

Obasanjo, Andy Uba consult Jonathan over Vice President



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Kano Deputy Governor, others unite against Shekarau's choice



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Yar'adua's last 48 hours, by family

PHOTO: NAN



FORMER First Lady Hajia Turai Yar'adua, First Lady Patience Jonathan, governors' wives and some family members of the late President Umaru Yar'adua at the family house in Katsina on Saturday when President Goodluck Jonathan paid a condolence visit.

By Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

THE late President Umaru Musa Yar'adua died at about 9pm on Wednesday last night, but the signs of his impending demise were all too clear to the family for at least 48 hours, an impeccable family source told *Daily Trust* yesterday. The source also revealed for the first time that before

Yar'adua returned home from Saudi Arabia, the Saudi doctors told his wife Hajia Turai in thinly veiled terms that he was unlikely to survive for more than three months.

The family member said up until about two weeks ago, all the people around him were very happy with the progress that the president was making, as he was getting stronger by the day,

even though he was still unable to speak or regain most of the weight he lost. While he periodically suffered a relapse, he often recovered within a day or two and regained stability.

However, the source said, on Monday last week, Yar'adua suffered a major relapse and his doctor Dr. Salisu Banye ordered a change in his
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Danjuma-led PAC to Jonathan:

You contest, we quit

By Nasiru L. Abubakar

MEMBERS of the Presidential Advisory Council headed by former

Defence Minister Lt General Theophilus Yakubu [T.Y.] Danjuma have decided to resign from the council en masse if and when Presi-

dent Goodluck Jonathan decides to contest the 2011 presidential elections, *Daily Trust* learnt in Abuja.

A source close to the council

said the decision, which was made several weeks ago, was arrived at because the eminent council

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FROM left: Mr. Wale Tinubu, Group Chief Executive, retired Maj Gen Mohammed Magoro, Chairman and Mrs Oredeji Delano, Chief Compliance Officer/Company Secretary, all of Oando Plc at the company's 33rd annual general meeting held in Lagos, recently.

Don't serve regional interest, Monguno tells Jonathan

From Isa Umar Gusau, Maiduguri

NEW president, Dr Goodluck Jonathan, has been advised not take any decision through the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes or in making appointments to serve the interest of a region, state, ethno-religious group, family or tribe against the collective interest of all Nigerians.

Elder statesman, Dr Shettima Ali Monguno, gave the advice while speaking with newsmen in Maiduguri in a reaction to last week's demise of former President Umaru Musa Yar'adua. He said that the president must be seen as being just and fair to all Nigerians to promote peaceful co-existence, unity and stability of the nation. Monguno, who was minister under General Gowon's regime, urged

Jonathan to use the opportunity he has and write his name in gold while he continues the good policies of late Yar'adua, especially on restoration of power supply and electoral reforms so as to safeguard the right of the people to choose credible leaders.

Monguno described Yar'adua as a very committed and patriotic leader who had great vision which he pursued with sincerity.

Three children drown in a ditch

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

THREE children were reported dead Saturday after falling into a ditch at Damboa village in Dange Shuni Local Government Area of Sokoto State.

Ibrahim Umar, a JSS 2 student of the Army Day Secondary School Sokoto, Naziru Muhammad, a primary five pupil of Damboa Model Primary School and Muhammad Murtala, a pupil of Attahiru Bafarawa Model Primary

School were said to have drowned while trying to swim inside the ditch.

A witness, Alhaji Abubakar Damboa, said another child ran home to report the incident but before the parents arrived the scene, the children were all dead.

According to him, they reported the incident to the Divisional Police Officer in the area.

A ward councillor in the area, Alhaji Umar Muhamad Abdullahi, decried

the digging of sand in the area which he noted caused the incident. He said this was the first time such a thing happened in the area.

Abdullahi called on authorities concerned to stop tipper drivers from digging sand in the area. The councillor stressed the need to evacuate the water from the ditch to avoid a re-occurrence. He said he had already informed the Fire Service and pleaded with them to evacuate it.

Saraki administers oath, presents staff of office to new Olofa

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

GOVERNOR Abubakar Bukola Saraki of Kwara yesterday administered oath and presented staff of office to the new Olofa of Offa, Oba Mufuta Gbadamosi.

Presenting the staff of office, Saraki urged the monarch to provide effective leadership to his subjects so that the legacy of accelerated development in the community could be sustained.

The governor enjoined the monarch to use the instrument of dialogue and consultation in administering the

community, bearing in mind that he is presiding over a pluralistic society.

"All segments of the society must be carried along for enhanced cooperation, loyalty and commitment to the cause of the community", he said.

Saraki charged the new monarch to operate an open door policy for easy accessibility and free flow of information which are necessary for peaceful co-existence and transformation of the society and urged all royal fathers in the state to continue to mobilize their subjects to continue to support and participate in govern-

ment programmes.

Earlier, the Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs Alhaji Ahmed Makama implored other contestants to cooperate with the new royal father to accelerate the process of moving the community forward.

Oba Gbadamosi promised to give top priority to peace and development of the community.

He appealed to all indigenes of the community to join hands with him to put Offa in the industrial map of the world.

Police hold 3 over killing of Fulani chief, 2 others

From Sadeeq Aliyu, Gusau

THREE persons suspected to be involved in last week's murder of three Fulanis including a chief in Maleji settlement in Bungudu Local Government Area of Zamfara State have been arrested by the police while seven others have been declared wanted in connection with the killing.

Investigation by our reporter revealed that the Fulani settlement was attacked by a group at night last week following series of armed robberies in the area for which the Fulanis were suspected. During the attack, one Dogo Na Oshi, the Fulani chief and two others in the settlement were killed while two houses were set ablaze.

It was gathered that the attackers mobilised to put an end to the recurring robbery incidents in the area and in the process, raided many Fulani settlements, some of which were destroyed while others were burnt and many of the Fulanis fled with their animals.

The Divisional Police Officer of Bungudu, Muhammed Abdullahi, who confirmed the incident, said the matter had been forwarded to the C.I.D office for further investigation. Bungudu council chairman Musa Abdullahi Nahuce said the council was collaborating with the police and district head to fish out those behind the murder and arson.

Meanwhile, the fracas is now generating a power tussle among leaders of the Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders, the association under which Fulanis run their socio-economic activities. A few days after the incident, one Bello Liman who claimed to be the chairman of the association wrote a letter to Governor Mahmud Shinkafi urging government to take action against the perpetrators. The letter was copied to all security agencies in the state. But in the course of getting more details about the incident, it was gathered that another chairman in the person of Alhaji Ahmed Husaini has been elected to replace Liman.

When our reporter visited the Zamfara State Miyetti Allah office in Gusau, Ahmed Husaini said he was the legally elected chairman and Liman had since been removed. He said the state government allocated the office apartment to him, gave him an official vehicle and that he enjoys monthly allowance from government.

Husaini however said he was not aware of the Bungudu incident because he was not briefed by the association's chairman in Bungudu Local Government.

Obasanjo, Gusau, others condole Yar'adua family

From Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

FORMER President Olusegun Obasanjo and the National Security Adviser (NSA) retired General Aliyu Gusau were in Katsina yesterday to condole with the family of the late President Umaru Musa Yar'adua.

The former president and his erstwhile security adviser were among the many sympathizers that thronged the residence of the deceased president to commiserate with the family and people of the state over the loss.

Among prominent personalities that visited the state yesterday were former chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Professor Maurice Iwu, the Nigerian Ambassador to the U.K, Dr Dalhatu Sarki Tafida and his former U.S counterpart, Professor Jibril Aminu as well as NLC President Abdul Wahid Omar.

They were received at the family house by the Emir of Daura Alhaji Faruk Umar Faruk, the Speaker, Katsina House of Assembly Ya'u Umar Gwajo Gwajo, Alhaji Sani Zangon Daura, Alhaji Dahiru Barau Mangal and other members of the Yar'adua family.

Speaking during a courtesy call to the Emir of Katsina, Obasanjo described the late Yar'adua as a man of peace whose legacies should be kept alive for the country to move forward.

Obasanjo who called for sustained prayers for the soul of the deceased said he and other Nigerian leaders were challenged by the death of Yar'adua to ensure the stability of this country.

Obasanjo's visit to the state was greeted with an unusual presence of heavy army and police personnel who cordoned off all areas leading to the Yar'adua family house and prevented other mourners from the house for the duration of the visit.

It was gathered that the extra security cover was predicated on fears of being stoned by aggrieved Yar'adua supporters over Obasanjo's recent remarks on Yar'adua.

Emir of Katsina Alhaji Abdulmumini Kabir Usman thanked the former president for the visit and urged him to use his wealth of experience in advising President Jonathan to ensure economic development of the country.



GROUP Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer UBA Plc Tony Elumelu flanked by Pascal Lamy (left), Director-General, World Trade Organisation (WTO) and Valentine Ugwabiza, the deputy Director-General (WTO), at the World Economic Forum (WEF) on Africa which ended in Tanzania at the weekend.

2011: Kano deputy gov, others unite against Shekarau's choice

From Auwalu Umar, Kano

THERE is a crack in Kano's ruling All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) now as state deputy governor Alhaji Abdullahi Tijjani Mohammed Gwarzo along with other key ANPP stakeholders have vehemently rejected last week's endorsement of commissioner of local government affairs Alhaji Salihu Sagir Takai by Governor Ibrahim Shekarau for next year's gubernatorial elections.

Other party members who kicked against Takai endorsement, are former governor of the state Senator Kabiru Ibrahim Gaya, director general of the state pilgrims welfare board Alhaji Sani Lawan Kofar Mata, House of Reps member Danlami Hamza, member of Kano State Assembly Alhaji Habibu Minjibir and ANPP chieftain Alhaji Habibu Dukawa.

Their decision was contained in a statement yesterday signed on their behalf by Senator Kabiru Gaya following their Saturday meeting under the auspices of Kano State ANPP Gubernatorial Aspirants.

But Shekarau's senior special assistant on media and public relations Sule Ya'u Sule said Shekarau's open support for Takai was, in a way, expressing his own personal opinion as ANPP stakeholder.

"These people have failed to understand that the governor

has his own personal opinion as ANPP stakeholder. And this does not mean that he is imposing an individual candidate as governor", he said.

But the state aspirants described the endorsement as unacceptable, adding that it was capable of affecting the chances of the party in next year's general elections.

They also rejected in its entirety the propaganda being dished out that those opposed to this "unilateralism are out to divide our great party."

"It was agreed that we shall pursue the struggle for the entrenchment of justice, fair play and all tenets of democracy in ANPP to its logical conclusion. The process of producing party candidates must be respected as stipulated in the constitution of our party", they said.

They also said there should be deliberate effort in educating party leaders and members on the political consequences of imposition of candidates at every level and that party members should rededicate themselves to the struggle for the entrenchment of internal democracy in all elective positions in the party.

They also resolved to work as a group determined to make sure that all necessary processes and procedures laid out in ANPP constitution were applied in producing the party's gubernatorial candidate.

Obasanjo, Andy Uba consult Jonathan over VP

By Mohammed S. Shehu

PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan yesterday held a 30-minute closed-door meeting with former President Olusegun Obasanjo along with his close associate Andy Uba.

No official details of the meeting were available as at press time, but sources in the presidency said it might not be unconnected with last minute consultations over the choice of Vice President, which has recently dominated political discourse in the country.

Media report yesterday said that Obasanjo wanted Jonathan to pick Sokoto State Deputy Governor Muktari Shagari as vice president.

The former President who arrived from China yesterday reportedly drove straight from the airport to the Presidential Villa, Abuja to meet Jonathan.

Clad in white caftan with cap to match, Obasanjo, accompanied by Uba, arrived at Akinola Aguda House, the President's official residence at about 5pm and proceeded to the waiting room where they waited for few minutes before they were ushered into the residence.

The meeting, started at about 5:30, lasted for 30 minutes and soon after he emerged from the meeting, newsmen approached

Obasanjo but he refused to answer questions on the outcome of his talk with Jonathan.

Obasanjo also refused to comment on the death of his successor, late President Umaru Musa Yar'adua who died Wednesday night at the Villa and was buried the following day in his hometown of Katsina.

When asked to comment on the passing away of Yar'adua, he looked the other way and proceeded to his waiting jeep.

Daily Trust observed that Obasanjo appeared to be in a hurry to leave the Villa and after waiting impatiently for a while for Andy Uba, who was left behind, he called out "Oya, Oya" a Yoruba word meaning "come on, come on," and Uba hurriedly followed. They later drove out of the Villa with Uba in the same car ending the visit which lasted about 30 minutes.

Jonathan, according to sources, is expected to name his vice president Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Jonathan has promised that his administration will do its best despite the challenges that lie ahead.

He made the pledge when he met with delegations from Niger and Kano states led by Governors Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu and Ibrahim Shekarau respectively.

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Ogbulafor's trial commences today

By John Chuku Aza

THE trial of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) National Chairman Prince Vincent Ogbulafor and four others over alleged corruption will finally commence today following the suspension of the strike action embarked by judiciary workers.

Ogbulafor, Emeka Ebilah, Henry Ikoh, Jude Nwokoro and Emmanuel Bosah will

be taking their plea before Justice Ishaq Bello of the FCT High Court Maitama, Abuja.

The Independent and Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) preferred 16 count charges against the Accused persons accompanied by a five paragraph affidavit deposed to by its Principal Legal Officer, Paul Ahmed Bassi.

Ogbulafor, Ebilah and

Bosah were alleged to have in March 2001 used their offices as Minister of Special Duties, Secretary/Member, National Intelligence Committee (NEIC) and Director Budget Implementation, Federal Ministry of Finance respectively to conspire and receive through a proxy Henry Ikoh, the sum of N82, 631.41 from the Federal Government of Nigeria in the name of a company

Henchriko Nig. Ltd.

They were also alleged to have conspired to use the NEIC contract verification panel to verify fictitious contract purportedly executed on behalf of the Federal Government of Nigeria by a company known as Henchriko Nig. Ltd.

The accused persons were also alleged to have used their positions to

fraudulently receive from the Federal Republic of Nigeria the sum of N11, 519, 906.25 though a proxy Chris Abuajah in the name of company DHL Consultants as payment for fictitious contract purportedly executed on behalf of the Federal Government of Nigeria and used NEIC contract verification panel to verify same as executed.

ICPC's filed an applica-

tion on 19th April, 2010 seeking leave of court to prefer charges on the accused persons. It was approved by Justice Bello who fixed May 3 for plea taking by the accused persons but could not go on due to public holiday declared for Nigerian workers on that day. It was stalled once more by the Judiciary workers' strike the following day.



PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan acknowledges cheers from the crowd during his condolence visit to Katsina on Saturday.

'Jonathan can't elect VP without PDP'

By Boco Edet

PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan cannot elect a Vice-President (VP) constitutionally without the approval of the ruling party Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), human rights lawyer Festus Keyamo has said.

Keyamo said that section 146 (3) of the 1999 constitution which stipulates the procedure for picking a person to fill the vacant office of the VP must be read in conjunction with Section 142 to "avoid absurdity."

Section 146(3) states that "where the office of the Vice-President becomes vacant by reason of death or resignation,

impeachment, permanent incapacity or removal in accordance with section 143 or 144 of this constitution by his assumption of the office of President in accordance with subsection (1) of this section or for any other reason, the President shall nominate and, with the approval of each House of the National Assembly, appoint a new Vice-President."

Section 142(1) on the other hand states that "in any election to which the foregoing provisions of this Part of this Chapter relate, a candidate for an election to the office of President shall not be deemed to be validly nominated unless he nominates another candidate as his associate from

the same political party for his running for the office of President, who is to occupy the office of Vice-President and that candidate shall be deemed to have been duly elected to the office of Vice-President if the candidate for an election to the office of President who nominated him as such associate is duly elected as President in accordance with the provisions aforesaid."

Keyamo therefore proposed that President Jonathan must write to the PDP informing them of his choice of a new Vice President and the party must write back confirming the membership of that person as a party man and express their approval of the

choice before the name is forwarded to the National Assembly for approval.

He said the PDP can also forward a number of names to the president from which he will nominate one to be the Vice President and forward same to the National Assembly for approval.

"or the National Assembly, upon receiving the name of a person nominated by Goodluck Jonathan to be the new Vice President must write to the PDP seeking for confirmation of the person as a member of the PDP and the party's position regarding his nomination before going ahead to approve such nomination."

EFCC arrests fake army general over N90m fraud

By Boco Edet

A fake Army General Sylvanus Enunche, 62, has been apprehended by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) for allegedly swindling one Nnoduka Eruchachi who paid N90million to acquire a plot of land in Maitama district of Abuja.

Enunche was picked by EFCC operatives from Keffi prison in Nasarawa State where he was detained as he awaited trial on account of an alleged N17million land fraud.

According to EFCC, the suspect claimed that he retired from the Nigerian Army as a Major in 2006 but authorities have been unable to trace his service records.

Investigators discovered that his mode of operation was to clone original copies of property

titles in areas like Maitama and Asokoro obtained from the Abuja Geographical Information System (AGIS).

In a statement to EFCC he claimed a lawyer friend supplied the original documents for him to clone and sell to people.

Eruchachi who petitioned the EFCC alleged that he paid the said sum in two instalments after verifying the genuineness of the photocopy of the property documents from AGIS.

However, when he wanted to develop the land and wrote to AGIS for approval, he was told that the land in question belonged to Donatus Ikechukwu Oguejiofor and there was no record to suggest it had been sold.

The suspect is being held in custody on a court order and would soon be prosecuted.

PDP national caucus to meet tomorrow

By Muideen Olaniyi

THE meeting of the National Caucus of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) is expected to meet tomorrow to discuss on the person to be Vice President for President Goodluck Jonathan.

Though there was no official statement on the meeting, PDP National Publicity Secretary Prof. Rufai Ahmed Alkali when contacted last night could neither confirm nor deny the meeting of the party's national caucus.

Twenty-eight governors of the PDP and members of the National assembly are said to be at loggerhead because each of the two parties wants to produce Jonathan's Vice President.

AC warns Jonathan against 2011 distractions

By Muideen Olaniyi

PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan must avoid the distractions being engineered within his own party, over whether or not he will run in 2011, and squarely face the challenges of restoring hope to long-suffering Nigerians, the Action Congress said yesterday.

AC National Publicity Secretary Alhaji Lai Mohammed said Jonathan can help put Nigeria on the path to greatness despite the short time, saying former Head of State Gen Abdulsalami Abubakar was able to transfer power from the military to civilians in less than a year.

He tasked the President to focus on electoral reform, power and the fight against corruption.

Mohammed said a successful electoral reform will pave the way for Nigerians to elect their leaders on the basis of their ability, rather than on the strength of the dirty money they can throw around.

