this issue. But we have to because in Nigeria today one of the major challenges of democracy is wider participation and frequent crisis within often the same state.

Given Umar's background and experience, it is not Taraba that would gain from it if he is confirmed as minister; the nation stands to benefit.

Nigeria will soon clock fifty and it's quite clear that the challenge of development is big. Politics should be redirected towards developing people and giving them the good that life offers. But so many problems have over the years been setting the nation back. We cannot even get a full benefit of our rich resources because of petty politics and disregard for the wishes of the people. Despite these challenges, there seems to be light at the end of the tunnel. Every time the nation moves from one obstacle to another point of strength. The quality of people nominated to the new federal cabinet is an indication of the hope the one day Nigeria will be on the front row of progress and development.

Leadership positions should be seen as a means of bring the best of people and giving them the chance to use their talents and experience in moving the nation forward. The nomination of Malam Aliyu Umar to represent Taraba state in the federal cabinet is an example of the hope that Nigeria will sooner rather than later rise above current ethnic divisions and harness the power of diversity to become a truly great nation.

Mafindi and Tatu are members of Taraba Unity Forum, behind INEC office, Janlingo.

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

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Blasts in Warri

Two explosive devices recently went off at the venue of a meeting in Delta State Government House Annex in Warri, held to advance the Federal Government's amnesty programme for militants in the Niger Delta. The explosions destroyed vehicles and killed at least three persons, according to preliminary reports. The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) claimed responsibility for the explosions, and made its usual rhetoric of blaming the government for what the militants saw as conceding control of oil resources to other parts of the country outside the Niger Delta.

The attack exposed the lack of security in the area and the absence of intelligence gathering on the part of relevant agencies. MEND's action, though not a surprise, given their unorthodox method of making political statements, came as a shock, coming at a time when the government-programmed amnesty appeared to have silenced the bombs in the Niger Delta. It caused Acting President Goodluck Jonathan to convene an emergency meeting of governors and other community leaders of the area on the way forward. MEND's conduct at this time is unfortunate, when government has pledged its support for the development of the Niger Delta and its determination towards ameliorating the suffering of people of the area. These efforts should be given a chance to take root and mature.

It is also a reminder that the surrender of arms as part of the amnesty package has yet to be totally embraced by all the warring factions in the area, and that only an uneasy truce prevails there. Its timing also shows the insensitivity of those behind it, coming at a time when Nigeria needed all the peace it could garner in a period of political uncertainty.

If militants in the MEND fold were provoked by the utterances of some political leaders of the area, which described the armed group as a mere paper tiger, their murderous reaction is uncalled for. While we think that such utterances are not helpful in building trust and confidence, planting explosives and putting people in harm's way is hardly a good way of responding. Such actions further draw attention to the criminal component of the group's activities.

It is important at this period of delicate political evolution to call on the stakeholders and the people in the Niger-Delta to give peace a chance. The problems of the area are peculiar, but they cannot be solved by violence. Peace is a required ingredient for development anywhere, moreso at a time when the grievances of the people have been acknowledged by government and are being addressed.

The government and its officials at all levels should be circumspect in their statements and show more understanding. Militants and indeed all stakeholders must understand that the wheel of government grinds rather slowly and that patience is important. It is essential that all hands are on the deck if the problems plaguing this region are to be solved. The government should fast-track the amnesty process and translate the wishes and aspirations of the people of the area into tangibles, visible not only to them, but to all.

All acts of provocation, either on the part of politicians or militants must be condemned. Established channels of grievances must be employed in addressing any outstanding issues. We call on the militants to sheath their swords, silence their guns and join hands with government to address the problems of the area. This is the only thing that can bring back the smiles to the faces of the people of the Niger-Delta.

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Cabinet blues

My interest in the breaking Ministerial list news today is purely academic. What makes news in that the news is news worthy event as such? On the contrary, it is the "account" and "report" of an event which makes the news. Reports (made up of words and signs) make an event truly or falsely newsworthy. To this extent, Earth quake as a natural event is not the news as such. It is the news hunters and gatherers (reporters) who add meanings to earthquakes in terms of its location, magnitude, and human devastation. Judging by this perspective, cabinet dissolution and attempted cabinet reconstitution by the Acting President Dr Good Luck Jonathan are themselves not the news as such. It is the reportage and accounts of the events of the recent weeks that is truly newsworthy. A whole field of communication studies is called semiotics. Semiotics is defined as the study of social production of meanings assigned to events in news discourse. The semiotics of the new cabinet list by Jonathan led-Federal government must be of interest to all students of communication.

The meanings assigned to the cabinet dissolution of March 17, 2010, in the absence of official full disclosures included the need to "inject new blood" with unstated assumption that somebody, somewhere does some blood quality control in this age of *you-guess-what*. Imagination was also on riot that this time around we must expect technocrats as distinct from political jobbers as if technocrats who opted to serve are less some political and even partisan.

Of course this is the second time the Acting President had tinkered with the composition of the Federal cabinet after he became Acting President on 9th February 2010 following the senate resolution. A minor cabinet reshuffle was carried out without official reason, by the acting president on 10th February 2010 that saw the redeployment of the former Attorney General and Minister of Justice Michael Aondoakaa to Special Duties and replaced by former Minister of Labour, Adetokunbo Kayode. Former Minister of Special Duties, Amb Ibrahim Kazaure became the Minister of Labour and Productivity.

A critical examination of the 33 names forwarded by Jonathan to the Senate last week for confirmation confirms no new blood as such. If there is any new blood at all, it flows from the old blood, namely Murtala Shehu Yar Adua and Josephine Anenih. In fact many critical observers noted that what we have at hand in some respect is nothing but new nepotism, not the promised new meritocracy, new blood. Some observers wonder aloud: it is a paradox

Issa Aremu, mni
issaaremu@yahoo.com

they say that an Acting President, who in ordinary and generic sense has emerged through self help and some good luck (his name) draws list of public officers from "a nepotistic prostitution ring". Worse still the piecemeal ministerial list also gives an impression of unrestrained bad blood that flows in this administration. At inception, the acting President's inaugural speech assured that there "are no winners and no losers, because by the Grace of God we have once again succeeded in moving our country forward". "We have all shown that our unity as a people, our love for this country, and our hope for its great future cannot be shaken" he added. Barely few weeks he acknowledged the nation's resilience and unity of purpose, and

and Ebonyi are yet to have nominees in that list of 33 ministers. And the reasons have nothing to do with the best that could drive his promised "cardinal commitments... to Good Governance, Accountability and Transparency". On the contrary what we have read are intrigues, vested interests, and the forces that drive them. Kwara state is one place where the intriguing game plays out with sickening confusion. The reported screening of former Minister Bio has reportedly resolved the hitherto raging battle in Kwara State over who should get the ministerial nomination from the north-central state.

On the one hand was the former Minister of Defence, who is Chairman of the Presidential Advisory Council (PAC), Lt-Gen. T.Y. Danjuma, reportedly rooting for

“If there is any new blood at all, it flows from the old blood, namely Murtala Shehu Yar Adua and Josephine Anenih. In fact many critical observers noted that what we have at hand in some respect is nothing but new nepotism, not the promised new meritocracy, new blood”

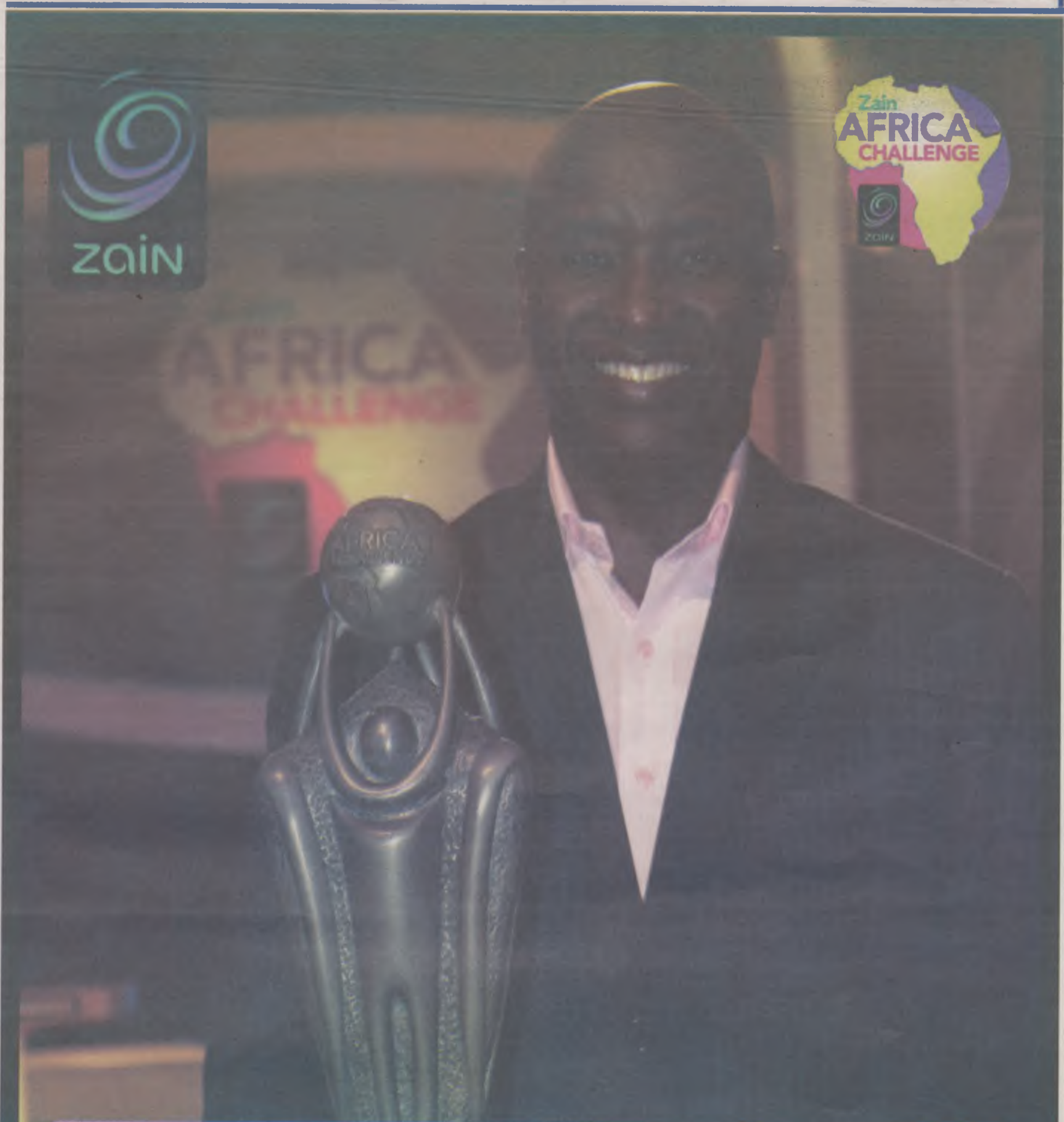
Jonathan Goodluck promised to "reconnect" his party members, ...and overcome any suspicions, hurts and doubts, which had occurred". So far only eight ministers of the old are the "winners" while scores are "losers" in his new ministerial list.

No doubt Nigeria could certainly do without a cabinet which featured Ministers like the former Minister of Education, who scandalously presided over closed universities, mass failures of school leavers judging from the past WAEC and recent abysmal NECO results. We might be saved from the sickening excuses of Minister of power, who promised 6000 megawatts but left the nation worse than he met it: with 2000 megawatts. What do you make of Minister of interior who presided over mass killings in Jos, Plateau? To rebrand a notoriously acrimonious cabinet, we can certainly do without an acrimonious former Minister of Information. Alas, the recent dissolution was not anchored on any verifiable performance making room for the current exhibited favouritism and cronyism.

The recent cabinet conundrum puts to test the strength of character of the acting President with respect to good governance. It is not yet as inspiring. There is yet no connection with the promised (or is it advised?) sense of urgency to move the nation forward. Six states namely Cross River, Kwara, Benue, Oyo, Adamawa

Mr. John Dara, who was his Special Assistant when he was minister. In between reportedly was the former President Ibrahim Babangida and Jonathan's wife, Patience, pushing one Mrs. Bola Shagaya's candidature.

On the other hand was "the patriarch of the state politics and Second Republic Senate Leader, Dr. Olusola Saraki, was reported to have, through his daughter, Senator Gbemi Saraki-Fowora, rooted for former Commissioner for Health in the state, Dr. Femi Ogunshola, for the ministerial job. Femi is the son of Prof. Albert Ogunshola, a loyalist of the former Senate leader". Pray where Nigerian agenda is and promised service delivery in all this top-down political intrigues? We have certainly witnessed enough unhelpful cronyism and nepotism in the past, but never as a plausible script for *Africa Magic* channel as we are witnessing under an acting President. Time is too short for this luxury of cycle of lobbying and emergency jobs for new boys and girls on the (oil?) block. With over bloated 26 members Advisory Council, new advisers and the new cabinet (and above all 4.6 trillion Naira budget), without any far reaching policy pronouncements the Acting President should not give the impression that *intrigues, big government and come and chop* are trademarks of this administration.



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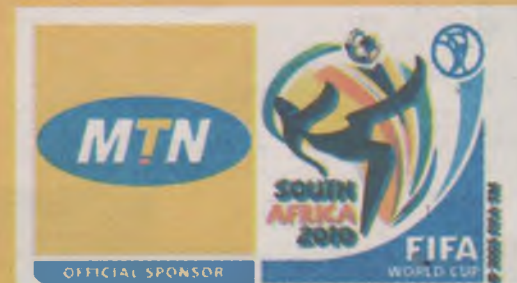
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2	Afribank Nigeria Plc	752
3	Citibank Nigeria Limited	1
4	Diamond Bank Nigeria Plc	255
5	Ecobank Nigeria Plc	177
6	ETB Plc	43
7	Fidelity Bank Plc	62
8	First Bank of Nigeria Plc	8,083
9	First City Monument Bank Plc	92
10	Fin Bank Plc	119
11	Guaranty Trust Bank Plc	343
12	Intercontinental Bank Plc	349

S/NO	NAME OF BANK	NO. OF RETIREEES
13	Oceanic Bank International Plc	267
14	Bank PHB Plc	165
15	Skye Bank Plc	330
16	Spring Bank Plc	105
17	Stanbic IBTC Bank Plc	606
18	Standard Chartered Bank Nigeria Plc	9
19	Sterling Bank Plc	25
20	Union Bank of Nigeria Plc	1,702
21	United Bank for Africa Plc	1,861
22	Unity Bank Plc	457
23	Wema Bank Plc	575
24	Zenith Bank Plc	391
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My Dear Brother,

I join your many loved ones, compatriots, friends, supporters and admirers to rejoice with and wish you the very best of this day.

As you valiantly pursue values of freedom for all and fight the causes of oppressed persons and those who suffer injustice, you break chains of bondage and establish links of freedom and alliances of common good.

Thank you for being the pathfinder and an inspiration.

May God Almighty, the giver and sustainer of life, grant you many more years of good health, divine wisdom and valuable service to our fatherland.

On behalf of my wife, Abimbola, the Government and People of Lagos State, I say happy birthday to a worthy leader.

**Asiwaju
Bola Ahmed Tinubu**



BABATUNDE RAJI FASHOLA (SAN)
Governor of Lagos State

INTERNATIONAL

Sudan opposition party joins pro-reform coalition

A prominent Sudanese political party at the weekend joined an opposition coalition seeking democratic reforms, ahead of the

first multi-party elections in a quarter of a century.

The Democratic Unionist Party led by Mohammed Osman al-Mirghani

has joined the "National Consensus" which groups several opposition parties and former southern rebels of the Sudan People's Lib-

eration Movement, coalition spokesman Faruk Abu Issa said.

The DUP was the runner-up in Sudan's last multi-party elections in 1986, behind Sadeq al-Mahdi's Umma party and ahead of Islamists who eventually took power in a 1989 coup d'état. In September last year, the SPLM formed an alliance with Umma under the banner "the Juba Conference."

"We have changed the name, it is no longer the 'Juba Conference', it is now called the 'National Consensus'. We make up the majority of the political class, except for the National Congress Party" of President Omar al-Beshir, said Yasser Arman, the SPLM's presidential candidate.

Sudan is scheduled to hold elections from April 11 to 13, but rumours persist of a possible delay. National Consensus leaders met on Saturday in Khartoum's twin city of Omdurman but did not agree on a common call for the postponement of the vote, or a boycott.

Bashir and his two vice presidents Salva Kiir and Ali Osman Taha are due to meet tomorrow morning to discuss a possible delay to the elections, according to Abu Issa.

The parties belonging to the National Consensus will then meet to discuss their options, said Abu Issa, adding the coalition rejected recent threats by Bashir to kick out election monitors.



SUDANESE opposition leader Mohammed Osman al-Mirghani

Over 300 killed in DR.Congo massacre - Rights group

UGANDAN LRA rebels killed at least 321 civilians in a previously unreported "well-planned" four-day attack on villages in the DR Congo last December, Human Rights Watch said yesterday.

In a report released in Kampala, HRW said 250 others, including at least 80 children, were abducted in the December 14-17 Lord's Resistance Army attack in the remote Makombo area of northeastern Haut Uele district.

A Catholic clergyman at

Isiro-Niagara in the same district, speaking before the report was issued, confirmed that 30 members of the rebel LRA attacked a dozen villages of Haut Uele, which is in Orientale province.

Human Rights Watch said witnesses it interviewed said that "for days and weeks after the attack, this vast area was filled with the 'stench of death.'" Children and adults who escaped gave similar accounts of the "extreme brutality," it said.

Libya, EU, scrap tit-for-tat travel visa bans

THE European Union and Libya said at the weekend they have lifted bans on granting visas to each others' citizens, in an apparent easing of a bitter row between the African nation and Switzerland.

The Spanish presidency of the EU said all the names of Libyan citizens on a blacklist which banned them from entering Europe's 25-state Schengen visa zone had been removed.

"The names of Libyan citizens listed on the Schengen zone (blacklist) have been permanently removed," the EU said in a statement distributed to reporters in Sirte, Libya on the sidelines of an Arab summit.

Tripoli responded promptly, dropping a retaliatory ban on the issuing of visas to Europeans from the Schengen zone. "Libya welcomes this statement and announced the immediate lifting" of the entry ban for nationals of Schengen member countries, a Libyan official told AFP on condition of anonymity.

Zimbabwe newspaper apologizes to Britain's Queen

AN independent Zimbabwe newspaper yesterday apologized to Britain's Queen Elizabeth II for publishing a computer-doctored photograph showing the 83-year old monarch pregnant during news reports on a state visit earlier this month by the South African president.

The Standard says the photo was drawn in error from an Internet site satirizing South African President Jacob Zuma for his alleged promiscuity.

The newspaper says the photo was printed with an article on Zuma's efforts to break a deadlock in the year-old Zimbabwe coalition on his trip to Britain, the former colonial power in Zimbabwe, headlined "Zuma UK trip successful."

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International

Syria, Libya pressure Palestinians to quit talks

SYRIA and Libya teamed up yesterday to pressure the Palestinian leader to quit peace talks with Israel and return to violence, delegates to an Arab leadership summit said.

An adviser to the US-backed Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, quickly rejected the suggestion, calling for the 22 nations represented at the gathering in Sirte, Libya, to be "realistic." Despite the opposition from two of Israel's longtime foes, the summit was expected yesterday to renew backing for

Palestinian peace talks with Israel.

Still, the calls to abandon the effort reflected the depth of frustration and anger over the stalled process and continued Israeli construction in areas claimed by the Palestinians, particularly east Jerusalem.

Syrian President Bashar Assad urged Abbas to withdraw from a US-supported peace strategy and resume armed resistance to Israel, according to two delegates who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue.



LIBYAN leader Moammar Gaddafi, right, receives Syrian President Bashar al-Assad at the opening session of the Arab league Summit in Sirte, Libya, at the weekend.



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Barack Obama visits Afghanistan

BARACK Obama arrived in Afghanistan yesterday for an unannounced visit fresh from his first major domestic success on healthcare reform.

In his first visit to the country since becoming president, Obama was expected to meet the embattled Afghan president, Hamid Karzai as well as other local and US officials, and give a speech to US troops.

Before the trip, a White House official said Obama wanted to get an "on the ground update" about the war from General Stanley McChrystal, the US and Nato commander, as well as Karl Eikenberry, the US ambassador.

Obama, who described Afghanistan as a war of necessity in contrast to Iraq, ordered an extra 30,000 US troops for to be sent in December and set a mid-2011 target for a withdrawal. The decision came after months of painstaking deliberation that left the US president open to accusations of dithering.

Obama travelled to Afghanistan during the 2008 US presidential election but has not been back since his victory over John McCain, whose criticism at the time prompted the trip.

The White House official said weather and logistics had thwarted previous attempts at a presidential visit.

Public opinion in the US has turned against the war as it has in the UK. The number of US troops killed in Afghanistan has roughly doubled in the first three months of 2010 compared with the same period last year.

US officials have warned that casualties are likely to rise even further as the Pentagon completes its deployment of the 30,000 additional troops and as Nato forces prepare an offensive against the Taliban's home base in Kandahar province.

"We must steel ourselves, no matter how successful we are on any given day, for harder days yet to come," Admiral Mike Mullen, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, said at a briefing last month.

Sex tape scandal politician wins Malaysia party polls

MALAYSIA'S main Chinese political party yesterday elected a politician involved in a sex tape scandal as its new president, hoping to end months of leadership infighting.

The polls were triggered by the mass resignation of the leadership of the Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA), the second-largest member of the governing Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition, earlier this month.

More than 100 candidates representing various factions within the party contested for 31 posts.

Deputy president Chua

Soi Lek, who was suspended over a sex tape scandal in 2009, won the party election with a slim majority by securing 901 votes. Chua's sacking had triggered bitter factional fighting.

Incumbent president Ong Tee Keat got 833 votes while former president Ong Ka Ting won 578 votes.

Prime Minister Najib Razak has pressed the party to resolve the crisis, as his coalition attempts to regain the support of minorities -- including ethnic Chinese and Indians -- who dropped the BN in 2008 elections.

International

Police chief decapitated in northern Mexico town

THE decapitated body of the police chief of a northern Mexico town and the body of his brother were found inside the chief's patrol truck at the weekend, authorities said. Hours earlier, gunmen killed a deputy police chief and his bodyguard in another part of Mexico's north.

The body of Heriberto Cerda, the police chief in Agualeguas, was found on the bed of a patrol pickup truck, which was left on a dirt road in the nearby town of General Trevino.

His head was on his lap, said a spokesman for Nuevo Leon state prosecutors who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the case.

The body of the chief's brother, Jesus Cerda, was found inside the truck, the official said. He didn't say how Jesus Cerda was killed.

Nuevo Leon state secretary general Javier Trevino told reporters that Cerda and his brother had been reported missing Thursday. The windshield and driver's door of the patrol car had "C.D.G.," an

acronym for the Gulf drug cartel, written in blood, photos showed.

The border state of Nuevo Leon, where Agualeguas and General Trevino are located, has seen an upsurge in violence that authorities say is the result of a turf battle between the Gulf cartel and the Zetas, the cartel's former hit men.

The slayings came a day after Mexican marines on patrol in the Nuevo Leon town of Cerralvo came under fire after ordering a convoy of gunmen traveling in six

vehicles to stop. Six of the assailants were killed.

Nearly 18,000 people have died in drug-related violence since President Felipe Calderon launched an assault on cartels after taking office in December 2006.

In the northern state of Sonora, gunmen in a pickup truck fatally shot the deputy police chief and his bodyguard in the city of Nogales, which sits across the border from the Arizona city of the same name, authorities said.

Sonora state police said gunmen opened fire on the victims with Kalashnikov rifles Thursday night. Late Friday, gunmen opened fired on a hotel in downtown Ciudad Juarez where federal agents stay, killing one and wounding two, authorities said.

Enrique Torres, a spokesman for Chihuahua state police, said the assailants shot into the hotel's restaurant.

Hours earlier, a state investigator was shot to death in a residential area, Torres said.

Top Vatican cardinal defends pope amid scandal

THE Vatican said at the weekend that recent attacks on the church over its handling of clerical sex abuse cases have been harmful, but insisted the pope's authority had not been weakened.

Instead, the Vatican spokesman said, Pope Benedict XVI's authority and the commitment of the Vatican doctrinal and disciplinary office "have been confirmed in their support and guidance to bishops to combat and root out the blight of abuse wherever it appears."

"The way in which the church deals with it is crucial for her moral credibility," said the spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, in a comment on Vatican Radio.

Revelations of the sexual abuse of children by priests at Catholic institutions have swept across Europe and into Benedict's native Germany. The pope himself has come under fire for a case dating to his tenure as archbishop of Munich and another dating to his stint as the head of the Vatican office responsible for disciplining priests.

Cardinal Walter Kasper, a top Vatican official, acknowledged in an interview published Saturday that church authorities had on occasion maintained silence over cases of sex abuse. But he defended the pope, saying Benedict "was the first one who — already as a cardinal — felt the need for new, harsher rules." Attacks on the pope go "beyond any limit of justice and loyalty," Kasper told *Corriere della Sera*.

The cardinal, however, called for a cleanup and said the church must be more alert and brave in dealing with any sex abuse. He said a growing awareness of the problem makes the path of renewal "irreversible."

"We need a culture of attentiveness and courage, and a housecleaning," Kasper, also a German, said in the interview. Until recently, Benedict had received high marks for his handling of sex abuse.

Taking a much harder stance than his predecessor, John Paul II, Benedict disciplined a senior cleric who had been championed by the Polish pontiff and defrocked others under a new policy of zero tolerance. But reaction changed after a case that involved the Rev. Peter Hullermann, accused of abusing boys, and his transfer to the pope's former archdiocese of Munich.



POPE Benedict XVI leaves at the end of the Palm Sunday mass in Saint Peter's Square at the Vatican, yesterday.

Armed gang raids Swiss casino

AN armed gang of masked men raided a casino packed with about 600 guests early yesterday and made off with hundreds of thousands of dollars, according to Swiss prosecutors.

In a statement, prosecutors in Basel described a scene like an

action-film heist: About 10 men dressed in black arrived in two cars at the Grand Casino near Basel shortly after 4:00 a.m.

One smashed the front door with a sledgehammer, and the others ran inside with machine guns and pistols, the statement

said. Speaking French, a group of men ordered the guests and employees to the floor, while their accomplices emptied registers in the basement and an upper floor, it said. They couldn't get into the strong room, despite shooting at the locked door, prosecutors said.

Venezuela congress lifts ex-Chavez ally's immunity

VENEZUELA'S National Assembly, dominated by allies of President Hugo Chavez, has voted to lift the parliamentary immunity of an opposition lawmaker who is accused of striking a police official. The vote at the weekend to strip Wilmer Azuaje of his immunity from prosecution comes as critics are accusing Chavez's government of targeting his foes with laws that are ignored when broken by his friends. A former Chavez ally, Azuaje has alleged corruption by members of Chavez's family in their home state of Barinas, accusations the family has denied.



LAGOS UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL P.M.B. 12003, LAGOS, NIGERIA.

ADMISSION INTO SCHOOL OF BASIC DENTAL NURSING

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for admission into the School of Basic Dental Nursing of the Hospital.

MINIMUM ENTRY QUALIFICATION

Five credits in Senior Secondary School Certificate Examination GCE 'O' Level in the following subjects:

English Language, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics (Combination of results should not be more than two sittings of the same examination body e.g GCE/GCE, WAEC/WAEC, NECO/NECO).

METHOD OF APPLICATION

Application forms can be obtained with a non refundable fee of N5, 000 payable in cash to the Accounts Department, LUTH directly or with a Bank Draft payable to LUTH, Idi-Araba, Lagos.

The forms are to be collected and returned within one month from date of the advertisement to the office of the Co-ordinator, School of Basic Dental Nursing, Prefab Old Dental Block, LUTH.

All duly completed forms must be accompanied with the following:

1. Two (2) self addressed envelope each affixed with N50.00 stamp.
2. Two (2) photocopies of the receipt for the purchase of the form
3. Relevant credentials as indicated on the application form.
4. Email address and mobile telephone number.

EXAMINATION DATE:	8 TH MAY, 2010
VENUE:	HALL 36, LUTH
TIME:	9:00 AM

- Applicants should bring along pencil, eraser, ruler, pen and original receipt issued by the cashier with the attached certified passport photograph to the examination venue.
- Only candidates who have satisfied the conditions for admission will be called for interview.
- **Course fee:** Details will be provided on admission.

PROF. AKIN OSIBOGUN
Chief Medical Director



LAGOS UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL P.M.B. 12003, LAGOS, NIGERIA.

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Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for admission into the conversion programme for Dental Surgery Assistants wishing to undergo training as Dental Nurses.

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Candidates for admission must be:

1. Dental Surgery Assistants (DSAs) who had received 18-24 months Dental Assistant training in accredited institution with at least 5 years experience. They are to undergo conversion course for Two (2) years.
2. DSAs in established dental institutions in Nigeria and West African Sub region with at least 15 years experience. They are to undergo conversion course for duration of one (1) year.

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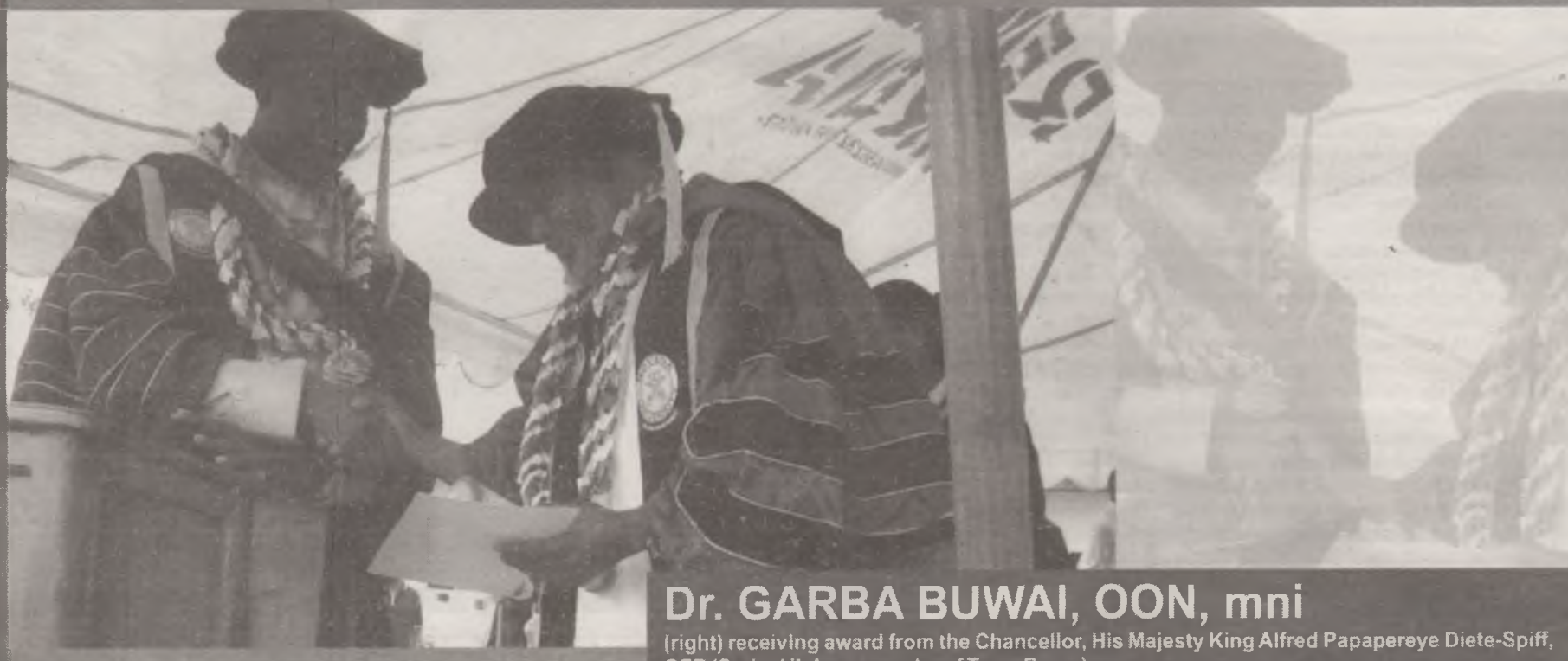
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PROF. AKIN OSIBOGUN
Chief Medical Director

CONGRATULATIONS! CONGRATULATIONS!! CHEERS TO A GREAT ACHIEVER!!!



Dr. GARBA BUWAI, OON, mni

(right) receiving award from the Chancellor, His Majesty King Alfred Papaperoye Diete-Spiff, OFR (Seriyei II, Amanyanabo of Town Brass)

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While we celebrate this honour bestowed on you. We wish you more grace to your elbow and pray that Allah reward you with many more years of good service to humanity.

By
Labbaran Ammani, Dalhatu Sule, mni (Dallatun, Kaura-Namoda)

APPRECIATION

The Abdulkadir family hereby wish to express its profound appreciation and gratitude to the following individuals and organizations who stood by us during our period of grief and sorrow as a result of the sudden death of our illustrious son, brother and father, ALHAJI AHMED TIJJANI ABDULKADIR, Permanent Secretary Designate, Ministry of Niger Delt Affairs, (May His Gentle Soul rest in Aljanna Firdausi, amen), which sad event took place on Saturday 19th December, 2009 at St. Josephs Hospital, Wiesbaden, Germany:

S/NO	NAME	DESIGNATION
1.	Representative of the Executive Governor of Kaduna State, Kaduna	Government House, Kaduna
2.	Hajija Salamat H. Sulciman	Former Minister of Women Affairs
3.	Hajija Aishatu Jibril Dukku	Former Minister of State, Education
4.	Representative of the Honourable Minister of Niger Delta Affairs	Federal Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs
5.	Alh. Mahmud Yayale Ahmed, CFR	Secretary to the Government of the Federation
6.	Mr. Stephen Osagiede Oronsaye, CON	Head of the Civil Service of the Federation
7.	Hajija Sa'adatu Bungudu	Former Minister of Women Affairs
8.	Mal. Lawal Batagarawa	Former Minister of State Defence
9.	Alh. Musa Elayo	Former Minister of State, Federal Ministry of Justice
10.	Representative of the Emir of Zazzau, HRH, Alh. (Dr.) Shehu Idris	Emirs Palace, Zaria
11.	Alh. Munir Jafaru, Yeriman Zazzau	Zazzau Emirate
12.	Representative of Sarkin Bungudu, Zamfara State	Emirs Palace, Bungudu
13.	Justice Muhammed Lawal Uwais	Former Chief Justice of Nigeria
14.	Col. U.F. Ahmed (Rtd)	Former Governor of Kaduna State
15.	Prof. O. Afolabi	Federal Permanent Secretary
16.	Dr. G. Adegoroye	Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Capital Territory
17.	Alh. Bukar Goni Aji	Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Police Affairs
18.	Dr. Tukur Bello Ingawa	Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Works, Housing And Urban Development
19.	Dr. Yahaya Abdullahi	Permanent Secretary Federal Ministry of Niger Delta
20.	Mr. D.I. Kifasi	Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Aviation
21.	Alh. Idris Adamu Kuta	Federal Permanent Secretary
22.	Alh. M.S. Bashir	Federal Permanent Secretary
23.	Ambassador Mohammed Sani Lawal	Federal Permanent Secretary
24.	Mr. N.B. Olorunfemi	Federal Permanent Secretary
25.	Dr. Hakeem Baba Ahmed	Rtd. Federal Permanent Secretary
26.	Alh. Nu'uman Barau Danbatta Ajiyan Kazzure and his Entourage	Rtd Federal Permanent Secretary
27.	Dr. Haruna Usman Samusi	Rtd. Federal Permanent Secretary
28.	Lt General Abdulrahman Danbazau	Chief Of Army Staff, Army Headquarters
29.	Alh. Mannir Yakubu	Kaduna Based Business Man
30.	Justice Bello Danvaya	Niger State Judiciary
31.	Arc. Sani Isa Hadejia	Private Businessman
32.	Alh. Aminu Inuwa Ringim	Private Businessman
33.	Alh. Sirajo Inuwa Ringim	Civil Servant, Jigawa State
34.	Dr. Ahmed Rufa'i Inuwa Ringim	Permanent Secretary Minister of Agriculture, Jigawa State
35.	Alh. Musa Inuwa Ringim	Civil Servant
36.	Alh. Mahmud Shu'aibu Ringim	Managing Director, Ultra Cool KD Water and Drinks Ltd, Kaduna
37.	Alh. Sabo Ahmed Sumaila	Director, Cabinet Secretariat (Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation)
38.	Alh. Jibril Ibrahim Zarewa	Rtd. Director, Fed. Civil Service
39.	Alh. Musa Ahmadu Jiba	Management Consultant
40.	Alh. Ahmed Omar Darazo	Commissioner, Buachi State Civil Service Commission
41.	Prof. Kabiru Isyaku	Katsina State University
42.	Prof. H. Bawa Gusau	Bayero University, Kano
43.	Alh. Isa Nuhu Sheshe	Private Businessman
44.	Mal. Habibu Sani Taliban Babura	Bayero University, Kano
45.	Alh. Hadi Sani Babura	Private Businessman
46.	Alh. Yahaya Mohammed Kabara	Management Consultant
47.	Alh. Ahmed Sani Dantanko	Deputy Director, Political Affairs Office (OSGF)
48.	Alh. Aminu Idris	Director, Kano State Service
49.	Alh. Bello Sule	Executive Director, NTA Hqtrs, Abuja
50.	Alh. Sabo Abdullahi Danbale	Businessman
51.	Amb. Yahaya Tabari Zaria	Nig. Ambassador to Equatorial Guinea
52.	Alh. Hadi Imam Galadanci	Private Businessman
53.	Alh. Bahajatu Sale	Rtd Director, Federal Civil Service
54.	Alh. Isyaku Jibril	National Eye Centre, Kaduna
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56.	Dr. Mustapha Muhammed	Bayero University Kano, English Dept
57.	Dr. M.A. Liman	Dept of Geography, Bayero University Kano
58.	Alh. U. Balarabe Aliyu (Zing'a)	Businessman, Minna, Niger State
59.	Alh. Umar Tanko Hassan	Businessman Minna, Niger State
60.	Alh. Inuwa Danfulani Zaria	Private Businessman
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79.	Alh. B. Gamawa	Director Human Resources, Federal Ministry of Labour, Abuja
80.	Prof. U.T. Mohammed	Faculty of Education, Usman Dan Fodio

81.	Prof. Ezzodeen Abdulrahman	University, Sokoto
82.	Alh. Zubair Liman	Vice Chancellor, Kaduna State University
83.	Alh. Sani Haruna Rano	Legal Practitioner, Kaduna
84.	Alh. Idris Wali Lafiya	Principal, School of Health Technology, Kano
85.	Arch. Nasiru Aboki	Min. of Niger Delta Affairs
86.	Alh. Lawal Haliru	Private Businessman
87.	Alh. Zulyadaini Ishaq	Private Businessman
88.	Alh. Haruna Usman	Private Businessman
89.	Dr. Miko Daiyabu Diso	National Sports Commission, Abuja
90.	Principals of Federal Unity Colleges	Federal Government Institution
91.	Alh. Garba Yabo Bello	Ag. Director, Basic and Secondary Edu. Fed. Min. of Education, Abuja
92.	Malam Hassan Aliyu Sumaila	Private Businessman
93.	Alh. Garba Hamza Sumaila	Private Businessman
94.	Alh. Ahmed Rufa'i Mohammed	Northbridge Investment Ltd, Abuja
95.	Alh. Nurudeen Abdulkadir	Nigerian Ports Authority, Calabar
96.	Ado Ahmed Sumaila	Agric. Secretariat, F.C.T.A. Abuja
97.	Shehu Ahmed Rufa'i Sumaila	Kano State Ministry of Education
98.	Ibrahim Ahmed Sumaila	Kano State Local Government Audit
99.	Abubakar Ahmed Sumaila	Federal Pay Officer, Kano
100.	Alh. Ashiru Hassan	Fed. Min. of Mines And Steel Dev. Abuja
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105.	Alh. Muhammadu Hannafi	Rtd Director, Federal Civil Service
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107.	Alh. Sada Dauda	Multiple Ventures Limited, Kaduna
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109.	Mustapha S. Abdulkadir	Nigerian Postal Services, Abuja
110.	Alh. Jamil A. Malumfashi	National Planning Commission, Abuja
111.	Alh. Balarabe Hassan	Bank of Industry, Kaduna
112.	Alh. Lawal Bakori	Kaduna Polytechnic, Kaduna
113.	Alh. Garba Adamu Sumaila	Rtd. Director, Kano State Civil Service
114.	Alh. Ado Abdulkadir	Nigeria Security and Civil Defence
115.	Alh. Abba Yusufu	Bank PHB, Kaduna
116.	Dr. Mohammed Jawa	Nuclear Medicine Dept. National Hospital, Abuja
117.	Hon. Datti Baba Ahmed	Former Member Federal House of Representative
118.	Dr. Nuru Yakubu	Executive Secretary, NBTE, Kaduna
119.	Alh. Dini Anjo Abdullahi	Commissioner of Agricultural, Kaduna
120.	Alh. Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli	Magajin Garin Zazzau
121.	Alh. Sani Aminu Sultan	Special Adviser to Kaduna State Governor
122.	Alh. Martala Yusuf Maigoro	Private Businessman
123.	Alh. Abba Bukar	NNPC, Kaduna Refinery
124.	Alh. Abdullahi Idnis	NNPC, Kaduna Refinery
125.	Alh. Awwal Shehu	NNPC, Kaduna Refinery
126.	Alh. Kabiru M. Mayere	Kabab Ventures Ltd, Abuja
127.	Alh. Aliyu Dikko	Premium Pension Ltd, Abuja
128.	Alh. Sale Yunusa	Globarch, Abuja
129.	Alh. Muktar Maska	Prime Studio, Kaduna
130.	Arch. Rufai Garba Funtua	Globarch, Abuja
131.	Alh. Abdulkadir	Muhalli Properties, Kaduna
132.	Alh. Muktar Zubairu Sirajo	Former DG Media to Governor, Kaduna State
133.	Dr. Kabiru Garba (Danmasani)	ECOWAS Parliament, Abuja
134.	Alh. Danladi Isa	Sustainable Human Settlement, Kano
135.	Hon. Jibril Adamu	Member, House of Representative
136.	Alh. Mudi Sadiq	Private Businessman
137.	Alh. Lawal Ismaila	Private Businessman
138.	Alh. Ibrahim Faki	Nuhu Bamalli Polytechnic, Zaria
139.	Alh. Adamu Yaro	Kaduna Based Businessman
140.	Alh. Awwal Adamu Yaro	Private Businessman
141.	Arch. Ahmed Ali	Director of Works, Nuhu Bamalli Polytechnic, Zaria
142.	Alh. Salisu Aliyu Gaga	Private Businessman
143.	Alh. Sabo Abdullahi	Private Businessman
144.	Alh. Aminu Garba	Private Businessman
145.	Alh. Shehu Okoye	Private Businessman
146.	Alh. Aminu Benadeen	Private Businessman
147.	Mr. J. Odiba	Director of Admin. National Hospital, Abuja
148.	Dr. Andreas Grasteir	Julius Berger Nigeria Plc
149.	Engr. Aminu Jalal	DG, National Automotive Council, Abuja
150.	Engr. Abubakar Dalhat	T.A. to DG, National Automotive Council, Abuja
151.	Alh. Sagir Balarabe Musa	Golden Construction Ltd, Abuja
152.	Engr. Ibrahim Gachi	Civil Servant
153.	Alh. Umar Mustafa Danraka	Ministry of Health
154.	Alh. Nuhu J. Shitu	Group General Manager (Treasury) NNPC Headquarters Abuja
155.	Alh. Kabiru Sani Fagge	Private Businessman
156.	Alh. Barrister Imamu Liman	Legal Consultant
157.	Alh. Dogara A. Ibrahim	Auditor General, Kaduna State, Kaduna
158.	The Entire Management and Senior Members of Staff of Federal Government Girls College, Minjibir, Kano State	Educational Institution
159.	Barrister Safianu Saleh Gadau	Legal Consultant
160.	Barrister Chukwueke T. Agu	Legal Consultant
161.	Alh. Ismaila Salihu	Kaduna Based Businessman
162.	Malam Hassan	Kaduna Based Businessman
163.	Malam Nda Liman	Kaduna Based Businessman

It is certainly impossible to recall all those who were with us physically or otherwise during this period. In this regard, we crave the kind indulgence and understanding of all those whose names were inadvertently not reflected on the list. We equally acknowledge their support.

We pray to Allah (SWT) to reward all of you abundantly with His Favour here and in the hereafter, Amen.

Once again, Thank you.

Signed:
Alh. Isma'ila Abdulkadir
For: The Family

TRANSPORTERS URGENTLY NEEDED

A reputable petroleum marketing company with over 500 retail outlets and 20 lubricants depots spread throughout the country is seeking the services of transporters for its Dry Cargo Business. Interested individuals/companies must fulfill the following requirements:

1. posses a minimum of 6 trucks in their fleet with the following tonnage:
 - o 2 {nos} of 30 tons
 - o 2 {nos} of 15 tons
 - o 1 {no} of 10 tons
 - o 1 {no} of 5 tons and below
 - o The body of all trucks should be in a container form.
2. The trucks must be sound, roadworthy and capable of plying daily trips as well as not more than five years in use.
3. The transporter must have financial capability to maintain the trucks at all times and show proof of the existence of a maintenance schedule for handling his fleet.
4. The transporter should be willing to operate his trucks to the satisfaction of the advertiser.
5. The transporter must have Goods-In-Transit-Insurance from a reputable insurance company.

Interested individuals/ companies should express their interest not later than three (3) weeks after this publication through the following contacts:

The Advertiser P.O. Box 512, Lagos Nigeria
The Advertiser PMB 12690, Lagos Nigeria

Or call: 01-8530232 or 01-7349358

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Undergraduate options at one of Canada's premier universities



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Nairobi Interview Sessions

Mr. Christopher Pwamki
 (Marketing and Communications Manager)

Date:
 Wednesday 31st March, 10am - 4pm

Venue:
 BCIE (British Canadian International Education)
 Ground Floor Metro Plaza
 Plot 991-992 Zakariya Maimalari Street
 Central Area, Abuja

Cell: 080-6678-8636
Tel: 09- 872 5983/09-461-4900



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قرية اللغة العربية انغالا - نيجيريا
 (مركز جامعي للدراسات العربية)

NIGERIA ARABIC LANGUAGE VILLAGE, NGALA

(Inter-University Centre for Arabic Studies)
 Office of The Director

LIAISON OFFICE: Maiduguri, NO: 6A, Lafiya Road, Old G.R.A., P.M.B 2002, Maiduguri
 Tel: 076-238287, Fax: 076-236287, GSM: 08023577013, e-mail: telmiskin@yahoo.com, tijani@nalv.edu.ng

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION TO TENDER:

1.0 The Nigeria Arabic Language Village, Ngala is in the process of implementing and executing proposed 2010 capital projects. In view of the above, the Village is inviting competent and interested Contractors/Suppliers/Consultants to submit their pre-qualification documents to the Village for the following projects.

S/No	Project Description	Pre-Qualification & Tender Fees N
Lot 1A	T&RE I (supply & installation of digital simultaneous interpreting equipment)	20,000.00
Lot 1B	T&REIII (supply and installation of digital language laboratory equipment)	20,000.00
Lot 2A.	Construction of male Students' Hostel	20,000.00
Lot 2B	Furniture to male Students' Hostel	10,000.00
Lot 2C	Solar facilities to male Students' Hostel	10,000.00
Lot 3A.	Construction of female Students' Hostel	20,000.00
Lot 3B.	Furniture to female Students' Hostel	10,000.00
Lot 3C	Solar facilities to female students' hostel	10,000.00
Lot 4A.	Rehabilitation (general)	5,000.00
Lot 5A.	Solar facilities to students' hall A	10,000.00
Lot 6A.	Purchase of utility vehicle	10,000.00

2.0 PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

All interested companies must:-

- Provide evidence of registration with Corporate Affairs Commission(CAC),
- Provide evidence of registration with Federal Ministry of Works,(where applicable),
- Provide evidence of registration with Nigeria Arabic Language Village (NALV),
- Provide evidence of current Tax Clearance Certificate for the last three years(2007,2008&2009
- Names, qualifications and experience of the company's technical/managerial staff to be involved in the project(s) where applicable (enclosed photocopies of credentials),
- List of Plant and Equipment (where applicable),
- Verifiable list of projects completed, listing names of clients, contract sum, evidence of practical completion(2007,2008,&2009)
- Audited Account of the bidder for the last three (3) years2007,2008 & 2009
- Bank reference and Bank statement
- Articles and memorandum of Association,
- Any other relevant information

All interested companies must produce original of documents on the date of opening for sighting only.

3.0 SUBMISSION

a) The completed pre-qualification bid must be in sealed envelope and clearly marked at the top hand corner indicating pre-qualification for "Title of the project". **Also name and address of the firm/company should be clearly indicated at the back of the envelope.**

b) The Pre-qualification bid must be returned to the Office of the Director/Chief Executive, Nigeria Arabic Language Village, Ngala on or before 10 am 13th April, 2010. The pre-qualification bid will be opened immediately by 10.00 am at the Council Chamber. Willing tenderers and General public are invited to witness the opening. **The Village will thereafter undertake verification of all claims made by Contractors. Only Pre-Qualified Contractors will be invited to submit their Financial Bids.**

NOTE

(I) This is not an invitation to tender, full tendering procedures will be applied only to contractors That have been pre-qualified and found capable of executing the projects

ii) That the Village is not bound to accept tenders sent by courier or post,

iii) Interested contractors may make submission for not more than two (2) projects and must show competency in each of the lots separately.

All contractors/consultants/suppliers that were pre-qualified on 16th March, 2010 during the opening of pre-qualification bids as per our earlier adverts which appeared in the federal tenders journal ,Daily Trust and champion News papers need not to re-apply.

Signed:
 Director/Chief Executive.
 Nigeria Arabic Language Village, Ngala
 10/03/2010



FRIENDS OF Umaru Yar'adua

www.friendsofyar'adua.com

WHY SENATE'S RESOLUTION ON ACTING PRESIDENT IS ILLEGAL AND UNCONSTITUTIONAL

PLEASE READ BELOW WHAT SECTION 145 OF THE CONSTITUTION SAYS:

Section 145:

WHENEVER the President **TRANSMITS** to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a **WRITTEN DECLARATION** that he is proceeding on vacation or that he is otherwise unable to discharge the functions of his office, **UNTIL HE TRANSMITS** to them a **WRITTEN DECLARATION** to the contrary such functions shall be discharged by the Vice-President as Acting President. (emphasis ours)

NOW read the resolution of the Senate that empowers the Vice President to discharge the functions of the office of the President as Acting President as follows:-

[The Senate] resolved:

- (i) That the Vice President, His Excellency Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, GCON, should henceforth discharge the functions of the office of the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as Acting President; and
- (ii) That the Vice President shall cease to discharge the functions of the Office of the President when the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation pursuant to Section 145 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 transmits to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives in writing that he has returned from his medical vacation

However, in his remarks after the Senate passed the resolution, the Senate President said *inter alia*:

*Viewed from an ordinary reading of Section 145, we came to the conclusion **THAT THE PRESIDENT, THROUGH HIS DECLARATION TRANSMITTED WORLDWIDE ON THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION (BBC), HAS FURNISHED THIS PARLIAMENT WITH IRREFUTABLE PROOF THAT HE IS ON MEDICAL VACATION in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and HAS THEREFORE COMPLIED WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 145 OF THE 1999 CONSTITUTION.** (emphasis ours)*

For the avoidance of doubt, let me re-emphasise the import of the second prayer of our resolution. The President will automatically resume office as President, Commander-in-Chief once he is well enough and returns to the country and informs us accordingly, pursuant to Section 145.

[...]

In accordance with this solemn resolution, in this extraordinary time, the Senate shall henceforth receive and accept communication from His Excellency; Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan GCON, as Acting President, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999.

GOING THROUGH THE SENATE'S RESOLUTION AND THE REMARKS THE SENATE PRESIDENT MADE AFTER THE PASSING OF THE RESOLUTION, CAN IT BE CONSTRUED IN ALL SINCERITY THAT BOTH THE RESOLUTION AND REMARKS OF THE SENATE PRESIDENT ARE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENT OF THE LETTER AND THE SPIRIT OF SECTION 145 OF THE CONSTITUTION?

JUDGE FOR YOURSELF!

March 28, 2010



**FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
(TECHNICAL)**

GUSAU P.M.B 1088 GUSAU, ZAMFARA STATE.

**INVITATION FOR PRE-
QUALIFICATION/TENDER FOR 2010
APPROPRIATION.**

Applications are hereby invited from suitable and interested contractors with relevant experience and good track record for pre-qualification/tender for the following projects:-

1. Landscaping of College premises.
2. Rehabilitation of hostel and staff quarters.
3. Internal Road Network.
4. Construction of School of Education.
5. Construction of School of Business Education.
6. Construction of works & Services Department.
7. Rehabilitation of central Admin block.
8. Furnishing of staff offices.
9. Procurement of Computer/Typewriters.
10. Insurance of fixed assets.

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.

- i) Evidence of registration of Company with the Corporate Affairs Commission.
- ii) Evidence of professional qualification of key staff.
- iii) Evidence of similar projects completed within the past three years.
- iv) Tax clearance certificate for the last three (3) years.
- v) Evidence of VAT registration and remittance in the last three years.
- vi) Audited account for past three (3) years.
- vii) Letter of attestation from the Bank to confirm the financial strength and willingness to support the company financially to execute the project.
- viii) Additional relevant information including GSM number.

Pre-qualification documents are obtainable at the office of the Registrar Federal College of Education (Technical) Gusau, Zamfara State.

SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS.

- i) The pre-qualification documents must be sealed and returned to the office of the Registrar not later than 2 Weeks from the date of this publication.
- ii) The College reserves the right to reject any or all pre-qualification submission and or discontinue the tendering process at anytime. Nothing in this advert shall be construed to be a commitment on the part of the College nor shall it entitle any potential tenderer to make any claims whatsoever and or seek an indemnity from the College on account of responding to this advert. The College shall not go into correspondence with non pre-qualified contractors in any form.

OPENING OF PRE - QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

Pre - qualification documents will be opened at 12:00 noon on Monday 12th April, 2010 at college conference room. Tenderers and general public are hereby invited. Names of pre - qualified Contractors will be published on the Notice board of the College.

TENDER DOCUMENTS

Only contractors who have satisfied pre-qualification conditions above may be allowed to tender upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Twenty Thousand Naira (N20, 000.00) in bank draft payable to FCE(T) Gusau. Tender documents, which must be completed and returned within one week, are obtainable at the office of the Director of Works upon presentation of evidence of payment.

Signed:
Registrar



YOBE STATE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA

AFDB- ASSISTED RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION PROGRAMME, DAMATURU

PROCUREMENT OF 40 KVA 380/220VOLT SOUND PROOF ELECTRICITY GENERATING SET AND 100KVA BY 11KV TROPICALIZED ELECTRICITY TRANSFORMER.

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: 29th March, 2010
Loan No: 2100150015645
IFB No: YB/RWSS/NCB/001/2010

1. The Federal Government of Nigeria has received a loan from the African Development Bank in various currencies to finance the cost of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Programme in Yobe State. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for the procurement of 40 KVA 380/220volt sound proof Electricity Generating set and 100KVA by 11kv Tropicalized Electricity Transformer.
2. The African Development Bank – Assisted Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Programme now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of:
 - a) 1 No. 40 KVA, 380/220Volt, sound proof Electricity Generating set, and
 - b) 1 No. 100KVA by 11kv Tropicalised Electricity Transformer.
3. A complete set of bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the above address and upon payment of non – refundable fee of Five Thousand Naira (N5,000.00) only.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding Documents at the address below.
5. Bids must be delivered to the office addressed below on or before 12.00 noon on 12 April 2010; and the bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the same address by 1.00 p.m.

Engr. Musa Haruna Chalimno (MNSE)

Programme Manager

Yobe State Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Programme, Ministry of Water Resources, No. 5 Gujba Road, Damaturu.

yobe.rwssp@gmail.com

08036246886



NATIONAL HOSPITAL ABUJA (The Presidency)

The following applicants who applied for employment in the National Hospital Abuja, have been short-listed for written examination/ interview which shall take place in the Hospital Auditorium at 9:00 am each day as indicated below.

**1. Consultant General Surgeon
(Date: Monday, 12th April 2010)**

- SN NAME**
1 Dr. Jerome Ohene
2 Dr. Cephas Batta
3 Dr. Ikechukwu M. Nnamonu
4 Dr. Dickson Bada
5 Dr. Anosike Ikechukwu Humphery

**2. Consultant Histopathologist
(Date: Monday, 12th April 2010)**

- SN NAME**
1 Dr. Peter O. Oluwole
2 Dr. Omotosho Ayodele Joshua
3 Dr. Sahabi Saddiku Malami

**3. Consultant Paediatric Surgeon
(Date: Monday, 12th April 2010)**

- SN NAME**
1 Dr. Olabisi O. Osagie
2 Dr. Paschal A. Anyanwu
3 Dr. Soo Charles Terna

**4. Speech Therapist
(Date: Monday, 12th April 2010)**

- SN NAME**
1 Otawole Ogundiran
2 Suliat Romoke Wahab

**5. Senior Public Relations Officer
(Date: Monday, 12th April 2010)**

- SN NAME**
1 Muhammed Gidado Adamu
2 Umar Hayana Muhammed
3 Sabo Safina Sanusi
4 Ngozika Scholaristica Anosike
5 Enilolobo Akindipupo Adeboye
6 Angbaku Ayuba Ishaya
7 Suleiman Bello
8 Susan Adam
9 Ojoma Abutu

**6. Junior Resident - Haematology
(Date: Tuesday, 13th April 2010)**

- SN NAME**
1 Dr. Shuwaram A. Shettima
2 Dr. Christiana E. A. Udo
3 Dr. Hyelshilini Samuel Waziri
4 Dr. Chidi O. Onwuka
5 Dr. Jameelu K. Yusuf
6 Dr. Mohammed Yahaya
7 Dr. Abdulwahab Adewale Shittu
8 Dr. Akpobi Karo Christopher
9 Dr. Paul Chike Agwu
10 Dr. Amuta Chukwuma Raphael
11 Dr. Anadu Obinna Dike
12 Dr. Egbuziem U. Aloysius
13 Dr. Madugu Nubwa
14 Dr. Oluwaseyi M. Ayoola-Williams

**7. Junior Resident - Anaesthesia
(Date: Tuesday, 13th April 2010)**

- SN NAME**
1 Dr. Samuel A. Adewumi
2 Dr. Mustapha Rabi
3 Dr. Abdullahi Shehu
4 Dr. Ekadem Peter Idongesit
5 Dr. Aliyu Oluwaseyi Okunle
6 Dr. Efekodo Oghenovo
7 Dr. Collins U. Eneh
8 Dr. Ezike Amechi Chukwudum
9 Dr. Nwanodu Eloka Frank
10 Dr. Onuora Elias Chukwujioko
11 Dr. Joseph O. Achi
12 Dr. Emeka I. Kaiu
13 Dr. Ugonna I. Chukwumaife
14 Dr. Sufe Umar Musa
15 Dr. Nwaze Uchenna Onochie
16 Dr. Nelly N. Onyewuchi

**8. Junior Resident Ophthalmology
(Date: Tuesday, 13th April 2010)**

- SN NAME**
1 Dr. Mbonu Nneoma Kate
2 Dr. Ogunbenjo Jimoh Adeyemi
3 Dr. Nnamonu Nnesochi Adora
4 Dr. Raji A. Lukman
5 Dr. Salami Rasaan
6 Dr. Chinemerem C. Onuekwusi
7 Dr. Khadijat O. Olanipekun
8 Dr. Nnenna H. Onyechi
9 Dr. Okuwatobi O. Idowu
10 Dr. Funmilayo O. Atobatele
11 Dr. Ikenna E. Mbakigwe
12 Dr. Erdoe Ruth Nwomwange
13 Dr. Halima Abdulsalam
14 Dr. Olakunle A. Okunoye
15 Dr. Ugochukwu G. Anotobi
16 Dr. Emeka A. Chinakwalam
17 Dr. Abayomi O. Bamidele

- 18 Dr. Ekaette Uko Edem
19 Dr. Gracemary Umakani Agbo
20 Dr. David Onyebuchi Ukwu
21 Dr. Obi Mgbam Chimezie
22 Dr. Nnenna A. Neboh
23 Dr. U. S. Ezeronye
24 Dr. Emmanuel Sunday Eke Onah
25 Dr. Nwachukwu Cyril Emeka
26 Dr. Habibat Yetunde Daromoso
27 Dr. Amina Zubairu Kazzaure
28 Dr. Bello Muhammad

**9. Casualty Officers
(Date: Wednesday, 14th April 2010)**

- SN NAME**
1 Dr. Olujemisi Falope
2 Dr. Komolafe D. Muiywa
3 Dr. Fidelis Okoli
4 Dr. Margaret A. Nwankwo
5 Dr. Opeyemi Deborah Fakoya
6 Dr. Maureen O. Okafor
7 Dr. Obinna Fren Okoro
8 Dr. Uchenna V. Nwadi
9 Dr. Uwadiogwu Okoroafor
10 Dr. Kazeem B. Akano
11 Dr. Lawretta I. Mukoru
12 Dr. Joy A. Morwaha
13 Dr. Victor O. Dare
14 Dr. Okubukola Oluwaseun Ayeni
15 Dr. Peter Eioho Umukoro
16 Dr. Joyce Chika Ezeugo
17 Dr. Blikisu Usman Farouq
18 Dr. Chukwudi Thaddeus Nwagbara
19 Dr. Nuhu O. Yaqub
20 Dr. Aminat Kehinde Bakara
21 Dr. Felix Temitope Elijah
22 Dr. Olubunmi Olushola Oke
23 Dr. Oluwakemi Hannah Jokotola
24 Dr. Kenneth Uchenna Egwu
25 Dr. Anthony O. Asemota
26 Dr. Chidinma C. Onyepkwulum
27 Dr. Sarafa Olanrewaju Ojuade
28 Dr. Imoudu Goodluck Ohigobuan
29 Dr. Oguzia Gerard
30 Dr. Enemosa Ibrahim
31 Dr. Ngong Cyprian
32 Dr. Kenneth Ifeanyichukwu Okeke
33 Dr. Habiba Onyiji Suleiman
34 Dr. Afolake Olukemi Bankole
35 Dr. Toye Sola
36 Dr. N. A. Odoh
37 Dr. Peter Oyerinde
38 Dr. Fatima M. Kallah
39 Dr. Ojochenemi Joy
40 Dr. Arzet Aminu
41 Dr. Ahmed F. Rabo
42 Dr. Afia Ekombong Udoh
43 Dr. Christiana E. A. Udoh
44 Dr. Oine Omakwu
45 Dr. Deborah Opeyemi Fakoya
46 Dr. Olorunfemi A. Banjoko
47 Dr. Gloria T. Yisa
48 Dr. Ozuem Kester Maduadi
49 Dr. Christine Ogbobor

**10. Nursing Officer I (NO II)
(Date: Wednesday, 14th April 2010)**

- SN NAME**
1 Okezie Chinyere Awa
2 Ukende John Freeman
3 Asadu Ethel Nwabulife
4 Olajumoke Priscilla Adeyemi
5 Chigozie Anastacia Akworita
6 Esther Anulika Madubuonu
7 Esther Ifeoma Adarna
8 Jude C. Nwabi
9 Mercy Kure
10 Chide Ogah-Lawrence
11 Josephine I. Isike
12 Amaka Mkpuru
13 Bukola Ojo
14 Nkechi E. Oguh
15 Uchechi Nnaji
16 Callista Nwanneka Akpuogwu
17 Francisca Chinasa Nwachukwu
18 Uzoma Grace Odumuko
19 Ngozika Theresa Odinwye
20 Dyages Ephraim Obadiah
21 Racheal O. Ajaka
22 Justina Oyejemi Mustapha
23 Veronica Unah Idah
24 Ewa Felicia Orumamaka
25 Omokhuze D. Olowoko
26 Chidinma K. Chima
27 Nnenna V. Njuwa
28 Onowumi Joseph
29 Adebola Ishola
30 Racheal N. Okpokor
31 Linda Ngozi Ezah
32 Chizoba Doris Amujiogu
33 Amina Abdurrahman
34 Linda Markus Dung
35 Chika Racheal Udezue
36 Kari Sandra Mngueember
37 Nnenna Favour Ofema
38 Yemisi Roseline Amos