AC also urged Jonathan to build on the legacies of his predecessor, the late President Umaru Yar'adua, particularly the amnesty programme and the Uwais panel report.

N/Assembly holds valedictory sessions for Yar'adua tomorrow

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Turaki A. Hassan

THE two chambers of the National Assembly will tomorrow hold special valedictory sessions in honour of late President Umaru Musa Yar'adua.

Chairman House Committee on Rules and Business Rep. Ita Enang (PDP, Akwa Ibom) House of Representatives told newsmen in Abuja that the session will commence by 10am.

He said the House has suspended all plenary proceedings slated for the day to honour the departed Nigerian leader.

The lawmaker further said that the House has invited all its former speakers, deputy speakers and principal officers to attend the valedictory service which will be covered live on NTA and AIT.

On its part, the Senate will also hold a special session to honour the late Yar'adua, Vice Chairman Senate Committee on Information and Media Senator Anthony Manzo (PDP, Taraba) has said.

"We are not going to waive our rule to allow visitors because it is not a session to honour a late senator. The valedictory session would be held to honour a very important personality in the country that has passed and it will be in accordance to Senate directives," he said.

Jonathan to address N/Assembly on policy direction

By Turaki A. Hassan

PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan is expected to address a Joint Session of the National Assembly on the "Policy Direction" of his government, Chairman House Committee on Rules and Business Rep. Ita Enang (PDP, Akwa Ibom) said yesterday.

"We expect that in due time the president will soon address the Joint Session of the National Assembly on the Policy Direction of the government," Enang said.

However, Enang did not disclose in which of the chambers the president will address the lawmakers as the red and green chambers disagreed last year over the venue for Joint Sessions which forced the late president Umaru Musa Yar'adua to shelve the presentation of the 2010 appropriation bill. When contacted, Senate Deputy Majority Leader Victor Ndoma-Egba SAN said he had no indication to that effect.



A fish seller displaying his biggest catch for sale at the National Assembly, Abuja, recently.

Yar'adua's last 48 hours, by family

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medications after consulting on telephone with the Saudi doctors. Just the day before, *Daily Trust* also learnt, the president asked his wife for a pen and paper, and on it he wrote that he wanted to see all his children and grandchildren. All of them arrived on Monday, including the in-laws, and were present as his condition deteriorated.

Throughout Tuesday last week, the source said, family members maintained a worried vigil in the State House Residence, only departing at night and coming back in the morning. On Wednesday morning, the source said Hajia Turai Yar'adua concluded that her husband was unlikely to last the rest of that

day and she spent the whole day quietly sobbing while the doctors went in and out.

At about 8pm that night, the children and the in-laws again left for their respective houses, promising to return early the next day. Dr Salisu Banye also left around that time, sources said, but at a few minutes past 9pm, the First Lady phoned and asked him to come back.

The personal physician then rushed back, examined the President's pulse, but refused to confirm that he was dead. Instead, he summoned another doctor, possibly a Saudi Arabian, and together they fiddled for a while before they finally, gently confirmed to the sobbing First Lady that the president had expired. The source said Hajia Turai later told

family members that she was not deceived by the doctors' fiddling, that she knew that her husband had died.

One of the Yar'adua daughters also told sympathisers in Katsina that when they left his bedside at around 8pm that night, she felt very strongly that the end was near. She said when she received a phone call at about 9.45pm telling her to come back to the State House, she instantly knew what had happened. As soon as the death was confirmed, a call was placed through to then Acting President Goodluck Jonathan, who immediately summoned a National Security Council meeting before an announcement was made. Another family member quoted the former First Lady as saying that she was able to with-

hold back tears from public view on Thursday morning because "I had been crying since Wednesday morning, many hours before he died, and I had no more tears left."

The sources said for many weeks prior to his death, President Umaru Yar'adua found solace in the companionship of his children and grandchildren and always wanted them around him. During the recent school break, all the grandchildren and many of the smaller children stayed with him in the State House and when they were departing for Kaduna, Yar'adua objected, saying he wanted them to stay. He was however gently persuaded that schools had resumed and they had to go back, the source said.

The family member also frowned at the allegations made

against Hajia Turai Yar'adua in the news media during Yar'adua's sickness, alleging that she was hungry for power and was shielding him from public view in order to exploit the situation. The source said the former First Lady was fiercely protective of her ailing husband's welfare and did not allow easy access to him because he had lost a lot of weight and was also dressed in light clothing for good ventilation, according to doctors' orders.

President Umaru Yar'adua died on Wednesday last week after a protracted illness. His remains were buried in Katsina the following day. A public holiday was observed throughout the country last Thursday, and the government has also declared a week of mourning in his honour.

You contest, we quit

Continued from page 1

members were worried that wading into the race will severely affect Jonathan's reputation as an unbiased umpire in the elections and will make it impossible for him to make strides in the socio-economic sphere during the limited time he has in office.

According to the source, even before Tuesday last week's marathon meeting between Jonathan and the council members at which its interim report was tendered, the council members unanimously mandated their chairman, General Danjuma, to raise the matter with Jonathan. They said Danjuma should advise him to resist pressure from former President Olusegun Obasanjo as well as from some South-South community leaders and some members of his new cabinet to drag him into the 2011 presiden-

tial contest.

Daily Trust learnt that having given that mandate to Danjuma, the council members decided that the matter of 2011 should not be raised at their meeting with Jonathan last Tuesday. At the marathon meeting, which lasted from 10am until 9.30pm with only a 45 minutes' lunch break, the chairmen of 6 sub-committees were called one after another to make detailed presentations. The six committees were on Niger Delta; Election Reform, Public Service and Rule of Law; Power; Economy and Infrastructure; Social Sector, and Security and Anti-corruption.

Daily Trust further learnt that when it was the turn of the Security and Anti-corruption Committee to present its report, its chairman, former Police Inspector General Muhammadu Dikko [M.D.] Yusuf, declined to present

it, saying he was tired of presenting reports to government that were not acted upon.

At that point, committee member and former Attorney General of the Federation Mr. Kanu Agabi took over and presented the committee's report. According to sources familiar with the situation, Agabi had missed some meetings of the full council and was not aware that a decision had been taken not to raise the 2011 matter at the Tuesday meeting.

Agabi therefore went ahead and forcefully argued that it was the view of his committee and indeed the whole council that Jonathan should not contest the 2011 elections against his party's zoning policy because it could cause security breaches in the country.

Daily Trust learnt that Agabi made his point so forcefully that

after resuming his seat at one point, he suddenly sprang up again and reiterated the same point at length. At that point, Dr. Jonathan's ADC, Deputy Superintendent of Police [DSP] Moses Tituboh, loudly complained, "Why should this man be talking like this?"

In responding to the speech by General Danjuma after submitting the interim report, Dr. Jonathan completely sidestepped the issue of 2011.

Instead, he thanked the council for a job well done and promised to ensure the implementation of at least 60 percent of the recommendations. The council's six committees had each made a detailed presentation with short, medium and long term measures that they advised the Jonathan administration to focus on between now and May next year, when its tenure ends.

Apart from the chairman, Lt.-Gen. T.Y. Danjuma, other members of the PAC include the deputy chairman Prof. Ben Nwabueze, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, Ambassador G. B. Preware, Prof. Bartholomew Nnaji, Mr. Basil Omiyi, Alhaji M. D. Yusufu, Muhammed Hayatuddeen, former Chief Justice Salihu Alfa Belgore, former Deputy House Speaker Chibudom Nwuche, Dr. Bamanga Tukur, Alhaji Ismaila Isa, Prof. Shehu Sa'id Sarinwata, Dr. Simon C. Okolo and Mazi Sam Ohuabunwa. Other members are Mr. Fola Adeola, Malam Abubakar Gimba, Mr. Kase Lawal, Mrs. Mobola Johnson, Hajiya Halita Aliyu, Alhaji Magaji Danbatta, Prof. Buba G. Bajoga, Dr. Sally Bolujoko, Mrs. Maryam Uwais and Chief Kanu Agabi. The Permanent Secretary (Special Duties) in SGF's Office is the council's secretary.

Implement Uwais report for Yar'adua -CPC

From Sharafa Dauda, Maiduguri

IMPLEMENTING recommendations of the Justice Mohammed Lawal Uwais-led Electoral Reform and respecting the rule of law will serve as a befitting tribute and mark of respect to late President Umaru Musa Yar'adua, the Borno State

chapter of the Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) has said.

In a statement signed by its Secretary, Ibrahim Saidu Burashika at the weekend in Maiduguri, the CPC said the rare courage displayed by the late president when he openly declared as flawed, electoral process which brought him into power

and his swift response to institute electoral reforms.

While commiserating with the Federal Government, the Yar'adua family and the people of Nigeria over the death of the former president, the CPC recalled his efforts towards electoral reforms, respect for the rule of law and the creative approach to

resolving the unrest in the Niger Delta against the government as a "bold response" towards addressing the enormous national challenges, stressing that President Goodluck Jonathan should be bold to pursue the policies of his predecessor with sincerity and commitment for enduring peace. The statement fur-

ther said the passing away of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua should serve a call for sober reflection on the part of all politicians about the transitory nature of life and power and urged them to commit themselves towards sustained honest handling of the nation's affairs through credible, peaceful and fair elections.



CROSS section of governors at Katsina Airport after attending the Fidu prayers for the late President Umaru Yar'adua at the weekend.

Youths want ex-Navy Cmdr Andarai as MP

From Abdulfatai Abdulsalami, Sokoto

A youth forum in Koko/Besse Local Government Area of Kebbi State have called on the retired Navy Commander, Abdullahi Mikailu Andarai to contest for the House of Representatives seat in the area.

In a press statement signed by the leader of the forum, Mallam Ahmed Bello Besse in Sokoto, the forum urged the ex-Navy Commander to represent the Koko/Besse, Maiyama federal constituency under the Peoples Democratic Party in 2011.

The forum explained that the decision to ask Andarai to vie for the post was borne out of the conviction that he could improve the lives of the people of Koko/Besse, Maiyama federal constituency which has been lagging behind for a long time.

They said since the advent of the present democratic dispensation, the people of their constituency have not been fortunate enough to have a good representation in the Federal House of Representatives.

The forum stressed that based on his track record as a former Navy Commander, they were confident that the man would advance their cause.

The forum stressed that in line with the principle of fair play and equity, Maiyama LGA should be allowed to provide a capable hand to represent the constituency this time around.

Dep Gov allays fears over Jonathan's take over

From Isa Umar Gusau, Maiduguri

THE take over of Dr. Goodluck Jonathan as substantive president following the death of Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'adua should not make the northern geo-political zone entertain any fears because from his antecedents, Jonathan is no supporter of ethno-religious sentiments and has over the years established sustained relation-

ship with associates, friends and even key domestic staff from the North, Adamu Yuguda Dibal, Borno State deputy governor has said.

Dibal who spoke with newsmen in Maiduguri noted that the late Yar'adua was a great president who meant well for the country and whom the North and the entire nation should be very proud of.

The deputy governor said he had been relating with President Jonathan for nearly 20 years and never had cause to see him as someone that would push against any region, the North in particular as being feared by some.

"It may interest people to know that Jonathan has northerners who cook the food he eats and carry out other sensitive domestic activities, I don't think someone who dis-

likes the North will entrust his life to northerners by eating what they prepare for him. I am a northerner, I have been to his house severally even when he was deputy governor of Bayelsa, we ate from the same plate despite the difference in our religion and tribe, he treats everyone with confidence, he is someone you would easily like when you come in contact with him, he is broad minded," Dibal said.

Union threatens closure of schools over sack

From Ibrahim Muhammad, Yola

THE Non Academic Staff Union of Educational and Associated Institutions (NASU) Adamawa State chapter has threatened to close down tertiary institutions in the state over an alleged wrongful termination of the appointments of its leaders by the Provost of the College of Legal Studies, Yola Barr. Musa Yahaya Nuhu.

The provost had terminated the appointment of the Assistant Registrar, Mallam Muhammad Mukhtar Adamu, who is also state chairman of the Joint Action Committee of the Academic and Non Academic Staff Unions in Adamawa State owned tertiary institutions as well as the secretary of the union, Mallam Abdulrasheed Muhammad Bibi, over non submission of the union's

statement of account to the college management. Addressing newsmen yesterday, NASU state chairman, Comrade Mahmud Muhammad and secretary, Ishaku Bitrus, said due process was not duly followed in the termination. "It is not within the constitutional right of the college to demand for the statement of account of the union. This has never happened or been practiced in any establishment," they said.

According to them, "Ordinarily, the college is expected to have a disciplinary committee. It is therefore surprising that the provost would constitute himself into the accuser, the judge and the jury against the affected staff."

The labour union gave a 21-day ultimatum to the management to rescind its decision saying, "if they

fail to do so we are going to close down all tertiary institutions in the state."

They said already, the national body of the union as well as the labour ministry have been contacted. The provost, Barr. Musa Yahaya Nuhu, said the assistant registrar's appointment was terminated for his non compliance to submit the statement of account of the union to the management. "He refused to release the NASU statement of account for the months of January 2009 to April 2010 as earlier demanded by the college authorities, he also invited Abdulrasheed Muhammad Bibi, a former employee of the college to the JAC meeting at Ganye, knowing fully well that his appointment was terminated by the college council," the provost said.

Students develop software for e-voting

From Ibrahim Muhammad, Yola

TWO students of the American University of Nigeria (AUN) in Yola have successfully developed and tested a software for electronic voting.

Tosin Komolafe and Emeka Osigwe are second year students of computer science in the university. The software called e-ballot was used to conduct the just concluded election of the student union government consisting of the president, 18 senators and other positions.

Speaking to newsmen, Mr. Komolafe described the software as of very low cost and user friendly and reduces human error in the voting and counting process.

Emeka Osigwe added, "It is easy to program and could be used to conduct voting anywhere in the world and we were driven into this invention after observing the very long queuing, stressful waiting, operational inefficiency as well as counting problems associated with manual voting."

The interim president of AUN, Bettina Sawhill Espe said, "What has been accomplished should be heralded not only in Nigeria but around the world. This team of American University of Nigeria students, designed, produced and implemented the first completely transparent, data driven voting system which performed absolutely brilliantly. So Nigerians should be incredibly proud of their work."

Gombe releases N70m for scholarships

From Allyu M. Hamagam, Gombe

THE Gombe State government has released N70 million for the payment of scholarships to indigenes of the state in various institutions of higher learning in the country, the Commissioner for Youths and Students Affairs Alhaji Muhammad Hassan has said. Speaking at the weekend in Gombe, He said the new students would also be paid bur-

sary allowances.

The commissioner said the state's scholarship board had concluded arrangements to visit all institutions of higher learning where the state's indigenes were studying for the payment. He added that those who were currently on vacation would collect theirs at the board's headquarters. He called on the students to reciprocate the government's gesture by studying hard.

Hassan said the students' success in their studies would encourage the government to sustain the scheme and also increase their allowances. National President of the Gombe State Students Association (GOSSA) Comrade Abdulmalik Suleiman commended the state governor, Danjuma Goje for the gesture. He also assured the governor of the students determination to reciprocate the gesture by working hard in their various fields of study.

PIC: HAMZA IDRIS

Igbo group defies Ohanaeze, elects new 'Onyendu Ndigbo'

From Yemi Bamidele, Ibadan

A group in Oyo State under the auspices of the Igbo General Assembly on Saturday defied a recent resolution by the Ohanaeze Ndigbo by organizing a fresh election for the position of 'Onyendu Ndigbo' of Oyo State.

Ohanaeze Ndigbo, the apex Igbo socio-cultural organization had recently affirmed Dr. Alex Anozie as the leader of the Igbos in Oyo State, and accorded him the right to use the newly approved title of 'Onyeisi Ndigbo'.

According to the Ohanaeze Ndigbo in a letter ref. no. OHNZ/SETC/3/2010 dated March 4, 2010 and titled, "Final resolution of the 'Ezeigbo' title controversy", Dr. Anozie was the democratically elected Eze otherwise known as the Onyeisi Ndigbo of Ibadan and Oyo State which literally means 'Head of Igbos'.

The Secretary General of the Ohanaeze Ndigbo, Chief Nduka I. Eya, had said that the solution to the matter was aimed at putting to rest the age-long controversy which had hitherto created tension in certain quarters. He added that the decision was arrived at, at a meeting of the Ohanaeze Ndigbo leadership which took place in Ogwashi-Ukwu and presided over by the President-General, Ambassador Ralph Uwechue.

However, the newly-formed Igbo General Assembly in Oyo State, comprising representatives of all Igbo-speaking states resident in the state on Saturday organized an election which produced an Ibadan-based business man, Chief Alloy Obi, as the Onyendu-Ndigbo of Ibadan and Oyo State. Alloy Obi polled 98 votes to defeat his only opponent, Prince Isaac Ozo-Eze who got 21 votes.

Addressing the gathering, the President General of Igbo General Assembly Mr. Felix Igboanugo said the election followed the proscription of the two factions that had polarized the Igbos in the state and in adherence to a recent declaration by the South-East Council of Traditional Rulers led by its Chairman, Eze Cletus Illomuanya.

Driver's family receives N.05m

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

DRIVERS and commuters have started benefiting from the newly introduced travellers insurance scheme known as Manifest Insurance as the family of a driver who died in an accident was at the weekend presented a cheque of N150,000.

The scheme which was formally introduced in December 2009, compels passengers and drivers travelling from any motor park in the country to pay an additional N50 as premium. Secretary General of the Road Transport Employers Association of Nigeria Alhaji Danlami Garba Na-Vom who spoke during the presentation of the cheque to the family of the late driver, Surajo Baba Muhammad, enjoined all travellers to embrace the scheme. He said since the introduction of the scheme in December, 17 people who participated in the scheme had died while travelling and that the association was processing their documents in order to pay their families. He said the union intends to buy 36 ambulances for all its branches in the country with doctors and nurses attached to each, adding that it would also go into retainer ship with no less than 8,000 hospitals across the country. Mallam Mahmud Sani who represented the family of the driver thanked the union for the gesture.



A man rescues a boy trapped in flooding waters after a heavy down pour in Damaturu yesterday.

Prof. Ujah becomes DG of NIMR

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

PROFESSOR Innocent Otobo Ujah has been appointed as the new Director General and Chief Executive Officer of the National Institute of Medical Research (NIMR) in Yaba, Lagos State.

A letter signed by the Permanent Secretary in the Federal Ministry of Health, LN Awute said President Goodluck Jonathan approved the appointment. Prof. Ujah was born on the November 6, 1954 and served as a senior lecturer/consultant, obstetrics and gynaecologist at the University of Jos and the Jos Uni-

versity Teaching Hospital between 1996 and March, 1999, after which he became the Chairman, Medical Advisory Committee (CMAC) of the hospital. He became a professor of Obstetrics & Gynaecology in October 2001. He hails from Aigodogo-Okpoga in Okpokwu Local Government Area of Benue State.