- 39 Blessing Dimlong
40 Ohia Doris Ogechukwu
41 Obot Eware Eteng
42 Victoria Akudo Akobundu
43 Ukamaka Rita Udefi
44 Maryam Chinenye Onuoha
45 Evamargret Ifeyinwa Akushie
46 Himi Jemimah Danika
47 Idowu Opeyemi Ojo
48 Chinyere Dominica Opara
49 Itohan Milomina Odigie
50 Udoh Ekemerike Ophelia
51 Eucharita O. Ndulke
52 Agbado Osta
53 Janefrances Chinazor Anyanwu
54 Abolade Ruth Aduroja
55 Umonyia Emem Etim
56 Goodness Chioma Obasi
57 Ann Onwuchekwa Idika
58 Nwamaka Gloria Obiakor
59 Feyisayo Temitope Olabisi
60 Ngulum Dorothy Aule
61 Esther Ogechi Amabuo
62 Cigal Nkem Odeh
63 Ifeyinwa Kaiu
64 Maureen N. Nwaka
65 Patricia O. Umeh
66 Joyce Omobola Fatokun
67 Olorunshola M. Ako
68 Ezema Promise
69 Chidinma Lilian Ejimadu
70 Ngozi Rosemary Echokwe
71 Asabe Siliat Abdulkareem
72 Matilda C. Chigbo
73 Monica Mathew Pam
74 Nwaka J. Odum-Igwe
75 Nwamaka C. Okoye
76 Enemona Ocholi
77 Eunice M. Oluwabamigbe
78 Ebong Uduak Okon
79 Oluchi Assumpta Agulema
80 Olajumoke D. Oyeloyin
81 Adenike Ifeoma Grace
82 Ngozi Mana G. Igwe
83 Dimah N. Egbufo
84 Uchenna Chisom Ndiemeri
85 Justina C. Ekeh
86 Jane Chisoma Opara
87 Ifeoma Pat. Ezeanyaeji
88 Chika E. Ugwoke
89 Jemilat Yetunde Raji
90 Chidinma Judith Amadi
91 Esther E. Eneh
92 Juliana Ani
93 Omolara Oluwakemi Bello
94 Zango David Danjuma
95 Chinyere Abati Sabulo
96 Ifeoma Pauline Ohia
97 Chidinma Elizabeth Anozie
98 Olomneke Chinyuba Nnaji
99 Yvonne Chinenye Ohajunwa
100 Onyinye Ursula Ekeanyanwu
101 Chioma Nwabuko
102 Amarachi Erondu
103 Prisca N. Ezeonuegbu
104 Oluwatosin Titilope Ogunsanya
105 Emmanuel Temitayo Olajide
106 Faith Adaeze Ejimofar
107 Priscilla N. Ezeonuegbu
108 Gimba Solomon Musa
109 Clara Sani
110 Oluchi Ilo
111 Genevieve Ada Nkamigbo
112 Petra K. Dukro
113 Chidinma Angela Onyeonoro
114 Kate Nneke Eयेbe
115 Esther Benson
116 Endurance Ndidamaka Okorie
117 Ramatu Lami Ibrahim
118 Promise Ozioma Nwokeabia
119 Andy Emmanuel
120 Damilola Esther Fashina
121 Franca Agholor
122 Olivia Onyekachi Onyekchazi
123 Chiamaka Anyaegbunam
124 Ifeoma Juliet Emerigbo
125 Queen Ukamaka Daliah
126 Peace Amaka Okeke
127 Abigail Njideka Okorie
128 Ifeoluwa Grace Egunjobi
129 Cynthia Chidinma Anyanwu
130 Amaka Obianuju Obienu
131 Omolola Helen Aragbada
132 Vivian Chukwunekpe
133 Maniam Ngedu
134 Mojisola Aishetu Ajayi
135 Omale Bilikisu Khalid
136 Lilian Ogochukwu Nwogoh
137 Alex Oluoluwa Ajowole
138 Isaac Idah Matthias
139 Olajide Olusegun Adeniyi
140 Adebimpe Moyade Alao
141 Ajidahun Bayowa Nelson
142 Leonard N. Abachua
143 Obidile Francis Chibuzo
144 Adedwura Tolulope Emmanuel
145 Akachukwu S. Obi-Orokha
146 Folake Funke Adedayo

- 147 Omonigho A. Atebata
148 Akpam Uduak Aniete
149 Adebisola M. Adeniyi
150 Ruth Emmanuel
151 Veronica Jackson Out
152 Maureen Esene
153 Takon O. Ojong
154 Taiwo Olaide Ademola
155 Joseph Folorunso
156 Samaila Balarabe Ayuba
157 Felix Sitas Dairus
158 Bulus Reuben
159 Nwalie Jude
160 Ikechukwu Onyekachi
161 Jennifer Chioma Eghobulam
162 Adekunle Olubunmi Akinola
163 Oghogho Jacinta Omokaro
164 Modestus Kodilichukwu O. Egbujor
165 Rahmatullah Muhyidin Adebayo Idris
166 Jayola Ibitayo Olayinka
167 Yahaya Ibrahim
168 Okutepe Ocheni Emmanuel
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626 Joyce Omobola Fatokun
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629 Chidinma Lilian Ejimadu
630 Ngozi Rosemary Echokwe
631 Asabe Siliat Abdulkareem
632 Matilda C. Chigbo
633 Monica Mathew Pam
634 Nwaka J. Odum-Igwe
635 Nwamaka C. Okoye
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640 Olajumoke D. Oyeloyin
641 Adenike Ifeoma Grace
642 Ngozi Mana G. Igwe
643 Dimah N. Egbufo
644 Uchenna Chisom Ndiemeri
645 Justina C. Ekeh
646 Jane Chisoma Opara
647 Ifeoma Pat. Ezeanyaeji
648 Chika E. Ugwoke
649 Jemilat Yetunde Raji
650 Chidinma Judith Amadi
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652 Juliana Ani
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666 Faith Adaeze Ejimofar
667 Priscilla N. Ezeonuegbu
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670 Oluchi Ilo
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672 Petra K. Dukro
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676 Endurance Ndidamaka Okorie
677 Ramatu Lami Ibrahim
678 Promise Ozioma Nwokeabia
679 Andy Emmanuel
680 Damilola Esther Fashina
681 Franca Agholor
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683 Chiamaka Anyaegbunam
684 Ifeoma Juliet Emerigbo
685 Queen Ukamaka Daliah
686 Peace Amaka Okeke
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689 Cynthia Chidinma Anyanwu
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691 Omolola Helen Aragbada
692 Vivian Chukwunekpe
693 Maniam Ngedu
694 Mojisola Aishetu Ajayi
695 Omale Bilikisu Khalid
696 Lilian Ogochukwu Nwogoh
697 Alex Oluoluwa Ajowole
698 Isaac Idah Matthias
699 Olajide Olusegun Adeniyi
700 Adebimpe Moyade Alao
701 Ajidahun Bayowa Nelson
702 Leonard N. Abachua
703 Obidile Francis Chibuzo
704 Adedwura Tolulope Emmanuel
705 Akachukwu S. Obi-Orokha
706 Folake Funke Adedayo

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COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SURGEONS, NIGERIA (CVSN)



VCN BUILDING, NVRI, P.O. BOX 38, VOM.

ADMISSIONS INTO PROFESSIONAL POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES FOR 2010

1. APPLICATION

Applications are invited from suitably qualified Veterinary Surgeons for admission into the professional postgraduate programmes leading to the award of the Membership or Fellowship Diploma of the College of Veterinary Surgeons, Nigeria.

2. AREAS OF SPECIALISATION

Surgery

- ❖ Veterinary Surgery
- ❖ Theriogenology

Pathology

- ❖ Veterinary Diagnostic Pathology
- ❖ Veterinary Clinical Pathology
- ❖ Veterinary Microbiology
- ❖ Veterinary Parasitology

Medicine

- ❖ Large Animal Medicine
- ❖ Small Animal Medicine
- ❖ Avian Medicine
- ❖ Aquatic Medicine
- ❖ Zoo, Wildlife and Laboratory Animal Medicine
- ❖ Veterinary Clinical Pharmacology

Public Health and Preventive Medicine

- ❖ Veterinary Preventive Medicine and Epidemiology
- ❖ Veterinary Public Health

3. STUDY CENTRES

- ❖ University of Nigeria, Nsukka – Pathology Specialty Group
- ❖ Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria – Surgery Specialty Group and Public Health and Preventive Medicine Specialty Group
- ❖ University of Ibadan, Ibadan – Medicine Specialty Group

4. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A. Qualifications for Membership

- (i) Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM), or equivalent qualification recognized by the Veterinary Council of Nigeria (VCN).
- (ii) A minimum of three calendar years of post-DVM professional experience.
- (iii) Continuous registration with VCN over the mandatory post-DVM period.
- (iv) Curriculum Vitae of candidate.

B. Qualifications for Fellowship

- (i) DVM or equivalent qualification recognized by VCN
- (ii) Must have obtained the Membership Diploma OR any other relevant additional qualification.
- (iii) Six years, post-DVM professional experience

with continuous VCN registration over the period.

- (iv) Detailed Curriculum Vitae of candidate.

5. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- (i) NYSC Certificate or evidence of exemption.
- (ii) Additional academic and professional qualifications in relevant areas shall be an added advantage.
- (iii) Candidates must present their transcripts of academic records adjudged suitable for admission with comparable postgraduate programmes.
- (iv) Referees by at least three Senior Veterinarians, one of whom should be the candidate's former Lecturer.

6. DURATION OF TRAINING

The duration of training for both Membership and Fellowship is three years each, including a compulsory residency period of six months.

7. APPLICATION FORMS

Application forms are available on payment of the following non-refundable fees.

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|------------|
| (i) Membership | - | N5,000.00 |
| (ii) Fellowship | - | N10,000.00 |

All payments should be made in Bank draft payable to the Veterinary Council of Nigeria.

8. APPLICATION FORMS ARE OBTAINABLE FROM THE FOLLOWING:

- (a) Federal and State Directors of Veterinary Services
- (b) Deans of Faculties of Veterinary Medicine
- (c) Registrar, Veterinary Council of Nigeria, Plot 434 Zambezi Crescent, Maitama, Abuja.
- (d) The Acting College Secretary, College of Veterinary Surgeons, Nigeria, NVRI, VOM, Plateau State.

9. CLOSING DATE

The closing date for the submission of applications is Friday 30th April, 2010. Submissions should be made at the following offices:

The Registrar – Veterinary Council of Nigeria, (VCN) Plot 434, Zambezi Crescent, Maitama, Abuja.

The Acting College Secretary, College of Veterinary Surgeons, Nigeria, NVRI, VOM, Plateau State.

Signed
Acting College Secretary
08035044955

BUSINESS

0805 1000 536



IDLE youngmen whiling away the time by playing draft.

'Jobless Nigerians to earn N25,000 monthly'

By Sunday Williams

IF the proposal of the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC) passes through, unemployed Nigerians will earn N25,000 monthly in a welfare scheme.

The Executive Secretary of NIPC Engineer Mustafa Bello said the Commission has proposed to the Federal Government the setting up of a Social Insurance Security Commission to address the problem of unemployment in the country.

The new commission will be similar to the National Health Insurance and Pension Fund schemes.

He explained that the proposed Commission by their projections will lead to the creation of about 517,000 jobs. He said the employees will be attached to various organizations and agencies relevant to

their field of specialisations.

The proposed Commission will pay the employees N25,000 salaries pending when they are absorbed by the establishments.

He said: "If you read law, there are so many law firms we can send you to and the Social Insurance Commission will fund the law firm and if the law firm found you good and absorbed you then you disengage from the Commission."

The proposed Commission which had been accepted by the presidency has been passed to the Federal Ministry of Labour and Productivity for further work.

Engineer Bello said the same model have been accepted at the NIPC where they created about 50 jobs under a unit that was formally called retainer but now executive trainee.

"I wish every agency of government can

do that. We train them and many have gotten employment because of the exposure.

"This is a model we thought we can apply in the country so that people can be employed immediately they leave the University. The impact of it on the economy is that you are creating consumer capacity," he said.

The exact number of unemployed in the country is not known.

Spokesman of the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) Barrister Nnamdi Asomugha said it is difficult to pin down the percentage of unemployed in the country because as many people are not employed many others are equally under-employed. The rough estimate of unemployed youth in Nigerian may be between 60 and 70 percent.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Arik Air

PH-Abuja: 08.45, 12.12.50, 17.00 (Mon-Fri), 08.45, 17.30 (Sat), 14.40, 17.30 (Sun);
 Abuja-PH: 07.15, 11.20, 15.30(Mon-Fri), 07.15, 16.00 (Sat) 14.40, 17.30 (Sun);
 Lagos-Kano: 12.20pm (Mon-Fri/Sun);Kano-Lagos: 02.35pm (Mon-Fri/Sun);
 Abuja-Kano: 03:35pm (Mon-Fri/Sun);Kano-Abuja: 05:20pm (Mon-Fri/Sun);
 Abuja-Gombe: 11:10am (Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun);Gombe-Abuja: 12.30pm (Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun); Lagos-Yola:
 Lag-Abj 04:50pm, via Abj-Yola 06:45pm (Mon-Fri/ Sun); Yola-Lagos:
 Yola-Abj 08:40am, Abj-Lagos 10:20am (Mon-Fri/Sat);
 Lagos-Maid: Lag-Abj 03:50pm, via Abj-Maid 06:00pm (Mon-Fri/Sun); Maid-Lagos: Maid-Abj 07:30am, via Abj-Lag 09:15am (Mon-Fri/Sat); Abuja-Sokoto: 11:10am (Mon-Fri); Sokoto-Abuja: 12:50pm (Mon-Fri)
 Abuja-Akure 02:10pm (Mon, Wed and Fri); Akure-Abuja: 08:50am (Mon, Wed and Fri); Lagos-Kwara: 07:30am, (Mon-Fri) 07.30, 03:50pm Sat 08:00am, 11:45am Sun; Kwara-Lagos: 4:10pm (Mon-Fri), 01:10pm, 05:30pm Sat 09:45am, 05:00pm Sun
 Abuja-Kwara: 03:25pm (Mon-Fri); Kwara-Abuja 01.30pm (Mon-Fri); Lagos-Jos: 09:05am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); Jos-Lagos: 11.00am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
 ABV-QOW 02:30pm (Mon-Fri), 11:30am Sat 03:20pm Sun; Lagos-Kaduna: 10:20am, 04:10pm (Mon-Fri), 10.20 (Sat/Sun); Kaduna-Lagos: 12:10pm, 06:00pm (Mon-Fri), 12.10 (Sat/Sun); Lagos-Warr: 07:30am (Mon-Fri) 07:30am, 03:50pm (Sat), 08:00am, and 11:45am (Sun)

Aero Contractors

Lagos-Kad: 08.00am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
 Kad-Lagos: 09.40am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
 Lagos-Jos: 11.15am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
 Jos-Lagos: 13.15pm (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)

Stock Market Index

Date: Friday, March 26, 2010
 Index: 25,322.87
 Volume: 463,066,202
 Cap.: N6,124,980,573,940.00

Trust Index

Inflation → 12.3%
 GDP → 6.90%
 Budget → N3.1tr
 External Reserves Acct → \$41bn
 Excess Crude Acct → \$3.2bn
 Poverty Ratio → 54.4%
 Monetary Policy Rate → 6%
 Banks → 24
 Oil Price → \$79 a barrel
 Power Supply → 2,500MW
 Oil output per day → 2.5mbd
 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				BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES	
	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)		
CFA	0.2805	0.2905	0.3005	DOLLAR.....N150	
DANISH KRONER	26.4933	26.5832	26.6731	EURO.....N205	
EURO	197.2494	197.919	198.5885	POUNDS.....N230	
POUNDS STERLING	219.0498	219.7934	220.5369		
RIYAL	39.28	39.4134	39.5467	SELLING	
SDR	222.9827	223.7396	224.4965	DOLLAR.....N152	
SWISS FRANC	137.8439	138.3118	138.7797	EURO.....N207	
US DOLLAR	147.3	147.8	148.3	POUNDS.....N233	
WAUA	222.5201	223.2755	224.0308		
YEN	1.5892	1.5946	1.6	Source: S&P 1 Bureau de Change, Wuse Zone 4, Abuja.	

Business/Banking

Reforming the reforms



CENTRAL Bank Governor Sanusi Lamido Sanusi



FORMER Central Bank Governor Chukwuma Soludo

By Idris Ahmed

AT the end of 2005 when the then existing 89 banks in the country were collapsed into 24, it was hoped that the consolidated banks would be strong enough to safeguard depositors' funds as well as contributing to the development of the economy.

After the pre-consolidation exercise, the 24 mega banks (as they came to be known) appeared so strong that they declared huge turnovers at every Annual General Meetings. One critical condition required to open a mega bank was a deposit of N25 billion with the CBN.

When the consolidation exercise was concluded by the former Governor of Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Professor Chukwuma Soludo by December 2005, many people - professionals and experts - hailed the exercise especially, for purging the system of weaker banks and by injecting professionalism into the system.

The consolidation also came with series of criticisms with critics alleging that poor citizens would not be able to access funds from the new bigger banks.

The current Managing Director of the Unity Bank Plc Falalu Bello was one of those who kicked against the universal banking model and insisted on regional and specialized banking.

But Professor Chukwuma Soludo dismissed critics, citing many other countries where universal banking system works are the basis for Nigeria's model. South Africa was cited as a good example.

The post-consolidation era saw many Nigerian banks operating in other foreign countries. Depositors were assured of the safety of their funds.

Bank chief executives became bigger and flamboyant. Many Nigerian graduates prefer banking works. To work in a bank becomes envious and lucrative.

With the huge profits declared by these banks and the continued assurances by the regulatory authority that the banks were strong and healthy, many Nigerians relaxed.

Then the bubble burst. The global financial and economic meltdown came and everything was never the same again.

After months of denial of the vulnerability of the Nigerian financial system to the global financial crisis which started in the middle of 2008, Soludo confessed the exposure of Nigerian banks to crisis to the tune of about N780 billion.

He however insisted that the banks were healthy and stable.

The Sanusi's reforms

In one swift move on August 14 last year, managing directors of five of the mega banks were sacked by the current Governor of CBN Sanusi Lamido Sanusi. Their offences include poor corporate governance, inadequate liquidity and liquidity stress and for incurring huge non-performing loans.

By October last year when the special examination in banks by the Central Bank of Nigeria and the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation were concluded, three more managing directors got the cold feet.

CBN injected N620 billion to strengthen the eight banks considered critically ill and their managing directors were charged to court and names of debtors of these banks were made public.

CBN sent a bill to the National Assembly for the establishment of an Asset Management Company to mob up the bad debts from the banks.

The conclusion of the banking examination marked the end of the first phase of the current reforms in the banking sector. The current reforms also have it own undoing.

Many experts believe that instead of sacking the MD of these banks by the CBN, the recommendations for such actions should have come from the board of the banks. They said the sacking is capable of creating panicking for the banking populace.

The second phase of the reforms which was released by the CBN early this year has four pillars. This also came with the internal reorganization of the structure of the CBN which many experts believed is culpable in the crisis that rocked the industry.

According to CBN, the four point agenda would help in enhancing the quality of banks, establishing financial stability, enabling healthy financial sector evolution and ensuring the financial sector contributes to real economy.

Deconsolidation

The experimentation of these pillars brought about the deconsolidation and the planned removal of the universal banking structure next year.

Announcing the new era, CBN director of banking supervision Samuel Oni said the era would herald the introduction of regional and specialized banking model with different levels of capitalization.

Under the new regime, banks would be made to concentrate on banking activities and separate licenses would be issue to different categories of banks.

For instance, separate license would be issue for commercial banking, microfinance bank, mortgage banking business and investment banking. Any bank that wants to go international or national would have a separate license.

There would also be a separate license for banks that would want to concentrate on Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) or funding of agric.

"That is the kind of regime that we would want to pursue in the next few months", Oni said.

Experts have reacted differently to the proposed model. A former deputy governor of CBN Dr. Obadiah Mailafia said CBN should consider the action critically because universal banking model is what obtained all over the world today.

He also said that CBN should strengthen its regulatory system to be able to supervise the emerging banks.

A university lecturer, Dr. Bashir Kurfi of the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria said that the universal banking model crippled the banking system and that CBN should ensure that deconsolidation is done to strengthen the system.

Commentators are of the view that the previous and even the current policies of CBN are chaotic, shallow and inconsistent. They say that these policies inconsistencies are wreaking havoc on the economy.

Evidences against the former chiefs of the affected banks and the exposure of these banks to credit crunch calls for holistic reforms in the entire banking system.

There is an urgent need to instituting changes that would ensure the development of a banking system that is healthy, stable and sound.

The universal banking model as practiced in the recent past led to a lot of abuses. As a one-stop financial supermarket, the model provided the platform for the many insider related abuses that were discovered by the CBN/NDIC examiners.

The universal banking model with foray into insurance, stock broking, property development became the vehicle for diverting depositors' funds from the banks as equities into many of these subsidiaries were used as conduits for siphoning funds that were never meant to be repaid.

What to do

Soludo's reforms and consolidation failed because CBN derailed in its regulatory functions. Many experts opined that for Sanusi's reforms to succeed he must strengthen his regulatory functions.

Some experts also believe there is a need for CBN to involve external consultants to help it in supervising both the over 800 microfinance banks and the multitudes of banks that may emerge when the universal banking structure is unbundled.

The success or otherwise of the current reforms would come to fore in months ahead.



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SAMSUNG

TURN ON TOMORROW

Star Feature

Why 144 Nigerian women die every day

Everyday, 144 women in Nigeria die as a result of complications relating to childbirth, according to a recent UN report. Our reporter investigates.

By Nathaniel Jonah

WHEN Elisabeth Ogoh got pregnant after more than five years of anxiety, she was overwhelmed. As part of the preparation to herald the arrival of the new born, Elisabeth and her husband, Matthew, commenced shopping activities for the baby. But six months into the pregnancy, tragedy struck and Elisabeth lost the pregnancy. 'I woke up in to see spots of blood. By the time I got to the hospital, I was bleeding profusely. Few hours later, the doctor told me that I had lost the pregnancy due to severe stress syndrome. The foetus had to be evacuated from my womb. It was really very devastating, especially considering the fact that I had to wait for five years before I could conceive. Now where do I start from,' lamented Elisabeth.

Also sharing in Elisabeth's predicament is Kate Alabi, a 29 year old house wife who lives off Nyanya Gwandara, a sleepy settlement off the busy Abuja-Keffi highway. According to the mother of two who lost her eight months pregnancy to negligence, "Initially, when I got pregnant, I started taking some herbal concoctions on the recommendations of my mother in law. As the pregnancy progressed, I did not attend the mandatory ante natal programme at the hospital. This is because we did not see any need to attend, especially when my husband told me that none of his family members ever gave birth in the hospital, as all of them gave birth at home with the aid of a local midwife." Narrating her ordeal further, she explained that "as the pregnancy progressed, I started feeling severe

pains in my abdomen, and complained to my husband who assured me that all was well, and that the pains I was having is a clear signal that I would give birth to a baby boy. Eventually when the pains got unbearable, I was taken to a local midwife who administered some drugs to me." But instead of getting better, her condition grew worse and she had to be taken to a private hospital in Mararaba, where the doctors pronounced the baby dead. Kate escaped death by the whiskers. According to Dr. Bello Abdul, a consultant gynecologist at the New Light Hospital, Mararaba, "Kate lost her baby because she was not properly taken care of. Her baby was breeched, and if she had attended the mandatory ante natal care programme, it would have been discovered on time and be properly managed."

Another woman who simply gave her name as Margaret told *Daily Trust* that the unpleasant conditions in most hospitals, actually encourage most women to seek the assistance of local midwives who in most cases complicate issues. According to her, "when I was pregnant, I discovered that seeing a doctor at the Wuse General Hospital is usually very hectic because of the long queues. Most of us then usually get to the hospital as early as 6:30 am and will not see the doctor until as late as 12 noon, or even later in the afternoon. So this trend usually discourages some women from coming to the hospital for ante natal treatment." She therefore advised the government to decongest the long queues prevalent at the General Hospitals and facilitate easy access to medical personnel.

Regina Thompson (not real name) who lost her baby three weeks after she gave birth through caesarian section operation explained that "to most women in Nigeria, being pregnant is like placing a big burden on you. One is full of fears and apprehension about what might go wrong during labour proc-



RESEARCHES also indicate that globally, the maternal morta-

“As the pregnancy progressed, I started feeling severe pains in my abdomen, and complained to my husband who assured me that all was well, and that the pains I was having is a clear signal that I would give birth to a baby boy.”

esses, which ought not to be so. I think, pregnancy should be fun and exciting, because it is a special phase of life where your body experiences tremendous changes, but that is not the case in Nigeria.”

Kate, Elisabeth and many other women are just a few examples of countless Nigerian women who suffer from pregnancy related complications. A recent report from the United Nations (UN) and the World

Bank has revealed that about 144 Nigerian women die daily from pregnancy and childbirth complications. Focus has been so much on governmental affairs that do not reflect on the citizens' wellbeing. Budgeted funds are at times returned as unspent, while 52,560 Nigerian women are consigned to early graves, due to government's failure to provide facilities, to assist in pregnancy and childbirth.

Researches also indicate that globally, the maternal mor-

an women



lity ratio is 400 per 100,000 live births. But in Nigeria, the figure is about 1500 per 100,000

tality ratio is 400 per 100,000 live births. But in Nigeria, the figure is about 1500 per 100,000. By implication, a woman dies approximately every 3 minutes from childbirth in Nigeria. And, for every maternal death, there are 30 morbidities arising from serious ailments. Also, with every maternal death, there are more child deaths. The mortality ratio for children under 5 years old in the country, is 230 per 1000 live births, while 16 children under 5 years die every 10 minutes. Newborn deaths are believed to account for more than a quarter of the deaths, especially within the first week of life, due to pregnancy and delivery-related complications.

One of the Millennium Development Goals is to improve maternal health care by the year 2015.

Concretely, this translates into achieving a 75% drop from the unacceptable levels of maternal mortality. However, this can only be realized through increased availability of cost-effective health care solutions for women and infants.

Dr. Emeka Mbanefo, a medical practitioner in an Abuja based private hospital, described maternal mortality as the death of a woman during child birth, and within six months before

delivery. He also identified ignorance and illiteracy as the major reason why women suffer from pregnancy related deaths. According to him, "When a woman is educated, she will not only be aware of the need to go for medical attention, but also know the dos and don'ts during pregnancy. In Nigeria only about 60 per cent of our women attend antenatal care when they are pregnant, but certainly about one third of them will eventually deliver in hospital. So you have 66 per

cent of women going for medical attention and it is very bad. When you educate a woman, it means that you have empowered her; she can take decisions and be able to take care of herself." Also speaking on the country's readiness to meet the basic targets of the millennium Development Goals before the estimated year of 2015, Dr. Mbanefo said "with the present statistics on the ground, meeting the MDGs for maternal mortality by the year 2015 would be a miracle, because more than half of the country's population still die during child birth, and majority of children in Nigeria die before they get to the age of five. So there is still a whole lot of work to be done. But for now, it is better to forget about the 2015 deadline, because it is just not realistic given the situation of things on ground."

Also proffering solutions to the embarrassing statistics of maternal mortality in Nigeria, Dr. Abdullahi Baba, of Wuse General Hospital counseled that those unorthodox places where most women go for delivery should be sanctioned. The traditional leaders should make sure that women in their

communities go to hospitals. The traditional rulers should be agents of change. In his words, "There are several means to reduce the scourge of maternal mortality in Nigeria. And one of such means is through women empowerment. Nigerian women need to be educated on the significance of taking proper care of themselves during pregnancy, especially in the rural areas. Whenever a woman is sick and she needs to go for medical attention, there is every tendency that she will have to depend on the husband for the bills. Also, cultural inhibitions have not helped the women either. Most women will tell you they have assisted others in giving birth before, so there is no need of going to the hospital.

To others, when you tell them to go through caesarian section due to the largeness of the foetus, they will tell you 'over my dead body'".

While the country steadily marches towards the year 2015, available statistics on maternal mortality indicate that Nigeria is still a long way from achieving the Millennium Development Goal target.

“Another woman who simply gave her name as Margaret told *Daily Trust* that the unpleasant conditions in most hospitals, actually encourage most women to seek the assistance of local midwives who in most cases complicate issues.

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INTERMOTORS



Business

NARTO invests N8trn on road transport

By Romoke W. Ahmad

THE Nigerian Association of Road Transport Owners (NARTO) says it has invested over N7.8 trillion in road transportation in the country.

N2.8 trillion of this amounts was generated from the northern route, while the balance was from the southern route, Chairman of the FCT and Northern route of NARTO Alhaji Abubakar Sidi told Daily Trust.

NARTO is the umbrella body of road transport owners in Nigeria. Over 95 percent of Nigeria's leading transporters are members of the association.

The investment was used to purchase vehicles, registration of the vehicles, other revenues and payment of employee's salaries.

"What made the investment much is because of the different kinds of vehicles we used for our businesses", Sidi said.

He said they have weight cargoes which are trucks that lift petroleum products from refineries to filling stations.

The chairman called on the government to find solution to the issue of bad roads and robberies on the high ways.

He also said that NARTO and petroleum tanker drivers have resolved to withdraw their services nationwide if government fails to do something on the issues soon.

What made the investment much is because of the different kinds of vehicles we used for our businesses



RICE farmers in Nigeria

FG to triple domestic rice production

**We are not involved – Rice farmers*

By Idris Ahmed & Tina A Hassan

A new strategy which will help to increase domestic rice production in Nigeria from 3.4 million tonnes to 12.85 million tonnes in the next ten years is under way.

But rice farmers association said federal government did not involved them in the process.

The strategy would help the country save more than \$500 million expended on rice importation annually, according to a document on the National Rice Development Strategy (NRDS).

NRDS will be launched by Governor Babangida Aliyu of

Niger State today in Minna, the state capital.

National Chairman of the Rice Farmers Association of Nigeria Alhaji Abubakar Wodi said there is no communication between the association and the federal government, "and we are supposed to be partners in progress but we are not."

NRDS outlines the plan for transforming the production, processing and packaging of rice in the country.

"We will go there because we are invited but we are going there as onlookers. I know they would not do anything", Alhaji Wodi said.

Rice is the staple food in most Nigerian homes.

Nigeria's annual rice demand is estimated at 5 million tonnes, out of which only about 2.2 million tonnes is produced locally. The annual rice supply gap of 2.79 million tonnes (or 56 percent of demand) is bridged by importation.

Nigeria is the highest importer of rice in Africa, and the second highest in the world.

The strategy is expected to impact positively on food security, job creation, balance of trade, poverty reduction and national productivity.

Nigeria has huge but

untapped potential for rice production and processing.

Only 39 percent of the 4.6 million hectares of land suitable for rice production is under cultivation.

Less than 50,000 hectares of the estimated 3.14 million hectares of irrigable land is used for rice.

To address the gaps, three areas of interventions would be prioritized by the new strategy which include; Post-harvest handling and processing, Land and irrigation development and paddy production; and Seed development and other production inputs.

Forex: ABCON seeks extension of licence

From kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

ASSOCIATION of Bureaux De Change Operators of Nigeria (ABCON) has requested an extension of the deadline for application of bureaux de change (BDCs) licence.

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) recently asked interested

operators to apply for license for class "A" and "B" BDCs and gave two weeks for them to submit application.

ABCON's request, it was gathered, was based on the fact that it would be practically difficult for interested investors to meet the various requirement within the two weeks deadline.

The association, it was also gathered, called for a water tight licensing procedure to check influx of unprofessional operators which can abuse the system.