Sokoto farmers complain over quelea birds

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

THE farmers in Kiasa village in Kware Local Government Area of Sokoto State at the weekend lamented over the effect of quelea birds on their farms. They said the birds invaded their rice farms wrecking havoc on them. Speaking through their village head, Hakimi Wadat, they called on

the Federal Ministry of Agriculture to fumigate the area.

Wadat said the call became necessary in order to save what was left of their farms.

"Quelea birds can destroy a large quantity of crops within a few minutes and the problem is beyond us. So, we want government to address this issue", a Sokoto based farmer, Mal. Dahiru Mohammed, said.

Students worry over irregular academic calendar

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

THE Students Union Government (SUG) of the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi in Bauchi State has expressed dissatisfaction over what it described as the incessant distortion of the academic calendar of the institution by its management. President of the union Ibrahim Shaibu in a statement at the weekend in Kaduna alleged that the management of the school had been distorting the school's academic calendar without taking into consideration the interests of the students.

"ATBU students have been expe-

riencing elongated semesters ranging from 7 to 12 months. Prolonged holidays, minimum of 2 months per semester has become the norm, consequently leading to elongated sessions, minimum of 18 months. This has led to the loss of two sessions which are the 2003/2004 and 2008/2009 sessions," he said.

He said the irregularity in the academic calendar had made the cost of acquiring education in the university very expensive, especially as it concerned feeding, rent and transportation. He alleged that the attitude of the management was generating avoidable tension in the institution.

While calling on the management of the school to adhere strictly to the calendar, he asked the students to resume on May 12 for the second semester of the 2009/2010 session.

He urged the management of the institution to ensure that a new academic session commences on or before October 25, 2010, saying anything other than that would be resisted by the students. When contacted on phone yesterday, the institution's Dean of Student Affairs Dr Shafiu Mustafa said it is only the Senate of the institution that could decide its resumption/closing date.

Yar'adua's death, lesson to leaders – Bafarawa

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

FORMER Governor of Sokoto State Alhaji Attahiru Bafarawa has called on Nigerian leaders to learn from the death of President Umaru Yar'adua by

ensuring good governance. In a statement by his media aide, Mal. Yusuf Dingyadi, in Sokoto at the weekend, Bafarawa said he received the news of the president's death with shock.

"We have lost a focused,

responsible and reasonable leader, who lived a life of peace.

He worked for the development of our dear country", he added.

The former governor said Yar'adua was a man who under-

stood the need for team work and appreciated positive development.

He said Yar'adua would be remembered for his integrity and positive vision for the country.

"He performed well, especially with his doggedness in ensuring peace in the Niger Delta region," he said.

He condoled the late president's mother, wife, children and the people of Katsina State.

... Monumental loss to Nigeria – Sheikh Jingir

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

THE National Chairman, Council of Ulama Jama'atul Izalatul Bid' ah Wa Ikamatus Sunnah (JIBWIS) Ash Sheikh Muhammad Sani Yahaya Jingir has described the death of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua as a monumental loss to the nation. Sheikh Jingir who spoke in Jos at the weekend said President Yar'adua was a great leader, whose services and commitment would be missed by the people.

Sheikh Jingir who also condoled the Federal Government, the Emir of Katsina, and the Sultan of Sokoto over the death of the late president said Yar'adua was a man of his words "I could recall when he was contesting for the Presidency, I advised him to find a lasting solution to the Niger Delta problem because of its security implication to the nation and to a large extent, he fulfilled his promises," he said.

Sheikh Jingir advised politicians to learn from the late president, "Who despite his short stay in office touched the lives of Nigerians in many aspects. He was a leader who said little and accomplished a lot. He invited opposition parties to make contributions to his government in order to develop the country. He is indeed worthy of emulation". He called on leaders in the country to fear Allah by working for the development of the country and not their personal or regional interests, saying death was inevitable.



Al-Mustapha's mum suffers hypertension, flown abroad

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

THE mother of Major Hamza Al-Mustapha, Chief Security Officer (CSO) to the late Head of State General Sani Abacha, has been flown abroad as a result of "multiple shock and hypertension" which she is said to be suffering due to the continued detention of her son.

Hajiya Fatima Al Mustapha, 67, was flown to Saudi Arabia yesterday following an attack. She is on referral to the King AbdulAziz International Hospital, Jeddah.

A family source informed our correspondent that the woman's illness was due to her son's prolonged detention.

"Her condition is critical and deserves the

sympathy of government", he said.

The family appealed to President Goodluck Jonathan to wade into the matter by ensuring that justice is done.

The family last week issued a statement flaying government over the continued detention of Al-Mustapha, saying he was a, "Victim of state persecution".

VC identifies cause of graduate unemployment

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

THE Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Professor Is-haq Oloyede has tied unemployment among graduates in the country to emphasise on the theoretical aspects of learning.

Professor Oloyede in his address titled 'Seeing is Believing' delivered at the opening ceremony of the 5th Nigerian Association of Petroleum Explorationists (NAPE) mini-conference for tertiary institutions in Ilorin at the weekend said,

"There is a need for improvement in the education sector. It is also gratifying to note that the emphasis on theory is being shifted to practice with the introduction of entrepreneurship programmes in many universities.

Through this programme, youths are empowered to think big by starting small businesses instead of looking for jobs."

Professor Oloyede said more needed to be done in the education sector as according to him, 2.1 million Nigerian children do

not have access to primary education and only 10.4 million of the 33.9 million Nigerians eligible for secondary education are actually in school.

Professor Oloyede acknowledged the contributions of NAPE, especially through its University Assistance Programme (UAP) to the development of the education system.

The President of NAPE Mr. Isaac Arowolo said the conference was part of the association's strategies towards improving the education sector in Nigeria.

Labour Party wants fresh voters' registration

From Adewale Giwa, Akure

THE national leadership of the Labour Party at the weekend called on President Goodluck Jonathan to call for a fresh and credible voter registration exercise.

A communiqué signed by the National Chairman of the party Dan Nwyanwu after the party's National Executive meeting in Akure, Ondo State capital, noted that the current Voters' Register could not be relied upon for credible elections.

The party also lauded the recent sack of the former boss of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Prof.

Maurice Iwu.

The Labour Party also lent its support for the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and the Trade Union Congress of Nigeria (TUC) over their agitation for a minimum wage of N52, 200 for workers.

"The communiqué said the current voters' register could not be relied upon for credible elections"

Sarkozy, Hu, Clinton, others pay tribute to Yar'adua

By Aisha Umar Agaie

PRESIDENTS Nicolas Sarkozy of France and Hu Jintao of China have joined other world leaders in condoling with Nigerians and the family of late President Umaru Musa Yar'adua. Others are Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and US U.S. Assistant Secretary Johnnie Carson.

President Sarkozy said "I recall with emotion the visit of President Yar'adua to Paris on June 12, 2008, during which we concluded a strategic partnership with Nigeria and gave a fresh boost to our economic relations as well as cooperation

for peace and security in Africa and worldwide."

President Hu Jintao said "the late president was an outstanding leader of Nigeria and dedicated to national development and reconciliation. As a good friend of the Chinese people, he was committed to China-Nigeria friendship and important contribution to the development of China-Nigeria strategic partnership."

Canadian Prime Minister Harper said "President Yar'adua's efforts in promoting regional peace and security and his contribution to Nigeria's leadership role within the international community will be remembered. Specifically, Canada commends President Yar'adua's efforts to bring sta-

bility and security to the people of the Niger Delta."

Secretary Clinton expressed sadness on the passing of Yar'adua, saying "he was working toward building strong democratic institutions based on constitutional processes, and we know that he would want Nigeria to continue on this civilian, democratic path." She also said that the United States applauds the timely inauguration of President Jonathan.

Carson said President Yar'adua's death presents Nigeria's young democracy with a challenge, but also an opportunity to honour the late leader's commitment to democratic values.

Nigeria, Iran discuss nuclear for energy, medicine

By Aisha Umar Agaie

MINISTER of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Aliyu Idi Hong said Nigeria is in an open discussion with Iran on nuclear power for energy and medical purposes even though Nigeria remains committed to the non-proliferation treaty. In a press briefing with his Iranian counterpart Soleymen Pour after a closed door meeting in Abuja, over the weekend, the minister said Nigeria is exploring the possibility of nuclear material for medicine and also for power generation. He said there are renewed moves to intensify and increase trade and general bilateral relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran because the trade between the two countries was poor. He said Nigeria is looking at how the level of trade with Iran will be scaled up, noting that Iran came with a very large delegation of its business community in the financial sector and other government agencies to do business.

"We are both member states of OPEC and there is an opportunity to scale up investment interests in petroleum and opportunity to scale up collaboration in energy and power and to also scale up trade between the two countries. Because we are exploring ways to increase the amount of trade between the two countries," said Hong.

Rep wants North West to produce VP

By Turaki A. Hassan

PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan has been urged to pick his deputy from the North-West geopolitical zone in the spirit justice and fairness, Deputy Minority Whip of the House of Representatives Muhammadu Bello Mutawalle (ANPP, Zamfara) has said.

Speaking to newsmen at the weekend in Abuja, the lawmaker said the death of President Umaru Yar'adua has created a very big vac-

uum in the zone which will be without any senior official in the government.

"This is the only way the North-West can be consoled over the death of Yar'adua and be given a sense of belonging. What should be considered is that the position of the President was zoned and occupied by the North-West in the person of the late President, now with his death and his replacement with Jonathan it is only natural to pick the Vice President from the North-

West," he said.

Mutawalle called on the president to disregard the pressure on him by lobbyists to pick his Vice President outside the North-West saying, "Right now there is allegation of nepotism against the president over the dominance of the oil sector by the South-South, therefore it will be politically naive for him to again to alienate the North-West based on his perceived ill treatment by Yar'adua's aides who may not even be from the zone."

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Minister: FG to build on Yar'adua's achievement

By Atika Balal

THE Federal Government will build on the achievements of late President Umaru Musa Yar'adua to move the country forward as promised in the maiden broadcast of President Goodluck Jonathan.

Minister of Information and Communications Prof Dora Akunyili, who said this in a statement, appealed to all Nigerians to remain committed and willing to contribute to the on-going efforts to build a new progressive Nigeria where no one is oppressed.

The minister said the government is encouraged by the continuing outpour of emotions, condolences and kind words from world leaders and Nigerians in honour of the late President.

"The solidarity of Nigerians at this moment of trial is an attestation that our people appreciate the contribution of our departed leader to the growth and development of the nation. The federal government finds great strength and inspiration from the kind words and solidarity of all Nigerians at home and abroad at this moment of grief."

She also appealed to all Nigerians to use the 7-day period of mourning declared by President Jonathan to pray for the family of the late President.

She noted the late President for his success in implementing the amnesty programme in the Niger Delta, his vision on electoral reform and other laudable initiatives.

'Yar'adua ensured accountability in local authorities'

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

LATE President Umaru Yar'adua has left the legacy of rule of law that ushered accountability and transparency in the governance of local administrations, the Association of Local Governments of Nigeria (ALGON) has said.

National President of the association Alhaji Dasuki Jalo Waziri said yesterday in a condolence message that Yar'adua also championed peace and stability particularly the amnesty his administration granted to Niger Delta militants. He said the 774 local government council chairmen in the

country received the news of the president passing away with deep sorrow and commemorated with entire people of Nigeria specifically his family and citizens of Katsina State.

He prayed that may Allah grant late Yar'adua's soul eternal rest and the family fortitude to bear the lost.

ICPC concludes probe against judge

By Boco Edet

THE Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has concluded investigation into the activities of an Upper Area Court Judge in Gwagwalada, Abuja, Alhaji Mohammed Usman Akoyi.

This is contrary to the position of the petitioner and Chairman, House of Representative Committee on Media and Public Affairs, Esemey Eyiboh who sued the commission at the Federal High Court in Abuja asking for an order to compel the ICPC to investigate the judge.

Operatives of the ICPC commenced investigation into the petition filed by Eyiboh against the judge on July 24, 2009.

ICPC's Media Consultant Folu Olamiti said the team handling the petition had concluded its investigation and its rec-

ommendations have been submitted to the chairman of the commission for further action.

The petitioner had in a petition dated June 22, 2009 alleged abuse of office and official Corruption on the part of Justice Akoyi following his roles in a landed property located in Garki Area of Abuja

Besides this current case the ICPC sued Justice Akoyi before an Abuja Federal High Court following the establishment of Prima Facie case against him in a N50, 000 bribery.

This followed the conclusion of investigation into the petition filed against the judge by a female student of the University of Abuja. Justice Akoyi was charged to court on the 10th of August, 2009 for allegedly violating provisions of the ICPC Act 2000.

The case is still pending before the court sitting in Abuja.

Ex-minister tasks youths on 2011 elections

By Akor Ojoma

YOUTHS have been urged not to abandon their rights of leadership to those who should be visioning but participate actively especially in the forthcoming 2011 elections.

Former minister for information and communication Mr Frank Nweke (Jnr) gave the advice during a 2-day National Youth Leadership and Economic Summit in Abuja at the weekend.

Mr Nweke while exemplifying with numerous leaders of various countries of the world who ruled their countries during their youthful age said the age of youth is the season of action which when utilized can impact tremendously on the political landscape.

He advised youths not to sell their votes, and also not allow themselves to be employed for other electoral vices.

Ambassador of Nigeria to Sweden, Finland and Denmark Dr Godknows Igal challenged the youths to see themselves as problem solvers who can employ their gifts, skills, expertise and knowledge to the benefit of others.

He said that the greatest fulfilment in life is to serve and make oneself available for others to benefit.

Ambassadors of Finland and Norway to Nigeria Ms. Anneli Vourinen and Mr Kjell Lillerud in their various addresses encouraged the youths to be active members of the leadership of the country and also form civil society groups, coalitions in grassroots level and also register and vote.

... Blames poor health delivery on corruption

By Ruby Leo

NIGERIA'S health sector has failed to improve over the years mainly due corrupt tendencies of people charged with administering the sector, Head of Publications of the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) Malam Hassan Salihu has said.

Salihu said funds and other forms of resources budgeted for service delivery and development purposes are often mismanaged.

In a lead paper delivered at a sensitization workshop

organised by the National Hospital, Abuja, the ICPC official said corrupt practices by health workers and administrators constitute impediment to proper functioning of the health sector.

"A corruption-ridden health sector is the cause of high maternal mortality rate," Salihu said.

Chairman of the Anti-Corruption and Transparency Unit (ACTU) of the National Hospital Dr Tamunomiebi Wakama said the workshop was organized to encourage workers to report corrupt tendencies around the hospital, as well as discourage workers from corrupt tendencies.

Encounters with Umaru Yar'adua

Cont'd from back page

One day in July 1995, when I went to his house, Malam Umaru told me that General Hassan Usman Katsina had just died, so I went with him to the funeral. Incidentally, General Hassan had authorised me to write his official biography in 1992, and we did several interviews with him before he fell sick. At his funeral, I saw Generals Sani Abacha and Ibrahim Babangida in a rare joint public appearance.

Meanwhile, Malam Umaru was preoccupied with securing the release of his brother, the General. At one point, a close friend suggested to me that the Yar'aduas should contact a sorcerer in Zuru called Daji. I was not superstitious, but after much pressure, I conveyed his suggestion to Malam Umaru. He told me that there was a person "in charge of that." Some days later, he told me that the man in charge said Daji had already been contacted.

On another day, I went to his house and found him sitting

On the day of that interview, I first saw Yar'adua in his office and he said we should go to his house to avoid interruptions. At the house, I interviewed him for about two hours. It was very hot, there was power failure and no generator was started. Both of us were drenched in sweat; at one point, an aide handed to him a hankie, which he gratefully accepted and wiped his face.

alone, looking devastated. He told me that General Shehu had been sentenced to death by a military tribunal.

When I concluded that Malam Umaru was unable to provide the money for *Sentinel's* revival, I stopped going to his house. Not long after that, Haladu Ashiru told me that Umaru said he should be the Acting Chairman of the Task Force in his place. That effectively removed me as the local man in charge.

This was in September 1995, so I began to shop for another job. I soon landed one with the *New Nigerian* Newspapers, so I submitted a resignation letter to Umaru Yar'adua through Malam Haladu. A day later, Haladu told me that Umaru said I should not resign, but should take a leave of absence so that I could come back whenever the paper was revived. I did not think it made much difference, so I complied.

Malam Umaru Yar'adua never forgot this small detail, because in May 2000, as editor of the *New Nigerian*, I went to interview him at the Katsina Government House. He asked me whether (he mumbled one name that I did not hear) had contacted me. I said no. He said the man wanted to take over and revive *Sentinel*, and he had told him that I was the magazine's editor on leave of absence and he could recall me at any time. I later learnt that he

was referring to General Aliyu Mohamed Gusau.

On the day of that interview, I first saw Yar'adua in his office and he said we should go to his house to avoid interruptions. At the house, I interviewed him for about two hours. It was very hot, there was power failure and no generator was started. Both of us were drenched in sweat; at one point, an aide handed to him a hankie, which he gratefully accepted and wiped his face.

That encounter confirmed to me the many stories I heard about his personal austerity in those days. So much, in fact, that he was called "Sayyidina Umaru" in those days, after the Second Guided Caliph Umar ibn al-Khattab.

In-between my departure from *Sentinel* and his becoming governor in 1999, I had a few other encounters with Malam Umaru Yar'adua. One day in 1996, I was in the *New Nigerian's* board room when I was told that I had a visitor in my office. I went there and found Malam Umaru with two other people. He said Abacha had just changed Military Administrators and sent Colonel Samaila Bature Chama to Katsina, and the two civil servants with him came from Katsina with a letter to the editor which they wanted published in *New Nigerian* so that the new MILAD will see the issues on ground. I expressed surprise that he had to come to my office over that, and said he should have just sent the people over, but he said he also seized the opportunity to do "zumunci."

He came to my office again twice after that, for similar reasons, so one day I decided to visit him at his house near Zamani College, Kaduna. He was talking to a visitor when I arrived, and they fell silent. After some minutes, the man offered to go out so that we could talk, but I said no, I had nothing to discuss and was only there to greet him. Malam Umaru was somewhat relieved, because he told the man, "Sit down, sit down. There is nothing Mahmud only came to do zumunci."

My second encounter with him as Governor of Katsina was in May 2001, soon after he returned from a long medical trip to Germany. We had dinner with him that night, and one editor from Lagos asked about his health. He said he had a problem with one of his kidneys. He said, "I didn't know it until then. The Saudis did their best. I went to Germany and they also did their best. *Alhamdu lil Lah* I feel better now." The way he said it, he did not sound very hopeful at the time.