CBN is disposed to granting the request of the association by extending the deadline till the end of April.

CBN created two categories of

BDCs in February last year.

Initially, the minimum paid up capital for class 'A' BDCs was N500 million but was later reduced to N250 million. Class A BDCs have a wider scope of operations which include; prepared cards; travellers cheques; authority to import forex (subject to compliance with anti-money laundering requirements)

and money transfer.

They must also have mandatory deposit with the CBN of US\$200,000 non-interest bearing; non-refundable application fee of N100,000; licensing fee of N1 million; annual renewal fee of N250,000 and minimum IT infrastructure that enables the BDC to make daily returns to CBN.

Business/International

Zambian firms withdraw bid to run Liberia utility

ZAMBIAN power companies Zesco and Copperbelt Energy Corp (CEC) have withdrawn their joint bid to manage Liberia Electricity Corporation, the CEC executive chairman said yesterday.

Zambian state utility Zesco and CEC, the largest distributor of power to the southern African country's mines, were shortlisted to manage Liberia Electricity Corporation, whose infrastructure was run down during the country's civil war.

"We withdrew from the Liberian bid because Zesco opted to drop out citing huge challenges back home and we thought we should not proceed alone as CEC," Hanson Sindowe told Reuters.

Power blackouts are a regular feature for domestic users in Zambia, who are frequently switched off as Zesco rations power to ensure a steady supply to key industries like the mines.

Sindowe said Zesco and CEC withdrew after the Liberia Power Corporation had prequalified them to the next round of the bidding process whose tendering closed on March 16.

"It is unfortunate that we had to withdraw from the race at such an advanced stage but we hope to work with Zesco on other international projects in future," he said.

The other firms still in the race to manage the Liberia power utility are Canada's Manitoba Hydro International, NTE of Norway and Siemens. (Reuters)

Egypt targets \$40bn in farm investment

EGYPT'S agriculture minister expects 220 billion Egyptian pounds to be invested in the country's agriculture over the next 20 years, the daily al-Alam al-Youm reported yesterday.

The projected investment includes 80 billion pounds in agricultural manufacturing; the paper quoted the minister, Amin Abaza, as saying.

"The coming period will witness more coordination between the ministry and the private sector," he added.

The ministry is studying possible changes to regulations to boost confidence in land reclamation and is seeking to provide incentives for the private sector.

"The private sector plays a key part in land reclamation. This year a total of 150,000 feddans (acres) were reclaimed," Abaza said, adding that the ministry's role was to guide, carry out research and to regulate.

The ministry was not immediately available for comment.



FARMERS collect cabbage on a farm in Egypt.

Egypt's Raya withdraws from telecom licence bid

EGYPT'S Raya Technology and Communication is no longer interested in bidding for two licences to supply cable, voice and Internet services to residential compounds, al-Mal newspaper reported yesterday.

The National Telecommunication Regulatory Authority announced in September it was offering two such licences to serve Egypt's rapidly growing residential compounds in suburbs and satellite cities.

"Raya has officially decided to withdraw from bidding," al-Mal reported, citing Medhat Khalil, chairman of Raya. The firm sells mobile handsets, runs call centres and provides outsourced IT services.

Khalil said the company would not make sufficient profit from the licence

because of the tough conditions the regulatory authority put on them.

Analysts say the licences are restricted both in geographical scope and the range of services, leaving Telecom Egypt's fixed-line monopoly largely intact.

Egypt expects the successful bidders to invest \$1 billion over five years. The bids were initially due in January, but the deadline was delayed to April 15 at the request of some bidders.

At least 18 firms bought bid documents, including existing MOBILE operators Mobinil and Vodafone Egypt and regional operator Orascom Telecom. Reuters.

Volvo sale signed by Geely and Ford

THE Chinese car maker Geely has signed a deal to buy Volvo from US car giant Ford for \$1.8bn (£1.2bn).

The agreement, which was first announced in December, is the biggest overseas purchase by a Chinese car manufacturer.

"Today represents a milestone for Geely," the company's chairman Li Shufu said.

Loss-making Volvo has been on the market since 2008, when Ford

put it and several other brands up for sale. Jaguar and Land Rover in the UK have already been sold to India's Tata Motors.

Ford hopes that the sale of Volvo will help it pay off its debts and focus on its core brands, following a dire period for the global car industry. The deal represents a loss for Ford, however, having bought Volvo in 1999 for \$6.5bn.

Geely, China's biggest independent car maker, has pledged to

keep Volvo as a separate company with its headquarters remaining in Sweden. However, significant manufacturing is expected to take place in China, making Volvos for Chinese consumers.

Analysts view the deal as a good one for Volvo, which has struggled to grow sales and has not made a profit since 2005.

That is in contrast to the Chinese market it will now have access to, which overtook the US

last year as the world's biggest car market.

More than 13 million cars were sold in China last year - a rise of nearly 50% on the previous year.

Geely says it expects annual sales in China to total 400,000 this year. Its international sales are tiny by comparison, however, and the company is expected to benefit from the foothold in the European market that Volvo will give them. BBC

Business/Finance



APT Securities

Friday, March 26, 2010

STOCK Name	Prev Day Close	Open	High	Low	Price	Change	Deals	Volume Traded	Value
ZUP	30.60	32.13	32.13	32.13	32.13	1.53	12	146,548	4,708,587.00
ABTRANS	1.09	1.05	1.05	1.04	1.04	-0.05	15	370,800	388,712.00
ACCESS	9.67	9.70	9.80	9.60	9.70	0.03	237	24,246,488	235,324,256.00
ADSWITCH	2.30	2.19	2.19	2.19	2.19	-0.11	1	50,000	109,500.00
AFRIBANK	2.72	2.75	2.82	2.74	2.79	0.07	80	3,298,769	9,112,230.00
AFROMEDIA	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.00	1	100,000	51,000.00
AGLEVENT	3.30	3.46	3.46	3.46	3.46	0.16	4	58,887	203,749.02
AIICO	1.09	1.05	1.14	1.05	1.12	0.03	744	11,443,108	12,585,249.00
AIRSERVICE	2.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.85	0.00	11	122,546	359,201.75
ALUMACO	11.05	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	-0.55	3	52,525	551,512.50
AP	43.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	43.13	0.00	18	43,604	1,786,891.88
ASHAKACEM	17.70	17.70	18.05	17.70	18.05	0.35	87	1,922,329	34,578,524.00
ASOSAVINGS	0.66	0.67	0.69	0.66	0.67	0.01	32	2,942,072	1,986,606.88
BAGCO	3.23	3.39	3.39	3.39	3.39	0.16	4230	9,555,649	32,393,650.00
BCC	65.49	63.61	63.61	63.61	63.61	-1.88	72	713,666	45,355,888.00
BECOPETRO	1.90	1.82	1.85	1.81	1.85	-0.05	33	1,068,114	1,961,475.62
BERGER	5.15	5.40	5.40	5.40	5.40	0.25	19	395,018	2,131,782.00
CAPOIL	0.52	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	-0.02	8	578,000	289,000.00
CCNN	18.50	18.50	19.10	18.50	19.00	0.50	72	4,393,310	81,640,368.00
CHAMS	0.64	0.67	0.67	0.62	0.67	0.03	50	8,608,316	5,623,071.50
CHEVRON	69.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	69.79	0.00	6	5,794	412,173.50
CILEASING	3.19	3.34	3.34	3.33	3.34	0.15	27	1,899,580	6,340,507.00
CONOIL	42.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	42.00	0.00	35	52,492	2,246,196.50
CONTINSURE	0.95	0.97	0.97	0.93	0.95	0.00	14	4,801,546	4,598,533.00
CORNERST	0.57	0.58	0.59	0.56	0.58	0.01	26	3,922,509	2,273,941.50
COSTAIN	5.30	5.50	5.56	5.50	5.56	0.26	23	573,020	3,172,228.75
COURTVILLE	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	4	307,000	153,500.00
CRUSADER	1.05	1.05	1.07	1.05	1.05	0.00	15	1,566,292	1,646,347.12
CUSTODYINS	3.96	3.78	3.80	3.77	3.80	-0.16	58	3,086,358	11,687,209.00
DANGFLOUR	17.36	17.50	17.98	17.50	17.75	0.39	339	5,650,963	100,254,368.00
DANGSUGAR	18.30	18.20	18.99	18.20	18.71	0.41	108	2,716,192	50,738,636.00
DIAMONDBNK	9.50	9.49	9.51	9.30	9.50	0.00	102	13,173,522	124,962,240.00
DNMEIER	3.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.40	0.00	9	10,230	33,055.30
DUNLOP	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	10	133,730	66,865.00
ECOBANK	6.90	6.71	6.71	6.56	6.71	-0.19	75	1,798,027	11,959,457.00
EKOCORP	5.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.58	0.00	1	1,355	7,195.05
EQUITYASUR	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	4	4,000,100	2,000,050.00
ETERNAOIL	7.45	7.45	7.80	7.45	7.80	0.35	38	431,382	3,282,769.75
ETI	18.48	18.49	18.50	18.01	18.11	-0.37	34	1,473,760	26,956,432.00
EVANSMED	1.12	1.15	1.15	1.15	1.15	0.03	14	320,736	369,905.38
FCMB	9.22	9.00	9.05	8.99	9.01	-0.21	129	14,365,557	129,691,816.00
FIDELITYBK	3.29	3.22	3.34	3.22	3.32	0.03	221	11,817,160	38,743,612.00
FIRSTBANK	15.85	15.85	15.91	15.60	15.91	0.06	976	25,007,080	394,633,280.00
FIRSTNLND	0.75	0.72	0.73	0.72	0.72	-0.03	77	2,438,260	1,761,089.38
FLOURMILL	55.63	55.67	58.30	55.67	58.30	2.67	88	899,973	51,257,428.00
GCAPPA	14.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.46	0.00	2	1,000	13,740.00
GLAXOSMITH	30.97	29.45	29.45	29.45	29.45	-1.52	29	282,336	8,378,728.00
GOLDINSURE	0.67	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.03	16	4,630,857	3,241,600.00
GTAASSURE	3.20	3.24	3.36	3.24	3.36	0.16	57	7,221,206	24,224,282.00
GUARANTY	19.00	19.10	19.95	19.09	19.95	0.95	496	13,468,479	263,893,808.00
HONYFLOUR	9.00	9.00	9.29	8.90	8.90	-0.10	56	923,717	8,422,171.00
IBTC	10.65	10.45	11.18	10.45	10.57	-0.08	75	5,244,265	57,639,144.00
INTENEGINS	0.53	0.54	0.55	0.52	0.53	0.00	39	2,565,000	1,371,796.00
INTERCONT	2.13	2.13	2.15	2.03	2.03	-0.10	106	12,258,472	25,104,726.00
JAPAUOIL	1.41	1.48	1.48	1.45	1.48	0.07	226	13,952,178	20,633,864.00
JBERGER	30.90	32.24	32.44	29.42	30.01	-0.89	95	3,308,333	103,502,000.00
LASACO	0.50	0.51	0.52	0.50	0.51	0.01	44	4,055,741	2,058,370.12
LINKASSURE	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	2	7,950	3,975.00
MOBIL	107.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	107.64	0.00	3	2,639	269,864.12
NAHCO	10.49	10.55	11.00	10.50	11.00	0.51	165	2,598,864	27,968,676.00
NASCON	7.78	7.86	8.16	7.70	8.16	0.38	99	4,740,833	37,929,548.00
NB	61.00	61.00	63.00	61.00	63.00	2.00	144	1,580,706	97,059,872.00
NBC	29.65	29.65	31.13	28.51	31.13	1.48	30	1,083,991	31,405,088.00
NCR	8.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.13	0.00	6	12,398	99,117.34
NEIMETH	1.54	1.61	1.61	1.61	1.61	0.07	22	401,070	642,719.88
NESTLE	270.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	270.00	0.00	43	58,923	15,978,933.00
NIGERINS	0.69	0.67	0.72	0.66	0.72	0.03	37	9,104,210	6,313,854.50
OANDO	79.04	79.06	79.06	79.00	79.01	-0.03	149	3,745,350	295,681,248.00
OCEANIC	2.05	2.03	2.03	1.98	2.00	-0.05	160	7,034,056	14,075,716.00
PLATINUM	1.90	1.88	1.90	1.81	1.82	-0.08	88	4,578,764	8,402,738.00
PRESTIGE	3.26	3.42	3.42	3.42	3.42	0.16	13	228,255	779,698.44
PZ	31.43	31.43	31.43	31.43	31.43	0.00	67	642,086	20,236,504.00
REDSTAREX	3.07	3.20	3.20	3.15	3.15	0.08	38	730,653	2,328,582.75
RESORTSAL	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	6	1,198,160	599,080.00
ROYALEX	0.59	0.57	0.60	0.57	0.59	0.00	12	683,315	398,239.56
RTBRISCOE	5.79	6.07	6.07	5.80	6.07	0.28	51	1,335,325	8,025,893.00
SKYEBANK	8.10	8.10	8.22	8.05	8.16	0.06	228	7,813,177	63,433,500.00
SPRINGBANK	1.03	1.03	1.03	1.00	1.00	-0.03	12	202,540	204,829.45
STACO	0.52	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	-0.02	13	1,544,000	772,000.00
STARCOMMS	2.23	2.23	2.34	2.12	2.29	0.06	65	10,980,107	23,807,514.00
STDINSURE	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	14	581,000	290,500.00
STERLNKAP	2.35	2.45	2.45	2.36	2.43	0.08	61	2,315,900	5,583,891.50
TOTAL	149.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	149.62	0.00	14	8,478	1,330,601.50
TRANSCORP	0.53	0.53	0.54	0.51	0.51	-0.02	48	3,768,577	1,975,294.12
UBA	14.84	14.84	14.99	14.84	14.89	0.05	255	42,888,373	637,726,528.00
UNHOMES	0.95	0.98	0.99	0.98	0.98	0.03	46	1,857,321	1,834,379.62
UNIC	0.76	0.77	0.79	0.77	0.79	0.03	27	6,122,464	4,823,381.50
UNILEVER	25.75	26.90	27.01	26.90	27.00	1.25	71	1,301,784	35,075,160.00
UNITYBNK	1.06	1.03	1.10	1.03	1.06	0.00	30	1,257,502	1,353,866.00
UNITYKAP	0.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.58	0.00	1	20,000	11,200.00
UNIVINSURE	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	1	20,000	10,000.00
WAPCO	34.00	34.08	34.08	34.05	34.05	0.05	35	267,072	9,093,599.00
WAPIC	0.92	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.04	11	634,753	609,282.88
WEMABANK	1.08	1.12	1.12	1.03	1.06	-0.02	54	4,504,257	4,758,967.00
ZENITHBANK	17.89	17.89	18.25	17.85	18.11	0.22	371	37,598,455	675,438,912.00



**SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION POST-BASIC
(STEP-B PROJECT)
THE FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC OFFA, KWARA STATE
INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION AND TENDERING**

1. INTRODUCTION

The Federal Polytechnic Offa STEP-B Project Implementation Office invites competent and reputable companies/contractors to tender for the supply, installation and commissioning of the following:

Lot No	Description	Package Number
01A	Chemistry/Biochemistry	STEP-B/FEDPOFFA/NCB/01A/2010
01B	Biology/Microbiology	STEP-B/FEDPOFFA/NCB/01B/2010
01C	Physics/Electronics	STEP-B/FEDPOFFA/NCB/01C/2010

2. PREQUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Evidence of Company Registration (Certification of Incorporation);
- Certified True copy of Memorandum and Article of Association of the company;
- Evidence of Tax Clearance for the last three (3) years (2007 – 2009);
- Copies of VAT Registration and evidence of past VAT remittances for completed projects;
- Evidence of Financial capability to execute the project;
- Copies of current bank statements for the last six (6) months and consent to allow verification with banker;
- Evidence of involvement and experience in similar contracts (including Letters of Award and Completion Certificates); and
- Details of key staff for the execution of the contract showing qualification and experience (including CVs).

3. SUBMISSION OF PREQUALIFICATION APPLICATION

Pre-qualification application should be submitted latest by 11.00 am on Monday 12th April 2010 to the STEP-B Project Office.

4. OPENING OF PREQUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

Submissions in respect of Prequalification will be opened by 11.05 am on 12th April 2010 at the Federal Polytechnic Offa Boardroom in the presence of all respondents to the prequalification advert.

5. COLLECTION OF BID DOCUMENTS

Prequalified contractors/companies would be required to collect bid documents from STEP-B Project Office between 9.00 am and 3.00 pm each day (Mondays to Thursdays) from 19th April 2010 upon the presentation of original receipt from the STEP-B Office of payment of the sum of Ten thousand naira (N10, 000) tender fee.

6. SUBMISSION OF BID DOCUMENTS

Completed bid documents should be sealed for each LOT and dropped in the tender box in STEP-B Project Office latest by 12 noon on 3rd May 2010.

7. OPENING OF BIDS

The bids would be opened by 12.30 pm on 3rd May 2010 in the Federal Polytechnic Offa Boardroom in the presence of the bidders or their representatives.

8. NOTE

- Originals of documents listed in 2 (a)-(h) above must be produced for sighting.
- Bid documents submitted late shall be rejected

Signed
Dr. Anthony D. Okonta
STEP-B Project Manager
The Federal Polytechnic Offa



NUHU BAMALLI POLYTECHNIC

P.M.B. 1061, ZARIA
(OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR)

VACANCY FOR THE POST OF RECTOR INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates to fill the position of Rector, Nuhu Bamalli Polytechnic, Zaria.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE POLYTECHNIC

The Polytechnic operates multi campus system thus:

- Main Campus located at the former UPE Teachers' College along Zaria-Kaduna express road.
- Annex campus located at the former College of Advanced Studies Gaskiya, Zaria.
- Samaru Kataf Campus located at the former Kaduna State College of Agriculture, Samaru Kataf.

There are presently six Schools and each School is headed by a Director.

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE OFFICE OF RECTOR

The Rector is the Chief Academic and Administrative Officer of the Polytechnic as provided for in Kaduna State Edict No.3 of 1998 (subsequently amended in 2004). In addition to the above, the Rector among other things shall give academic leadership and play an active part in enhancing academic excellence and extending the services of the Polytechnic to Government and Commercial sectors of the economy. Therefore, the Candidate for the post must have a very high sense of dedication to duty, drive, resourcefulness and a person of integrity.

QUALIFICATIONS

The applicant shall hold a **MINIMUM OF MASTERS DEGREE** preferably in any of the Science or Technology discipline from a recognized Institution plus at least 15 years post qualification cognate experience or Ph.D plus 12 years post qualification experience. Membership of relevant professional bodies will be of advantage. Candidates with less than the minimum qualification and experience or who are on salary below HATISS/CONTISS' 15 need not apply.

TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

- The appointment is for an initial period of four (4) years and may be renewed for a second and final term of four (4) years
- The Salary of the Rector is consolidated
- Other fringe benefits are:
 - An Official Car
 - A soft furnished accommodation
 - Security and domestic staff

METHOD OF APPLICATION

Candidates should submit fifteen (15) copies of their handwritten application including photocopies of certificates and Curriculum vitae, to the Registrar using the address below, indicating:

- Name (Surname first and underlined)
- Date of Birth
- State of Origin and Local Government Area
- Postal address
- Marital Status
- Number and date of birth of Children (under 18 years)
- Educational Institutions attended and qualifications with dates
- Working experience with dates (including teaching, administration, research and any other relevant experience)
- Membership of professional bodies
- Name and address of present employer, Salary and current status
- Conference/Seminars attended with dates and papers presented, if any
- Publications and dates, names of journals and relevant pages.
- Services to Community: State, National and International organisations
- Names and address of three (3) referees

Candidates will be required to produce the originals of their certificates and other credentials at the interview. Photocopies of certificates will not be accepted. Applications should be submitted in sealed envelope labeled "APPLICATION FOR THE POST OF RECTOR OF NUHU BAMALLI POLYTECHNIC, ZARIA". Applicants should request their referees to send confidential reports on them direct to the Registrar, Nuhu Bamalli Polytechnic P.M.B. 1061, Zaria.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

Interested and qualified candidates should forward their applications with the accompanying documents to the above address not later than twenty one (21) days from the date of this publication.

Signed:
MRS. J. R. SANI
Deputy Registrar (Estab)
For: Registrar



Federal Inland Revenue Service
15, Sokode Crescent, Off Michael Okpara Street,
Wuse, Zone 5, Abuja.

INVITATION TO TENDER

INTRODUCTION

The Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) invites prospective vendors to tender for the production of e-FIRS Tax Cards.

2. ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE

Interested reputable Service providers must have necessary competences and possess the following:-

- I. Certificate of the Company's Registration/Incorporation verifiable from corporate Affairs Commission
- II. Company's Current Tax Clearance Certificate issued by the proper authority and reflecting the true turnover of the company in any tax period;
- III VAT Registration Certificate;
- IV Company profile reflecting executive capacity;
- V. Evidence from the company's bankers as to its financial capacity to undertake the project if awarded.

In addition prospective service providers shall be required to demonstrate that they are financially capable to provide any service which they may be offered, following this general qualification.

- VI. A sworn statement that the company is not in receivership or about to be in receivership.
- VII. Accompanying sworn affidavit of disclosure; to disclose clearly if any of the officers (or related person) of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) or Bureau for Public Procurement is a former or present Director/Chairman of the company and that the company does not have any Director/Chairman who has been convicted in any country for any criminal offence relating to fraud or financial impropriety.
- VIII. Verifiable documentary evidence of similar and other jobs successfully executed within the last three years. Such evidence shall be in form of valid and verifiable letters of award of contract(s), contract agreement and completion certificates or Interim Payment Certificates where such Service(s) is still in progress.
- IX. A sworn affidavit that the company is not a replacement for a hitherto tax defaulting company.
- X. Submit evidence of having fulfilled all obligations with regards to pensions and social contributions as provided in the Pensions Act 2004
- XI. Evidence of having passed Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCDIDSS) Test.

XII. Evidence of ISO Certification would be an added advantage.

3. NOT ELIGIBLE

All Contractors who have not met contractual obligations to FIRS

4. TENDER FEES:

Interested firms are required to collect detailed Request for Proposals (RFP) from Room 123 Revenue House Federal Inland Revenue Service, 15 Sokode Crescent Wuse Zone 5, Abuja, subject to the presentation of evidence of payment of N10,000.00 (Ten thousand naira only) non-refundable tender fee to the FIRS Central Pay Office (CPO), Revenue House, Abuja.

5. SUBMISSION OF TENDERS

All tenders must be sealed, clearly marked as indicated in the RFP, registered, addressed and submitted to the address below:

The Head of Procurement Department
Corporate Development Group
Federal Inland Revenue Service
Revenue House (Room 123)
15 Sokode Crescent, Off Michael Okpara Street
Wuse, Zone 5,
Abuja.

Submission of bids closes at 12.00 noon, 21 April 2010.

Bids will be opened on 21 April 2010 at 2.00pm in the presence of representatives of bidders, who choose to attend, and the general public at the Conference Room Revenue House 15, Sokode Crescent, Off Michael Okpara Street Wuse, Zone 5, Abuja.

6. NOTES

- a) The Federal Inland Revenue Service reserves the right to verify claims made by any contractor.
- b) Presentation of falsified information such as turnover figures on Tax Clearance Certificate etc will lead to automatic disqualification.
- c) Tendering false documents is an offence and will lead to disqualification and prosecution.

7. Enquiries:

For all enquiries:
Please call 08074983355

Signed:
Peter B Hena
Ag. Head, Procurement Department
For Executive Chairman, FIRS



UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, NIGERIA SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

<http://www.unilagpgs.edu.ng>

ADMISSION TO POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES (2010/2011) SESSION

The Human Resources Development Centre (HRDC) of the University of Lagos, on behalf of the School of Postgraduate Studies, invites applications from suitably qualified candidates from recognized Institutions for admission into postgraduate programmes of the University leading to the award of Postgraduate Diplomas, Masters degrees by Coursework, and Master of Philosophy degrees as well as Doctor of Philosophy degrees in the 2010/2011 Session.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

- Candidates are to download the School of Postgraduate Studies **Guide to Admissions (2010/2011)** through Application for Admission to 2010/2011. Read through carefully to determine availability of the programme of study and also ascertain that they meet the admission criteria/requirements.
- Read through Application for Admission to 2010/2011 Click PG Pre-Application Form.
- Fill the Form, submit and obtain a **Payment Reference Number**.
- Pay the sum of **N12,000.00 (Twelve Thousand Naira)** for the Form and for the SPGS Abridged Prospectus and the sum of **N250.00** bank charges, at any of the following Banks:
WEMA Bank Plc UNILAG, Victoria Island, Ikeja, Marina, Ikoyi, Abule-Egba, Okokomaiko, Ikorodu, Abuja (Main) Mokola (Ibadan), Port-Harcourt, Akure, Abeokuta and Owerri.
Zenith Bank Plc: Falomo, Lekki, Ilupeju I, Marina, St. Finbarrs Road, Adeola Odeku, Oba Akran, Apapa (Warehouse Road), Festac, Abule-Egba, Allen Avenue, Adeniran Ogunsanya, Ojuelegba and All States Capital Main Branches.
Intercontinental Bank Plc.: UNILAG, Surulere, Awolowo Rd, Ikoyi, Apapa, Ligali Ayorinde, V.I, and Kingsway Building, Broad Street, Adeola Odeku, Marina, Ikeja Festac, Orile, Awolowo Rd, Lekki, Marina, Maza Maza, Dopemu, Abuja, Trans Amadi, Ibadan and Enugu.
- After payment confirmation, return to School of Postgraduate Studies Website, through Application for Admission to 2010/2011 click Application Form Link. Log in with **Payment Reference Number as Username and Surname as Password. Hard copies of the Forms should be submitted to the respective departments.**
- Upload your **Passport photograph** (jpg format) which should not be more than 15 kb in size. The acceptable dimension is width: **275pixels or 35mm, height: 314pixels or 40mm.**
- Click **SUBMIT** button if the information is correct, else, click **decline** if you still need to modify your details. If the selected button is **SUBMIT**, the candidate will be prompted to print the completed **Application Form and Acknowledgement Slip**. These would be required for submission during examination.
- Candidates are advised to **LAMINATE** their **Acknowledgement Slip** after printing in order to keep them intact.
- Credits in English and Mathematics in WASC/GCE 'O' Level/NECO are compulsory for all programmes.
- Satellite, Out-Reach/Affiliation Campuses Certificates/Transcripts will not be accepted for admission.
- Candidates who have not completed the NYSC assignments or their current postgraduate programmes need not apply. Such candidates will be automatically disqualified.

- # **All academic Transcripts must reach the Secretary, School of Postgraduate Studies on or before the beginning of registration. Original Certificates/Transcripts with the Referees Confidential Reports ((2 Nos.) to be downloaded from the site) must be presented during registration exercise in sealed envelope.**
- # **All M.Phil/Ph.D. candidates must contact the Department for availability of Supervisors/vacancies.**
- # **Deferment is not encouraged.**
- # **Part-payment of Tuition/Obligatory Fees is not allowed for F/T.**

DATES OF QUALIFYING EXAMINATIONS/INTERVIEWS

Monday, May 17, 2010

- M.Sc. Psychology and Masters in Managerial Psychology (MMP) (FT&PT)
- M.Sc Political Science (P/T)
- Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.) – (P/T)
- M.Sc. Geography (F/T & P/T)
- M.Sc. Sociology (F/T & P/T)
- M.Sc. & P.G.D Mass Comm. (F/T & P/T)
- Master of Geographic Information Systems (MGIS) – (F/T & P/T)
- Masters in Transport Management and Planning (MTMP) – P/T
- M.Sc. & PGD Economics (FT & PT)

Tuesday, May 18, 2010

- M.Sc. Business Administration, (Marketing, Management, Operations Research, Operations and Production Management and Organizational Behaviour) (F/T & P/T)
- M.Sc Finance & MBF (FT&PT)
- M.Sc. Accounting, PGD Accounting (FT&PT)
- M.Sc. Industrial Relations & Personnel Management (IRPM) & MILR (FT&PT)
- M.Sc. Actuarial Science

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

- PGD and M.A in Theatre Arts, Visual Arts and Music
- M.A French, MTL, MTFLL (FT&PT)
- M.A. English (Language and Literature)
- M.A. Igbo, Yoruba
- M.A. History and Strategic Studies & M.D.S.S.
- PGD and M.A. Philosophy. (FT&PT)

Thursday, May 20, 2010

- M.Sc. Anatomy
- M.Sc Pharmacology
- M.Sc. Biochemistry
- Master in Public Health (MPH) and M.Sc. Public Health (FT&PT)
- M.Sc. Haematology and Blood Transfusion
- M.Sc. Clinical Pathology
- M.Sc. Medical Physics
- M.Sc. Pharmaceutical Chemistry
- M.Sc. in Medical Microbiology and Parasitology
- Master of Pharmacy (M. Pharm)
- M.Sc. Pharmaceutics and Pharmaceutical Technology
- M.Sc. Pharmacognosy
- M.Sc. Physiology
- PGD Anaesthesia
- PGD & MSc. Physiotherapy

Friday, May 21, 2010

- M.Sc. Physics, PGD and Master in Applied Geophysics (MAG) (FT&PT)
- M.Sc Cell Biology and Genetics, Botany, Microbiology
- M.Sc. Marine Biology & Fisheries
- M.Sc. Chemistry, Analytical and Environmental Chemistry
- Environmental Management (PGD and Masters) (FT&PT)
- M.Sc. & PGD Computer Science, Master of Information Technology (M.I.T.) (FT&PT)
- M.Sc. Environmental Toxicology and Pollution Management/M.Sc Parasitology & Bioinformatics
- M.Sc. Applied Entomology & Pest Management/M.Sc. Natural Resources Conservation
- Master of Natural Resources Management (MNRM) (FT&PT)
- M.Sc. Mathematics, Statistics (FT&PT)

Saturday, May 22, 2010

- Master in Public and International Affairs (MPIA) (P/T)

Monday, May 24, 2010

- M.Sc. & PGD Chemical Engineering (FT&PT)
- M.Sc & PGD Electrical/Electronics Engineering (Full-Time and Part-Time)
- M.Sc. & PGD Civil Engineering (FT&PT)
- M.Sc. Mechanical Engineering
- PGD & M.Sc Surveying and Geoinformatics
- Master of Geoinformatics (FT&PT)
- Master of Process Engineering (M.P.E.) (FT&PT)
- PGD and M.Sc. Metallurgical and Materials Engineering

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

- M.Ed. Adult Education (FT&PT)
- M.Ed. Educational Foundations (FT&PT)
- M.Ed. Educational Administration and Planning (FT&PT)
- PGD Educational Administration and Planning (FT&PT)
- M.Ed. Human Kinetics and Health Education
- PGDE Postgraduate Diploma in Education (F/T)
- PGD Guidance and Counseling
- M.Ed. Arts & Social Science Education
- Science and Technology Education

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

- M.Sc. Construction Management/Construction Technology
- Master of Project Management (MPM) (FT&PT)
- M. Arch. (Master of Architecture) (FT&PT)
- P.G.D.E.D. and Master of Environmental Design (M.E.D.) (FT&PT)
- M.Sc. Estate Management
- Master in Landscape Architecture
- M.Sc. Urban and Regional Planning (FT&PT)
- Master in Urban and Regional Planning (MURP)
- Master in Urban Design
- Master of Facilities Management (MFM) (FT&PT)
- Postgraduate Diploma (PGD) in Building Services (F/T)

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Sandwich Programmes

- Masters in International Law and Diplomacy (MILD)
- LL.M (PT & FT)

Saturday May 29, 2010

- M.B.A. Programmes F/T, P/T and Executive.

NB

F.T. = Full-Time
P.T. = Part-Time

OLUWAROTIMI A. O. SHODIMU Esq.
Registrar and Secretary to Council



FEDERAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

(Established Under CAP 136 Laws of Nigeria 1990)
26, Julius Nyerere Crescent, Asokoro, PMB 101, Garki, Abuja

INVITATION TO TENDER

INTRODUCTION

The Federal Housing Authority hereby invites tenders from suitably qualified building and engineering companies for the following works and related services in the locations and project categories as shown hereunder;

A: GWARINPA II & LUGBE ESTATES, ABUJA, F.C.T.