I saw him a few times again in Kaduna, until late 2006, when he was anointed as President Obasanjo's successor. Like most people who were aware of his poor health, I was amazed that Obasanjo anointed him, but Malam Umaru went on to win the PDP nomination.

In January 2007, Governor Ahmed Makarfi, who was the Presidential Campaign Coordinator for the North West Zone, called on a Sunday and asked me to arrange for Malam Umaru to visit *Daily Trust* the next day. Our then Executive Director Isiaq Ajibola and all the editors received them. He came together with Makarfi, Alhaji Idi Faruk and Malam Tanimu Yakubu. Malam Umaru devoted his entire speech to congratulating Media Trust for managing to stay afloat, saying he personally knew how difficult it was to keep a newspaper float. On at least 5 occasions,

he said, "Mahmud, is that not so?" or "Mahmud knows how we tried" etc. I was his star witness.

From there, I did not see Malam Umaru again until he became President. Many of my old friends who remembered my going to his house in the 1990s began saying that I was now "close" to the President. Truth was, I had almost no contact with Malam Umaru Yar'adua once he entered the State House. During his reign, I was at the State House a total of three times - once for Media Chat, once when he hosted Media Trust's chairman and editors to a breakfast, and the third and last time was in January 2008, when he inaugurated us as members of the board of NEITI. He graciously appointed me a member to replace his Media Adviser, Segun Adeniyi. I never got to know whether it was the President's idea or Segun's, or perhaps Malam Tanimu Yakubu's, who called me from Germany to say the appointment letter was with him. [It is still with him].

In an inglorious turn of events, I learnt in early 2008 that

He graciously appointed me a member to replace his Media Adviser, Segun Adeniyi. I never got to know whether it was the President's idea or Segun's, or perhaps Malam Tanimu Yakubu's, who called me from Germany to say the appointment letter was with him. (It is still with him).

President Umaru Yar'adua, or at least the powerful men around him, were not happy with our reporting or commentaries on his regime. I was told that a powerful member of the President's entourage said he would not have any dealings with me because I was one of Yar'adua's enemies. Now, from the little I knew of him, I did not believe that Malam Umaru will ever say that *Daily Trust's* publisher or editors were his enemies. Much more likely, some members of his inner circle said it in his presence and, given his extremely taciturn nature, he probably did not counter it. The fact that he kept us at arm's-length ever since lent some credence to the story.

Malam Umaru Yar'adua is not with us anymore. Maybe we wrote some unfairly harsh sentences in criticism of his administration, but we were not his enemies. In fact, we knew that he was a good man who very much wanted to do good for Nigeria. I personally know also that he was once a very vigorous man who was only slowed down during his presidential tenure by ill-health. We knew all of that, but maybe it did not show in our writings.

May Allah forgive Malam Umaru Yar'adua and grant him aljannat firdaus that he cherished so much and that he worked so hard for.

Online Reactions

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON www.dailytrust.com



Removal of Abuja speed breakers begins

THANKS Mr. FCT minister for taking this rational decision. Many motorists in the FCT groaned under

the torture of those engineering eyesores set up recklessly on our roads. No 21st century city would ever con-

ceive such a solution to road traffic accidents as was witnessed in Abuja a few years back. However, I would

implore you to institute long-lasting maintenance schedules to lengthen the lifespan of tax payer's invest-

ments in civil structures in the FCT. **Salami Olawale**
nulli007@yahoo.com



KANO State Gov Ibrahim Shekarau

Senator Gaya says Shekarau has lost grip of Kano

THE people of Kano state are wise politically and therefore no one can be forced to be their governor. Shekarau was chosen or elected and therefore should allow party delegates to do what should be done if not, ANPP's chances of ruling Kano again are very slim.

Nazif Jamilu
njamilu@yahoo.com

Shekarau's action is undemocratic and Kabiru Gaya and other aspirants deserve fair treatment. Shekarau has betrayed General Buhari and it won't be surprising if he meets with betrayals in his political career too. Time will tell.

Ghazali Ado
ghazaliado@gmail.com

We the people of Kano state are behind Mal Salihu Sagir Takai. He is religious, friendly, and possesses good qualities and characters. Kano sai Takai.

Fahd Mahmoud Usman
ufahd@yahoo.com

Shekarau has cleared road for Dr. Engr. Rabi Kwankwaso and Engr. Adamu Yusuf Yunusa in the next elections. Insha Allah. Kwankwaso, dawo dawo.

Yusuf Sidi Yahya
sidicomcommunicationservices@yahoo.ca

Policeman kills water vendor at Mararaba

WHERE are the Civil Right groups? Now a poor, ordinary citizen has been murdered nothing is heard from them.

Usman
shehuabdullahiusman@yahoo.com

NFF: Why we approved Hampshire Hotel

CHIEF Ojo-oba, your team entered into a deal that the hotel breached (according to your explanation above) yet you are making us to pay a whopping \$125,000. Who is deceiving who in these controversies?

Edwin
eddielbell@yahoo.com

Umaru Musa Yar'adua 1951-2010... The last trip home

I will like to commiserate with the immediate family of Yar'adua and we would continue to remember him for his principles and some of his policies that he left as legacies: the rule of law mantra and one who was committed to due process. He was an exemplary servant-leader. I hope his family and all Nigerians would have the courage to bear this irreparable loss. I would also like to advise Mr. Jonathan to emulate his predecessor in good governance even though since his elevation to Acting president under the doctrine of necessity and to his present position under the doctrine of reality, the man seems so far to demonstrate a sense of obedience and patriotism. May God guide him and save Nigeria from depression and deterioration.

Zanna Baruwa Gashua
bukar.zanna@yahoo.com

It is true that one will never know what precious means, until he loses it. May Allah forgive him.

Yusuf Mohd Abubakar
bigdonmachas@yahoo.com



FUNERAL prayers for the remains of the late President Umaru Yar'adua laid to rest.

Umaru Yar'adua: Nigeria's Patient President Dies at 58. Upon his death, he left a legacy of patient rule and realistic reform. Will President Goodluck Jonathan follow his predecessor's lead?

Alkasim Wudil
alkasimhussien@yahoo.com

I wish to extend my heartfelt condolences to all Nigerians on the death of our beloved president

Umaru Musa Yar'adua. I pray that his soul rests in peace and may Allah grant him Aljanna.

Bala Musa Toro
balamusatoro@yahoo.com

The loss of an icon of peace and justice... May your soul rest in perfect peace.

Garba Umar
gumar808@yahoo.com

Yar'adua's death cripples business activities

WHEN will Nigeria grow up? Who authorizes overnight, these spontaneous "public" holidays? While it is commendable to

observe the passing of any great Nigerian, the government should consider that it is sensible to give the citizens a day or two to "take

care of business" before they decide to cripple local and international business activities like we are still running a dictatorship.

We can always mourn the dead after they are buried.

Mezzi Chimezzi
cnwaobia@gmail.com

Katsina declares 7-day holiday

AS much as we sympathize and condole with the family of late President Yar'adua, it will be fool-hardy for the Governor to declare a 7-day public holiday. The governor must consider the economic effect it will have on the state and country. If indeed it is true, what about the banks, schools, hospitals, ministries, businesses and others?

Does it mean that the state does not have a viable economy or do they just wait for the

monthly allocations? There are better ways to condole with the family and immortalize the name of Yar'adua than declaring a 7-day public holiday and making life unbearable for the citizenry.

I believe Late President Umaru Yar'adua, being a man who espoused the rule of law, will not welcome the idea if he was told about it when he was alive.

Fred
kennethwest@hotmail.com

Katsina mourns as remains laid to rest

THE people of Katsina have lost a pillar in the state. They will keep remembering him for some of his achievements when he was governor, especially the instituting of the Katsina state University and elevation of primary schools in the state. He was the only governor who declared his asset while in power and this was a good demonstration of

credibility and honesty. May his gentle soul rest in perfect peace. Ameen.

Zanna Baruwa Gashua
bukar.zanna@yahoo.com

When you have savored the pleasure of companionship, losing it is the worst thing in life.

Yusuf Mohd Abubakar
bigdonmachas@yahoo.com

Jonathan, Obasanjo absent from funeral

I must say that this happened by the wish of our Lord, and I must say that the late president was a hero who we Nigerians will not forget. I must say that he died trying to do his best for this country and that may his final resting chamber be Aljantul Firdaus. Amin.

Anas Musa Yakasai
musaanas24@yahoo.com

When former President Yar'adua was alive and needed spiritual support and prayers, those around him did not allow anyone get close to him. So what's the point of Obasanjo, President Jonathan and others going to Katsina when they might not be

welcome by the custodians of late Yar'adua? Please don't blame anyone who did not go.

John Adesulure
john.adesulure@tiscali.co.uk

Nigerian journalists are puzzled that the newly-crowned President was absent from Yar'adua's funeral. When a death and a funeral have only a few hours turn-around (as is the case of Muslims), planning an abrupt trip, especially in light of prevailing security situations in the country, could be tricky. I do not see any contingency in this situation.

Mezzi Chimezzi
cnwaobia@gmail.com

NITEL workers protest nonpayment of salary

IF this woman - who seems to have Nigeria at heart - would make such a promised, a woman that is always ready to make sacrifices and say the right things and do the right things when it

matters most, no matter what may be the consequences, then I believe something will be done, in sha-Allah.

M. B. Kwali
musabalakwalli@yahoo.com



By Alex Ohemu

The generational shift in Jonathan's cabinet

The recent appointment of some young men into the federal cabinet led by President Goodluck Jonathan is a major break from the past.

The trend started gradually during the Olusegun Obasanjo, who had a sprinkling of young people in his administration. But President Jonathan has upped the ante with the appointment of three young Turks into his cabinet: Sam Ode, Murtala Yar'Adua and Idi Hong. All three are below 45 years. Before now, Nigeria's leaders had been worn people, mainly of septuagenarians, octogenarians and sometimes nonagenarians, virtually all of them in retirement.

The appointment of these young men is symbolic in many respects. For one, the appointment signals a willingness on the part of the national leadership to accommodate more young men who will gradually relieve the older generation of their incompetence, short-sightedness, and conservatism and deadwood mentality.

It is also a boost to the clamour for generational shift which favours the takeover of the federal, state and local

The trend started gradually during the Olusegun Obasanjo, who had a sprinkling of young people in his administration

governments of this nation by the youth sector for more aggressive, purposeful and knowledge driven governance since the actions and inaction of the older generation have fallen short of the expectation of all and sundry. Sam Ode and his ilk are therefore the new faces of a generation of politicized youths who are insistent and eager to join in the match towards the progress and rapid development of this nation.

Ode's appointment is proof that what Nigerian youths actually need is the opportunity and platform to excel in their chosen career. Among the mass of Nigerian youths are future politicians, sundry professionals and businessmen and women but who lack the necessary opportunity and structure to express their creative energies and leadership abilities to the fullest.

For instance, Sam Ode came into the job of Special Adviser on Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs in Benue State, his second leg of public office, with great passion, inheriting a bankrupt, unproductive, wasteful and bloated and fraudulent local government system, but at the end of his tenure leaving a re-energized, re-positioned and efficient system that has put the state in the map as having the best accountable public resources management system.

Before his stint in Makurdi, Ode was Caretaker Committee Chairman of

Otukpo Local Government, his first ever public office, where he started showing early signs of innovation, hard work and leadership qualities. As chairman, he redefined grassroots development through an uncommon determination to run a people oriented administration.

His modus operandi then was, after paying salaries; he would mop up whatever remained from the council's monthly allocation to provide, in very modest but ingenious ways, social amenities that have direct impact on the lives of the people of the rural communities in particular. In this manner, Sam Ode opened up bush paths to make them motor able to enable market women and farmers transport their wares and produce to the next available market.

He built modern bridges to replace the big logs of woods that had been laid across communal streams, routinely sends mobile water tanks to communities suffering from acute water shortage and builds two or three blocks of classrooms in areas where pupils still learn under trees. This may not be landmark achievements but they go to show the determination of a leader who is truly and genuinely committed to making a positive difference in the lives of his people.

Ode started his famed romance with the youths when he was caretaker chairman. Otukpo, traditional headquarters of the Idoma, is reputed to be a haven for many idle youths whose past time is the conspicuous consumption of alcohol. A compassionate and kind hearted leader, as soon as he became chairman, Ode mobilized, refocused and retooled some of these youths to take their destinies in their own hands and has since then not wavered in his commitment to making a social change in many others who have been fortunate to cross his path.

Today, Sam Ode's political strength lies in the support he enjoys from the youths as can be attested to in the Senate President, David Mark's official residence, venue of a reception held in his honour the day he was inaugurated as minister. Overwhelmed by the large turn-out of Benue youths at the occasion, the Senate President could not but help to observe that from his own reading of the scenario, leadership of Benue State is fast slipping from the hands of the old to the younger generation of the state's political class.

Sam Ode's appointment may have positioned him to become an indelible leader of tomorrow. He is getting his political acts right from the onset. A humble and likeable personality, Ode's politics is not known to have suffered from any controversy. He also enjoys the respect and support of many old and influential politicians and women groups, many of whom he has rendered one form of assistance or the other. Many of these groups know where they stand with Ode than the older generation of self-seeking politicians.

Secondly, Ode comes from a background that is considered as an asset to his future political career.

Ohemu wrote from Lagos (alexohemu@yahoo.com)



By Tunji Ajibade

When a gentleman-president died

President Umaru Musa Yar'adua exited the way no Nigerian wanted. Now citizens mourn their late leader. He was a gentleman if the nation ever had any as its head. Umaru Yar'adua was born on August 16, 1951. He was from a Fulani family in Katsina. His father was a former Minister for Lagos in the First Republic, and he held the royal title of *Mutawalle*, custodian of the treasury, of the Katsina Emirate. Young Umaru began his education at Rafukka Primary School in 1958. He later moved to Dutsinma Boarding Primary School in 1962. Between 1965 and 1969, he was at Government College, Keffi. He got his Higher School Certificate from Barewa College in 1971. He attended Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria from 1972 to 1975 where he obtained BSc in Education and Chemistry. He got his MSc in Analytical Chemistry from the same University in 1978.

In 1975-1976, the University graduate worked at Holy Child College, Lagos. And between 1976 and 1979, he was a lecturer at the College of Arts, Science, and Technology in Zaria, Kaduna State. He moved to the corporate sector in 1983.

He was pioneer General Manager at Sambo Farms Ltd., Funtua, Katsina State between 1983 and 1989. He was a Board Member, Katsina State Farmers' Supply Company between 1984 and 1985. Between 1978 and 1983, he was a Member Governing Council of Katsina College of Arts, Science and Technology Zaria and Katsina Poly-

He was re-elected in 2003. He won the presidential election in 2007 and was sworn in as president of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on May 29, 2007

technic. Between 1994 and 1996, he was Board Chairman, Katsina State Investment and Property Development Company (KIPDECO). He was also a director in several companies. Yar'adua's political career began as a member of People's Redemption Party, a left-leaning political grouping, during the Second Republic (1979-1983), at a time his father was, for a time, the National Vice chairman of the rightist National Party of Nigeria.

The socialist was a foundation member of the Peoples Front, a political association led by Major-General Shehu Musa Yar'adua, his elder brother, during the Transition Programme of General Ibrahim Babangida. He was also a member of the 1988 Constituent Assembly and later a member of Social Democratic party. He was a member of the party's National Caucus and its State Secre-

tary in Katsina. He contested the 1991 Governorship election under the party but lost to Saidu Barda of the National Republican Convention. He contested again and won the gubernatorial election in 1999. He was re-elected in 2003. He won the presidential election in 2007 and was sworn in as president of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on May 29, 2007. Yar'adua married Turai Umaru Yar'adua in 1975 and they were blessed with five daughters and two sons. His second wife, Hauwa Umar Radda had two children for him. Now the gentleman president is gone as a result of illness. Yet many things spoke up in his favour even in death.

When the late Yar'adua stood at Eagle Square, Abuja this month, three years ago, he had said in his inaugural address, "We acknowledge that our elections were not perfect and had lapses and shortcomings... I also believe that our experiences represent an opportunity to learn from our mistakes." It was to his credit that he admitted that much. And it was the mistakes he wanted to correct when he later set up the Justice Mohammed Uwais' Committee on electoral reform. The committee made its recommendation, parts of which the National Executive Council sent to the National Assembly for necessary action. The president took active steps to stem the tide of chaos in the Niger Delta crisis, and his Amnesty remains till date, the working framework for solution to problems in that oil-rich region of the country.

He gained public confidence when he became the first Head of State to publicly declare his personal assets when he took office. And he was the first governor to publicly declare his assets too, way back as the governor of Katsina State. There is no doubt that the nation has lost a leader who stood for the rule of law. And this was a bold statement on the fact that he understood power. It couldn't have been otherwise. He was from an aristocratic family with long line of administrators, and the fully-trained Nigerian University graduate to become the leader of the nation. Yar'adua allowed the law and state institutions to follow their course. There are issues the late president left behind to be resolved. But there are lessons he left behind too. Many in the nation's leadership who often take power to mean an end in itself need to emulate some of his approaches to rule of law and governance in general. Now Goodluck Jonathan has been sworn into office as substantive President. He will have to continue with state administration from now into tomorrow, concentrating on tackling major issues that bother people's mind. For today however, a gentleman-president who had contributed to national development the way he knew, is dead; it is fitting that the nation mourns his passage.

Ajibade wrote from Abuja (tunjiajibade@yahoo.com)



Your Letters

Send your letters to letters@dailytrust.com

Delta Reps caucus and Ibori

It is disappointing that the National Assembly appears now ready to legalize illegality by trying to pass a law to allow indicted persons to stand for elective office. I was not surprised at the defence of Ibori published as statement by the caucus of Delta State origin in the Federal House of Representatives. The National Assembly in the course

of trying to amend the constitution averred that "even if you are indicted of any crime" you are still eligible to seek elective or appointive positions.

It was reported that out of the ten members of the Delta State Caucus of the House of Representatives, though only four appeared at the Press Conference that produced the published communiqué.

And for Ibori rushing to get an Asaba High Court injunction against his possible arrest by the EFCC showed that he has case

to answer. If he knows that his hands are clean, he should hand himself over to EFCC for he once published in the media that he has no case pending in Nigeria or anywhere in the world for that matter. Why then is he afraid?

And to all supporters of Ibori urging him not to face prosecution, including the so-called Federal House of Representative Caucus members, should bury their heads in shame.

Mr. Kenneth Dagogo, Bukuru, Jos, Plateau State.

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

To be a statesman

MY advice to President Goodluck Jonathan is that he should not show any sign of inordinate ambition. He should handle the amnesty programme with commitment and sincerity, and avoid being persuaded to contest the 2011 presidential election. Jonathan should think deeply because if he contests the election, it would cause problem for himself. It may also signal new problems for the nation. He should also respect PDP zoning arrangement which zoned the presidency to the north in 2011 presidential election.