- Lot 1: Completion of 2-Bedroom Block of Flats (Block A) at Gwarinpa II Estate.
- Lot 2: Completion of 2-Bedroom Block of Flats (Block B) at Gwarinpa II Estate.
- Lot 3: Completion of 2-Bedroom Block of Flats (Block C) & Connection of Mechanical (External) Pipe work to 3No. Block of Flats at Gwarinpa II Estate.
- Lot 4: Construction of Landscaping for 3No. Block of Flats at Gwarinpa II Estate.
- Lot 5: Provision of Electrical (External) works for 3No. Block of Flats at Gwarinpa II Estate.
- Lot 6: Rehabilitation of Roads & Drains at Gwarinpa II Estate.
- Lot 7: Construction of Roads & Drains at 1(R) Road Extension/1(N) 26 Road, Lugbe Estate.
- Lot 8: Construction of Roads & Drains at 21(D) Road, Lugbe Estate.
- Lot 9: Rehabilitation of Roads & Drains at 1st Avenue, Lugbe Estate.
- Lot 10: Rehabilitation of Roads & Drains at 21 Road 1(F) Road, Lugbe Estate.
- Lot 11: Rehabilitation of Roads & Drains at 1(K) Crescent, Lugbe Estate.
- Lot 12: Rehabilitation of Roads & Drains at 1(G), 1(E) & 1(R) Roads/C Close 1st Avenue, Lugbe Estate.

B: ABESAN 11 & 13 ESTATES, IPAJA, LAGOS STATE

- Lot 13: Construction of Roads & Drains at Abesan 11 Estate, Ipaja.
- Lot 14: Provision of Electrical (External) Works at Abesan 11 Estate, Ipaja.
- Lot 15: Construction of Independent Water Supply & Provision of Mechanical (External) Works at Abesan 11 Estate, Ipaja.
- Lot 16: Construction of Perimeter Fence at Abesan 11 Estate, Ipaja.
- Lot 17: Construction of Independent Water Supply at Abesan 13 Estate, Ipaja.
- Lot 18: Construction of Perimeter Fence at Abesan 13 Estate, Ipaja.

C: GONIN-GORA ESTATE, KADUNA STATE

- Lot 19: Construction of 2-Bedroom Semi-Detached Bungalow at Gonin-Gora, Kaduna State.
- Lot 20: Construction of 3-Bedroom Detached Bungalow at Gonin-Gora, Kaduna State.
- Lot 21: Construction of Roads & Drains at Gonin-Gora, Kaduna State.
- Lot 22: Provision of Electrical (External) Works at Gonin-Gora, Kaduna State.
- Lot 23: Construction of Independent Water Supply & Provision of Mechanical (External) Works at Gonin-Gora, Kaduna State.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENT

- (a) Evidence of Registration & Incorporation by the Corporate Affairs Commission;
- (b) Valid Tax Clearance Certificate for the last three (3) years;
- (c) Evidence of VAT Registration/VAT remittances;
- (d) Evidence of National Pension Commission Registration/remittances (where applicable);
- (e) Company Profile including details of Professional Registration of Personnel;
- (f) Verifiable evidence of previous experience in handling similar projects including Letters of Award/Certificate of completion;
- (g) Evidence of availability of plant and equipment owned by the Company;
- (h) Reference/Guarantee from a reputable bank;
- (i) Company audited Accounts for the last three (3) years; and
- (j) A sworn Affidavit certifying that:
 - All the required documents submitted are both GENUINE and UP-TO-DATE.
 - None of the Directors of the Company has ever been convicted by any court of law.
 - None of the Directors of the Company is a staff of the Authority.
 - The Company is not bankrupt or a party to liquidation proceedings in any court of law.

TENDER INSTRUCTIONS

Interested Companies should collect bid documents from the Secretary, Tenders Board, Office of the Chief Executive, Federal Housing Authority after payment of a non-refundable Tender Fee of 25,000.00 (Twenty-five Thousand Naira) only per Lot.

SUBMISSION OF BID DOCUMENTS

The completed Tender documents with a copy of the receipt of Tender Fee shall be submitted in a Sealed Envelope with the Lot No. & Description of Project to be tendered for clearly indicated at the top left corner of the envelope and addressed to;

Managing Director/Chief Executive,
Federal Housing Authority,
26, Julius Nyerere Crescent,
Asokoro,
PMB 101, Garki, Abuja.

The deadline for the submission of bid documents is 10 am, Monday, April 19, 2010.

All submissions will be opened at 10.30 am on the same date at the FHA Head Office, Asokoro, Abuja.

Please note that any tender that does not comply with the above provisions shall be disqualified. In addition, the Authority is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender.

SIGNED
Management.

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 22ND ANNUAL NATIONAL COORDINATOR COMMITTEE MEETING OF SECRETARIES OF FEDERAL AND STATE SCHOLARSHIP BOARDS HELD AT 3-STAR HOTEL, DUTSE, JIGAWA STATE, 8TH -13TH MARCH, 2010.

The 22nd edition of the Annual National Coordinating Committee Meeting of Secretaries of Federal and State Scholarship Board was held at 3-Star Hotel in Dutse, Jigawa State from 8th to 13th March 2010. The conference was declared open by His Excellency, the executive Governor of Jigawa State, Alhaji Sule Lamido. Other dignitaries who attended the opening ceremony include the deputy speaker, Hon Inuwa Sule Idi, members of the Jigawa State Executive Council and representatives of the Emirs of Dutse and Ringim. Also present were the Deputy Chairman House Committee on Education and Representative of the Honourable Minister of Education.

At the end of the five-day meeting, the following Communique was issued:-

- i. That Federal and State Governments yet to grant full and complete autonomy to their Scholarship Boards should do so without further delay.
- ii. That Governments at all levels should provide Scholarship Boards with suitable accommodation, modern communication gadgets and facilities, functional project and utility vehicles, for efficient and effective operations.
- iii. That the Federal Scholarship Board should revive its Zonal Offices and make them more functional.
- iv. That Scholarship Boards in Geopolitical Zones hold zonal meetings for better coordination, mutual exchange of ideas and to proffer solutions to common problems.
- v. That government at all levels should consider upward review of scholarship allowance to reflect current economic realities.
- vi. That the Federal Government should re-introduce the Overseas Scholarship Scheme.
- vii. Those scholarships Boards be encourage to put in place more effective Student Management Information Systems (SMIS) that would guarantee efficient record-keeping and continuity in scholarship delivery.
- viii. That Secretaries of Scholarship Board and administrators Scholarship Schemes be encouraged to be ICT compliant and integrate ICT into scholarship delivery in order to take full advantage of various scholarship Schemes.
- ix. That Examination bodies such as West African Examination Council (WAEC) and National Examination Council (NECO) should release examination result and issued certificate in good time to save Nigeria Scholars, particularly those studying abroad, the risk of being repatriated by Foreign Donor Countries who do not accept Statements of as authentic evidence of academic achievement.
- x. That relevant Agencies including Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB), national Board for Technical Education (NBTE), National Commission for Collage of Education (NCCE), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Tertiary Education Institutions should continue to give prompts support to all Scholarship Boards for effective implementation of Scholarship Programmes in the country.
- xi. The Federal and State Government should encourage Public Private Partnership in scholarship delivery.
- xii. That Federal Ministry of Education should establish a regulatory agency that would streamline and harmonise the award of scholarships by the private sector.
- xiii. That bursaries and scholarship awards be used to attract more Nigerian youths particularly female student to undertake the study of Science and Technology course at Tertiary level.
- xiv. While appreciating the various State Governments for instituting and implementation scholarship Scheme, special commendation goes to Jigawa, Kano, Lagos and River State Government for awarding overseas scholarship to their scholars.
- xv. That the Jigawa State Government and the State Scholarship Board be commended for ensuring a hitch-free and successful 22nd Coordinator Committee Meeting.
- xvi. That Imo State Scholarship Board shall host the 23th Annual Coordinating Committee Meeting (CCM) in November 2010 while Nassarawa State will play host to the 24th edition in 2011.

Communique Drafting Committee Members:

Afinowi A.A.	Lagos State Scholarship Board
Abdulkadir Usman	Gombe State Scholarship Board
Deekue Sam N.	Rivers State Scholarship Board
Bello Attahiru	Niger State Scholarship Board
Ayyuba I. Bako	Kano State Scholarship Board
Ogbajie N.U. (Mrs)	Abia State Scholarship Board
D.C. Onwusiri	Fed. Scholarship Board Abuja.

DIGEST

British boy, 6, is the only person on Earth with genetic disorder that leaves him unable to speak

A six-year-old British boy is the only person on Earth to suffer from a genetic disorder that leaves him unable to speak.

Doctors were left baffled when tests results showed a mutation in Mackenzie Fox-Byrne's genes that had never been seen before.

So little is known about the condition, which means Mackenzie has an extra part of a chromosome in every one of his cells, that it has not even been given a name yet.

His mother, Sharon, first noticed something was wrong when his development appeared to be behind that of her other children Kamara, 14, and Katie, 12.

At three months old, Mackenzie was still unable to lift his head from his cot,

“Unfortunately, that was all they could tell me. They couldn't tell me how he is going to progress or whether he might fall ill in the future

found it difficult to hold down food and had trouble sleeping.

Doctors first feared he may have the muscle-wasting disease muscular dystrophy, but tests results showed he had the unique disorder.

Mrs Fox-Byrne, 40, said a telephone call from Wessex Clinical Genetics Service, at Southampton University Hospital, left her stunned.

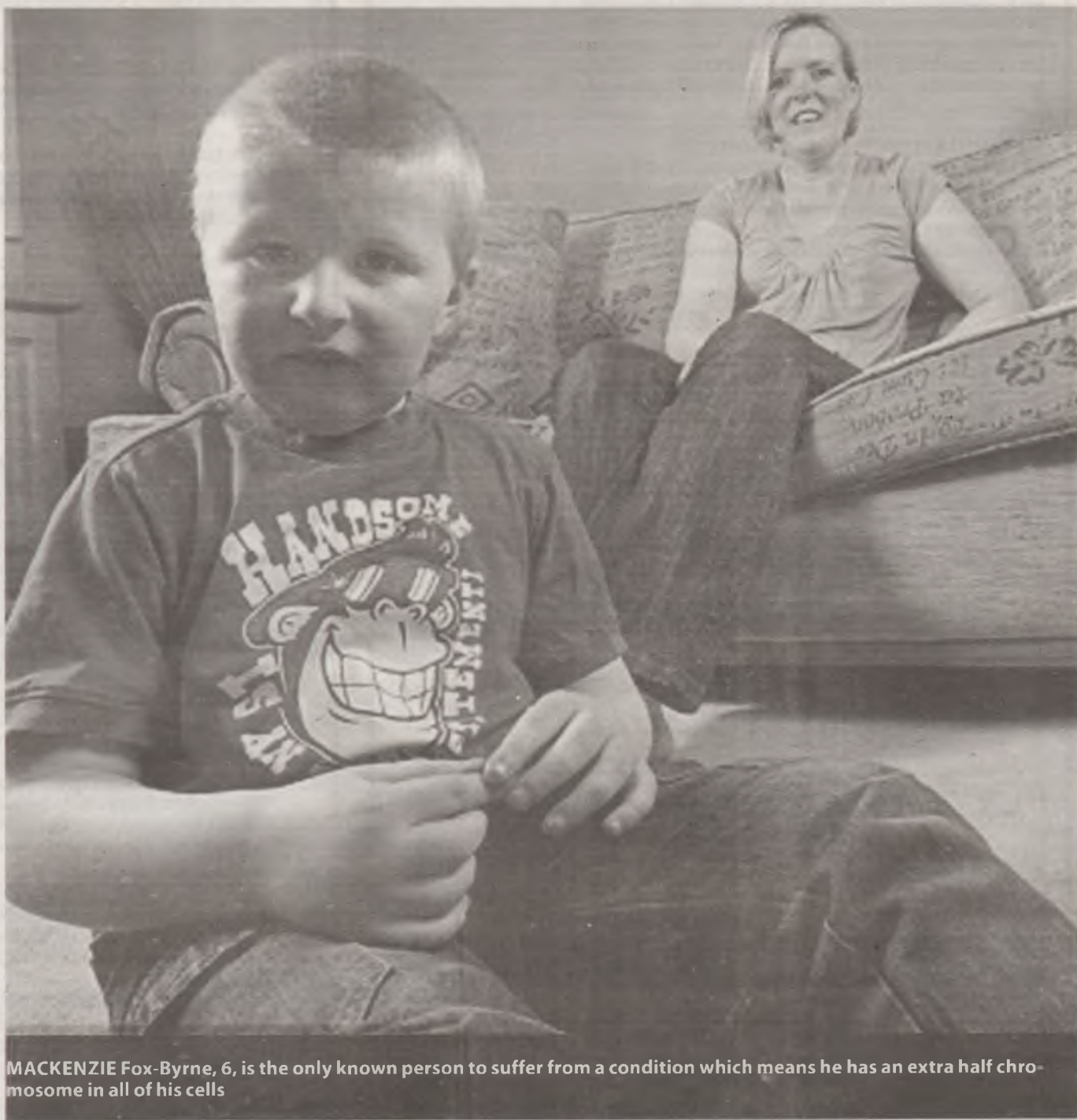
She said: 'They knew it was unique and told me excitedly that they had found something rare that no one else has.'

'Unfortunately, that was all they could tell me. They couldn't tell me how he is going to progress or whether he might fall ill in the future.'

'No one else on Earth has ever had this condition.'

Mackenzie's test results showed he had a triplication of a small region on the long arm on his X-chromosome.

At the moment, he is unable to speak, has low muscle tone, is still in nappies and



MACKENZIE Fox-Byrne, 6, is the only known person to suffer from a condition which means he has an extra half chromosome in all of his cells

has no sense of danger.

He also has learning difficulties which means he is the mental age of a two-year-old and goes to a special school in Shrewsbury. Mrs Fox-Byrne, who lives with her partner Andy, 47, in Market Drayton, Shropshire, said: 'It's quite terrifying to be told he is the only person in the world to have this condition.'

'But for all his problems Mackenzie is a lovely boy. He's always giving me kisses and cuddles and likes to sleep next to me because he still has trouble sleeping.'

'Although we worry about what might happen to him in the future, I just try to

put it out of my mind. You could go crazy thinking about it.'

'It would be fantastic to actually know what he had because at the moment we don't know what his life expectancy will be or whether he might become ill in the future.'

'We do know he can never be allowed to have children as he would pass his genes on to them and we wouldn't know what their condition might turn out to be.'

'My hope for him is that someday he will get better and be able to live a normal life like other children, but I know the likelihood of that happening is very small.'

Karen Temple, professor of medical genetics at Wessex Clinical Genetics Service, confirmed Mackenzie was a totally unique case.

She said: 'In this case there is a rearranging of the chromosomes that is unique to him. We have to learn what we can from the little boy as he grows up.'

'In every cell, Mackenzie has got an extra part of a chromosome. In layman's terms if you think of some beads as part of a chromosome, he has got two extra parts.'

'This little boy has had this chromosome problem since he was conceived, we can learn from how he is now.'

Sign Language



Back to front. This is really confussing.
Photo location: Kinsale, Ireland, by Stuart Mine
Culled from telegraph.co.uk

EASY CROSSWORDS

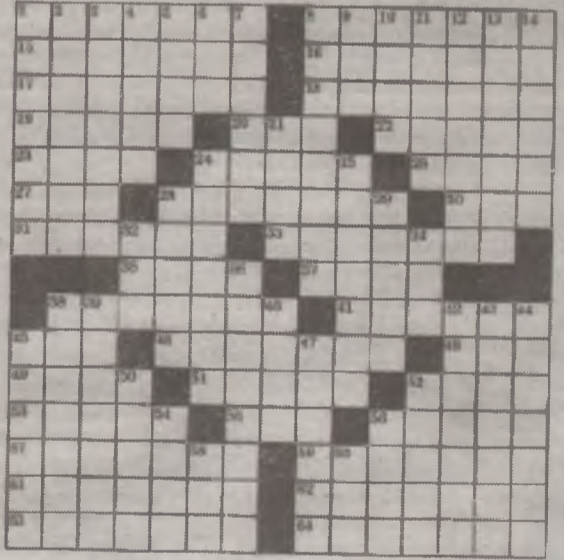
19

ACROSS

- Bedroom item
- Roofed passageways
- Foodie, perhaps
- Intense
- Did a wartime job
- Rival successfully
- A Cars
- Mongrel
- California jock
- Writer Grey
- Iranian dialect
- Reconcile
- Aliens, in headlines
- Do over, in a way
- See
- Called for
- Plumlike fruits
- Graduation attendees
- Insignificant
- Gym nickname
- Kitchen piece
- This: French
- Battered dish
- Smelly herb
- Athena's title
- Ms Lane
- Refrain bits
- Ball cohort
- Greek letter
- Seed husks
- Narrow-minded
- Roman playwright
- Fast and stirring, in music
- Emma Peel, for example

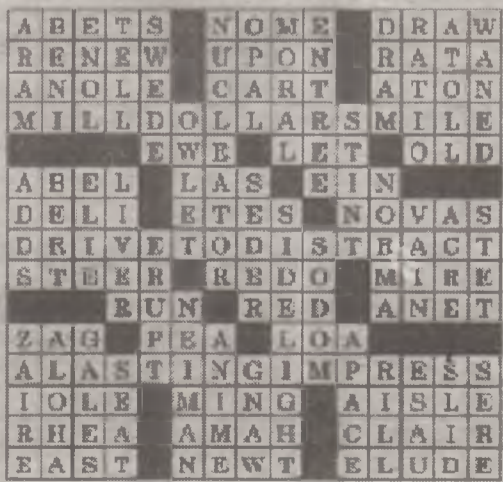
DOWN

- Dress showily
- Run
- Teen's new acquisition
- Café order
- Arrogant disposition: slang
- Bard's preposition
- Depot denizen
- Strong response
- Periphery
- Masterstroke
- Chief deity to millions
- Most stagnant
- Hooks
- Hard
- Russian river
- Hawked
- Probe
- Be affected
- Oral Roberts University's home
- Toothsome degree?: abbr.
- The whole gang
- Some local jocks
- Medley
- Spoon, e.g.
- Chic getaways
- Methodist
- Shadings
- Treat for a 16-Across
- Cracker topper
- Johany of football
- Sovere
- Vogue
- Fanache
- Engendered
- Old Siamese coin
- Moviedom's Mendes



Solution to Easy Crosswords

18



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.

115

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

Solution to Sudoku 114

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

IT WORLD

08027649677

Six firms jostle for science ministry's ICT job

By Yunus Abdulhamid

SIX companies have bided to provide ICT and web portal equipment as well as installation for the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology.

The bid opening exercise was presided over by the ministry's Director Planning Research and Policy Analysis Dr Ijeoma Unaogu and Director, ICT Engr. Wahab Jimoh.

The project is World Bank assisted programme meant to provide internet and online services for the ministry and agencies and parastatals under it.

World Bank team coordinator of the project, Mr Adesoji F. O told Daily Trust that ministerial approvals had been secured earlier and that the bids submit-

ted by the six companies would be analysed in the next few weeks before a final one would be picked to do the job.

Octurian Technology bided N36 million with N800, 000 bid security from Skye Bank. Circum Technologies proposed a N14 million bid without a bid security, SAA Technology had a bid of N19 million with N467, 225 bid security from Afribank.

Others were Afrihub Nigeria Ltd with a bid of N40 million along with a GTBank bid security of N4 million, Fibernets Solutions (N26 million) accompanied with a Skye bank security of N850, 000 and Infographics Nigeria Ltd presented a bid of N14 million with a N356, 823 bid security from Zenith Bank.

Intel deploys N40bn worth of ICT tools to schools

From Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

AS part of its plan to boost digital literacy in Africa, Intel West Africa said it has partnered Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) to deploy about N40 billion worth of Information and Communications Technology tools in about 400 schools nationwide.

The Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF), an agency affiliated to the National Communications Commission (NCC) supervised the deployment of the tools in the past three years in collaboration with Intel Corporation, computer makers, telecom operators and Education Service Providers (ESPs). Engineer Bakol Wakil, Head, School Access Programme of USPF, said this at the weekend during a one-day stakeholders engagement workshop organised by Intel West Africa in Lagos.

The event was to exploit best models for the penetration of public schools with personal computers, internet connectivity and software tools to raise the level of digital literacy, he said.

Mr. David Ibhawoh, Business Development Manager, Intel West Africa said the company partnering with government agencies like USPF, Educational Trust Fund (ETF), ministries of education and health to propagate ICT usage and benefits to Nigerian youths.



PIC: YUNUS ABDULHAMID

AGENCY Manager, Etisalat Nigeria Anu Oke (right) conducting chairman of the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC), Zaphaniah Jisalo round at the opening of the Etisalat Centre of Excellence at Silverbird Entertainment Centre, Abuja at the weekend.

Expert urges sustained investment in telecoms

From Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

NIGERIA'S telecommunications sector needs sustained investment in the coming years if the desire to realise universal access is to be achieved, the Chief Executive Officer of Phase 3 Telecoms Mr. Stanley Jegede, has said.

Jegede, who spoke at a media interactive session last week with newsmen in Lagos on what should be the focus of the soon-to-be appointed Chief Executive of the Nigerian Communications Commission, stated that while a lot of achievements had

been recorded by the regulatory body, there was still much work to be done in the coming years.

He noted that that issues such as affordability and quality services and network development that deliver broadband services across the country were areas that further need investment could help improve in the coming years.

According to him, Phase3 Telecom will continue to invest in transmission backbone development to provide the needed link that will facilitate advanced service delivery to individuals

and organizations across the country.

"At Phase3 Telecom, we realize the need for the development of the backbone that will carry traffic and ensure the availability of up-to-date services to the citizenry hence our current investment in IP backbone across the West African region using power transmission network," he stated.

He said the firm had investment over \$100 million in the sector and would do more in order to become a leader in the provision of transmission services in the West African region.

Africa must prioritise ICT –Expert

Mrs. Halimah Adebayo Abdullahi is an Information Technology Consultant and the Chief Executive Officer of Usability Consultancy Limited (UCL), the company training over 4, 000 civil servants in Kwara state. In this interview with Mustapha Muhammad, she spoke on the training and other ICT related issues.

What impact has your company made in man power development in Nigeria?

Usability expertise includes manpower development in Nigeria such as the training and developing of 500 Unity bank staff cut across the North-Central, North-East, South-West and South-East regions in 2009. This training was in line with banks regulatory compliance in the country through focused collaboration on anti-money laundering, combating terrorists' activities, and ICT for protecting and monitoring financial malpractices. Other projects that gave us the right to partner with the Kwara state government includes our landmark achievement with the department of works in UK, the British Energy and other places.

How will your presence in Kwara make a difference its civil service?

Our work in Kwara will bring into life training survey from the training content which we have developed. At the beginning of the training on 9th November 2009, we handed to all trainees the content that will help in identifying the level of capacity in each participant. Because our training pattern through the content is based on basic ICT rules and applications, participants were able to be launched into proper use of computer including communication through the Internet.

The training content handed over to them; assist us to get positive feedbacks especially from those that are just having first experience with the use of laptops.

The State has also placed itself on the fare-front of digital device. The very good location for the training was another, which makes us to believe that the government is ready to make Kwara civil servants ICT compliant. The provision of laptops to all participants is a laudable effort worthy of emulation by others who are yearning to such.

How can ICT be improved in Africa?

We believe that ICT can assist African countries to develop people in remote areas if given access and benefit

of such ICT training. And this will also help community initiatives if provision of access to ordinary African Local Government and the remote areas. The idea of providing the training with laptops is a good one, especially in this period that there are electrical (power supply) problems and once a laptop is fully charged in a remote area, people can begin to use it for several hours and also take advantage of such. I think if such is generally put in place, the African continent will begin to enjoy the relevance of ICT in the modern world and benefit more and other related benefits attached especially for those that cannot afford it. It is also good to say here that it is high time that the African continent began to invest into technology. Though, such investment is huge but the return investment will outweigh the amount spent.

And very importantly, the cost of acquiring this be assisted by the government rather an individual in order to overcome the situations where the cost of getting all these are less for government organizations. Another area is that African continent should make use of several applications such as Microsoft and other software that not very rich countries could use as opportunity to train their citizenries.

News Extra



SOME of the 3,400 pairs of shoes belonging to Imelda Marcos found after her husband was ousted from office in 1986



MARCOS'S daughter Imee (right) is also running for office and aims to become governor of Ilocos Norte province

Imelda Marcos back into politics

Eyes closed and lips pursed, Imelda Marcos leans forward to plant a ghoulish kiss on the glass coffin containing her husband's embalmed corpse.

Many believed the former Filipino first lady, still elegant at 80, had cloistered herself away to spend her remaining days in anonymous ignominy.

They were wrong. At the last possible moment - and with her trademark taste for the theatrical - Marcos has exploded back into

politics. She announced at the weekend she will stand for her husband Ferdinand Marcos's former seat in national elections to be held on May 10.

Nor has age dulled her ambition. She is leading her brood into battle with daughter Imee running for governor of Ilocos Norte province and son Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Junior seeking a senate seat.

Marcos's decision to stand for parliament was a closely-guarded secret until now, in line with the Philippines strict election laws.

The political photocall held at the mausoleum in the basement of her own home, in the town of Batac, was her inimitable way of announcing she was back.

After posing with her husband's waxy body, resplendent in white jacket, ceremonial sash and polished medals, she moved upstairs to hold a press conference.

Typically, Marcos used the occasion to praise her controversial husband who was ousted by a 'people power' revolution in 1986.

‘He was our best ever president,’ she said, immaculate in tangerine blouse and matching trousers.

‘During his time we had territorial integrity, freedom, justice and human rights. Whatever else people may say those were the best times ever for the Philippines.’



IMELDA and her husband Ferdinand Marcos lived a life of excess while their people struggled to survive

She insisted age was no issue. ‘It is true that I am 80 years old, but I can also be a grandmother for our country,’ she said.

Marcos astounded political observers when she registered at the last possible moment to run for election.

She stressed that her motivation was redemption for her husband, who is accused of stealing billions of dollars from state coffers during his 20-year rule.

‘I did this to ensure and uphold political integrity and the truth,’ she said before outlining her ambitions for the country.

‘What I really want is to be a mother to each and every village so it will be a village fit for human beings,’ she said.

‘I will not stop until each and every village becomes a human settlement and also a paradise, because it is doable, because it is possible to make human settlements a paradise.’

The former first lady is no political novice. She was housing minister and governor of the Manila capital region during her husband's rule and also ran an

unsuccessful campaign for presidential office in 1992.

But it is her eccentricities, extravagance and corruption that most remember - as well as her collection of 3,400 pairs of shoes, many never worn.

They were discovered in her palatial apartments after the bloodless coup and immediately became a symbol of the couple's excess. While the Marcoses lived in splendour, millions of their people suffered abject poverty.



CAMPAIGN trail: Marcos (right) speaks to Batac residents from her battle bus after announcing her candidacy

In the wake of the coup, they fled to Hawaii, where the one-time president was to spend the last years of his life.

He died from kidney and heart failure in 1989 and was never brought to account for what is believed to have been the world's biggest theft.

His wife, however, was put before a New York court in 1990, accused of stealing \$220million.

This amounted to only a fraction of their jointly acquired wealth. Estimates stood at a staggering \$50billion.

She was acquitted but faced 901 separate lawsuits when she finally returned to the Philippines from exile in 1991. A handful are still outstanding.

The Marcos estate has also been successfully sued for \$2billion damages by 10,000-exiled Filipinos. But the irrepressible Imelda has never been convicted of a criminal offence.

She has run two unsuccessful presidential campaigns but her most high-profile venture in recent years was a clothing and jewellery chain.

News Extra

N14.8m missing after security van drops cash at busy road junction

... Sparks desperate scramble by motorists



MOTORISTS stopped to pick up fistfuls of dollars after a money bag fell from a security van and burst open

A desperate scramble for cash was sparked at a busy road junction when a money bag fell from a security van and burst open.

Around 20 motorists stopped to pick up fistfuls of dollars after the banknotes were sprayed into the air at an intersection in Columbus, Ohio.

More than \$100,000 (about N14.8million) is missing. But

police were able to recover an equal amount and members of the public handed in \$12,000 (about N1.8million).

Officers are now appealing for the remaining money to be given back to security firm, Garda Cash Logistics.

An emergency caller on Wednesday said there were '\$20 bills everywhere, money floating all over the place and it's causing a major scene.

Officers are now appealing for the remaining money to be given back to security firm, Garda Cash Logistics

'A bunch of people are blocking traffic because it looks like a truck has lost some money'

The bag fell into the street and burst when ran over by another vehicle about a block from a Garda facility.

Police Sergeant Dan Kelso said the cash was in various smaller bags and belongs to several businesses and banks.

'It's not free money,' he said. 'It's different than walking down

the street and finding a \$5 bill laying there.

'This is clearly marked, identifiable money that belongs to somebody else laying in the middle of a busy intersection with bank bags lying all over the place.

It's no different than if you found somebody's wallet and it was full of money, and clearly you can open the wallet and see it belongs to somebody. That's not your money.'

Police were reviewing mobile phone videos and surveillance video from a nearby stores, including a petrol station, in an effort to find out who has the missing cash.

Sergeant Kelso said no arrests had been made, but that people who fail to return cash could face charges such as grand theft.

'The people that have come in and been honest and turned in money, those people haven't been charged,' he said.

That's what people need to do because if we have to find them, which is what we're doing, we are going to charge them.'

Sergeant Kelso did not know where the vehicle was headed at the time, and it was unclear how the bag fell out of the truck.

'That's the \$100,000 question,' he added.

Joe Gavaghan, a spokesman for the company based in Montreal, Canada, said the firm was cooperating with police, but declined further.



MORE than \$100,000 is still missing but members of the public handed in \$12,000



BAGS of money: Police said that people who failed to return cash could face charges such as grand theft

TELLing it always!

*For these well researched stories
written in our inimitable style:*

■ Jonathan's Winning Team?

Mixed reactions greet the list of the new federal executive council, as Nigerians wonder whether it can pull the nation out of the woods

■ A Bill of Controversy

Controversy continues to trail the Petroleum Industry Bill even as the National Assembly appears set to accelerate its passage

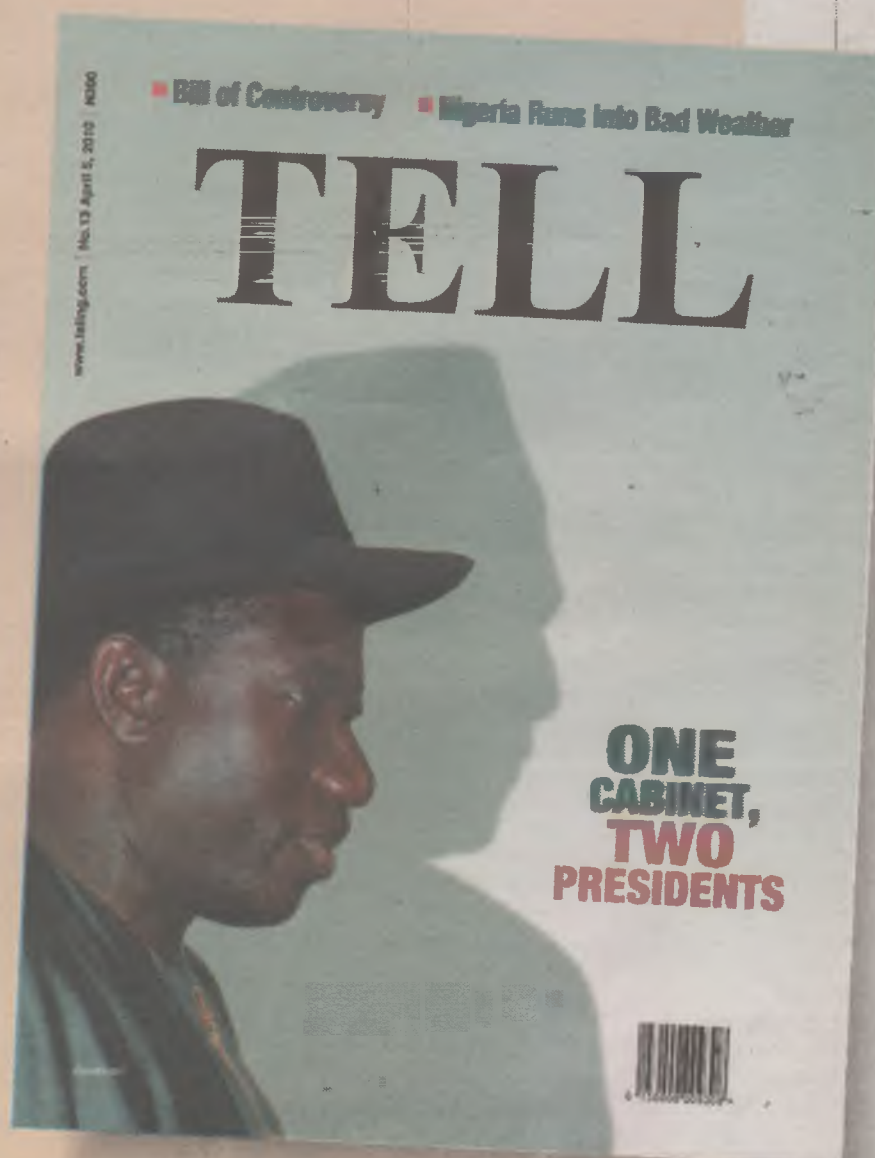
■ Raising Hopes

Senate passes the Second Amendment to the Nigerian constitution, making room for the much-anticipated electoral reform * The House of Representatives begins investigation into how Julius Berger plc got the contract to construct a runway at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja for a whopping N65 billion.