MUSA, Birnin Kebbi, 08037003839.

Yar'adua and the media divide

THE media circus on late president Yar'adua's health problem is now over. Although the media are divided into the patriots and partisans, the patriots protected the dignity of Nigeria and personality of late President Yar'adua

throughout the five months of national experience. While the partisans have been feeding the world with rumour not minding the integrity and credibility of the leaders and country, because the late pres wasn't belong to their section of the country. Let's know that no nation can move forward without unity, patriotism and understanding.

SALISU Tudun Fere, 08065340453.

A short history of Bolewa

I don't believe what I read in your publication concerning the Bolewa history is true because history is replete with concrete reference backing. I read the history of Kanem Borno, but I only came across the name of the tribe Ngizim as the rulers and founders of Potiskum. *Daily Trust* should stop spreading false history. Most of the Bolewa tribe I know are in Fika and Gombe. Majority of the people in Potiskum are Ngizim

and Kare-Kare.
BUKAR Modu, Dambuwa Road, Maiduguri, 08027768600.

Vice President?

I am of the opinion that Turai Yaradua is the most suitable candidate.

A.T. Ahmed, Nasarawa, 08068160271.

Timawus on Yarima

MR Mathias in his article titled "Yarima: Not in this day and age" has shown to the readers of *Daily Trust* that he is indeed ignorant of basic Islamic law and jurisprudence, for condemning what Yarima did. The condemned action is the true reflection of a Muslim and is in line with the dictate of Islamic injunction for him to marry 13-year-old girl. Therefore, any one criticising or challenging his integrity on this issue is nothing but a hypocrite.
IDRIS Abdullahi Mohammad, Damaturu, 08035976889.



By Kabiru Tsakuwa

ARTV 67: Rimi deserved better honour

There is no denying late first civilian governor of Niger State, Alhaji Muhammad Inuwa Abubakar Rimi's towering stature in the political history of Nigeria. His legacy of struggles for total redemption of the downtrodden masses against subjugations and exploitations throughout his eventful life needs no repetition either, since pundits all over the country have made ample justice in that area. What matters most at this point in time for his followers and all those comrades who share in his ideals is how to build on his giant footsteps for the complete eradication of all form of injustice currently ravaging our father land?

Since his demise at the ripe age of 69, many had advocated for his proper immortalization for posterity yet unborn to appreciate and most probably emulate his rare qualities. Based on that premise; a lot of people considered the superficial honour done to him by the Kano State Government in naming the archaic state community television (CTV 67) after him as an honour so mean!

As a matter of fact, His being in the league of some of the best presidential materials that Nigeria never had, many are of the view that late Rimi eminently deserved something profoundly better. In fact, to them, such honour is a complete denigration and demeaning to the stature of the consummate politician who has contributed his quota immensely in the overall development of Old Kano state in particular and Nigeria in General.

For those who might not know, late Governor Rimi established the state television against the backdrop of stiff opposition from the central government in order to enlighten the masses on local and international issues affecting their life. The CTV 67 as it was then known started on a very sound pedestal; entertaining, educating and enlightening the masses with quality programmes as a result of adequate funding and less interference from government, such that over the years it succeeded in curving a niche for itself as the darling of the people and one stop point in terms of information broadcasting.

Today however, all those qualities are gone. The glamour and enthusiasm with which the station was associated by the people are virtually nonexistent now. And people no longer care to watch its outdated and uninspiring programmes; thus ceasing to be a reference point when discussing issues of interest in the various market squares. To buttress the point further, I for one, couldn't remember when last I watch CTV 67 in the last 12 years! And I make bold to state without fear or contradiction that the same applies to many kanawa, young and old, men and women!

Tell me, how can such a moribund organ of government be named after the late colourful politician as Abubakar Rimi Television (ARTV67), when there are more befitting monuments eminently deserving of his status in the annals of our political history? To me, such station which has over the years been grappling with archaic, outmoded and outdated equipments and less innovative programmes thus rendering it less important in information dissemination circle among the populace does not merit the name of the maverick and flamboyant political icon. Why not, if I may suggest, University of Science and technology (KUT) Wudil, the new University of College of Medicine Bichi; Government House; Zoo Road; State Road; among several other more worthy and befitting edifices?

The manner by which CTV 67 was also adopted also speaks volumes about the high level of sycophancy in the corridor of power at the Kano Africa House. How can Shekarau unilaterally suggest the naming of CTV67 after Rimi as reported in the media without some modicum of protest from a single cabinet's member? How myopic and unpatriotic such stance can be? In fact, I find this quit objectionable, disgusting and total negation of all known democratic ethos; given the fact that we are not under an obtrusive dictatorship to warrant allowing such fascistic measure such an easy passage?

It is not too late however for Kano State government to try to write its name in gold by rescinding from that ill thought out decision. Alternatively too, it can in the interim subject the issue to referendum among the electorates throughout the state in accordance with democratic ideals, so that people can choose which monument to be named after him commensurate with his unique and towering political stature!

Tsakuwa wrote from Kano (tsakuwa2000@yahoo.com)

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

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Crisis in the PDP

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has of recent been engulfed in a protracted crisis amongst its ranks with a group claiming to be championing the need for reforms in the party as the best strategy of meeting the challenges of politics and governance in the country.

The group canvassing reform in the party is believed to enjoy the tacit support of President Goodluck Jonathan and former President Olusegun Obasanjo, and has been insistent in calling for either the resignation or removal of the current party chairman, Chief Vincent Ogbulor and probably the entire national working committee of the party.

The crisis in the PDP is not an unusual occurrence; such crisis usually crops up at particularly crucial times, especially in the countdown to general elections. What has made the current crisis different is the calibre of personalities that are involved especially with both Dr Jonathan and Chief Obasanjo being fingered as the instigators of the dispute.

What is happening in the PDP today can be likened to the proverbial chicken coming home to roost after the party, through the central government that it has controlled since 1999 has successfully reduced major opposition parties to a shadow of their selves thus constricting the political space to allow for only one party to be politically viable, which by implication is responsible for the surge of opposition elements within the party itself.

Nigerians have severally expressed their frustration on the failure of internal party democracy to thrive as the central pivot of multi-party democracy in a plural society. Without internal party democracy, it is difficult or even impossible to achieve democracy at interparty levels.

It is important therefore that those in positions of authority must as a matter of political necessity respect the views of party members in the process of recruiting leadership to various positions within the party.

Reforming a system that is comatose is necessary if the rejuvenation that will propel growth and development in the polity is to be achieved. This can be realized when politics of principles and ideology forms the kernel of democracy as is obtained in other climes.

This why we think it is veering towards the autocratic for some senior party officials to deploy their influence to seek the removal of party leadership for no justifiable cause other than the leadership might not bend to their desires, which could amount to anti-party activities. While it is possible for anyone that is at the helm to be reformed or removed through due process, it is doubtful if the involvement of Obasanjo in the reform debate would add any meaningful ideas in positively resolving the current crisis in the PDP.

There is the need for the party to immediately get its act together in view of the fact that it is unwise for any Nigerian to look the other way when the PDP, a party that controls over 75% of all elected positions in Nigeria, is in turmoil. Crisis in the party at the moment will definitely impact on the quality of governance at local, state and federal levels; ultimately, it is the country that suffers as a result.

One-way out of its travails is for the party to respect its zoning arrangement that has served it and the country well since 1999, and ensure discipline of its top echelon as well as within its rank and file. Party supremacy is critical to party discipline and should be the basis of membership of all political parties in the country. The earlier the crisis is resolved the better for the party and country.

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Yar'adua: Farewell to civility

Since the late Prime Minister, Tafawa Balewa and Alhaji Shehu Shagari, the late President Umaru Musa Yar'adua would be credited with a return of civility to Federal governance. His death must not mark the end of civility in governance. Better positively put; let us uphold Yar'adua's legacy by demanding and insisting on civil conduct on the part of public affairs managers. Not few Presidents (including one military prototype) had acted philosopher-kings interpreting Nigerian reality with boring words, (spoken but not meant). For Yar Adua, it seemed it was time to change the country for the better rather than sermonizing. His inaugural address on May 29th 2007 was refreshingly brief. Readers/listeners alike were spared the burden of information overload often associated with Presidential speeches in this country. It was all bagfuls of *minimum presidential words and maximum presidential policy initiatives, if you like*. The brevity of Yar'adua's speeches did not diminish the essence of his messages. On the contrary, one major significant feature of his inaugural speech was memory. Huge historical deficits were the norms in presidential addresses.

There was hardly any reference to the positive landmarks of the past. OBJ defined Nigeria only (and only) in reference to his first military tenure and second civilian coming which were ever presented as the "glorious" moments for Nigeria. With remarkable difference, Yar'adua rightly drew on country's huge historic heritage. He urged Nigerians to "capture the mood of optimism that defined us at the dawn of independence..." Refreshingly for once, he acknowledged his predecessor's efforts. Despite wholesome violence, deaths and acrimonies, being regular trademarks of his predecessor's regime, late President Yar'adua had an eye on the bigger pictures as distinct from the black spots. He simply moved on in civility to observe the emerging trends in the past eight years, namely national consensus on deepening democracy, rule of law, market economy, anti-corruption campaign and good governance. He pledged his commitment to all the issues. The real acid test for the new government was the last minute arbitrary oil product price increases and 100 per cent in VAT. After the strike led by Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), Yar'adua negotiated with organized labour. To his eternal credit, until his death, he upheld the spirit and content of that singular agreement not to further increase the products price without consultation with stakeholders. Indeed, Yar'adua did the unprecedented: refused to increase products' price at all but instead reduced the price from 70 to 65 Naira per litre. The dividend of Yar'adua's civility for the nation was relative industrial peace since 2007. In three years Obasanjo administration arbitrarily marked up prices almost four times, with attendant national strikes. Conversely

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Yar'adua's administration did not record a single national strike.

Only President Shehu Shagari's administration dared to parallel Yar'adua's record in industrial harmony. The former witnessed only two-day national strike in 1981 over the demand of Hassan Sunmonu-led NLC for new minimum wage. Immediate reversal of this policy suicide of price increases in the twilight of Obasanjo administration showed we were set for a new

victimization and even blatant partisanship. By a singular force of example, late President Yar'adua shifted the partial dim probity searchlight from some few others to a full blown beam on all public holders including him. My investigation shows that the late President, (three years after presiding over the Federation) has no single house in Abuja. Yar'adua's disinterestedness in the pervasive elitist self-having and his commitment to commonwealth was a worthy extra-ordinary imprudence to the criminal legacies of scores of Abuja's land-grabbers, who not only allocated to themselves, but their spouses and children. He was a stalwart advocate of rule of law. The reversal of the twin policies of VAT

President Jonathan Goodluck must prove that it not yet the end of history to civility in governance with the death of President Yar'adua

dispensation of sensitivity in governance. It institutionalized social dialogue as distinct from criminalization as means of engagement with labour.

Yar'adua elected to be a "servant leader" who will be a "listener" and "doer" and "serve with humility". It is left for historians to assess if he actually led as a servant leader. But what cannot be disputed is the fact that President Umar Yar'adua was the first to consciously dare to declare the leadership type. Past leaders simply led either for the better (more in deficit) or for the worse (more in surplus) after which the citizens came to terms with their leadership styles.

Precious things come in small packages, so goes the popular marketing wisdom. Just by a stroke of presidential gesture and surprise, late President Yar'adua made public his declared assets to the Code of Conduct Bureau. By doing so, he qualitatively elevated the anti-corruption discourse more than the pedestrian and the symbolic disaster/public relations mess of the past. In terms of its surprise content and its radical presentation, the President's Assets Declaration form was only paralleled in history by General Murtala Muhammad's surprise and dazzling leadership-by-example of the 70s.

Whatever his net worth, we had for once in public domain the detail-figures of his cash-at-hands, bank balances and loans and even the material profile of his wife. It was a radical probity and accountability Renaissance of a kind. The impact assessment of Yar'adua's public Assets declaration was far reaching.

Hitherto, anti-corruption campaign had gathered dust and had even been completely undermined by perception of selectivity, partial disclosures, plain persecution, other-ness as distinct from all-ness,

and fuel prices increases was done on the ground that OBJ government jumped due process in the policy pronouncement.

Supreme Court pronouncement with respect to Anambra state was promptly enforced making governor Peter Obi the first executive beneficiary of the rule of law in the new dispensation. Lagos state federation money was refunded following a correct interpretation of the Supreme Court judgment. The reversal of the sale of refineries was also done on account of undue bidding and processes. While the antagonists and protagonists of Soludo's Naira agenda were at loggerheads it took the eagle eye of the Anthony General of the Federation to realise that Soludo jumped the CBN Act to grandstand. Never before has a government recorded such qualitative achievements by singular stroke of quality policy control measure with respect to application of the rule of law. For a nation used to hard drivers, not few did the growling and snarling at the perceived go-slow of Yar'adua. But at the last count, we now know that what the nation needs desperately are soft leadership issues, namely integrity, peace, dialogue and engagement. On Niger delta, Yar'adua exposed the madness of war as a tool of official engagement with aggrieved citizens. In return we are all better for it with improved oil production in the region and restored hope for development. President Jonathan Goodluck must prove that it not yet the end of history to civility in governance with the death of President Yar'adua. Let us be ruled by knowledge and brains not some raw brawls. The real acid test for continuous civility as practiced by the late President is that our votes must count next year. May Allah make his grave peaceful for eternal comfort.

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Further to efforts at improving Equalisation Fund (Management) service delivery to our Board, etc, Act CAP 352 of the laws of stakeholders, the Board will, in the Federation of Nigeria, 1990, the addition to publishing payments to Executive Secretary has the right to marketers on the PEF(M)B official demand from stakeholders relevant website, mail payment advice to information, determined to be vital to beneficiaries, as soon as payments are the due discharge of the Board's made. statutory obligations.

In order to certify the integrity of the information provided by marketers for that purpose, and enhance operational efficiency, we require marketers to please, forward their valid contact addresses to the Board, on or before July 1st, 2010.

Marketers are kindly advised to note that, in accordance with the provisions of Section 10 of the Petroleum

We will appreciate the kind support of all marketers in realizing the lofty objectives of this project, by ensuring that they forward the necessary information to the Board through the PEF(M)B Depot Representative at their respective operating depot(s), by July 1st, 2010. Therefore, we hereby crave the kind indulgence of all marketers of petroleum products nation-wide in forwarding the required information.

Signed

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KATSINA STATE GOVERNMENT

Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilaihir Raji'un



**A political icon of our times,
a true democrat and a man
of honor is gone.**

Indeed, this is a great loss to me personally and to members of the President's immediate Family, People of Katsina State, and Nigerians who also stood resolutely in prayers throughout Mr. President's health challenges and who continue to offer prayers for the repose of the soul of the deceased. We are saddened by the death of President Umaru Yar'adua, but take solace in the fact that with Allah's help, the deceased had lived a fruitful and rewarding life. He had also contributed immensely to the positive transformation of Katsina State in particular and Nigeria at large.

On behalf of the Government and people of Katsina State, the Executive Governor, Alh. Ibrahim Shehu Shema, *fnim*, extends his heartfelt condolences to President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan and the good people of Nigeria on the death of his beloved father and mentor, the President, Commander-In -Chief of the Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Alh. Umaru Musa Yar'adua, GCFR, on Wednesday, 5th May, 2010.

While thanking Nigerians for their continued prayers, we pray to Allah (SWT) to grant Eternal rest to President Umaru Yar'adua. May his gentle soul rest in Aljannat Firdous and may Allah give us the courage and fortitude to bear the loss.

President Umaru Musa Yar'adua, GCFR.
August 1951-May 5, 2010

Signed

His Excellency
Alh. Ibrahim Shehu Shema, *fnim*
Executive Governor, Katsina State



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TELL

It is no longer news that former President Umaru Yar'Adua drew his last breath last week.
But what are his legacies?
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Also...
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AFRICA REPORT

Visitors face transport hurdles in S/Africa



RESIDENTS of the Johannesburg township of Soweto get a bus to go to work.

FOOTBALL fans face an array of transport worries when they navigate South Africa for the World Cup, crossing a country three times the size of Germany and travelling notoriously complex city streets.

The country has spent 2.6 billion dollars (1.9 billion euros) ahead of the June 11 kick-off to fix roads, expand airports, build a high-speed train and launch new bus networks.

But the expected 373,000 foreign visitors still won't find it easy to get between and around the nine host cities, some analysts say.

"They're going to be both disappointed and, I must say, shocked," Paul Browning, an independent transport consultant, told AFP.

Airfares between host cities, which initially rose by up to 215 percent for key match dates, have dropped again after a price-fixing investigation by anti-trust authorities.

But the launch of a new bus network meant to link host cities is still uncertain, with the tender for the buses awarded less than three months before kick-off.

South African roads are some of the most dangerous in the world. The country ranks ninth in the world in traffic fatalities despite having just 9.2 million vehicles.

South African officials have hailed investment in public transport as a lasting legacy of the World Cup.

But after decades of apartheid policies designed to separate instead of connect people, developing modern mass-transit will still take much more time and money, analysts say.

"Under apartheid, cities were meant for whites only, and Africans, especially, were kind of like migrant labourers," said Ibrahim Seedat of the Department of Transportation.

UN must verify north-south Sudan clashes - Party

UNITED Nations peacekeepers should be more active in monitoring violence in Sudan's south ahead of an independence referendum next year, the oil-producing region's main party said on Saturday.

South Sudan won autonomy from the north of Africa's largest country in a 2005 peace deal ending 22 years of civil war, and will vote in the referendum due in January 2011 on whether to become a fully independent nation.

Analysts believe the south is likely to secede in the vote.

Yasir Arman, a senior Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) official, said it had evidence President Omar Hassan al-Bashir's ruling northern National Congress Party was trying to destabilise the south by arming proxy militias in the semi-autonomous region.

"The United Nations should verify and should be present in all the places where there are violations of the security arrangements," Arman told reporters. "This is the mandate of the United Nations force here -- they should take this

mandate... seriously."

The U.N. mission said it was committed to its mission. "We are discharging our duties according to our mandate," U.N. spokesman Ashraf Eissa said.

The peacekeeping mission was deployed to monitor a 2005 north-south peace deal ending Africa's longest running civil war which claimed two million lives.

A shaky ceasefire has mostly held with sporadic fighting kept in check through a high-level joint defence body between the former foes.

Comoros annuls law extending leader's term

COMOROS' highest court has annulled a law which extended the mandate of the Indian Ocean islands' leader after weeks of heightened political tensions on the coup-prone archipelago.

The Constitutional Court said President Mohamed Abdallah Sambi's term in office would end later this month, and not November 2011, and recommended an interim period to agree on when the next ballot should be held.

"On the May 26 the mandate of the Union's president and his two vice presidents will end," the court said in a statement

on Saturday.

"During this (interim) period the government does not have the right to dissolve parliament ... nor to change the members of the Constitutional Court."

Earlier this year, a newly elected parliament ratified a law aligning local and federal elections, effectively extending Sambi's term by 18 months.

Sambi's supporters argued the new legislation would cut bureaucracy and save costs in one of the world's poorest countries. But his critics accused him of trying to cling on to power.

OBITUARY

Inna Lillahi Wa Inna
Illaihi Raji'un

With total submission to the will of Almighty Allah, we regret to announce the passing away of our Brother, Father, Grand -Father, Alhaji U.K Bello Garkuwan Gwandu.

This sad event took place on the 27th April, 2010 in Lagos and he had since been buried according to Islamic rites in his home town, Kaoje in Kebbi State.

Alhaji U.K Bello was a retired permanent secretary, Federal Ministry of Finance .May his gentle soul rest in perfect peace and May Allah grant him Al-jannatul -Firdausi Ameen.

Alhaji Y.A Bello Sardaunan Bargu Kaoje

For the Family of

Late Sarkin Bargu Bello Aliyu Buhari

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Foreign & Diplomatic

What Nigeria should copy from Sudanese elections - Amb Dahiru

Ambassador SULEIMAN DAHIRU was Nigeria's Ambassador to Sudan between 2005 and 2007. Recently, he was in the Sudan again, but this time as an election observer of the African Union. In this interview, he says the country is emerging a new democratic culture and that the recent polls attested to that. He says the world can better appreciate Sudan's effort in conducting elections if it judged the country by its own standard. Nigeria he says can learn to conduct a hitch-free election from Sudan.



AMB. SULEIMAN DAHIRU

By Jibrin Abubakar

YOU were in the Sudan recently as an election observer. Can you share your experience with us?

I went together with some officials to monitor elections in the Sudan on the platform of the African Union. We got to Khartoum on the 5th of April. We had our orientation programme in Khartoum. We were then deployed to various parts of Sudan to observe and not to monitor the elections.

What is the difference between observing and monitoring elections?

The difference between observing and monitoring elections is that when you are observing, you just observe what is going on; you don't submit a report based on what you have seen. But monitors are actually empowered to make sure everything goes fine. They can report base on what they have seen. They

can take remedial action based on what they have monitored to be wrong.

We were observers. So after the orientation programme, I was deployed to the Southern Sudan. I was in Juba, the capital of the semi autonomous southern government of the country.

The semi autonomous southern government is based on the comprehensive agreement they signed in 2005. The South is supposed to be run as a semi autonomous so that they have a regional president and national vice president.

The president of Southern Sudan, who has a Vice President, is also the vice president for the whole country. It is not yet a country. The only time the Southern Sudan can become a country is if by next year a referendum is held that they want to break away from Sudan, they may decide what name they want to give to their country; and that ends it.

What do the recent elections mean to the Sudan?

It was a presidential

election, regional election and parliamentary election. There are many political parties but some of them decided to boycott the elections because they feel that the National Congress Party (NCP), which is the ruling party in the country would have concluded plans to rig the election, and therefore they didn't see why they should participate and legitimise the election, in their own view, was a fraudulent.

How was the conduct of the election in Juba, where you observed?

I visited many polling stations and did not see any intimidations of voters. At each polling centre I visited, the agent of the political parties and the police who were not armed and were also there to observe. The police sat down quietly looking at what was going on.

The only problem area was that many people didn't find their names on the voters' lists where they

registered.

They would be directed to another place and may be lucky or not to find their names. Those who could not find their names couldn't vote. On a general note, my impression was that the election was free and fair because there was no intimidation.

There have been reports that the election was a cover-up or face saving strategy to give legitimacy to Umar Al-Bashir government given the fact that he has been indicted of war crimes and that he is a wanted man?

No. The election was not conducted to blunt the indictment of Al-Bashir. This election was part of the agreement in the comprehensive peace agreement that was signed in 2005 in Kenya that there will be a presidential, regional and parliamentary election in sates. It was part of the fulfilment of some aspects of the comprehensive peace agreement.

But there have been reports that the election was not properly conducted?

Regarding the allegation that election was not properly conducted, what I can say is that some time the west judges the third world by their standard. And when you want to compare the third world where the literacy level is low and where the poverty ratio is high, with the western societies, you will making mistakes.

If there are irregularities, the irregularities in my own view were not sufficient enough to discredit the elections. I have observed some lapses in the polling stations that I visited but I did not think, as a person, there was anything that took place that was so bad as to discredit the election.

What about the turnout?

The turnout was ok. The election was spread over three days; but later they added two more days to give people the opportunity to vote. Generally speaking, not less than 60 per cent of the registered voters voted. I can also tell you that anybody that was

born around 25 years ago does not know anything called election under party politics because that was the last time elections based on parties took place. If you go to the South, they never witnessed election. The president of the southern Sudan never voted in his life because of the civil war that was going on.

Does the constitution of Sudan recognise term limit for the president and other political office holders?

That of Al-Bashir is a different kettle of fish. He came to power in 1989 via a military coup, and he remains ever since as head of state and as president.

And later on he created a parliament whose members are not popularly elected but nominated. So you have a functioning parliament that was not popularly elected until now. Then you have Al-Bashir that is always winning elections because he is a member of the National Congress Party, the ruling party. Last year, he dropped his uniform and became a full-blooded civilian. Now he is a civilian president. I doubt if the constitution has a limitation for the president. As long as he is fit, he can continue to run unless his party removes him.

In conducting elections, how would you want to compare Nigeria and Sudan?

As I said when I observed elections in the capital of the Southern Sudan, the police were all there but they never interfered with the elections. In fact they were not armed. They stayed away and there was no trouble. This is unlike what I have seen here in Nigeria. At least what I have seen in the TV. The way the police were mobilise in Nigeria and their presence is enough to intimidate anybody.

It means if the Sudan can organise elections without armed police, I don't think it is good in a civic society when you are organising democratic elections then you start mobilising police the way we mobilise here in Nigeria.

Of course there were accusations of intimidations here and there, but as I

said I didn't witness that. You see some time elections are rigged before the voting day. But as I said I didn't see anything that was so bad as to discredit the election.

How would you gauge the popularity of President Umar Al-Bashir in the Sudan?

Al-Bashir appears reasonably popular in the North. In the South and in Darfur, he may not. It is difficult for somebody from nowhere to come and defeat a sitting president with all the power of incumbency.

Even if a leader wants a clean election, some of his associates may not want it. And you have people committing atrocities in the name of a leader and the leader may not know. But then his name was used. This election cannot be a yardstick for judging the popularity of Al-Bashir.

What should Sudan do to improve on their electioneering path?

You see until the members of the armed forces are insulated from party politics, you may not have a perfect election, if there is a perfect election at all in the world.

Members of the armed forces, police and the judiciary are also members of the National Congress Party, the Al-Bashir party. So in a situation of this nature, it is difficult to get a 'perfect election'.

So you have to get a constitutional change for the armed forces to be completely insulated from partisan politics.

But I think Sudan did reasonably well. I think there is a need for massive political education for them to know what and what is expected of them. Secondly, the electoral official should be properly trained and given their dues because in Juba, they were complaining of not being paid.

The electoral officials I spoke to in Juba said they have not been paid at all. The voters' registers should always be updated. In terms of rating, I think it deserves a pass mark. Election should not be seen as a do or die affair.

Middle East & Asia



US Middle East envoy George Mitchell, left, shakes hands with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas after their meeting in the West Bank city of Ramallah, yesterday.

Palestinians: Indirect peace talks have begun

THE Palestinians yesterday announced the official start of indirect peace talks with Israel after a 17-month breakdown, while Israel's leader urged a quick transition to face-to-face negotiations to tackle the hardest issues.

Over the next four months, US Mideast envoy George Mitchell will shuttle between Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to try to narrow vast differences on the terms of Palestinian statehood.

The indirect talks mark the Obama administration's first concrete achievement in Mideast peace efforts. However, expectations are low and the shuttle format looks like a step backward, following some 16 years of direct, if intermittent, negotiations.

Mitchell's mission was devised to get around a deadlock over Israeli settlement construction. Abbas has said he will not negotiate directly without a settlement freeze, but Israel only agreed to a temporary slowdown in areas the Palestinians seek for their state.

Over the past five days, Mitchell has met twice with Netanyahu and three times with Abbas in final preparations for the talks.

A last hurdle was cleared Saturday when the Palestine Liberation Organization and Abbas' Fatah movement endorsed the negotiations.

After an Abbas-Mitchell meeting yesterday, Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat announced that "the proximity talks have started." He said negotiations would focus on the borders of a future Palestinian state and on security arrangements.

In Jerusalem, Netanyahu said indirect talks must lead to direct negotiations as quickly as possible.

"Peace can't be made from a distance or by remote control," he said at the beginning of his weekly Cabinet meeting. "We are neighbours of the Palestinians and they are our neighbours. Over time one cannot assume that we will reach decisions and agreements on critical issues such as security and our national interests and their interests if we don't sit in the same room."

Abbas and Netanyahu's predecessor, Ehud Olmert, met repeatedly in 2008 to discuss the borders of a future Palestinian state. The contacts broke off in December 2008, on the eve of Israel's military offensive in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip.

'US drone' missile strike hits north-west Pakistan

TWO missiles fired from a suspected US drone aircraft have killed at least 10 militants in north-west Pakistan, local officials said. The missiles hit a home in a village in the tribal district of North Waziristan, which borders Afghanistan.

It comes after a man arrested for planting a bomb in New York said he was trained in bomb-making in Waziristan.

The US has launched repeated missile strikes against Taliban and al-Qaeda militants in the region.

Hundreds of people have been killed in such airstrikes in the last two years.

Pakistan has publicly criticised the drone attacks, saying they fuel support for militants, but observers say the authorities privately condone the strikes.

Man stabs 8 to death in latest China rampage

A Chinese man on a stabbing rampage killed eight people in the country's south-east, including his mother, wife and daughter, police and new reports said yesterday. The motive in Saturday night's stabbing was not immediately clear.

The official Xinhua News Agency cited witnesses as saying the man killed his 10-year-old daughter and then his 83-year-old mother, who was kneeling and begging

to be spared. He then killed his wife and two other people in a neighbouring home, a nearby migrant worker and two villagers running from the scene, the report said.

Xinhua said suspect Zhou Yezhong was caught within two hours of the stabbings in the southeastern province of Jiangxi.

China has been shaken in recent weeks by multiple cases of mass violence, including attacks on children at schools.

Iran hangs 5 Kurdish activists for bombings

IRAN yesterday hanged five Kurdish activists convicted of membership of armed opposition groups and involvement in bombings, the country's official news agency, IRNA, reported.

It said the five, who include one woman,

were hanged at dawn at Evin prison, north of the capital Tehran.

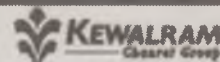
The five were sentenced to death in 2008 after they were found guilty of "Moharebeh," a term Iran uses to describe a major crime against Islam and the state.

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World Report

Second explosion rocks Russia mine

RUSSIA'S largest coal mine has been hit by a second explosion hours after a deadly methane blast killed at least 12 workers and left dozens of others trapped underground.

Al Jazeera's Neave Barker said that the second blast on Sunday forced rescue operations to be halted due to fears of further blasts. "Rescue operations will resume once the safety

situation has improved and the gas in the mine shaft disperses," Barker said.

He said that over 80 miners and rescuers are trapped underground following the second blast and there had been no radio contact with the rescuers since then.

"It is clear that the situation at the mine is very hard. I would say that it is tragic," Vladimir Putin, the Russian PM, said.

"The saddest thing is that we cannot send in additional rescuers now as it is very dangerous due to the lack of ventilation. But we cannot sit on our hands and must do everything to save people," Putin said.



RESCUE operations were suspended after officials lost contact with emergency workers

CORRIGENDUM

THIS IS TO NOTIFY THE SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES FOR EMPLOYMENT IN JOS UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL WHOSE NAMES WERE PUBLISHED IN THE DAILY TRUST NEWSPAPER OF FRIDAY 7TH MAY 2010, THAT THE DIAMOND BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER WHICH WAS GIVEN IS NOT CORRECT, THE CORRECT ACCOUNT NUMBER IS 0552130000656. THE ERROR IS HIGHLY REGRETTED.

L. T. DASPAN
FOR: C.M.D



The University of Glasgow is in the top 1% of universities in the world (2009 Times Higher Education World University Rankings) and is one of the UK's oldest seats of learning, recognised internationally for its groundbreaking work. The University welcomes students from more than 110 countries and its academic staff collaborate with over 200 institutions around the world.

Foundation, Undergraduate, Postgraduate taught and Research degree programmes are offered in a wide range of areas including: Arts, Biomedical and Life Sciences, Education, Engineering, Computing, Law, Business, Social and Physical Sciences, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine. Mr. Robbie Willis, Ms. Helen Templar of the International Office and Professor Kwaku Opong, Head of Accounting and Finance, will be visiting Nigeria in May 2010 and delivering presentations on the University and conducting interviews.

On the spot offers will be made to qualified students for postgraduate and undergraduate courses. We would encourage all interested students to make an appointment in advance using the contact details below. Students wishing to gain admission should bring to the interview both copies & originals of their academic & professional qualifications, their curriculum vitae and 2 letters of reference.

Abuja

Tuesday 11 May, 10am-4pm
Dave Abion Consulting, Suite 206
(2nd Floor), Jinnfa Plaza,
Central Business District

Contact: Mary
Tel: (9) 872 9252;
mob: 08068559860
daveabionabj@yahoo.com

Wednesday 12 May, 10am-2pm
BCIE, Ground Floor Metro Plaza,
Plot 991-992 Zakariya Maimalari Street,
Central Area, Abuja

Contact: Isaac
Tel: (9) 461 4900;
Mob: 08066788636
Abuja@bcie.co.uk

Lagos, Victoria Island

Thursday 13 May, 10am - 3pm
BCIE, Victoria Island, Plot 146C
Immam Abibu Adetoro Street
(By Sinari Daranijo), Victoria Island
Annexe, Lagos

Contact: Nkechi
Tel: (1) 462 4088
Tel 2: (1) 462 4089
nigeriaikoyi@bcie.co.uk

Friday 14 May, 10am - 2pm
Venue: Dave Abion Consulting,
2nd Floor, Nurses House,
43 Afribank Street, Victoria Island

Contact: Vivianne
Tel: (1) 4627838
Mob: 07033383220
daveabion_vi@yahoo.co.uk

Lagos, Ikeja

Friday 14 May, 11am - 4pm
BCIE, Ikeja, Valley View Plaza
99 Opebi Road, Ikeja

Contact: Jane
Tel: (1) 896 6508
Mob: 081990744
nigeriaikeja@bcie.co.uk

Saturday 15 May,
10.30am-5pm
Dave Abion Consulting
6th Floor (Wing F)
Elephant Cement House
Alausa, Ikeja

Contact: Tara Oluwo
Tel: (1) 7746088
Mob: 08062700622
daveabionikj@yahoo.co.uk

UK opposition parties hold talks

THE UK's two main opposition parties are meeting to discuss possible conditions on forming a government following last week's inconclusive election.

Senior members of the Conservative and Liberal Democrat parties are meeting in London yesterday in their first face-to-face talks for years, with electoral overhaul expected to be high on the agenda.

Although the Conservatives won the most votes in last Thursday's poll, they failed to gain a majority, providing the Liberal Democrats, who came third in the ballot, with the opportunity to form a government with them or the incumbent Labour.

The Liberal Democrats, who would win more votes if the voting system were to be changed from first-past-the-post to proportional representation, want to secure electoral reform in any deal.

The Conservatives do not want to make such changes, believing that it will severely limit their ability to rule independently in the future.

William Hague, the incumbent shadow foreign secretary for the Conservatives, said before the talks that the country needed a swift resolution to the deadlock, with a strong, stable and legitimate government.

Al Jazeera's Alan Fisher, in London, said that Hague was "clearly implying that if the Conservatives were not able to do a deal with the Liberal Democrats, they should be allowed to go it alone as a minority government".

'Pakistani Taliban behind' NY plot

THE Pakistani Taliban was behind the failed attempt to detonate a car bomb in the heart of New York City, the United States attorney general has said. Eric Holder's revelation yesterday came almost a week after US authorities arrested Faisal Shahzad, a naturalised US citizen born in Pakistan, blamed for planting the bomb in Times Square.

"We've now developed evidence that shows that the Pakistani Taliban was behind the attack," Holder said on ABC's current affairs talk show "This Week".

"We know that they helped facilitate it. We know that they probably helped finance it, and that he (Faisal Shahzad) was working at their direction," he said.

Holder said there was nothing to suggest that the government of Pakistan was aware that Shahzad, 30, intended to carry out the attack.

Shahzad was pulled off a plane bound for Dubai and arrested today for allegedly leaving a sport utility vehicle rigged to explode in New York's Times Square just over a week ago.



THE PRESIDENCY
INFRASTRUCTURE CONCESSION REGULATORY COMMISSION (ICRC)
PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP GUIDELINES

A. ICRC-MDAs RELATIONSHIP

Pursuant to:

1. The Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC) Act 2005;
2. A Presidential Directive dated 13 August 2009;
3. A subsequent affirmation of the Presidential Directive at the presentation of the 2009 Annual Report of the ICRC to The Presidency on 14 January 2010; and
4. In line with the National Policy on Public Private Partnership as approved by the Executive Council of the Federation,

The Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission would like to REITERATE the need for Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of the Federal Government to involve the ICRC at the initial stage of any PPP project.

In doing this, MDAs are enjoined to take particular cognizance of the provisions of the ICRC Act, the National Policy on Public Private Partnership (NP4), and any other relevant legislation, regulations and guidelines (**Free copies of the ICRC Act, NP4 and PPP Operational Guidelines are available at the Commission's Office**).

B. TRANSMISSION OF ALL PPP/CONCESSION CONTRACTS TO ICRC

The ICRC Act (2005) empowers the Commission to:

- Take custody of every concession agreement made before and after the enactment of the ICRC Act and monitor compliance with the terms and conditions of such agreement by both the public and the private partners;
- Ensure efficient execution of any concession agreement or contract entered into by the Government;
- Ensure compliance with the provisions of the Act;
- Perform such other duties as may be directed by the President, from time to time, and as are necessary or expedient to ensure the efficient performance of the functions of the Commission under the Act.

In furtherance of this mandate, the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC) requests all MDAs to furnish the Commission with all existing PPP/Concession transaction documents, including concession agreements as applicable to individual MDAs.