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19th March	08023900XXX Adesanya Adedeji	Who's next?	

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13 die in multiple accidents

PIC: ABUBAKAR SADIQ ISAH

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

THIRTEEN persons, including four children Thursday afternoon lost their lives in a fatal motor accident that occurred at Gada-Biyu village, along the Abuja-Lokoja road.

Our reporter learnt that 18 other persons that sustained various degrees of injuries were rushed to the hospital by a rescue squad, which comprised of police, civil defence and Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) officials.

An eye witness said the accident involved a Mercedes Benz truck with registration number XA 777 MGU, a Toyota Hiace bus with registration number ED 62B-28 that belongs to Edo Mass Transit and a Toyota Hiace bus with registration number XZ 664 KJA, belonging to Kogi Line Mass Transit.

The witness said one of the buses that wrongly overtook lost control and rammed into a stationary truck loaded with cement, thereby killing 12 pas-

sengers on the spot.

"The rest of the injured passengers in the bus and another bus were rushed to Abaji General Hospital by FRSC official, where one of them later died the next day.

Commenting on the incident, Yangoji's FRSC unit Commander, Abdullahi Umar, said the accident was caused by a stationary truck on the road that was loaded with bags of cement.

According to him, '43 persons were involved in the multiple crash that claimed the lives of seven males and five females, which consisted of four children.'

"All the corpses were taken to the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital's Morgue, while the 18 injured passengers were rushed to Kwali and Abaji General Hospitals for treatment.

The unit commander disclosed that the assistance of a construction firm (RCC Construction Company) was sought to remove the stationary truck from the road.



THE accident scene at Gada-Biyu village, where 13 persons died Thursday along the Abuja-Lokoja road.

Two brothers die mysteriously at Nyanya

By Abubakar Yakubu

TRAGEDY struck an apartment at Veterinary road, Nyanya, when two brothers within the ages of five and 10 years lost their lives on Friday and Saturday under mysterious circumstances.

The boys, Timothy and Joseph Titus did not show any sign of illness before they col-

lapsed and died.

When our reporter got to the house on Saturday, a Catholic requiem mass was on for the deceased children, while their mother, Martha Titus wept uncontrollably.

Her husband was not in the mood to speak with the press and neighbours said the corpses will be taken to Benue State the next day for burial.

Council polls: NUJ decries exclusion from observer's list

By Abubakar Yakubu

THE National Union of Journalists (NUJ) Abuja Council at the weekend condemned its exclusion from the list of observers to monitor the area council polls coming up on April 10.

Council's Chairman, Jacob Edi, said the union as a critical stakeholder in the electioneering process ought not to have been excluded by the FCT Resident Electoral Commissioner and urged him to include the council's name to observe the polls.

The council chairman also criticised some FCT area council aspirants from various political parties, who failed to turn out for a debate organised by the NUJ to enable them tell the electorates their pro-

grammes as well as policies.

Edi commended the chairman of Kuje Area Council who was at the debate personally, as well as those aspirants that sent representatives.

Speaking on the debate, the council chairman stated that the council was committed to ensure good governance, adding that all elected officials as well as political appointees of the FCT are expected to come and tell the people of the FCT what they have done for them and intend to do as the council have provided the platform for them to do so.

He warned that the council would work against the interests of candidates that refuse to come out for proper scrutiny during such forums.

AEPB's driver arraigned over traffic offence

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A driver with the Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB) was last Wednesday arraigned before an Abuja magistrate court for alleged traffic violations.

The driver, Ibrahim Ismail of Tunga Maje, Gwagwalada, Abuja, was accused of failing to obey traffic signs along Ademola Adetokunbo Crescent, Wuse 2, Abuja.

Prosecutor Monday Akor told the court that on February 1, the AEPB's driver drove a DAF truck with registration number CT 461 A11 and refused to obey hand signals from a traffic warden.

"On reaching NITEL junction, the accused damaged a Honda car driven by one A.B. Mohammed," the prosecutor added.

When the charge was read to

the accused, he denied it and requested for bail, which was not objected to by the prosecutor.

Magistrate Dogo Abdul granted the accused bail in the sum of N50,000 with a reliable surety, 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 April 21 for hearing.

Clearing agent charged with N2m forgery

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

THE police recently arraigned a 31-year-old clearing agent before an Abuja magistrate court for alleged forgery and attempting to withdraw N2 million from the account of one Mr. Akpala Egie.

The agent, Mr. Joe Onyebuchi Umeh of Isaya Street, Igando, Lagos, was accused of wanting to withdraw money from an account with UBA Plc with a forged cheque.

Prosecutor Jimin Austine, a deputy superintendent of police, informed the court that on February 23, one Archi Kevin of UBA Plc, Abuja, reported to the

police that the accused presented a forged cheque to the bank.

"The accused presented a forged cheque leaflet with number 17667615 to the bank and wanted to withdraw N2 million from the account of one Akpala Egie," the prosecutor said.

He told the court that the accused presented the forged cheque at Amingo branch of UBA and committed offences punishable under Sections 364 and 95 of the Penal Code Law.

When the charges were read to the accused, he pleaded not guilty and his counsel, Udeh B.I. made an oral application for his bail, promising the court that his client will not jump bail or inter-

fere with police investigations.

The prosecutor opposed the bail application on the grounds that the offences are not ordinarily bailable and that investigations into the case are still ongoing.

In her ruling, Chief Magistrate Binta Mohammed granted the accused bail in the sum of N200,000 with two sureties in like sums, who must be residents within the court's jurisdiction.

She also ruled that the sureties must be civil servants of not below grade level 09 and must submit official letters of their last promotion to the court.

The case was adjourned to May 3 for hearing.



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR FOOD SECURITY (NPFS/FAO)
(Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa Support to NPFS)
NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY (NPAFS)
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER RESOURCES (FMA&WR)



INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION
CONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION OF SMALL EARTH DAMS

1. The Federal Government of Nigeria has obtained a loan from the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) for co-financing the construction and rehabilitation of Small Earth Dams under the National Programme for Food Security (NPFS) Expansion Phase Support Project.
2. The tender for these structures will be by invitation only to private firms and voluntarily formed joint ventures duly registered to operate in African countries and Arab countries who have been pre-qualified through the process described herein. Applicants who wish to be considered in the pre-qualification process must obtain a copy of the "Pre- Qualification" documents, complete them in their entirety and submit them to the address set forth in paragraph 6 below by the dead line set forth in paragraph 7.
3. Request must clearly state "Request for Pre-qualification Documents for Construction and Rehabilitation of Small Earth Dams". The Pre-qualification documents will be provided free of charge. The National Programme for Food Security (NPFS) will issue the documents directly to the bidder, but under no circumstances will it be held responsible for any dissatisfaction arising thereof. Electronic copy may also be obtained from the website of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (www.badea.org).
4. The minimum requirements for bidder qualification are as follows:
 - i. An annual turnover in construction work of N50 million in of the last five years on continuous basis.
 - ii. Verifiable proof of experience as prime contractor in the construction of at least two works of a nature and complexity equivalent to the works mentioned above over the last 5 years (to comply with this requirement, works quoted should be at least 70% completed).
 - iii. Verifiable proof of ownership/unhindered access to essential equipment required for the job.
 - iv. A Project/Contract Manager with a minimum of 5 years experience-in works of equivalent nature and volume including not less than 3 years as Manager and verifiable proof of adequate personnel to carry out the work under consideration.
 - v. Verifiable proof of Liquid assets and/or confirmed credit facilities of not less than N10 million and audited bank account for the last 3 years.
 - vi. VAT registration certificate or similar for bidders.
 - vii. Evidence of Company Registration with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) or home country registration for International bidders.
 - viii. Evidence of payment of tax for the past 3 years.
5. Only firms and joint ventures fully meeting the minimum criteria established in the prequalification process will be considered for the invitation to the tenders.
6. All enquiries and completed documents are to be submitted in sealed envelope clearly marked "Pre-qualification for construction and rehabilitation of Small Earth Dams" to the:

National Coordinator,
 National Programme for Agriculture and Food Security (NPAFS)
 Plot 127 Adetokunbo Ademola Crescent, Wuse II
 FCT Abuja.

Attention: NPFS BADEA Project Officer
 Tel +234 803 317 6363
 Email: abu@mail1@yahoo.com
Cheikh.sam@faa.org unigbinoaba@yahoo.com
7. The deadline for submission of the duly completed Prequalification Document and related documents is Thursday 13th May, 2010.
8. The National Programme For Food Security (NPFS) /FAO intends to employ qualified contractors for construction and rehabilitation works in lots in the following locations:

Contract 1: Kaduna State

New Const.: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) Small Earth dam in Gagara, Gwa Local Government Area ii) Small Earth dam in Ungwar Kanawa, Gwa Local Government Area iii) Small Earth dam in Mayir, Sanga Local Government Area iv) Small Earth dam in Rimau, Kajuru Local Government Area v) Small Earth dam in Tsibiri, Chikun Local Government Area vi) Small Earth dam in Kwagiri, Jama'a Local Government Area vii) Small Earth dam in Fadan Altakar, Kaura Local Government Area viii) Small Earth dam in Kauga, Makari Local Government Area ix) Small Earth dam in Galadimawa, Soba Local Government Area 	Rehab.: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) Rehabilitation of Small Earth dam in Garu, Kudan Local Government Area ii) Rehabilitation of Small Earth dam in In (station), Kajuru Local Government Area iii) Rehabilitation of Small Earth dam in Kasuwar Magani, Kajuru Local Government Area iv) Rehabilitation of Small Earth dam in Kays, Gwa Local Government Area v) Rehabilitation of Small Earth dam in Tattaura, Sanga Local Government Area vi) Rehabilitation of Small Earth dam in Tudun Saibu, Soba Local Government Area
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Contract 2: Katsina State

New Const.: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) Small Earth dam in Sha Iri, Batagawa Local Government Area ii) Small Earth dam in Anashiri, Malumfashi Local Government Area iii) Small Earth dam in Nasarawa, Faskari Local Government Area iv) Small Earth dam in Aluma, Musawa Local Government Area v) Small Earth dam in Dankaba, Kaita Local Government Area vi) Small Earth dam in Manomawa, Ingawa Local Government Area vii) Small Earth dam in Dogon Ruwa, Dutsin-Ma Local Government Area viii) Small Earth dam in Riya / Muduru, Mari Local Government Area 	Rehab.: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) Rehabilitation of Small Earth dam in Gangara, Malumfashi Local Government Area ii) Rehabilitation of Small Earth dam in Gwani Marte, Malumfashi Local Government Area iii) Rehabilitation of Small Earth dam in Gora Dansaka, Malumfashi Local Government Area iv) Rehabilitation of Small Earth dam in Daudawa, Faskari Local Government Area v) Rehabilitation of Small Earth dam in Kurujam, Musawa Local Government Area vi) Rehabilitation of Small Earth dam in Danjanku, Musawa Local Government Area vii) Rehabilitation of Small Earth dam in Dono Sawarya, Kaita Local Government Area viii) Rehabilitation of Small Earth dam in Yallawai, Ingawa Local Government Area ix) Rehabilitation of Small Earth dam in Daunaka Masaka, Ingawa Local Government Area x) Rehabilitation of Small Earth dam in Jaci, Mari Local Government Area
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Contract 3: Ogun State

New Const.: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) Small Earth dam in Ago Iwoye, Ijebu North Local Government Area ii) Small Earth dam in Ajambata, Ewekoro Local Government Area iii) Small Earth dam in Ajegunle, Odeda Local Government Area iv) Small Earth dam in Araromi - Ladipo, Odeda Local Government Area v) Small Earth dam in Ilogbu, Ado / Odo / Ota Local Government Area vi) Small Earth dam in Imeko, Imeko / Afon Local Government Area vii) Small Earth dam in Itolu, Yewa South Local Government Area viii) Small Earth dam in Iyetedo, Abeokuta Local Government Area ix) Small Earth dam in Tigboni, Ijebu East Local Government Area 	Rehab.: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) Rehabilitation of Small Earth dam in Ago - Iwoye, Ijebu North Local Government Area ii) Rehabilitation of Small Earth dam in Eweje, Odeda Local Government Area iii) Rehabilitation of Small Earth dam in Ijode, Yewa South Local Government Area iv) Rehabilitation of Small Earth dam in Ikenne, Ikene Local Government Area
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Contract 4: Oyo State

New Const.: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) Small Earth dam in Abede, Ogbomoso South Local Government Area ii) Small Earth dam in Batake, Ido Local Government Area iii) Small Earth dam in Fashola, Oyo West Local Government Area iv) Small Earth dam in Ibadon, Ogbomoso South Local Government Area v) Small Earth dam in Idere, Ibarapa Central Local Government Area vi) Small Earth dam in Ifora, Afijio Local Government Area vii) Small Earth dam in Iwara, Afijio Local Government Area viii) Small Earth dam in Kisi (Gidan Medina), Irepo Local Government Area ix) Small Earth dam in Okolo (Eruwa), Ibarapa East Local Government Area x) Small Earth dam in Onidundu, Akinyele Local Government Area xi) Small Earth dam in Ado Awaye, Iseyin Local Government Area 	Rehab.: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) Rehabilitation of Small Earth dam in Akulo, Ido Local Government Area ii) Rehabilitation of Small Earth dam in Alabata, Akinyele Local Government Area iii) Rehabilitation of Small Earth dam in Eruwa, Ibarapa East Local Government Area iv) Rehabilitation of Small Earth dam in Kisi, Irepo Local Government Area v) Rehabilitation of Small Earth dam in Pade, Akinyele Local Government Area
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Note: Bidders can bid for one or more CONTRACT depending on their capacities.

SIGNED

National Coordinator,
 National Programme For Agriculture and Food Security (NPAFS)
 Plot 127 Adetokunbo Ademola Crescent, Wuse II
 FCT Abuja.

Drama as PDP "flag bearers" campaign for same position

By Hussein Yahaya

CONFUSION appears to have taken over the Peoples Democratic Party's (PDP) camp in Bwari, as two aspirants, who claim to be the party's chairmanship flag bearer are campaigning for the same position, 13 days to the FCT area council election.

The activities of the aspirants, Peter Yohanna and Musa Dikko appear to be confusing the electorates as both claim to be the legitimate flag bearer, during their campaign tours to various communities in the council area as well as paste their campaign posters under the PDP's logo.

Our reporter learnt that Peter Yohanna won the party's primaries and had to be substituted with Musa Dikko when it was alleged that he was collecting salaries as a

council staff, while still working as a public servant at National Assembly Commission.

The party through its national chairman later gave Yohanna the nod to contest but the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) had stopped collecting names for substitution and recognised Dikko as the PDP's flag bearer in Bwari.

Our reporter learnt that the PDP wrote to INEC informing them of the re-instatement of Yohanna as the party's flag bearer, which has not been implemented because Dikko is normally invited to INEC's functions.

However, when the lists of aspirants for the FCT council polls were released few weeks ago by INEC, Musa Dikko's name was published.

Interstate motorists urged to embrace e-enforcement

By Ogechi Ohalee

THE Directorate of Road Traffic Services (DRTS) have advised motorists that are regular visitors to the FCT to embrace the e-enforcement micro-chips or encoded driver's license in order to save time that is lost through manual enforcement.

DRTS Director, retired

Major Adamu S. Argungu said motorists coming into the FCT will not be sanctioned for not having the micro-chips or encoded driver's license but will be checked manually by DRTS officials.

The director was very optimistic that the project will in no distance time extend to other states because of its advantages.

According to him, the project is a private-partner project with the FCT authorities, of which the company that is partnering with FCT is responsible for the production of the micro-chips.

"The essence of the e-enforcement is not for revenue generation but to give better services to the public," the director stated.

AEPB tasks residents on monthly sanitation

By Usman A Bello & Hussein Yahaya

AN official of the Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB) at the weekend charged residents of the Federal Capital Territory to always observe the monthly sanitation exercise by cleaning their immediate surroundings.

AEPB's Deputy Director on Environment, Monitoring and Statistic Department, Uche Agbanusi, said although the level of compliance is encouraging, a lot needs to be done to stop the practice whereby some residents ignore the restriction and walk along the street during the exercise.

"We saw lots of people

moving around as we were going round to monitor the exercise and this is unfortunate because we do not have enough man power and capacity to arrest such persons," he lamented.

The deputy director however assured that the board will plan better in the next exercise to ensure that all residents comply.

Residents caught disobeying the restrictions were arrested, arraigned before mobile courts, where they were convicted as well as fined various amounts.

At Mpape, residents seen cleaning round the market called on the AEPB to carry out weekly sanitation in the place so that it can be properly cleaned.

A shop owner at the market, Godwin Agabi, said they had to clean round the market because it was too dirty, saying most traders did not turn out because of the fear that they may be held for violating the restriction.

The compliance was encouraging at Bwari as most resident were seen cleaning their surrounding.

Some residents called on AEPB to provide waste bins in strategic locations in the community to stop littering of dirt on the streets.

It would be recalled that officials of the AEPB have in the past informed residents to come to their offices with bank tellers (showing payments) to purchase waste bins.

Cleric tasks parents on children's education

By Hussein Yahaya & Muideen Olaniyi

A religious leader, Ustaz Ibrahim Mohammed has appealed to parents to always pay serious attention to their children's educational quest.

Ustaz Mohammed, who gave the advice in Bwari Yesterday, said Muslim parents should give both Islamic and western education to their wards.

He said Islam is not against any science related knowledge and urged parents as well as guardians to monitor their children's dressing habits, especially the female ones, adding that indecent dressing can expose them to various societal evils.

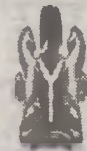
He called on Muslim faithful to always pray for peace to return to the middle-east and for the liberation of the Palestine people.

In another development, Ustaz Abdulka-beer Tijany yesterday informed Muslims to be an embodiment of good qualities.

The scholar, who was speaking at the monthly lecture of the Organization of Thadamunul Muslimeen (OTM), FCT chapter, said people embrace Islam because of the exemplary behaviours and good qualities of Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W).

He said Islam has provided guides on politics, justice system, cultural practices, health system, economy and morality among other areas of human interests.

"Research has shown that the recent global economic meltdown was caused by the practices of interest based economy, which Islam is against, noting that only Islamic banks are not affected by meltdown," he stated.



NATIONAL PROGRAMME ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY (NPAFS) FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER RESOURCES AREA 11, GARKI ABUJA.

INVITATION FOR TENDER FOR

CONSTRUCTION, EQUIPPING AND CONSULTANCY SUPERVISION OF SMALL-SCALE AGRO-INDUSTRIAL FACTORIES

Tender Identification No: NPAFS/ML/AIE/2009/1

1 The National Programme on Agriculture and Food Security (NPAFS) of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources has received donor support funds and Federal government budgetary allocation for executing its activities under the programme mandate. The NPAFS programme intends to apply part of this allocation for payments under the contracts for the construction, equipping and consultancy supervision of Small-scale Agro-industries in the 36 States and FCT. Project implementation will be done in collaboration with the Bank of Industry (BOI) as Fund Custodian and Administrator.

2 The NPAFS now invites sealed tenders from eligible and qualified tenderers for the construction, equipping and supervision of the under-listed works:

LOTS	DESCRIPTION OF WORKS	LOCATION	COMPLETION PERIOD
A	Construction of Cassava Agro Industry building perimeter fencing, borehole, electrification and fabrication/supply of generators and prescribed processing equipment in 11 states as prescribed in the bid document.		
A1.	Construction and equipping of cassava factory buildings as stated above in 6 States	Akwa-Ibom, Bayelsa, Delta, Ekiti, Enugu, Imo	180 Days per Lot
	Consultancy for resident supervision of cassava agroindustry building and Installation/ Testrun of Cassava agro processing machinery in 11 States as prescribed in the bid document specifications.		
A2.	Consultancy for resident supervision of cassava factory building and Installation/Testrun of Cassava processing machinery as stated above in 6 States	Akwa-Ibom, Bayelsa, Delta, Ekiti, Enugu, Imo	210 Days per Lot
A3.	Construction and equipping of Cassava factory buildings as stated above in 5 States	Kogi, Nasarawa, Taraba, Ondo, Oyo	180 Day per Lot
A4.	Consultancy for resident supervision of cassava factory building and Installation/Testrun of Cassava processing machinery as stated above in 5 States	Kogi, Nasarawa, Ondo, Oyo, Taraba	210 Days per Lot
B	Construction of Rice Agroindustry building perimeter fencing, borehole, electrification and fabrication /supply of generators and processing equipment in 15 states as prescribed in the bid document		
B1.	Construction and equipping of Rice factory buildings as stated above in 9 States	Benue, Kwara, Plateau, Niger, Bauchi, Kebbi, Kano, Kaduna, FCT	180 Days per Lot
	Consultancy for resident supervision of Rice agro-Industry building and Installation/ Testrun of Rice-agro processing machinery in 15 States as prescribed in the bid document specifications.		
B2.	Consultancy for resident supervision of Rice factory building and Installation/Testrun of processing machinery as stated above in 9 States	Benue, Kwara, Plateau, Niger, Bauchi, Kebbi, Kano, Kaduna, FCT	210Days per Lot
B3.	Construction and equipping of Rice factory buildings as stated above in 6 States	Ogun, Oshun, Lagos, Ebonyi, Edo, Cross River	180 Days per Lot
B4.	Consultancy for resident supervision of Rice factory building and Installation/Testrun of processing machinery as stated above in 6 States	Ogun, Oshun, Lagos, Ebonyi, Edo, Cross River	210Days per Lot

FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRE, GUSAU

P.M.B.1008, SANI ABACHA WAY GUSAU, ZAMFARA

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR 2010 CAPITAL PROJECTS

A. INTRODUCTION

The Federal Medical Centre, Gusau hereby invites interested and reputable contractors, companies/firms with relevant experience and good track records to tender for the following projects:

- Lot 1 Construction of Pharmacy Department
- Lot 2 Construction of Gynaecology Ward
- Lot 3 Supply of Equipment for Obstetrics & Gynaecology Clinic
- Lot 4 Supply of Equipment for Theatre/ICU
- Lot 5 Supply of Equipment for Physiotherapy Department
- Lot 6 Supply of Equipment for Radiology Department

B. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Interested bidders are to submit the following:

1. Name Address, e-mail address, telephone and fax number of their company.
2. Certificate of Registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission.
3. Evidence of Tax clearance for 3 years.
4. Evidence of experience with similar Jobs in the last three years.
5. Evidence of financial capability to handle the job.
6. Evidence of VAT Registration Certificate.
7. Name(s) and address (es) of Bankers.
8. Company Profile with names and qualification (s) of key personnel.
9. Certificate of Registration with Federal Works Registration Board (Minimum of D category for construction work).
10. Evidence of authorization from Federal Government approved Medical Equipment Manufacturers (for supply of Medical equipment).
11. Company's 2 years Audited Account.

C. SUBMISSIONS

All submissions should include receipt of payment of non-refundable processing fee of Ten Thousand, Naira, N10,000.00 only.

The completed qualification documents should be sealed and marked **CONFIDENTIAL: CONTRACT FOR (Indicate LOT and Project name)**, and addressed to:

**The Medical Director,
Federal Medical Centre,
P.M.B. 1008, Sani Abacha Way,
Gusau, Zamfara State.**

The documents should be submitted not later than **2 weeks** from the Date of this publication. All submission will be opened a day after Closing Date at 12:00 noon.

D. TENDERS:

Only contractors/firms who have satisfied qualification requirements above will be allowed to submit financial bids. The Tender documents are obtainable at the Planning Office of the Federal Medical Centre, Gusau.

The Federal Medical Centre, Gusau reserves the right to reject any or all submissions without any liability whatsoever.

Signed:
DR. T. A. AIYEDUN
Medical Director

FOR SERVICE ON THE 1ST DEFENDANT CT. 11
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT OF KADUNA STATE OF NIGERIA

HEARING NOTICE

Suit No: KDH/KAD/62/2008

Between M. Ola Hemobola Trading Co Ltd, & 1 or Plaintiff
And
..... Auto Mobile & Eng. Nig. Ltd. & 3 or Defendant

To 1st Defendant Auto Mobile & Eng. Nig. Ltd

The above named suit before High Court No 11 N.D.A. Kaduna
This cause will be transferred from the General Cause List to the Hearing Paper for Pretrial conference the 13th day of April, 2010.

At 9:00am o'clock in the forenoon, and will come on to be heard on that day if the business of the Court permits or otherwise on some adjournment day of which you will receive no further notice.

If either party desires to postpone the hearing he must apply to the Court as soon as possible for that purpose; and, if the application is based on any matter of fact, he must be prepared to give proof of those facts.

The parties are warned that at the hearing they are required to bring forward all the evidence by witnesses or by documents which each of them desires to rely on in support of his own case and in contradiction of that of his opponent. The proof will be required at the hearing and not on a subsequent day, and parties failing to bring their evidence forward at the proper time may find themselves absolutely precluded from adducing it at all, or at best only allowed to do so on payment or substantial costs to the other side, and on such other terms as the Court thinks fit to impose.

Parties desirous to enforce the attendance of witnesses should apply at once to the Court to issue one or more summonses for the attendance of the witnesses required. It is indispensable that the application should be made so as to allow time for reasonable notice to the witnesses required.

If the witness is required to bring books or papers, they must be particularised in the summons sufficiently to enable him to understand what is meant.

Any party summoning a witness through the Court, thereby becomes liable to pay such witness a reasonable sum of money to be fixed by the court for his expense and loss of time.

The court may refuse to enforce the attendance of a witness unless such sum has been first deposited in the court.

If either party desire to use in evidence at the hearing any book or document in the possession or power of the other party, he must give the other party reasonable notice in writing to produce it at the hearing, failing which he will not be allowed to give any secondary evidence of its contents.

Dated at: High Court Kaduna, this 26th day of March 2010

By order of the court

GPKDS R 643



NATIONAL SUGAR DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
ABUJA



INVITATION TO TENDER FOR PARTITIONING OF OFFICE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Management of the National Sugar Development Council (NSDC) hereby invite reputable and interested companies to Tender for the partitioning of its office.

2.0 TENDER INSTRUCTIONS

Interested contractors should collect Bid Documents from the Secretary, Tender's Board of the National Sugar Development Council as from 12 noon, 30th March, 2010, after payment of a non-refundable fee of N10,000 (Ten thousand naira only).

3.0 SUBMISSION OF BID DOCUMENTS

The completed Tender Documents with a copy of the receipt of Tender fee shall be submitted in a sealed envelope and marked "Office partitioning" at the top right corner of the envelope and addressed to:

**The Executive Secretary
National Sugar Development Council
4th Floor, RCC Building
Plot 564/565, Independent Avenue, Central Business District,
P.M.B. 299,
Garki Abuja.**

Deadline for the submission of completed Tender Documents is two weeks from the date of this publication (not later than 4p.m. on 13th April, 2010) while the date of bid opening will be 15th April, 2010 at 11 a.m. in the Conference Room of NSDC, Plot 564/565, Independence Avenue, Central Business District, RCC Building, Abuja.

Signed
Management

PROPERTY

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Aluko condemns sale of govt houses

FOREMOST economist, and former Chairman, National Economic Intelligence Committee (NEIC), Professor Sam Aluko, last week said the sale of government houses under Obasanjo's administration was a criminal act against ordinary Nigerians.

The renowned academic, who spoke at the national dissemination workshop on the housing component of the 2006 Census, held at the Yar'Adua Centre, Abuja, said it was criminal to sell houses designed and built for the low income earners to the rich ones.

Aluko said: "A situation where the leaders will buy the

houses belonging to the people is criminal."

He said, it is not practiced anywhere, a situation where the rich men bought over houses and the people these houses were built for could not get them.

The national dissemination workshop on the housing component of the 2006 Census, organised by the National Population Commission (NPC), is to sensitise the general public and stakeholders on the range of housing data generated in the 2006 Population and housing Census.

Aluko, commended efforts made by governments in the past to construct modern houses in the main capital cit-

ies and some other urban conurbations, urged stakeholders including institutions of learning to provide housing accommodation in the country.

His word: "But since 1999, with the inception of the civilian regime of former President Olusegun Obasanjo, the Federal Government and many of the state governments have pursued the privatisation of such houses by selling them off to individuals and substituting a housing monetisation policy that is not only retrogressive but also inadequate to cover the cost of decent housing for any category of public servants.

'Port infrastructure in W/Central Africa inadequate'

A maritime expert, Mrs Felicity Ankoma-Sey, says private port operators have not done enough in providing adequate infrastructure in West and Central Africa sub-region ports.

Ankoma-Sey, who lectures at the Regional Maritime University in Accra, said this on Friday in a paper entitled: "Private Participation in Ports and Shipping Infrastructure."

She presented the paper at a workshop for media and public relations officers in the maritime industry.

The lecturer said government often invested more in port infrastructure than private sector operators, especially in government-controlled and land locked port systems.

Ankoma-Sey said government in the region also invested more in the superstructures at the ports.

She described shipping as one of the oldest industries in the world with specialised fields like ship building, ship brokerage, ship financing, ship demolition and shipping services.

Ankom-Sey, however, said shipping practitioners faced the obstacles of funding, adding that individuals and organisations often require state guarantees to facilitate funding. (NAN)



AN ironworker walks on a beam at One World Trade Center construction site in New York at the weekend.

Perm Sec wants national policy for Abuja devt

By Nasir Imam

THE FCT Permanent Secretary, Dr. Goke Adegoye, has called for the immediate evolution of a National Policy for the Sustainable Development of Abuja.

The Permanent Secretary made this call during the FCT Operations Briefing Session at Gwarimpa I District (Life-Camp), Abuja.

Dr. Adegoye said that while Abuja is trying to live up to its Founding Fathers' expectation of being the Centre of Unity, it

is also setting records as the fastest growing city in the world; pointing out that Abuja's population growth is 95% influx-based.

The Permanent Secretary added that, as the Federal Capital City, the legitimate business of Abuja revolves around government bureaucracy, the legislature and the judiciary; but that in contrast to other Federal Capital Cities of the world like Canberra; Pretoria, Abuja is also becoming a haven for such social pressure exerting populations like School drop-outs and graduates

in search of jobs; petty traders looking for new outlets; displaced persons fleeing from ethno-religious hot-spot States; retirees awaiting pensions; drug barons; robbers; political thugs as well as 419ers dropping names of political big wigs to prey on innocent citizens.

Dr. Adegoye remarked that at this rate of growth and influx population mix, it will not take long for Abuja to get to the level of the mega city problems we ran away from in Lagos.

Commission partners CBN over infrastructure

SUSTAINABLE financing framework to address infrastructure gaps in the country is the driving force behind the new Infrastructure Finance Office (IFO) of the Central Bank of Nigeria.