Any MDA with peculiar cases to warrant non-transmission of the said documents to ICRC should please contact:

Office of the Director General
INFRASTRUCTURE CONCESSION REGULATORY COMMISSION (ICRC)
13 Suleiman Barau Crescent
Aso Villa, Abuja

Signed:

ENGR. MANSUR AHMED
Director General



Invitation for Bids (IFB)

BAUCHI STATE GOVERNMENT

**MALARIA CONTROL BOOSTER PROJECT
CREDIT No. 4250-UNI**

PROCUREMENT OF VEHICLES

IFB. No. BSMCBP/G/NCB/AF/002/2010

1. The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has received a credit from the International Development Association toward the cost of Malaria Control Booster Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the Contract for the Procurement of Vehicles/

No: BA/MCBP/G/NCB/AF/002/2010

2. The Bauchi State Malaria Control Booster Project now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Procurement of the following:

Lot No.	Item No.	DESCRIPTION OF ITEM.	Quantity	Delivery period
1	1	4WD SUV VEHICLE	2	60 days

3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB), a procedure specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Bauchi State Malaria Control Booster Project, at the address below and inspect the Bidding Documents from 10:00am to 4:00pm Mondays to Thursdays, except on public holidays.

5. Qualifications requirements include:

Evidence of previous supply (sale) of similar Equipment proposed for the last 5 years.

Audited Financial Statements for the last 3 years to demonstrate the financial capability of the Bidder in terms of Profitability and adequate working capital.

A margin of preference for eligible national contractors shall not apply, Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in **English** may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **N 10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Naira)** only. The method of payment will be Cash or Bank Draft in Favour of Bauchi State Malaria Control Booster Project. The Bidding Documents will be collected by the representative of the Bidder or by courier services on request.

7. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before **11.00 AM on 7th June, 2010**. But shall not exceed 30 days. Electronic bidding **will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected** Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below at **11:00 AM on 7th June, 2010**. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of at least **2% of bid price** or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.

8. The address referred to above is:

**Attn: Umar Babuga Abubakar
Project Manager,
Bauchi State Malaria Control Booster Project
BACATMA,
No. 4 Yandoka Road,
Bauchi, Bauchi State.
E-mail: aubabugafaj.vahoo.com**

Signed:
Project Manager.



Invitation for Bids (IFB)

BAUCHI STATE GOVERNMENT

**MALARIA CONTROL BOOSTER PROJECT
CREDIT No. 4250-UNI**

PROCUREMENT OF VEHICLES

IFB. No. BA/MCBP/G/NCB/004/2010 .

1. The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has received a credit from the International Development Association toward the cost of Malaria Control Booster Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the Contract for the Procurement of Vehicles/ No: BA/MCBP/G/NCB/004/2010

2. The Bauchi State Malaria Control Booster Project now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Procurement of the following:

Lot No.	Item No.	DESCRIPTION OF ITEM.	Quantity	Delivery period
1	1	4WD MOBILE CINEMA VANS	2	60 days

3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB), a procedure specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Bauchi State Malaria Control Booster Project, at the address below and inspect the Bidding Documents from 10:00am to 4:00pm Mondays to Thursdays, except on public holidays.

5. Qualifications requirements include:

Evidence of previous supply (sale) of similar Equipment proposed for the last 5 years.

Audited Financial Statements for the last 3 years to demonstrate the financial capability of the Bidder in terms of Profitability and adequate working capital.

A margin of preference for eligible national contractors shall not apply, Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **N 10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Naira)** only. The method of payment will be Cash or Bank Draft in Favour of Bauchi State Malaria Control Booster Project. The Bidding Documents will be collected by the representative of the Bidder or by courier services on request.

7. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before **11:00AM on 7th June.2010**. But shall not exceed 30 days. Electronic bidding **will not be permitted.**

Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below at **11:00 am on 7th June, 2010**. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of at least **2% of bid price** or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.

8. The address referred to above is:

**Attn: Umar Babuga Abubakar
Project Manager,
Bauchi State Malaria Control Booster Project
BACATMA,
No. 4 Yandoka Road,
Bauchi, Bauchi State.**

E-mail: aubabuga@yahoo.com

Signed:
Project Manager.



Invitation for Bids (IFB)

BAUCHI STATE GOVERNMENT

MALARIA CONTROL BOOSTER PROJECT
Credit Number: 4250 -UNI

PROCUREMENT OF DRUGS
IFB NO: BA/MCBP/NCB/G/003/10

1. The Federal Republic of Nigeria has received a credit from the International Development Association toward the cost of Malaria Control Booster Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for procurement of Drugs.

2. The Bauchi State Malaria Control Booster Project now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of the following assorted drugs.

LOT	Item NO.	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITIES DOSES	PLACE OF DELIVERY	BID SECURITY	BID VALIDITY	DELIVERY SCHEDULE FROM DATE OF CONTRACT SIGNING
LOT1	1	Cotrimoxazole	200,000 doses	Central Medical Store, Ahmed Abdulkadir Road, Behind Prof. Iya Abubakar Resource Centre, Bauchi State, Nigeria	A bid security of at least 3% of bid price is required	90 days	Within 60 days
LOT1	2	Oral Rehydration solution (ORS)	160,000 sachet			90 days	Within 60 days
LOT1	3	Albendazole	1,000,000 doses	it		90 days	Within 60 days

Note: All items (1-3) are under one lot. Bidders quoting for incomplete lot will have their bids declared nonresponsive.

3. Bidding will be conducted through the international competitive bidding procedures specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits*, and are open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.

4. A complete set of Bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee **N 10,000:00 (Ten thousand naira only)**. The method of payment will be **certified cheque/bank draft in favor of Bauchi State Malaria Control Booster Project, or in cash**. The document shall be collected by bidder's representative.

5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from **Bauchi State Malaria Control Booster Project** and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from **0900 to 1600hrs, Monday to Thursday and 0900 1300hrs on Friday, except on public holidays**.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before **11:00am 7th June, 2010**. Electronic bidding will **not** be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the address below **at 11:00 AM 7th June, 2010**. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security as mentioned above, in a **freely convertible currency**.

7. The address referred to above is:

CONFERENCE ROOM,
BAUCHI STATE MALARIA CONTROL BOOSTER PROJECT
BACATMA OFFICE COMPLEX,
No 4 YANDOKA ROAD, BAUCHI,
NIGERIA
Tel: +2348058522243
Email: aubabuga@yahoo.com

Signed.
The Project Manager



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OPEN LETTER TO DR. ATTAHIRU DALHATU BAFARAWA, FORMER EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF SOKOTO STATE.

Your Excellency,

I am not using my status of Special Adviser to His Excellency, the present Executive Governor of Sokoto state, Alh. Dr. Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko (Sarkin Yamman Sokoto) to write this open letter to you. I am rather writing as a conscious and concerned citizen of Nigeria and more specifically as an indigene of Sokoto state, the state you ruled for the past eight years and you have the insatiable ego of still controlling and dictating its domestic political affairs. I am saying this because I want you to give a serious regard and attention to this letter rather than be emotional or sentimental and call me names. Your Excellency, may you permit me to first and foremost pinpoint to you some of those past administrative mistakes of yours during your tenure as governor, that I think might have grossly contributed in one way or the other in taking you to this present unfortunate destination and predicament you indeed find yourself today along the Nigerian Political Spectrum despite your past held exalted status of honour and prestige. In fact, I saw this as a necessary mission because I have realized that every defeated candidate during the general the 2007 elections had conceited and had accepted defeat in good faith except you. You still call yourself a democrat and a great contemporary politician aspiring for greater heights in Nigerian politics.

Mark you Your Excellency looking at the situation at a greater dimension one has no one to fault but the drafters of the Nigerian 1999 constitution who held and maintained decisively holding of ordinary secondary school credentials as a sole criteria of vying for the post of governorship. That was indeed the first lacuna that paved way to a person like you to contest and become the Sokoto State Governor. Admit it or not Your Excellency, at the end of your eight years tenure, Sokoto state and the people had been rendered more or less are victims of circumstances, abandoned with vices than virtues, problems not praiseworthy from your government.

The reasons of my statement are many if not uncountable but for the sake of this write up Your Excellency, I would like to advance only these few ones for mere justification. Your Excellency, if you could recall your various self-confessional statements to the press in 1999 after your controversial gubernatorial primaries with Sen. Garba Ilah Gada, you made it clear that the criticisms built around you then were many; among them you mentioned lack of higher academic qualifications, lack of working experience, lack of exposure etc. You therefore said you were in dire need of a deputy governor that surmounted all these criticisms so that your government will be seen with credibility and respect. You therefore solely and unilaterally picked the Present Dr. Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko, Sarkin Yamman Sokoto as deputy governor. Many saw it as a rightful decision because the man was at that time a highly respected retired Permanent Secretary, an accomplished technocrat, a humble, kind and generous personality towards all and sundry. With him around you, nobody may indeed question the credibility of your government or its actions and activities. Moreover, you appointed Alh. Abubakar Alhaji, the Sardauna of Sokoto and former Nigerian Minister of Finance for almost a decade as your Economic Adviser. With these duo around you, one may boldly say that, you were then one of the few Nigerian governors privileged enough to have around you a strong shelterbelt of knowledge and wisdom to tap freely and cheaply for guidance and orientation of your government. But unfortunately for the people of Sokoto and the state at large, you never cared to make good use of this shelterbelt! You only wanted to the credibility and honour surrounding them and their profiles and as civilized and knowledgeable gentlemen as they were, they never complained of your autocratic excesses, suppression or neglect throughout your tenure. Shall I at this juncture Your Excellency make citations of examples to corroborate and I justify my statement? With pleasure Your Excellency!

Let me start with that popular but private and personal trade mark "Jarma UK" which appeared on all motorcycles your government imported from China and gave on loan to teachers and other civil servants in the state. Note that courtesy of your good will and offices Your Excellency this man found his way from Sokoto to Far Eastern China and ordered stocks and stocks of motorcycles while making the order at the Chinese industry the man dictated the fixing of "Jarma UK", his personal private business mark on the state order. One question Your Excellency: why did he not give "Garkuwan Sokoto" the Executive Governor or "Bafarawa" or at a relatively lower thinking "Sarkin Yamman" or "Aliu" the Deputy Governor. But that had never been an issue to you because simply unknown to you my dear former governor, this man was nursing within himself a political ambition of succeeding you as a governor of Sokoto State after your two consecutive terms.

Another important and salient point to raise is the issue of Haramaini, the company and introduced by your government and which almost suffocated the entire Sokoto business class. Haramaini provided irons rods, nails, roofing sheets, paints and what have you! In fact, all building materials needed for constructions were provided by Haramaini and all beneficiaries of government contracts under your government collect the needed raw materials from Haramaini at no given money of course. The money is directly deducted from source by the State Ministry of Finance at an already laid down arrangement never negotiable with the contractor. This actually created a serious distress in the business and political classes throughout your tenure but you were never concerned at all by this obnoxious phenomenon. In fact Your Excellency I may wish to ask you sincerely and realistically if you are a joint shareholder in Haramaini Company along with the Jarma of Sokoto. If not

Your Excellency, let me intimate to you of my greatest disappointment first in you as a person and leader and second in your entire government for allowing an individual to introduced such that ruined the people and the state by exploring and extorting their resources in such dastardly extent and magnitude.

Remember, the same person, to usurp and share the former Sokoto Polo Club a government land earmarked for the past 30 years by the government of late Shehu Kangiwa of blessed memory (may his soul rest in peace). Certainly, some senior members of the political class behind you were also given allocations but come and see the "territorial kingdom" the man awarded to himself. In fact, one only needs to have a glance at the physical edifice the man put on the ground to really appreciate and realize the colossal amount of Sokoto masses' wealth this man freely amassed through your government. One question: was this man building a permanent paradise on earth? What concept of life does this man really have? Ephemeral or permanent? In fact, one only need to be a stupid African to invest in this way and manner on an unfruitful and unproductive ventures like residential structure. But of course when wealth is amassed freely and cheaply, with no basic fear of accountability or contemplation of any sort, conversion of the wealth from cash to kind is never a problem particularly when it comes into the hands of a stark illiterate or mind. Be it as it may, under your administration he played his game the way he wanted, some even argued, ahead and above yourself. (Juniors and seniors), recruitment, allocation of contracts etc. On your own side, you adopted the policy of "hide and seek" game and only selected people of your own had access to you or your exalted office.

One of your domestic staff was (known or unknown to you) operated also as a king when you were a governor. In fact, he was already a criminal minded phenomenon and you knew this because it was widely speculated that you yourself knew him sometimes ago in the garage. But because you foresaw his potential utility in your dominant black market fuel business, then you kept a sealed lip. That man used to harass and intimidate the political class and other senior civil servants at government strategic positions particularly Local government chairmen, secretaries, directors of finance and others in order to extort money from them. After all, he always claimed of being closer to His Excellency or even belonging to his extended family and this was not doubted because he was having the privilege of riding a government brand new exotic 406 car and that even some of the permanent secretaries could not have at their disposal then.

May I Your Excellency also remind you importantly that the virgin land and garden you met surrounding the government house in Sokoto was well provided for, planned and intended by our visionary great city planners of post-independence. In fact, how many governors both civilians and military did spend their time and left the land without touching it or tampering with it? In avoidance of gossips and criticisms, you accommodated only two senior members of your political class even though your political train threw away one of the two along the line simply because he could not afford to "marriage" your great and immune Jarma as it was the case with the rest of his former colleagues.

Your Excellency for your information and grand concern, the mansions you built for your children born and unborn and the anticipated presidential palace you built for yourself constitute today a serious security risk not just for this government and governor but for those to be in the near and far future. But you know, the present Governor, Alh. Dr. Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko in his own magnanimity, wisdom and compassion has never felt concerned about this menace. Again, all your political excesses and intrigues intended to create instability for his government and administration never led him to think of reciprocating badly or negatively. Note that, through your actions and activities. People had lost their orientation, their age long inherited social values of mutual respect, tolerance, cooperation and cordial coexistence and last but not the least, great value for peace. Our youth today were trained and natured to value violence, instability and crises and their fanatical love is for money and only money they cherish to spare and appreciate life.

Note that just like the good people of Sokoto could not afford to forget the days of Captain Alexander (one time chairman of petroleum task force in the state-now late) they could not also forget your days and dirtying political activities as state chairman of UNCP. That was the time to principally achieve the agenda of elongation of late General Abacha's mandate. That was the time you introduced the political culture of zero tolerance to any form of opposition. You were too confident of your strong link then in the villa, (Abuja) where the Aihaji Samaila Gworzo was clearing the ground for you.

When a new page of politics opens in 1999, you embarked in a catastrophic political journey that never spared today due to your inherent ignorance and miscalculations. The battalion of youths you nursed and bred in your former UNCP and you carried forward to operate for you now have of course succeeded in planting you to power for your first and second terms. Unknown to you, these youth you abandoned, idled and untrained to any useful venture for eight or more years of their life, constituted the machinery we used to plant the candidate you now hate at that time but unknown to you, he was the like and choice of the entire people of Sokoto. What you don't know at the end of the first election, the margin between Aliu and your hopeless candidate Katuka was almost 95, 000 votes. When you succeeded in achieving your dreadful mission of canceling the peoples' mandate through of Justice Zainab Bulkacuwu sometimes ago in Kaduna, the margin escalated to more than

500,000 votes.

Katuka too new that he never worked throughout his career for the post of Sokoto state governorship even when he was operating as secretary to the state government for eight years but he simply wanted to get what the Yoruba people call "awus" because he along with Bafarawa and other DPP followers believed in the fallacy that for the next 25 years to come, Bafarawa will be deciding and dictating the Sokoto state political spectrum. But the Almighty Allah had showed him and all his followers in DPP that He and He alone (Allah) decides whatever and whoever at all times without going afar.

This administration under the leadership of His Excellency, Dr. Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko is fully aware of this problem and is providing a crucial remedy to it. Right from its inception, a department for youth empowerment was created and skills of different nature and spheres of human endeavour are being given to these now salvaged youths. Moreover, the speedy transformation of our society by this administration is taking place in virtually all spheres of life, not just mainly in road constructions like your own case and where PW Plc (that construction company). Another mess again worthy to be noted and mention is how you closed down all your private companies or enterprises as soon as you won the governorship ticket: (Bafarawa Flower Mills, Bafarawa Filling Stations and all your commercial tankers were grounded in Sokoto for reasons best known to you only. Yet after, your mandate you used to be mentioned as one of the richest former governors of our time. Your Excellency how did you make your money and riches? Fortunately enough this is one of the fundamental questions and charges you have to answer today at the court where you are facing a criminal charge between you and the state. We are closely and carefully watching your defence (if any) on these issues (politics apart). Your Excellency, your paradigm of administrative and political blunders is full. I did not if you could remember raise your scandalous purchase of the aircraft you said you purchased on behalf of Sokoto State Government and which went into the dark. Surely if you had relied on the professional advice of your Deputy Governor (The great Aliu) or your Adviser on Economic Matters you wouldn't have ventured into this scandalous adventure that even the mighty State of Kano or Lagos or Rosy Port-Harcourt had deliberately avoided. I do not also touch the issue without telling us the purpose, or aim, or need. That useless venture is also littering our stores and floors today, the six billions you pumped on the so called educational resuscitation programme that ended up as a rather "educational suffocation programme", the wrong and arbitrary incarceration of innocent people like Sheik Malam Bello Yabo, Malam Bashir Gidan Kanawa, Malam Musa Lukuwa and others by your government at the Sokoto prison. Note that I did not raise the issue of crude mismanagement of religious intra-ideological differences by your government at that time, the unlawful and illegitimate denial of three steps promotions and increment to our dear civil servants and Nigerians and the world that you left the sum of nine billion naira in the state coffers which in reality is not true. I did not also raise the issue of where the party had no incumbent governor, your sudden severance of relationship with all APP/ANPP governors including those of your catchment area (governor Adamu Aleiro of Kebbi State, governor Yerima Bakura of Zamfara state). Your Excellency the paradigm of your political and administrative scandals is full but for the sake of this open letter let me please restrict myself here. However, it is now being generally speculated that you want to join PDP as a political party and alternative. I hope it is true. And if so you are warmly welcome Your Excellency because you know, in the game of democracy, **plus one is always better than minus one.** For this sake therefore, you are greatly welcome but mark you Your Excellency, in the Sokoto state of today, our Executive Governor Dr. Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko, Sarkin Yamman Sokoto is the overall father of PDP and every member must as a matter of principle be humble and disciplined enough towards him and the party and must accept and acknowledge everything from him. All we want from you is (1) to primarily publicly declare your DPP (that club as it was called by the former vice president Attiku Abubakar sometimes ago on BBC) as totally dead so that nobody will camouflage under it again and make noise or any subversive activity against our government today. (2) To recognize that, this party already has an existing structure and doesn't require any of your money or wealth to do so. Remember in your aborted "mega party" in view then, President Buhari had already started complaining publicly of your self-expressed inner ego to dominate the incoming party, by telling them to leave everything to you and you shall solely provide all the logistics of the party (vehicles included). So if now you are coming to PDP please be ready and determined to be an ordinary floor member along with all your supporters and nothing more than that. PDP in Sokoto State and even Nigeria does not lack funds but more ideas or initiatives were be humbly accepted. And since in this domain you are totally handicapped and defective the best way you can contribute is maybe by adding to the numerical strength of followers. And don't forget the last but not the least condition in order and importance. No political comment on national or international press on behalf of the party without due authorization: BBC, VOA, RFI, DW etc. Otherwise one shall be disowned by the party Chairman! The French people say "en bon entendeur merci!" Thank you and best wishes Your Excellency.