Head of the Specialised Services Division of the apex bank, Mr. Uji Amedu, who led a team from the IFO to the office of the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission in Abuja, explained that the establishment of the new unit was to address the funding gap in infrastructure development.

"The Central Bank appreciates the need to provide some intervention finance but the burden of huge and long-term facility for infrastructure financing can also be

borne by other financial institutions like the insurance companies and the pension fund administrators, subject to the provisions of relevant laws," Amedu said.

He described the establishment of ICRC as timely and noted that the roles of the commission were in tune with the roles of similar government institutions in developed economies, adding that with necessary support from public and private institutions, the country's infrastructure deficit would witness a turnaround.

ICRC Director General, Engr. Mansur Ahmed described the CBN initiative as a catalyst for actualising the economic vision of the government in the area of physical development.

According to him, such financial policy would provide succour to prospective private investors in the government's Public Private Partnership programme.

He said, "The provision of public goods, particularly infrastructure services, is no longer the preserve of public institutions. Demands in terms of the required technical, managerial and institutional capacity for the growing economy and population is beyond the government."

He therefore sought support for the PPP programme which he said 'is part of changes in global economy aimed at closing the gap between public and private sectors'.

He highlighted the roles of the ICRC

to include the provision of regulatory and institutional framework and guidelines for PPP, and not entering into PPP contracts.

"ICRC guides government ministries, departments and agencies responsible for infrastructure services to do so in an effective and sustainable manner. The commission coordinates the process and provides guidelines to ensure value for money and reasonable returns for private investors," the DG explained.

He said the commission is also charged to ensure that PPP parties comply with contract agreements and that services are delivered in the most effective manner.

Property



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High cost of Abuja accommodation worrisome

By Mustapha Suleiman

COST of accommodation has continued to increase in the Federal Capital Territory in spite of the Federal Government's assurance that it is making housing affordable to residents rather than reducing, thus the problems of housing in Abuja - both within the metropolis and satellite towns - are swelling day after day.

It is not that houses are not available, especially in the city centre, but the cost of renting them is far beyond the rich on an average Nigerian.

At the Jabi district it is a common sight to see many houses with bold inscription: "To Let" but without willing tenants to occupy them. The cost of renting such apartment which is usually three bedroom ranges from 1.5 to 2 million naira per year. An average Nigerian does not earn such amount per annum not to talk of paying such annually for rent.

One big surprise is that these houses are being built by the rich Nigerians all over the FCT while

less consideration is given to low cost houses that will be affordable to majority of Nigerians.

According to Mr. Tosho Omolola, a resident of Federal Housing Lugbe, an outskirt of the FCT, the rich men that have the means of putting up structures in the FCT are less concerned about building or providing houses for the low income earners.

"They don't mind even if they build these houses and nobody occupies them for years. They keep building mansions all over the places with their rent cost running into millions. They believe in getting the money in millions and not in thousands," he lamented.

For Miss Stella James, "mass housing should be priority of the federal government, area councils and Federal Housing Authority, an agency that is entrusted with such in Nigeria. If the landlords cannot provide houses for low income earners at least the government should come to the rescue but it is unfortunate that most of these mass housing being provided by FHA are still far beyond what we

can call mass housing. At the end of the day it is still the rich that buy and occupy them," she observed.

In a recent statistics report put the housing deficit in Nigeria at about 16 million. It is one of the items on the seven-point agenda of President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua.

Abuja being the Federal Capital Territory is worst hit by the high cost of house rent and this is not unconnected with the daily influx of people into the city.

In Abuja for instance, investigations have shown that a single room apartment, otherwise called studio apartment goes for between N 400,000 and N 500,000 in areas such as Asokoro, Maitama, Garki 11, and Wuse 11 districts. Other areas which share same rent are Utako, Jabi and Life Camp.

In the areas listed above, a standard one bedroom apartment goes for between N600, 000 and N700, 000 per annum, depending on the facilities in the house and style of building. A two-bedroom and three-bedroom apartment is between N800, 000- N1000000, and N1.200, 000 and N1.500, 000

respectively per annum.

The efforts of Abuja residents to build houses of their own always end in frustration and demolition.

Mr. Uchenna Ogbonna, trader, said that for a low income earner to get land allocation in the FCT is as difficult as putting a thread in the eye of a needle.

"You cannot get land allocation in approved areas. It is exclusively for the highly connected and the rich. So in desperation we buy land from indigenes in the outskirt to build houses but at the end they will come with their bulldozers to

demolish them all in the name of getting rid of illegal structures or shanties. Yet they did not provide us with alternatives."

He maintained that the issue of housing and the general living conditions in Abuja and the country at large may be responsible for the high rate of crime and corruption in the country.

"From what I know, the income per annum of many civil servants is not even up to the total amount of money they are required to pay for accommodation alone. So how do they cope?" he asked.



A block of flats in Utako, Abuja



THE PRESIDENCY
THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE NNMA
NIGERIAN NATIONAL MERIT AWARD

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE PURCHASE OF 250KVA
SOUND PROOF PERKINS GENERATOR SET.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Nigerian National Merit Award in accordance with the Public Procurement Act intends to purchase a 250KVA sound proof Perkins Generator set from manufacturers or accredited distributors.

In the light of the above, the Governing Board of the NNMA hereby invites competent manufacturers or distributors of Generators to submit quotations for the procurement and installation of the 250KVA sound proof Perkins Generator set.

2. TENDER BIDS REQUIREMENTS:

All interested manufacturers or accredited distributors are expected to submit the following with the tender bids:-

- Evidence of registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission.
- Current Tax Clearance Certificate.
- VAT registration certificate.
- Three years audited report.
- Demonstration of financial capabilities.
- For accredited distributors, they are expected to show proof/evidence of the manufacturers they are representing.

3. NON-REFUNDABLE TENDER FEE

All interested bidders are expected to pay a non-refundable tender fee of fifty thousand naira (N50, 000.00) in certified bank draft and payable to The Nigerian National Merit Award.

4. PLEASE KINDLY NOTE THAT:-

- The NNMA reserves the right to verify the authenticity or otherwise of any

claims made on the bid documents.

- Tender documents submitted late shall be rejected.
- NNMA will not enter into correspondence with any Company on why it was not considered.
- The NNMA is not bound to accept the lowest tender.
- Bidders are advised to fully comply with the tender's bids requirements.

5. SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS:-

- The completed bid documents should be returned within six weeks from the date of the advertisement in a sealed envelop in five (5) copies.

- The sealed envelop should be clearly marked "Bid documents for the Procurement and Installation of 250KVA sound proof Perkins Generator set" and addressed to:-

The Secretary
Governing Board of the NNMA
3rd Floor, Merit House,
No. 22 Aguiyi Ironsi Street,
Maitama-Abuja.

6. OPENING OF THE BIDS
DOCUMENTS

All Bid documents shall be opened in the NNMA Board room 3rd floor Merit House on the 7th May, 2010 at 10.00 a.m prompt in the presence of all bidders or their representatives.

Signed
Secretary, NNMA

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Office of the Chief Registrar of Cooperatives, FCT
in conjunction with
Abuja Cooperative Federation (ABCOF)

In a meeting with the Management, Staff and Customers of TRIMM Multi-purpose Cooperative Society Ltd, on 24th March, 2010 at Abuja Cooperative Federation Secretariat, the two bodies looked with keen interest into the problems associated with the current challenges facing TRIMM Society, resolved and appointed a twenty (20) man committee made up of Office of the Chief Registrar of Cooperatives FCT, Board members of Abuja Cooperative Federation, Notary Publics, Members and Management of TRIMM Cooperative, with a mandate to within sixty (60) days perform the following tasks:

- To accordingly intervene, restructure and re-organize the management and operations of TRIMM Cooperative Society for effectiveness.
- To revive and re-open the society's offices in the shortest time possible with the aim of settling members claims in order to restore confidence.
- To re-open all TRIMM's factories and other ailing productive ventures.
- To dispose of TRIMM's interest in long term investments in order to generate enough working capital as quickly as possible.

Support is therefore solicited from members of the society and general public to enable the Committee deliver on these objectives.

For further enquiries and contributions, contact the following between
9.00am - 5.00pm Monday to Friday. Chief B. A Bello 08037051212,
Pius Ebong 08033138956.

President
Abuja Cooperative Federation

Chief Registrar of Cooperative
Federal Capital Territory

Property



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Lagos to relocate Mile 12 market

FROM the rubbles of Ajelogo, a slum area in the Kosofe Local Government Area of Lagos that fell to the demolition squad last week, a new residential complex may soon rise, as state government moves to effect the anticipated relocation of the popular Mile 12 foodstuff market to Ikorodu area of the state.

The almost 20 hectares of stretch of land previously occupied by the slum area is to accommodate a housing estate that would cater for middle and low income dwellers. Also planned for the site are dedicated power and water plants.

Although details of the project were still sketchy by the weekend, the state Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Mr. Francisco Abosede, a Town Planner, confirmed the development but declined to offer the details of the project as the state governor, Mr. Babatunde Fashola would soon unveil the state government's plans for the area.

It was also learnt that in addition to the housing estate, a mall, mega filling station and a standard hotel could be incorporated in the project.

Meanwhile, residents in the neighbourhood appeared

to breathe a sigh of relief following the demolition exercise, which saw the eviction of miscreants that hitherto inhabited the notorious area.

Besides, the slum area, which was hitherto designated as market place, had for a long time constituted an environmental nuisance to the area, making free flow of water difficult during the rainy season.

A community leader in the area, Otunba Solomon Aderibigbe, commenting on the removal of illegal structures and displacement of the miscreants, said that the action was overdue.

Residents want rent edict in Bayelsa

SOME residents of Yenagoa in Bayelsa have urged the state government to introduce a rent edict to control rents in the area.

The residents, who spoke in separate interviews, said the measure would check the current high rents being charged in the state.

Mr Goodluck Oyadongha said he pays N3,000 per month for a room apartment in a "face-me-I-face-you" residential building in the Amaratia suburb of Yenagoa.

"We share a general toilet and bathroom. The shylock landlords do not even accept monthly payments, as they prefer yearly payment at the expiration of whatever advance payment you had made earlier," he said.

One-bedroom flat goes for between N150,000 and N180,000 per annum in the state capital.

The rent for a two-

bedroom flat goes for between N250,000 and N300,000 while a three-bedroom flat attracts about N500,000 annually in Yenagoa.

Another resident, Mr Eddy Osaro, said: "What is happening in Yenagoa is still like a dream to me compared to Benin City in Edo.

He said a one-bedroom flat goes for N72,000 per annum in Benin City, while a three-bedroom flat goes for just N180,000 annually.

Osaro said some houses in Yenagoa lacked conveniences, adding that those living close to bushes resorted to using polythene bags to defecate and throw excrements into the surrounding bushes and gutters.

Most residents have relocated from Yenagoa to adjoining villages, such as Akaba, Famgbe and

Bebelebiri across the Nun River.

Investigation also revealed that the areas provide cheaper accommodation, where a room goes for between N1,500 and N2,000 a month.

Some of the houses in the villages are built with mud and aluminum roofs.

The residents are contending with the problem of having to ply the river in canoes daily at the cost of N5 per trip.

The state government had built two housing estates at Okaka and Ekeki for acquisition by willing individuals as part of measures to ease the accommodation problem in the area.

The houses are in three-bedroom apartments and sold for N5 million at Ekeki and N8 million at Okaka respectively. (NAN)

We share a general toilet and bathroom. The shylock landlords do not even accept monthly payments, as they prefer yearly payment at the expiration of whatever advance payment you had made earlier

Parking lot for petrol tankers soon in Kano

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

THE Projects Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate has set up a committee tasked with finding a suitable site for the construction of a modern parking lot for petrol tankers.

Inaugurating the committee in his office, the Commissioner in charge of the directorate, Alhaji Ibrahim Garba said the setting up of the committee was in compliance with the directive of the state Governor, Malam Ibrahim Shekarau during his visit to the NNPC Depot in Hoto area of Kano.

Alhaji Garba disclosed that the committee would also proffer technical advice to the state government on the construction of the parking lot for petrol tankers.

He further pointed out that the parking lot would comprise various amenities including police station, lodging accommo-

dation, catering services, among others for the comfort and convenience of the tanker drivers.

The commissioner added that the provision of the parking lot had become absolutely necessary in order to check the indiscriminate parking of petrol-laden tankers in residential areas.

Alhaji Garba stated that the parking of these vehicles in built-up areas poses serious danger to lives and property apart from degrading roads and drainages.

He also disclosed that another separate parking lot would be provided to trailer drivers to solve the problem of congestion in the metropolitan roads.

The commissioner, therefore, called on the committee members to start work in earnest and find out the most suitable site for the proposed parking lot for the government to take the next line of action.



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Tel: 087-821470, 08068897451.

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Km 5, Refinery Road,
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Inside Politics

Why I oppose tertiary education as qualification for election – Sen. Aminu

PROFESSOR Jibril Aminu is Chairman Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs. In this interview he sheds light on his reason for opposing Senate's decision to raise qualification for contesting elections in Nigeria from O-Level to tertiary level. Excerpts:



PROFESSOR Jibril Aminu

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

Why did you oppose the provision in the Senate amendment that raised qualification for election to tertiary level?

I did not support the amendment because I don't see the need for that. People advance the argument like it is going to raise the standard; it's not going to raise the standard of anything. That somebody has a diploma or a degree, when you look at it superficially, it's like it is raising the standard but the problem cannot be offset by mere changes in standard or whatever you call it. The standard depends not so much in the certificate but on the quality of education received. And you cannot be certain that because somebody has got this standard [tertiary education] he has the ability to perform the way you want.

But even if it will increase the standard, there is the problem of

equity. Education and representation are very much tied to justice, equity and fairness in democracy and society. You do not try to regulate or to circumscribe somebody's right by setting academic standard. We have requirement to remove illiteracy in the Constitution and the recognition of the role of primary education. If you go to the record, you find that the so-called Asian Tigers have done so well without much resources because of the quality of their system as well as primary education. In other words, primary education is good enough. Our constitution says O level, whether you look at it as school certificate or ordinary O level, that is good enough. People should see the meaning in somebody like me, a professor, vice chancellor, executive secretary of NUC, minister of education and university chancellor still carrying the title of a professor, not being the one to advocate for this. Why, because I am

quite aware of the requirement for justice and fairness, and not carried away by the public notion about standard.

You can also look at history, either in this country or elsewhere. People who worked and did very well as leaders, as officials, as professionals, a lot of Nigerians, even outside, told me that was in the past. How can you say that? Look at people like Winston Churchill, people like Mr. Prescott who was only recently the deputy Labour Party leader, Deputy Prime Minister of England and people like Chief Tony Enahoro and all the other leaders that we have had. So theoretically, in ten years time, they will say now you must have Masters Degree to contest for election and then later on for those that will be alive to see those dark days, they will insist on a Ph.d. That is ridiculous; you don't do this type of thing. We should look at what the rest of the world is doing.

Then let us look at equity. The total enrolment for higher education is about 1.8 percent. Higher education is simply defined as three years post secondary education. In other words, over 98 percent of the population will not be qualified to stand election. Is that democracy? Is that fair play? Is that common sense? What are you going to gain by raising the level from school certificate to tertiary education if by doing so you will disenfranchise over 98 percent of the population. These are some of the problems and that is why I don't support it.

We have enough evidence that if you have O level or even a good primary education is enough. The effort should be to ensure that the quality of education at our different schools is high and not to keep on pushing up standard, whereby you encourage people to either get mere paper qualification or to engage in a lot of dishonesty in order to qualify. That is why I believe we should leave it at O level like it is in the constitution at the moment. But the Senate in its wisdom and voted to raise the standard. I hope down the road, in state houses of assemble or the House of Representatives will not approve it because I have tried my best but they wouldn't listen to me.

Don't you think perhaps the country has failed to develop over the years because of the low qualification many of those in power?

No, it is not like that. I have shown you that when we didn't

have anything at one time, I could count off my head the number of graduates in the North, beginning with the late Dr. Dikko, then Dr. Attah, Dr. Sholeye and all the other people who came behind. If you ask anybody now, he will tell you those were the good old days. I think it is not so much a question of level but quality; it is the way people have been diverted and the main factors that could be responsible for diverting people the behavioural change. So it is not so much the education but behavioural change. That is what is giving us problem. People don't work and they don't behave, it is not whether they have O level or they have Polytechnic Degree or whatever. In any case, you know how things are in this country. If people are determined to get it, they will get it. Nothing will be so costly as to disenfranchise 98 percent of the population. You have to think seriously before you adopt it.

Some of your colleagues argued that the world has become more sophisticated and so our leaders should have some level of higher education to be able to meet up...

So what is the level of education they are talking about? Is it tertiary education, which is three years post secondary education? Somebody goes and does a Monotechnic in fisheries or whatever, or he goes and gets a technical teachers' certificate, and you think that is the level of sophistication? The level of sophistication is determined by many things including the availability of educational materials and educational courses, it involves the whole society.

Our constitution allows us in the National Assembly to legislate and allow people to speak, not only in English but in Hausa, Igbo or Yoruba. Now some people will tell you that the problem is English, it is not their heads. One former governor said that three members of the House of Assembly in his state at that time could not deliver in English but in the vernacular, they brought fantastic ideas; they brought all the acumen; they brought all the kind of social policies and mindset that you want which you don't necessarily get in somebody with a B.Sc. So, there is an obstacle and it is not their level education. The obstacle is the language; the obstacle is ourselves because we are the ones that have failed to make arrangements since 1979 to 1999 to allow people to speak in

vernacular. If you go to Japan or Germany, Iceland, Russia, Egypt and other countries, they all speak in their languages. Why can't we speak in any Nigerian language particularly when our constitution allows us? We allow our own incompetence to force us to take decisions which are not right.

It is only two days ago that we introduced electronic voting in the Senate. The machine has been there since 1999. We have not been using it, now that we have introduced it I hope we will continue to use it and not only to use it when it suits people, that's wrong. So there are a lot of things we would have done to avoid taking decisions like this.

Recently, NECO released its results for SSCE exams and only about 2 percent of the candidates passed, how do you relate this to the provision in the amendment?

Exactly, if the secondary school performance is so poor, what guarantees do you have that the tertiary education is better? What has happened with the examination means that the number acquiring tertiary education will even be fewer and therefore the representation will be even lower. The answer to this is very clear, make sure you have high standard of education from Primary school. I went to Malaysia sometime ago when I was minister of education and I saw Mr. Berba who was then deputy Prime Minister and he said: 'I only did primary education'. That was in Malaysia around 1987. I know of many people that I would not want to embarrass; they did not go to formal school but eventually managed to get to university. Can you tell me in what way tertiary education would have improved the performance of Sabo Bakin-zuwo [Governor of Kano state from October to December 1983]; how it would add to his reasoning and feeling for his people?

“ We have enough evidence that if you have O level, or even a good primary education is enough.

Inside Politics

Buhari's exit from ANPP good riddance – Shekarau

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

GOVERNOR Ibrahim Shekarau of Kano State yesterday broke his silence on the exit of two-times presidential candidate of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), General Muhammadu Buhari (rtd), saying the general's voluntary exit was a good riddance to the party.

Shekarau was widely believed to have won his first election in 2003 through the support of

General Buhari, who then supported the idea of exchanging the party's winner of the primaries, Ibrahim Ali Amin (Little), and later campaigned for Shekarau.

Responding to questions on a Radio Kano programme, Da Bazar Ku, Governor Shekarau said his estranged godfather's defection to another party was never a problem to the ANPP.

He said although it was politically bad for a party to lose a single member, "losing a member

that does not add value to the party was a good riddance."

Shekarau said: "Sometimes in politics, it is not just the number of the followers but the quality of the followers. So if such an effete lot will leave the party, the party would be the better."

Continuing, Shekarau noted: "I think he left the party because he probably had problem with the party's chairman and secretary. What he should have done was to remain and ensure that

the problems were solved not just jumping camp."

Governor Shekarau said even the Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) was currently having leadership crisis.

The governor revealed further that cross-carpeting in politics signifies lack of principles. "I believe changing political camp regularly shows that a person is not consistent and not principled," he said.

On the issue of strategic eco-

nomics plan of Kano State, Governor Shekarau said the National Planning Commission had identified Kano State as best in the country in terms of planning.

According to him, the 10-year Development Plan of Kano State was in the offing as international development agencies had indicated interests in the plan. "The comprehensive report is afoot and we will forward it to the state Assembly," he said.

Sokoto Guber Appeal: DPP alleges plan to leak judgement

By Suleiman M. Bisalla

THE Democratic Peoples Party (DPP) has alleged plans by the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and Governor Aliyu Wamakko to obtain and leak the judgement which is yet to be delivered by the Court of Appeal on the Sokoto governorship election appeal.

Deputy Chairman of the Sokoto State chapter of the DPP, Attahiru Yusuf Yabo, said in a statement yesterday that the purpose is aimed at "discrediting the judgment before it is delivered and there by getting it quashed through a motion at the Supreme Court or filing another petition at the National Judicial Council (NJC)".

When contacted Sokoto State Commissioner for Information Dahiru Maishanu denied the allegations saying Governor Wamakko is not planning any such thing. He counter alleged that the DPP had already leaked the judgment by celebrating each time it is scheduled and that is the basis of Wamakko's petition.

The statement from the DPP read in part: "A plan has been uncovered whereby the PDP and

Wamakko have formed a crack team of Lawyers and Journalists headed by a former NBA President and retired Chief Justice of Nigeria to obtain and leak the judgement which is yet to be delivered by the Court of Appeal on the Sokoto Governorship Election Appeal. "The judgement according to the plan will be obtained through reaching out to the Staff of the Court of Appeal who could have access to the judgement. If that fails, the said committee in concert with some legal experts from some states in the North Western States will contrive and concoct an anticipatory Judgement and append scan signatures of the Members of the Appeal Panel of the Sokoto Governorship Election Appeal and publish same in the Newspapers and Internet Websites. "We call on the on all well meaning Nigerians to condemn this unethical act, with a view to protecting the sanctity of administration of Justice constitutionally guaranteed jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal in election matters. This will go a long way in averting this sort of ugly development come 2011 general elections."

2011: Ogbulafor to tour PDP state chapters

By Muideen Olaniji

NATIONAL Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Prince Vincent Ogbulafor is to lead a sensitization campaign christened 'National Chairman's Tour' to all its state branches as part of efforts to retain power in the next general elections.

A source told *Daily Trust* yesterday that the campaign which will involve all members of the National Working Committee (NWC) was thought out following the release of a tentative election timetable by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

It would be recalled that President Umaru Musa Yar'adua had said

during last year's special national convention, that PDP's campaigns for 2011 elections would begin by the end of the first quarter of 2010.

PDP National Publicity Secretary Professor Rufai Ahmed Alkali, who was asked to speak on the time the party would release its timetable for 2011 election, said all the arrangements had been completed and would soon come out with its campaign strategies.

Alkali, who berated the opposition's plot to dislodge PDP in 2011, said "If the whole doctrine of opposition is to see the end of PDP; that is not good enough to the average Nigerian. You must come and say that there is something new, something different that you have to offer."



FROM left: Chairman, National Coalition of Nigeria, Alhaji Ali Abacha, National Secretary, Mohammed Alhaji Yakubu and North East Zonal Leader, Alhaji Bappa Abubakar during the Coalition's press briefing to support INEC Chairman Professor Maurice Iwu in Abuja, Thursday.

Fresh crisis in Nasarawa ANPP as sacked chairman stays put

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

THE National Working Committee (NWC) of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) has sacked the chairman of the Nasarawa State chapter of the party, Ahmed Abdullahi, over alleged leadership crisis. But the sack appears to have sparked fresh crisis as the ousted chairman refused to vacate office.

Abdullahi has insisted that he will not hand over to his deputy, Dauda Manger, as directed by a statement dated 2nd March by the National Secretary of the party, Dr. Saidu Umar Kumo. He called the statement "null and void", as he said Kumo had long ceased to be the party's National Secretary

for taking an appointment as Special Adviser in Umaru Yar'adua's government.

He said by accepting an appointment, Kumo had violated the constitutional provisions of the party, and therefore risked his constitutional powers to convey NWC's directive to remove him.

An emergency meeting of the state chapter of the party in Lafia, Thursday, concluded the arrangement to write the ousted chairman to handover to his deputy as directed by the NWC, according to state secretary, Suleiman Tanko who spoke to *Daily Trust* on phone, yesterday.

"He is yet to handover so we met and took the decision to write

him", the secretary said, adding "he knows he has lost his position whether or not he recognizes the National Secretary because he has no member of the state executive committee behind him." The secretary said further that the emergency meeting held without the former chairman, adding "the Acting Chairman presided over the meeting. The former chairman knows he has lost his position. He must handover as directed."

The statement from the National Secretary said the NWC took the decision to remove the chairman in order restore peace in the party hierarchy in that state.

2011: Albashir will get PDP guber ticket in Yobe-Talba

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

FORMER All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) stalwart in Yobe State, Senator Usman Albashir will clinch the ticket to run in the governorship election of the state on the platform of his new party, the Peoples Demo-

cratic Party (PDP), Senator Adamu Garba Talba (PDP, Yobe South) has said. Speaking to newsmen in his office on the decamping of Albashir to PDP, Talba said the issue of waiver for Albashir to contest in the gubernatorial election is automatic. "Let me say that Albashir will get

automatic waiver to contest as well as all his other supporters that will join PDP with him. You know that it is undemocratic to say that we give him automatic ticket because that is not democracy, but I can assure that he is going to be our candidate in Yobe," Talba said.

TRUST CLASSIFIED

MILLENNIUM PROGRESSIVE VULCANIZERS ASSOCIATION, MAIDUGUMI

This is to inform the general public that the above named Association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act No. 1 of 1990

- The Trustees are:
1. Mr. Azeez Animasaun - Chairman
 2. Mr. Ojedele Ademola - Secretary
 3. Mr. Bolaji Akinteye - Treasurer
 4. Mr. Gabriel Osintona - Chairman Committee
 5. Mr. K. A. Bello - Patron 2
 6. Mr. Gabriel Agemo - Auditor
 7. Mr. Dale Akinteye - Patron 1

Aims and Objectives

- i. To create unity, understanding and peace among the members
- ii. To create awareness on use of wheel by commuters
- iii. To protect lives of road users and;
- iv. Rendering of vulcanizing services.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, plot 420 Tigris Crescent off Aguyi Ironsi Street PMB 198 Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed
Secretary
08029797838

NETWORK FOR PEACE AND PRODUCTIVITY INITIATIVE

This is to inform the general public that the above named body has applied for registration to the Corporate Affairs Commission under part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

The Trustees are:

1. Prof. Albert Ola Wole
2. Prof. Osisioma B. C. Nwolisa
3. Prof. Ebere Onwudiwe
4. Dr. Kevin Nwosu
5. Chief Monday Owei

Aims and Objectives are:

1. To teach alternative dispute resolution and peaceful settlement of disputes
2. To empower youth and encourage productivity and national growth
3. To work towards the achievement of the purposes of the Child Rights Act

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed
Hassan L. O. Esq.

YAN' AKORI KURA DRIVERS ASSOCIATION K/RUWA

The general public is hereby notified that the above named foundation has applied to Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under the Companies and Allied Matters Act No. 1 of 1990 Part C. of the company and allied matter act, 1990 (as amended), Cap C20 LFN 2004.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. LAWAN ABDULLAHI
2. HALIRU SULEIMAN
3. ALH LAWAN MOHAMMED
4. ALH HAMZA MOHAMMED
5. MUKTAR ABDULLAHI
6. YAHAYANUHU
7. ILYASU HASSAN

AIMS AND OBJECTIVE

1. TO ASSIST THE MEMBERS TO ACQUIRE SKILLS IN DRIVING.
2. TO REDUCE RATE OF ILLITERACY AMONG RURAL DRIVERS THROUGH CHILD EDUCATION

Any objection to this registration should be forward to the registrar general, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420 Tigris Crescent, Off Aguyi Ironsi Street, Maitama P.M.B 198 Garki, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

JESUS CHRIST THE LORD GOD EVANGELICAL MISSION

This is to inform the general public that the above named initiatives has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act No. 1 of 1990

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. OLADAPO BABFUNDE
2. OLADAPO SEGUN ADEWALE
3. IBILOYE JOHNSON
4. AFOJABI ABIOLA
5. KPOFIANU KINGSLEY
6. ADEOKUN STEPHEN
7. JIMOH OLAYIWOLA
8. OJELABI MICHAEL

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. To preach, propagate and to uphold the gospel of Lord Jesus Christ.
 2. To promote unity and effect conformity of views in doctrines, principles throughout our churches in the Federation of Nigeria and anywhere else in the world.
 3. By means of fasting and prayers to sustain the power of the Holy Ghost in the church.
 4. To prepare the bride (church) as a chaste virgin for the husband (Christ) for rapture.
- Any objectives to the registration should be forwarded to the registrar General Corporate Affairs Commission, plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B. 198, Maitama, Abuja within Twenty-Eight (28) days from the date of this publication.

Signed:
OLADAPO SEGUN ADEWALE

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of original Land Allocation/Acknowledgement Paper with File No. AN 21105 belonging to MR. CHINEDU IKEAGWANI, is declared missing and all efforts made to trace have proved abortive. If found return to the nearest police station or AGIS.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Notice is hereby given to members of the public that LENDOCO INDUSTRIES NIGERIA LIMITED, a company incorporated in 2006 and situate at No.10 Dantata Road, Bompai, Kano is being wind up voluntarily.

Any objection to its winding up should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission plot 420 Tigris Crescent off Aguyi Ironsi Street Maitama Abuja within 14 days of this publication.

Signed
I.N Ambule Esq. I.N Ambule & CO
No.28 Niger Street, Gidan Goldie, Kano.

FRIENDS CLUB OF JOS UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL

This is to inform the general public that the above named organisation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Most Rev. Dr. Benjamin Kwashi
2. Mrs Charity Origbinde
3. Dr (Mrs.) Lami Lombin
4. Aihaji Abdulaziz Haruna
5. Mr. Pat Odily
6. Mrs. Lucy Kwardem
7. Aihaji Tanko Idnis
8. Engr. Austin Okwuike
9. Mr. Cletus Kangkum

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To help Jos University Teaching Hospital by sacrificing time, money and other affordable items for improvement of staff/patient relationship.
 2. To promote the welfare of patients
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication

Signed:
A.M OKWORI ESQ
(Solicitors to the proposed organization)

YORUBA FILMS LICENSED DISTRIBUTORS AND PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA.

This is to inform the general public that the above named organisation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under the part C of companies and allied matters Acts, 1990.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

- (1) Mr. Zainab Alabi Kehinde.
- (2) Chief Olufemi Odunuga.
- (3) Aihaji Toyin Uthman.
- (4) Aihaji Akem Balogun.
- (5) Aihaji Abdulsaq Abdulahi.
- (6) Chief Olurotimi Ana-kusoro.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

- (1) To foster unity and carter for the general welfare of members, and also ensure that no member engage in piracy. All distributors shall be registered members.
- (2) To promote and pull our resources together in order to assist members, and also promote Yoruba films productions locally and internationally.
- (3) To promote film training centre in Nigeria and partner with similar organisations locally and internationally, publish film magazines and other literature, organise films exhibition and fair periodically in all states.
- (4) To promote films distributions and encourage distributors by creating centres in all states in Nigeria. The Association will seek Government support and also in turn support Government when the need arises.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to Registrar - General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguyi Ironsi Street Maitama Abuja, within 28 days of this publication.

Signed: S.F.G. AJAYI, Esq.
79, TEJUOSHO STREET, SLERE, LAGOS.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public that the original C of O belonging to one MOSES ANEGBODE 'M' the Assistant Inspector General of police, Zone 12 Headquarters, Bauchi is missing said the sale agreement document in respect of plot no. 2437 and sale agreement with no. 2064 at lugbe extension Abuja and sale agreement document in respect of plot no.2910 at kuruduma layout Abuja. efforts made to trace the said missing documents proved abortive.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

The general public is hereby informed that the underlisted documents are missing.

1. Original offer of the terms of Grant/Conveyance of approval in respect of Plot No. 677D of about 1,000.001 sq. M. in Kuruduma Layout in favour of Badmus Joseph.
2. Original offer of terms of Grant/Conveyance of approval in respect of Plot No. 659A of about 1,000 sq. M. in Kuruduma Layout in favour of Thomas Adetunji.
3. Original offer of terms of Grant/Conveyance of approval in respect of No. 678D of about 1,000.001 sq. M. in Kuruduma Layout in favour of Yaro Masaka.

All efforts made to trace the missing documents proved abortive, if found please contact the nearest Police Station or call Mrs. A. A. Folorunso on: 08033155625, 08099287355

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of Certificate of Occupancy No. RSG 003072 issued by Rivers State Ministry of Lands and Survey, belonging to PASTOR EKANEM GABRIEL ESSIEN. All effort to trace the document have proved abortive. Rivers State Ministry of Lands and Survey take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly known as UFIOMA BLESSING IDEMUDIA wish to be called BLESSING ESSIEN BILLY. General public to take note.

I formerly MISS ELOHOR SHARON AMREUAWHO now wish to be known as MRS ELOHOR SHARON MFREKE GEORGE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I formerly RUKAYYA HAMISU now wish to be known as RUKAYYA MAMMAN. All former documents remain valid. Zango Local Education Authority and general public take note.

I formerly IBRAHIM ALIYU AHMED, now wish to be called as MUSA AHMED IBRAHIM. All former documents remain valid. Primary Health Care Dept Katagum LG Bauchi State and general public to note.

I formerly SAIDU YUSUF, now wish to be called MAIYARI SALEH. All former documents remain valid. Primary Health Care Dept Katagum LG Bauchi State and general public to note.

I formerly Known as MORIN MOTUNRAYO LATEEFAH now wish to be called and addressed as Mrs ALATISHE LATEEFAH MOTURAYO. All former documents remain valid. General public to note

I FORMERLY MISS FATIMA ABDULLAHI NOW TO BE MRS FATIMA ABDULLAHI. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. NYSC AND GENERAL PUBLIC TO NOTE.

I formerly known as MISS ROSE JOHN, now wish to be called MRS ENE OKPANACHI. General public take note.

I formerly MISS CHRISTIANA ONONYE, now wish to be called as MRS CHRISTIANA J. OKOYE. All former document remain valid FEDERAL POLY BAUCHI, general public should take note

I, formerly known as TEMITOPE ABIGAIL LAWAL, now wish to be addressed as TEMITOPE ABIGAIL OCHOLI. All former documents remain valid. FinBank and general public please take note.

I formerly known as MISS OLUWATOYIN BOLARINWA ADETUBERU now wish to be called MRS. OLUWATOYIN BOLARINWA APAPA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS BILIKISU SAHABI DANGE now wish to be addressed as MRS. BILIKISU KABIRU LADAN. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and the general public take note

I, formerly known and addressed as MISS ONYINYECHI OKENGWU, now to be known and addressed as MRS GIFT ONYINYECHI GARROD. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

I, formerly BLESSING BARASIN ADOLPHUS, now wish to be known as BLESSING BARASIN ABIYE DASO IGONIKOW. All former documents remain valid. National Assembly and general public to take note.

I, formerly called MOHAMMED UMAR now wish to be known as MOHAMMED MUSTAPHA BABANGIDA. All former documents remain valid, general public take note.

I, formerly known as ABOSEDE ADENIRAN now wish to be called TEMITOPE ABOSEDE DARAMOLA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS. HADIZA SALISU, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. HADIZA AHMED WODI. All former documents remain valid. The general public particularly Abuja University and National Youth Service Corps, NYSC take note.

SPORT

Miami Nets
sign Nigeria's
Aminu

Page 64



Menas send Eagles out of CHAN

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

PIC: AFOLABI SOTUNDE

MENAS of Republic of Niger have quashed the chance of Super Eagles Team B to participate in the second edition of the African Nations Championship (CHAN) billed to hold in Sudan in January next year.

This is the second time a national team will stumble in qualifiers in the ancient city of Kano – first during their 2006 World Cup qualifiers where Angola forced Eagles to 1-1 draw and blocked them from picking a ticket to Germany.

Eagles, who would have to land three goals to be in Sudan, failed to score a single goal to remedy their 2-0 defeat by Menas in Niamey, Republic of Niger, two weeks ago.

During the tension-soaked match, which ended in a goalless draw, the Menas withstood Eagles' pressure from start to the final whistle.

At the 36th minutes of the match, Eagles' midfielder Eugene Salami was shoved off by Menas goalkeeper Lossery Doumbia Issa after a solo run on the right flank. The Ivorian centre referee Nahi Leonard however ordered a penalty kick.

High stakes of the capacity-filled Sani Abacha Stadium was lost when Bayelsa United's Chibuzo Okonkwo failed to convert the spot kick as his light shot placed the ball straight into the goalkeeper's hand.

Eagles' second half forays into the Nigerien side also did not bear fruits despite the dazzling assembly of home-based players that are shining in the national league.



THE Menas of Niger Republic celebrate their historic triumph over Nigeria's Super Eagles Team B at the African Nations Championship (CHAN) qualifiers at the Sani Abacha Stadium in Kano, yesterday. The game ended 0-0 but the Nigeriens won the tie 2-0 on aggregate and qualified for the championship which holds in Sudan next year.

Although post match conference did not hold – due to the rowdy situation after the

match which saw spectators encroaching the field and overwhelming the securitymen

at the stadium complex.

The technical consultant of Sahel FC of Niger, Kadiri

Ikhana attributed Super Eagles' dismal outing to poor preparation.

Tennis: African championship draw holds today

By Ismaila Lere

THE official draw for the 33rd edition of the Africa Junior Tennis championships will hold today at the Tennis Centre of the National Stadium in Abuja.

Already on ground to perform the event that will kick-start the tournament proper is International Tennis Federation (ITF) and Confederation of African Tennis (CAT)

Development Officer for West and Central Africa, Amine Ben Makhoulf.

According to the ITF/CAT official, 28 countries shall participate in the draw ceremony which will take place at 6.30pm at the Tennis Centre, Package 'B' of the National Stadium Abuja.

After the draw that is expected to last 30 minutes, the ITF/CAT officials and the Nigeria Tennis Federation will hold a close

door technical meeting to precede the hostilities which begins tomorrow.

On his impression about Nigeria's readiness to host the tournament, Ben Makhoulf said, "from what I have seen so far there is no doubt that this is going to be a success."

"In terms of organization and facilities put in place for this tournament, Nigeria has

impressed us from the international federation. From ITF and CAT level, we are impressed. These courts can host any ITF tournament including the prestigious Davis Cup which is our own world cup compared to football.

"Today we shall kick-start the event by holding the draws involving the 28 participating nations."

The countries participating in

the championship are Mauritius, Namibia, Tunisia, Libya, South Africa, Kenya, Morocco and Zimbabwe. Others are Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon and Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Lesotho, Sudan and Togo.

The tennis tournament is the biggest ever junior championship to be hosted in the west African sub-region.

Gombe threatens to drag NFF to FIFA

By Orkula Shaagee

SPORTS critic and the former Chairman of Gombe State Football Association, Alhaji Shuaibu Gara Gombe has threatened to drag the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) to the world football governing body FIFA, African football ruling body CAF and the National Assembly over the former's offences.

He said he will soon do that immediately he is able to put together fifty crimes committed by the nation's football.

He has so far gathered 35 of such offences, as he plans to write the NFF and copy all the institutions mentioned above and give them time to respond, failure which he will take the matter to a court of competent jurisdiction to address the issue.

He said in a chat with reporters in Abuja that he was surprised with the threat by the NFF to ban stakeholders who have taken them to court to seek redress, even as the NFF has failed to set up the Standard Dispute Resolution Chambers as stipulated by FIFA to resolve grievances.

"I will be going to court because we are first Nigerian citizens before members of FIFA,

even the FIFA statute the NFF keeps brandishing has provided for contingency window to deal with disputes arising from football which is the Standard Dispute Resolution Chamber, which is to be established after mutual agreements have been reached by parties concerned.

"In the case of NFF, this provision is non-existent in the statutes talkless of establishing such mechanism. So therefore, aggrieved parties have no option than to go to the court of the land and seek redress. The question one is asking is that does FIFA Statutes condone crime, is it prejudice of any commercial business transaction in Nigerian football or even corruption and misappropriation of funds? Certainly not.

"Also, it is clear that the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria provides that wherever there is conflict between any other international treaty or protocol, the Nigerian constitution shall be superior. And the constitution of Nigeria provides its citizens certain fundamental rights including the right to sue, liberty to associate, participate and ask questions on the way aspects of their lives are being managed including football", he stated.



ERNIE Els of South Africa watches his tee shot on the third hole during the final round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational at the Bay Hill Club and Lodge in Orlando, Florida, yesterday.

El-Kanemi Warriors get new coach

By Orkula Shaagee

ELKANEMI Warriors Football Club of Maiduguri yesterday signed Coach Francis Obinwe as its new coach.

Obinwe a former player of the club was the coach of a professional division one club in Gumel, Jigawa State before moving over to the Maiduguri-based Warriors.

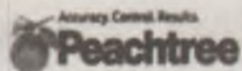
The chairman of the club Modu Bata signed on behalf of the club while Obinwe signed on behalf of himself at a ceremony held at the El-Kanemi Warriors camp at Lagos Street in Maiduguri.

Bata told Trustsports on phone after the ceremony that the new coach was hired to improve the fortunes of the club.

"The objective of engaging a new coach is for us to be able to raise the performance of the club so we can return to the elite premier division by the end of the season.

"Obinwe was brought in essentially at this crucial period because the management is worried by the poor performance of the club in recent times. We are hoping that he will use his expertise to ensure that the club bounces back in a very short period," he said.

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HALLMARK CONSULT
Suite G6, Febson Mall, Zone 4, Wuse, Abuja

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of original certificate of occupancy belonging to **CHIEF GABRIEL O. IGBINEDION (the Esama of Benin)** with Certificate of occupancy **NO KD 2993, PLOT NO 3 ROAD 'F' ON TP0463 BARNAWA RESIDENTIAL LAYOUT, KADUNA SOUTH, KADUNA STATE.** All efforts made to trace the Missing document proved abortive, if found return to the nearest Police Station or contact **08033143911.**

LOSS OF CAR AND DOCUMENTS

The general public is hereby notified that a Toyota Camry V.6 ash in colour has been stolen with the following items, original (1) C of O in Lugbe with old file No. KD 376 in respect of Plot No. C2 Area Council Kuje with new file No. MISC 92432 for Asabe Kadunawa. (2) C of O for Alh. Shehu Musa in respect of Plot No. R237 Area Council AMAC with old file No. KT 190 and new File No. ZA40036. (3) original C of O for Jamarsh Nig. Ltd in respect of Plot No. 107 Area Council Gwagwalada with new file No MISC 91977 and old No. is MISC 5994 (4) Diamond Bank Cheque book a Teller, Handset with line No. 08033300913 - 0805181222, all the said items belongs to **HAMID R. HASHIN.** If found please contact the nearest police station or call: 08033300913

AIMEE SEMPLE MCPHERSON EDUCATIONAL LEVERAGE INITIATIVE

This is to inform the general public that the above named Initiative has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Mr. Babajide Olowodola
2. Mrs. Ibukun Odusote
3. Mr. Alaba Domingo Obenda
4. Dr. Olamide Adesina
5. Mrs. Margaret Oronsaye
6. Mr. Ikenna Ekezie
7. Mrs. Fibiola Ladipo

Aims and objectives:

1. To provide education for full time Ministers' children.
2. To provide education for indigent children in Foursquare Gospel Church, Asokoro.
3. To provide vocational and skill acquisition to needy members of Foursquare Asokoro.

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. Omotola Adebajo (Mrs)

GLOBAL NETWORK FOR PEACE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION INITIATIVE

This is to inform the general public that the above named Initiative has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Mohammed Sadiq Garba
2. Alhaji Abubakar Musa Maikadama
3. Zaynab Taharah Musa

Aims and objectives:

1. To inculcate the culture of tolerance among youth.
2. To epitomize a community of people whose diversity of state, culture and ethnicity serve only to demonstrate how closely they are bound to one another in the pursuit of peace and stability.

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:
Secretary

Always advertise with Daily Trust
Weekly Trust, Sunday Trust and Aminiya

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to announce the loss of the original offer letter dated 10/05/07 with File Number MISC 89461 in the name of **MS BIOMEDICAL CO. LTD** in respect of Plot No. 458 in Cadastral Zone B08 of Jabi, Abuja, FCT. Please, if found, kindly contact **AHMAD GANA MUHAMMAD** of Suite 6A Glory Mojec Plaza, Behind Banex Plaza, Wuse II, Abuja, Tel 07030437713 or 08023053050 or Maitama Police Station, Maitama, Abuja.

SIGNED: **AHMAD GANA MUHAMMAD**
07030437713

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to notify the general public of the Misplacement of the original Acknowledgement Certificate of re-certification/re-issuance of C of O for plot **No. 319** Cadastral Zone B 0 4, Jabi District in the Name of **Eneh C. Paul O.** Issued by AGIS Abuja.

THIS SPACE IS FOR SALE



JOSEPH Ebuya of Kenya celebrates victory in the men's race during the IAAF World Cross Country Championship at Myslencinek Park in Bydgoszcz, Poland.

Ebuya wins men's cross-country world title

JOSEPH Ebuya won the men's race and Emily Chebet earned the women's title to give Kenya a sweep of the gold medals at the cross country running world championships yesterday.

Ebuya finished the 12-kilometer in 33 minutes even to give Kenya its ninth medal at the event.

Eritrea's Teklemariam Medhin finished six seconds back in second, while Moses Ndiema Kipsiro of Uganda took the bronze,

10 seconds behind in chilly temperature of about 10 degrees Celsius (50 Fahrenheit) at the Myslencinek Park in Bydgoszcz, in central Poland.

With six-time winner Kenenisa Bekele of Ethiopia absent because of an injury, the men's race was wide open. However, defending champion Gebre-zabher Gebremariam of Ethiopia was a disappointing 10th, 35 seconds behind Ebuya.

Earlier yesterday, Kenya's Emily Chebet won the women's 8-kilometer race in 24 minutes 19 seconds, ahead of compatriot Linet Chepkwemai Masai and Ethiopia's Meselech Melkamu.

Masai had to settle for a second straight silver after being overtaken by Chebet in the final sprint.

"I should work on my finish because this year, like in the previous year, I lost the finish," Masai

said through translator.

Caleb Mwangangi Ndiku won the men's junior race and Mercy Cherono captured the women's junior title as Kenya swept the podium in both events—adding to the disappointing day for Ethiopia.

The winners of the senior races received \$30,000, with the silver medalists getting \$15,000 and bronze winners taking home \$10,000.

33RD AFRICAN JUNIOR TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP

Team Nigeria in high spirits - Coach

By Ismaila Lere

Team Nigeria camp is brimful with confidence ahead the 33rd edition of the Africa Junior Tennis championship in Abuja.

The team's coach, Ubale Mohammed, said after a training session at the National Stadium that all the players expected for the championship are in camp including the trio of Euro based Umaru Balami from South Africa, Onyeka Mbanu from Holland and Lola Ogungbesan from England. A confident-looking Moham-

med said all the players have been taught all they need to do well when hostilities commence tomorrow.

"All the players are in high spirit and ready to face their opponents. We have no injury problems or scare and the foreign based trio have fully adapted with the rest of the team. All the players are fit and confident they will make tremendous impact in the tournament."

Balami, who excelled at the last championship in Botswana in the under-16 category along

with Sunday Williams, is one of the big favourites for this year's tournament.

Balami, an indigene of Bauchi state and student of the prestigious South African Tennis Centre, has graduated to the under-18 category and will take part in the U-18 cadet event.

"He (Balami) is now a better player and you will be seeing him in action in the U-18 category," said Nigeria Tennis Federation (NTF) Vice President, Yemi Awofeni.

Meanwhile, Mohammed com-

mended the facilities put in place by the NTF for the tournament.

He said they are far better than what is obtainable in most African countries.

"I have travelled round including most big nations who boast of development in tennis. All over Africa, there are no tennis courts better than what we have now in Abuja at the National Tennis Centre of the National Stadium. No country in Africa has up to 20 functional ITF standard courts. Most of them have between 16 and 18, not 20," he revealed.

CYCLING CAPSULE

Rodriguez takes Catalunya title

SPANISH rider Joaquim Rodriguez won the Volta de Catalunya yesterday after Juan Jose Haedo took victory in the final stage.

Rodriguez, who rides for Katusha, finished 37th but posted the same time as Saxo Bank rider Haedo to take the overall win with a time of 25 hours, 16 minutes, 03 seconds.

The 31-year-old Rodriguez won the 90th edition by 10 seconds over Xavier Tondo of Cerevelo. Cofidis rider Rein Taaramae was third—43 seconds behind.



RODRIGUEZ

Fedriego wins Criterium race

PIERRICK Fedriego of France has won the Criterium International, a two-day race that marked the first showdown between Alberto Contador and Lance Armstrong this year.

David Millar of Britain won the third and final stage of the weekend race, a 4.8-mile time trial in and around the town of Porto Vecchio, Corsica.

The race was the first meeting between Contador and Armstrong since last year's Tour de France.

Contador finished more than a minute behind Fedriego overall, while Armstrong was more than 5 minutes back.

Machado not ready for Tour

TIAGO Machado's hopes of helping Radioshack team mate Lance Armstrong win an eighth Tour de France in July have been dashed by team manager Johan Bruyneel, who believes the prospect lacks experience.

Portugal's Machado, who joined the American outfit during the close season, has been in impressive form with a third place overall finish in the Tour of Algarve and second in Saturday's hilly opening stage of the Criterium International.

Lampard ready for Man Utd showdown

FRANK Lampard believes Chelsea are ready to wrestle the Premier League title away from Manchester United after warming up for next weekend's showdown at Old Trafford with a 7-1 rout of Aston Villa.

Lampard scored four times in Saturday's impressive victory at Stamford Bridge and Chelsea look back to their best after a series of lacklustre displays.

Carlo Ancelotti's side crashed out of the Champions League against Inter Milan and dropped league points against Manchester City and Blackburn.

But despite those slips they can go two points clear of United at the top with a win at Old Trafford on Saturday.

Chelsea defeated Sir Alex Ferguson's team 1-0 in November and Lampard feels that triumph, coupled with their victories this season over Arsenal and Liverpool, proves they have the quality to win the title.

"We know the quality of the players we have, we've shown

Now we have to focus on what we have to do

that over the course of the season," Lampard said.

"We've beaten Manchester United, Liverpool and Arsenal playing different formations.

"Now we have to focus on what we have to do - we look forward to going to Old Trafford."

The England midfielder, who has now hit at least 20 goals in six successive seasons and has moved up to third in Chelsea's all-time scorers list, apologised for Chelsea's recent woes but insisted the demolition of Villa was one of the finest performances he has been involved in.

"We've had a few poor performances recently and we have to apologise to the fans for that," Lampard said.

"But hopefully this makes up for those and now we can concentrate on what we know we have to do because if we win all our remaining matches, we will be champions.

"We have to forget the little rut we have had and concentrate on the target.

"It's up there with our best performances. There was a 6-0 against Manchester City and then a 2-0 against Villa last season, when it could have been six or seven.

"This is right up there because we were playing a very good team. They've got good players throughout their team so when you do that to them, well, you can't say enough about the performance."

Henry readies for 'strange' Arsenal homecoming

BARCELONA striker Thierry Henry is finally getting used to the idea he will face former team Arsenal, although the France international admits it will be a "strange" homecoming.

European champion Barcelona travels to north London on Wednesday for the first leg of the Champions League quarterfinals, a return Henry said will be tinged with emotion.

"I'm emotional but also calm. It's going to be a strange game for me," Henry said in an interview published Sunday on Barcelona's Web site. "Before the draw I said I didn't want to face Arsenal. But that's the game we got and you have to play your best."

Henry hasn't been back to Emirates Stadium since his departure in the summer of 2007. After eight years at Arsenal, Henry left as the team's all-time leading goalscorer having won two league trophies and three FA Cups.

Henry doesn't know how he will be received, although a warm welcome is likely after his stellar stint with the Gunners.

"I think people can understand my decision" to leave, Henry said. "I don't know how the people will react. But I had a particular relationship with the Arsenal fans."

The 32-year-old Frenchman expects to be a factor in the two-legged series due to recently improved form after being left out of coach Pep Guardiola's lineup for much of



STRANGE homecoming... Thierry Henry has not been back to Emirate Stadium since his departure in 2007.

the start of 2010. He stopped short of backing Barcelona as the favorite, however.

"Look what happened with Lyon and Madrid or CSKA Moscow and Sevilla. I'd say

there's no favorite," Henry said. "It will be difficult."

Henry does believe it's easier for a visiting team to play at Arsenal's old Highbury

ground, where "you felt the fans more."

Henry also recalled his worst Arsenal memory—losing the 2006 Champions League final to Barcelona.

Melo seals Juve win

FELIPE Melo gave Juventus fans a rare reason to cheer after bagging the winner eight minutes from time in a nervous 2-1 home victory over third from bottom Atlanta on Sunday.

Juve fans protested before the kickoff over the club's plight this season and Italy's best supported club looked to be heading for another poor result until the Brazil midfielder, often ridiculed by supporters this season, netted with a header.

Juve, Napoli and Sampdoria are all three points behind Palermo, who occupy the fourth and final Champions League qualifying spot with seven games to go and beat Bologna 3-1 on Saturday.

Iniesta out of Arsenal clash

BARCELONA midfielder Andres Iniesta injured a thigh muscle on Saturday and will miss the holders' Champions League quarterfinal first-leg match at Arsenal on Wednesday, the La Liga club said yesterday.

The Spain international limped off in the second half of Barca's 1-0 win at Real Mallorca and needs approximately 10 days to recover, the club said on their website (www.fcbarcelona.cat).

Barca are three points clear of Real Madrid at the top of La Liga ahead of Real's match against Atletico Madrid later on Sunday and Iniesta should be back in time for the potentially decisive "Clasico" at the Bernabeu in two weeks.



INIESTA...Barcelona's midfield gem is ruled out of Champions League quarterfinal against Arsenal.

Weightlifters abandon National Stadium gym

SOME Weightlifters have abandoned the gym at the National Stadium, Lagos over what they called the dilapidated state of the facilities.

They have instead opted for the gym at the Mobolaji Johnson Sports Centre, Yaba, Lagos.

There has an upsurge in the rate at which weightlifters are now thronging

the Mobolaji Johnson gym.

Some of the weightlifters, who spoke with NAN yesterday in Lagos lamented the sorry state of the National Stadium gym, describing it as an eyesore.

They also said that the gym and other facilities had become obsolete, with negative consequence on their performance.

Although the weight-

lifters said that the equipment at the Mobolaji Johnson Sports Centre too were not enough, they, however, described the environment as conducive for training.

Chima Anyaegbu, a 2006 national silver medalist from Delta State, said that she was not always comfortable training at the National Stadium due

to non-availability of modern equipment and the terrible environment.

"The National gym is supposed to be the best; the government should rise to the occasion and save the sport from extinction," Anyaegbu said.

Another weightlifter, Akeem Olusegun, expressed worries about the way weightlifters lined

up at the gym for training.

He specifically complained about the broken floor of the National Stadium gym, saying this had made it uncomfortable for training.

Ene Bassey, Assistant Coach, Lagos State Weightlifting Association, said the renovation recently carried out at the Mobolaji Johnson gym had

made it preferable.

"The environment of the gym is tidy and conducive due to the renovation exercise recently carried out.

"We only need more equipment which will make the gym stand out; we have written the sports council on this and we believe something will be done," Bassey said.



DAVE Richards

Premier League boss visits Kwara Academy

■ Gilligan named Westerhorf's successor

THERE seems to be a new revolution going at the Kwara Football Academy. The Chairman of the English Premier League, Sir. Dave Richards will on Thursday be a guest of the academy in Ilorin, as the new head coach of the KFA who is replacing former Super Eagles coach, Clemens Westerhof, will be unveiled.

He is former England's U-19 and U-21 chief scout, James Gilligan.

Gilligan's first assignment will be the friendly match between the KFA boys and the Bukola Babes FC.

Gilligan was a former player of Watford FC. Following his retirement from professional football, he returned to Watford, heading their "Football In The Community" scheme. After

spells as Youth Development Manager and Youth Team Manager, he was appointed Watford's Assistant Academy Director. He left Watford in 1999 with David Platt appointing him Reserve Team Manager at Nottingham Forest. In July 2001, following Platt's departure Gilligan left his role at Nottingham Forest.

He joined the PFA as a regional coach educator, whilst also helping out David Platt with the England U21s, before being appointed Academy Technical Director at Wimbledon in February 2003. Integral to Gilligan's appointment was Stuart Murdoch whom Gilligan had forged a friendship with from his coaching days at Watford.

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THE MONDAY COLUMN

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Mai Tuluna's ton-ton

I cannot now remember why, while driving long distance at the weekend, I suddenly thought of Malam Mai Tuluna, the skilled potter in our village back in the early 1970s. He had his potter's workstation right by the river side, and everyday he used red clay to make beautiful cooking pots, water pots, jugs and kettles.

For reasons that I was never able to fathom out, Malam Mai Tuluna was very unpopular all around the village. Children knew that they could get away with it by breaking his pots with a slingshot. One day, as Id el-Fitr approached, Mai Tuluna decided to depart from pottery for a while and dabble into the old tradition of *ton-ton*. He advertised all around that he would slaughter a big ox on Sallah eve, and anyone who wanted could pre-pay for a share of the meat, 5 shillings for a small share and 10 shillings for a large share. Many people paid up.

Early morning on Sallah eve, Mai Tuluna slaughtered the ox and divided the meat into about thirty parts, of five and ten shillings each. Several people came and took their share, but then, one man who paid five shillings came and took a ten shillings share. As Mai Tuluna struggled to stop him, Sule Kwagwalo, who had not paid a kobo, suddenly bent down and took one large share. All hell broke loose when all the street urchins who had surrounded the *ton-ton* also dived into the meat and grabbed as much as they could. They all ran away, leaving Malam Mai Tuluna sitting alone in front of his house, receiving condolences as if someone had died.

I remember now why I was thinking of Mai Tuluna. I thought I saw Acting President Goodluck Jonathan, unmistakable in his trademark bowler hat, squatting in front of a butchered ox, the Federal Cabinet that he sacked last week, dividing the FEC's juicy meat into small and large shares.

Clustered around him were the people who pre-paid or may post-pay for a piece of this ox, the many political godfathers, governors, party bosses, leaders of ethnic associations, assorted campaigners for the transmission of a vacation letter, demonstrators for the application of the spirit, if not the letter, of the constitution, and assorted framers of "the doctrine of necessity."

But first, Jonathan cut out a piece of the meat and threw it at Alhaji Murtala Yar'adua who, like Sule Kwagwalo, never pre-paid for it. On the face of it, the purpose was to appease the Yar'adua family for the impending loss of presidential power. Much more likely though, it was a poisoned chalice meant to cause tension and disaffection within the extended Yar'adua family.

You see, in 1995, I was editor of the *Sentinel* magazine when our publisher General Shehu Yar'adua was arrested by the Abacha regime. I then worked day and night with *Sentinel's* acting publisher Malam Umaru Yar'adua to keep the magazine afloat, without success. In the process, I became aware of the tension between Umaru Yar'adua and Hajiya Binta Yar'adua, mother of minister-designate Alhaji Murtala. Let's leave matters at that, because I am not going to tell any more stories. [Not today, anyway. Perhaps in my memoirs, when I am fully retired].

The first people to turn up at Dr. Jonathan's ton-ton were the former ministers who allegedly showed "loyalty" to him during the struggle to install him as Acting President and during the subsequent, stalled struggle to install him as substantive President. They include Mrs. Allison-Maduekwe, Godsay Orubebe and Professor Dora Akunyili. Each one of them had pre-paid for a twenty-shilling share of the ox's meat.

Next came Senator Bala Mohamed Duguri, who also pre-paid by championing the "doctrine of necessity." This man

was widely hailed last year as an upholder of political ethics when he refused to decamp alongside Governor Isa Yuguda to the PDP. He stayed put in the comatose ANPP; but by accepting a ministerial position in a PDP regime in return for his campaign, where are his high political ethics?

The next event at the ton-ton was a scuffle to grab a juicy share for the former House of Representatives Speaker Aminu Bello Masari, who also pre-paid. I at first thought that becoming a minister would be a demotion for the former Number Four man. But then, Masari would probably not mind because he wanted to be the Governor of Katsina State, a similar protocol demotion.

The Jonathan Cabal---for now, the media still respectfully calls it "the Jonathan Camp"---was intent on making Masari a minister because he campaigned openly for Yar'adua to resign and make way for Jonathan. He paid for it dearly, with pro-Yar'adua demonstrators in Katsina State and over the Radio Kaduna airwaves raining abuses at him and even threatening his life. To the Jonathan camp, that's a lot of loyalty and sacrifice.

But was it? Masari has been Yar'adua's bitter political foe since late 2006. Up until that time, the two men were chummy, and Masari was considered a shoo-in to succeed Yar'adua as Katsina governor. Masari had an active and well-oiled campaign in every Local Government, was endorsed by most party chiefs in the state, and governor Yar'adua said in an interview at the time that Masari will succeed him while deputy governor Abdullahi Aminci and himself would vie for the Senate.

Then overnight, everything changed. Around the time Yar'adua was imposed as PDP presidential candidate, he called a meeting of all party and government leaders at the Katsina Government House and dramatically raised Ibrahim Shema's hand as his anointed successor.

He did so, it was said, on Chief Obasanjo's orders. It was a traumatic experience for all Katsinawa, not the least Masari, who has been an Yar'adua foe since then.

Last week, just before the ministerial list was despatched to the Senate, with Masari's name high on it, Governor Shema arrived in Dr. Jonathan's office, fuming. He said the Acting President's nomination of Masari was a humiliation for the President [Yar'adua] and for himself as the governor of the President's home state, since Masari is their political enemy. Jonathan then struck out Masari's name, to the chagrin of his cabal.

Other party bosses and assorted kingmakers each swooped in at the *ton-ton* and grabbed a share, notably the National Security Adviser, the House Speaker and Deputy Speaker, and [allegedly] Chief Tony Anenih. The state governors were for the most part marginalised, with only a few of them getting their nominees in. They had not pre-paid.

I had wondered 30-plus years ago why Malam Mai Tuluna veered out of making pots, at which he was adept, and dabbled into *ton-ton*, when he had no proper handle on its processes and dangers.

This cabinet selection process is not yet over, since there are about nine more slots to fill. If the same criteria and processes are used to fill the remaining cabinet slots, then it is doubtful if the new cabinet will even equal the dissolved one in technocratic and political quality. Thinking about Dr. Jonathan squatting by the huge Cabinet ox that he peremptorily slaughtered, I could not help but wonder if he has done a better job of *ton-ton* than Malam Mai Tuluna did nearly 40 years ago.

“If the same criteria and processes are used to fill the remaining cabinet slots, then it is doubtful if the new cabinet will even equal the dissolved one in technocratic and political quality”

SPORTS REPORT



YURIORKIS Gamboa of Cuba, left, retained his WBA featherweight title

Gamboa retains WBA featherweight title

Yuriorkis Gamboa of Cuba has retained his WBA featherweight title with an unanimous decision over Jonathan Victor Barros of Argentina. Gamboa is undefeated in 18 fights, but

had to go to the distance for the first time in handing Barros his first defeat in 30 bouts on Sunday in Hamburg.

The 28-year-old Gamboa won comfortably on all three score cards—118-109, 118-109 and 116-111.



ALADE Aminu

Miami Heat sign Aminu

The Miami Heat have added some royalty to their roster.

Alade Aminu, a 6-foot-10 forward from Georgia Tech, was with the Heat in yesterday's game against Toronto. Aminu signed a 10-day contract Saturday with Miami, which had the rookie in training camp briefly last fall.

Aminu is a Nigerian prince, a descendant from a line of kings in the African nation. He says "it's no big deal to be around me" and that he tries to "carry myself as a humble person."

Aminu is the brother of Wake Forest standout Al-Farouq Aminu.