Respectfully,

SHUAIBU MOHAMMED NAYABA,
Hon. Special Adviser (Special Duties),
To the Executive Governor, Sokoto State.

BUSINESS

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Can Jonathan's goodluck fix the power sector?

By Fidelis Mac-Leva

ALL 'Power' now belongs to Goodluck Jonathan: he holds sway as Nigeria's President while retaining the portfolio of the Power Ministry as Minister. What this implies is that apart from piloting the affairs of the Nigerian state, Jonathan would also oversee the affairs of the power sector through the power ministry by ensuring that the reforms thereof are result oriented. This is no mean task but the President seems not to be complaining.

Last year when it became apparent that the Presidential mandate of delivering 6000MW of electricity could not be realised, it was Jonathan [then Vice President] who came out to apologise to Nigerians.

Jonathan is now heading the Presidential Committee on Power with Minister of State [Power] Nuhu Somo Wya as vice Chairman. Other members of the Committee include: Finance Minister, Olusegun Aganga; Central Bank Governor, Sanusi Lamido Sanusi; the Director General of Public Procurement [BPP], Mr. Emeka Ezech as well as his counterpart from the Bureau for Public Enterprise [BPE], Dr. Christopher Anyawu.

Explaining the composition of the Presidential Committee Wya said: "We are getting the Central Bank of Nigeria to be involved to facilitate our transactions, as most of our accounts are at the apex bank. We also want to sort out issues about clearing our goods, to also ensure that whoever is giving us power, his investment is protected. We have the Bureau for Public Procurement which is also part of the Committee to ensure that procurement is processed quickly."

He said: "We have the Ministry of Finance which is in charge of financing our operations so that whenever there are challenges, the ministry will handle it quickly and then we have people from the private sector that are coming to assist us. So, we expect that the Presidential Advisory Committee on Power with the President as Chairman and me as Deputy Chairman will ensure that all issues militating against the prompt execution of power projects are concluded

within the shortest possible time."

Mixed reactions have trailed the decision by the President to take charge of the Power Ministry. While some Nigerians see it as a good omen, others seem unimpressed. Some analysts have likened the development to the tenure of former President Olusegun Obasanjo who, they argued, retained the portfolio of the Petroleum ministry with little or nothing to show in terms of addressing the problems of the sector.

The Nigerian Senate and the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria, MAN, have separately welcomed Jonathan's headship of the Power sector; describing the development as a good omen for the country.

Vice President of MAN, Walid Jibrin, said: "We welcome the development with the hope that the acting President will bring about the desired reforms in the power sector." According to Jibrin, the power sector had gone through a lot of problems over the years but that with Jonathan now in charge, MAN was hopeful that the challenges would be addressed. On its part, the National Union of Electricity Employees, NUEE, says there is no big deal in President Goodluck Jonathan's headship of the Power Ministry provided he has the expertise and time to deliver the desired results.

Comrade Joe Ajaero, General Secretary of the Union told Daily Trust that what was required of the President was to lay a solid foundation for the sector's reforms, especially through diversification of energy sources.

Citing the example of Brazil where he said the President took charge of the country's bedevilled power sector and produced the desired results, Ajaero said: "There is no big deal with the President handling the power sector. Our only concern is whether he would not be weighed down by state matters, or brings in people with conflicting interest.

He advised Jonathan to "not allow the hawks around him to hijack the power sector. He should proceed to set short, medium and long term goals that would produce the desired results." The federal government had rolled out a "Strategic Plan" to meet the target generation capacity of 6000MW by December last year. Among other objectives the plan was based on optimizing the existing capacity within the host PHCN power plants through an aggressive repair and rehabilitation exercise, reinforcing the transmission and distri-



bution network as well as completion of on-going projects. When the strategic plan failed to achieve the target generation of 6000MW by December last year, the Power Ministry attributed it to a number of challenges, particularly shortage of gas supply to power the thermal station. Other challenges advanced by the Power Ministry for the failure to deliver on the 6000MW of electricity to Nigerians were, infrastructure inadequacy, proper funding and administration as well as procurement challenges.

Against the backdrop of these challenges, coupled with the limited time available before the end of his current tenure of office, some analysts see a daunting task before Jonathan in fixing the power sector. For instance some analysts have wondered why the federal government has ruled out the possibility of declar-

ing a state of emergency in the Power sector.

Minister of State [Power] Nuhu Somo Wya, who is also the Vice Chairman of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Power said: "There is no declaration of state of emergency but we are working in an emergency manner."

There is also the issue of the National Integrated Power Projects [NIPP] for which the federal government had injected the sum of N762.93billion last year. The projects were expected to add 4,770MW to the national grid by the end of 2011. But there are doubts as to whether the first units of the NIPP projects would be commissioned in the first quarter of 2011 as projected. This has further raised doubt on the attainment of the much touted vision 2020 development goals of Nigeria.

CBN EXCHANGE RATES			
7/5/2010	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)
CFA	0.2802	0.2902	0.3002
DANISH KRONER	26.2418	26.3307	26.4196
EURO	195.3914	196.0533	196.7151
POUNDS STERLING	224.3443	225.3049	226.0655
RIYAL	39.3627	39.496	39.6293
SDR	222.3745	223.1278	223.881
SWISS FRANC	136.2093	136.6707	137.132
US DOLLAR	147.61	148.11	148.61
WAUA	222.2943	223.0473	223.8003
YEN	1.5516	1.5599	1.5681

Bureau de Change Rates	
BUYING	
Dollar	N151
Euro	N204
Pound	N234
SELLING	
Dollar	N162
Euro	N206
Pound	N236

STOCK MARKET INDEX	
Date:	Friday, May 7, 2010
Index:	27,095.20
Deals:	11,201
Volume:	737,827,176
Value:	N 8,539,539,516.07
Cap.:	N6,553,662,659,204.15

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

Business/Banking

UBA ranks 3rd in W/African bank survey

Stories by Tina Hassan

BARELY two years after it started full banking operations in Cote d' Ivoire , United Bank for Africa (Cote d' Ivoire) Limited has been ranked third among

leading banks in the West African country according to a survey conducted among the 20 existing banks. Société Général CI and Ecobank clinched the first and second positions respectively.

A statement from the bank said the survey published by PME Magazine's banking edition, Côte d'Ivoire's top and key economic publication sampled respondents (bank customers) using criteria

such as, account opening, account maintenance fees, credit facility, quality of service and e-banking services among others. UBA was adjudged 3rd preferred banking brand among other banks estab-

lished before it including other Nigerian banks currently operating in the country. Commenting on the development, Mr. Rasheed Olaoluwa, Chief Executive Officer UBA Africa expressed satisfac-

tion with the impact the bank is making in Cote d' Ivoire and expressed optimism that the bank would emerge first in subsequent survey owing to its strong fundamentals and professional work force.



MY CONSTITUENCY LEGACY



Constituency legacies are those humanitarian projects initiated, implemented and bequeathed to the deserving communities as related to our elected political office holders. As the nation draw closer to another elective year, it becomes imperative that lawmakers will be taking inventory and account for the stewardship of services they rendered to uplift the well being of their people. As it affects the state and federal lawmakers, quite a good number have demonstrated kindness and generosity vis-a vis their electioneering promises. They are trailing the blazing of good representation through provision of constituency projects and contribute to debates, bills and other sundry issues of national importance.

To celebrate our National Assembly representatives, **Media Trust Limited**, the publishers of *Daily Trust*, *Weekly Trust*, *Sunday Trust* and *Aminiya* newspapers, is packaging a special project on the above subject [MY CONSTITUENCY LEGACY]. The aim is to applaud and highlight the contributions of individual lawmaker who has demonstrated kindness to his/her people. Given the foregoing, federal lawmakers are invited to participate in the project as a way of showcasing their contributions [Constituency projects] executed to the admiration of their various constituencies.

For participation/enquiries, please contact:
Leke Adelere on 08059100282
Lilian Tanimola 08052377534.

The date of publication is from Monday, May 17 to Saturday, May 31, 2010.

Thank you as we anticipate your participation.

Management

DAILY TRUST
TRUST IS A BURDEN

Unity Bank bags CICAN-award

UNITY Bank Plc has been honoured with a Brand Recognition Award by the Commerce and Industry Correspondents Association of Nigeria (CICAN). The award was presented by Chairman of the Nigeria Economic Summit Group, Mr Mazi Ohunabunwa at CICAN's annual Crystal Nite of Excellence which held on Thursday, May 6, 2010 at the Lagos Sheraton Hotel and Towers. In its citation for the award, CICAN said, "In recognising Unity Bank as one of the most impactful financial brands, we celebrate an institution that has thrived in the face of national and global economic adversity."

The association also said that since changing its corporate identity towards the end of 2009, Unity Bank's new brand identity, "headlined by its unique graphite and lemon sky name-logo, has rapidly achieved a vibrant and widespread presence which has received accolades from brand managers, industry practitioners and the banking public." The Group Managing Director of Unity Bank, Falalu Bello, who was represented by the Ikeja Regional Manager of the bank, Felix Eze, thanked CICAN for the award and promised that the bank would continue to improve service delivery to its numerous customers.

'First Bank undergoing restructuring'

FIRST Bank of Nigeria Plc is currently undergoing a restructuring programme in line with the Central Bank's reforms, a statement from the bank said.

But the bank said it has not finalised agreements with any individual to head the new business group that will arise from the restructuring - the Investment Banking and Asset Management Business Group (IBAM).

"The restructuring essentially entails the amalgamation of FBN Capital, First Trustees, First Funds and FBN Securities into one Investment Banking and Asset Management Business Group (IBAM).



TARABA STATE GOVERNMENT

Congratulatory Message



On behalf of the Government and people of Taraba State, I wish to heartily congratulate you on this auspicious moment in the history of our great country, Nigeria, on your being sworn-in as Executive President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The event that led to this remarkable stage in our national history is the handwork of God and the opportunity to excel is yours. The cooperation and support to make good things happen is ours and the challenge for you to succeed in this onerous task belongs to the Almighty God.

As the time is limited and the country is facing critical challenges like Electoral Reforms and the 2011 Elections, Power/Energy reforms and other key areas, I sincerely wish you God's guidance, speed and protection to steer the ship of the nation safely to the shore.

While pledging our unalloyed loyalty to your government, we the people of Taraba State pray God to give you the capacity, good health and wisdom to lead our great country to the Promised Land.

**Long live Mr. President!
Long live Taraba State!
Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!**

His Excellency,
Dr. Goodluck Jonathan [GCFR]
President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

Signed:
Danbaba Danfulani Suntai
Executive Governor, Taraba State



Star Feature

Abuja motor parks Where touts are

In the numerous parks and bus stops that dot the capital city, they reign supreme. However, their violent disposition is becoming a source of worry to many residents

By Tosin Omoniyi

It started as a mild altercation between two scruffy young men over ownership of turf. Slowly it snowballed into a scuffle that eventually ended in a free for all, whereby commuters and intending passengers at the popular Jabi park, had to hurriedly take to their heels. Stout hearted pedestrians and park officials were however able to quell the fiery spirits of the gladiators, and peace was restored in a short while. However the combatants had swollen lips and torn clothes to show for the short exercise in might and strength. A few innocent bystanders who were caught in the face off, also had various degrees of mild injuries to show for being at the wrong place at the wrong time.

The fight had erupted over who had the 'rights' to usher an intending passenger into any of the waiting buses parked in the park premises. The unfortunate passenger who had been caught in the wave of violence looked

ruffled, as he attempted to pick up his luggage which had been thrown afar in the heat of battle, for who had sole preserve of taking him to his bus of choice. A bystander who witnessed the short ferocious fisticuff noted sorely, "when will these park touts be called to order. Slowly they are becoming unmanageable, and nobody appears to be taking their threats seriously. A passenger cannot walk into the park without being harassed anymore. It is either they are struggling to grab your luggage from you, or they are dragging you by the arm into the park. The funny thing is that they do not even wait to find out your destination, before they haul you into the park premises. And many of them are hoodlums. Before you know what is happening they would have put their hands in your pockets and removed your money, without you knowing it. Even if you are in your vehicle, they still harass you and even try to put their heads into your car, as if they are part owners of the vehicle. This barbarism has got to stop!"

At the area 3 junction of the town, a similar scenario was playing out with the same dreary consequences. A lady was screaming at the top of her voice and hurling obscenities at some unruly youths, who were replying in the same manner. It was a sordid war of unprintable words which caught the attention of passersby, who waited in the typical Nigerian fashion to learn what was responsible for the hullabaloo. According to a witness, the lady was screaming blue murder because some of the boys had touched her in a suggestive manner, in an apparent attempt to usher her into a waiting bus. Even as she maintained that the bus was not going in her direction, they nonetheless continued to maul



ARGUMENTS such as this one erupt on a daily basis in the parks

her, and according to her one of them even had the audacity to slip his hands into her bosom in an attempt to 'persuade' her to embark on the journey. This had triggered the verbal fusillade between the unrepentant young men and the lady, who

was threatening to marshal everything in her powers to bring the touts to justice. After a few moments of the verbal outburst, and every onlooker had been forced to leave in search of other sources of daily fun in the capital city, the lady beat a

hasty retreat when no one came to support her cause, while the boys just sauntered off in search of other potential victims.

In Abuja they reign as uncrowned kings of the parks. Their activities are not even limited to the parks going by investigations. At every major bus stop, they can be found plying their unique trade. At times

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Some of the boys had touched her in a suggestive manner."

Parks: kings



sit in the bus as normal passengers, as soon as the vehicle is about to fill up suddenly jump down and start calling 'one chance, one chance' in an attempt to persuade other harried passengers to get on the bus. Of course, they do this with the connivance of the bus drivers, who are in a hurry to fill their buses, and who

equally know that passengers would not want to board a bus that is scanty. Most of the touts however, make a daily living persuading intending passengers to board buses at the behest of the bus drivers. For their efforts however, they are

given a token as low as N20 or as high as N100, depending on their bargaining power, or the willingness of the bus driver to pay in the first instance.

In Yoruba parlance they are simply regarded as 'Agberos' literally translated as 'takers of crowd.' For many Abuja residents however, their activities are becoming a source of worry, principally because of their unruly manner and violent disposition. Femi Adeyemi, a media practitioner based in Abuja, has only one way of describing activities of these touts at the city's numerous parks: "they are a disorganized set of people who need to be taught the rudiments of administration. The hell one experiences at these parks, is better left unsaid. It makes you wonder if there are any officials who are mandated to oversee what goes on at the parks. If you are not careful at these parks, you may regret ever venturing into them."

At the Jabi Park the horde of motor park touts is creating a burden for many intending passengers. As you enter the premises you are accosted by so many of them, that you are initially afraid that you are about to be a victim of mob action. If care is not taken you may lose valuables, as you struggle to extricate yourself from the vicious grip of the determined young men, who also in the same vein trade tackles and blows with one another, in a desperate bid to secure your patronage. At times your baggage is snatched from you and you are left with no other option than to join the madness, as you run crazily after the tout, to retrieve your possession or at least to ascertain that it is in the right hands. In Jabi garage, turmoil reigns supreme!

At the area 3 junction, a unique sort of battle plays out also on a daily basis. It is becoming gradually illegal to convey anyone in your vehicle and attempt to disembark at the junction. As your passenger is leaving your vehicle, rough shod and unkempt young men suddenly jump into the confines of your vehicle, and order you to stop the engine, or they threaten you with bodily harm if you venture to argue. Your offense: conveying a passenger commercially without registering with the National Union of Road Transport Workers, NURTW. All attempts to explain that the passenger you dropped is a friend of yours, apparently falls on deaf ears, and you are practically dragged to their 'chairman' who usually looks well fed and prosperous looking, who metes out instant judgment, ranging from N5,000 to N10,000. Failure to pay this 'humane' fine may end up in you being battered physically or harassed. Ugo Chiwendu, a staff of the National Assembly, got the beating of his life,

"In Abuja they reign as uncrowned kings of the parks."

when he dared question the judgment handed down to him by these kings of the roads a few weeks back, when he was hauled to their court for dropping another colleague of his at the notorious area 3 junction. "What amazed me was the indifference exhibited by people around who witnessed this assault on me. Many of them simply passed by, as if it was no concern of theirs, what happened to me. Even when these thugs were dragging me to their den, nobody attempted to come to my aid. It makes one wonder if these touts can be controlled by the authorities at all," recalls a visible shaken Ugo.

However, a few weeks back the touts at the area 3 junction bit more than they could chew when they tried the same gimmick with a plain clothes naval officer, who was seized by the hoodlums when he dropped his younger brother at the park. They had hauled him to their make shift court where he had been ordered to pay a fine for his offence which he had paid without complaint. A few moments after his release however, he had stormed the same park with several of his colleagues and police officers, and the unlucky touts had been rounded up in a jiffy after they had received the beating of their lives.

Their unsavory activities have also recorded a few casualties. Sometime back the city had been jolted by the news of an avoidable auto accident at the area 3 junction. A car had somersaulted several times when a tout had jumped into the vehicle and attempted to wrest control of the vehicle from the obstinate owner, who had refused to stop the vehicle when ordered to. Although no life had been lost, the duo had ended up at the National Hospital with serious bodily wounds.

"The unlucky touts had been rounded up in a jiffy after they had received the beating of their lives."

Their activities continue unabated as at the moment.

However, Abuja unit chairman of the Nigerian Union of Road Transport Owners, Alhaji Ibrahim Gaji, says the union is carrying out a massive sensitization programme and in house cleansing, to reduce the activities of the touts in the city's numerous parks, especially the central park in Jabi where he holds sway primarily. He also adds that the members of the public equally have a part to play in the mitigation of the crisis. "We do not encourage the activities of touts in our parks. In fact we frown at anything that has to do with such activities. We carry out regular training programmes for our marshals, who you can usually recognize from their apparel, which is green and white uniforms. Anybody not dressed in these colors is not one of us," he announces.

He however adds that they have numerous non uniformed 'field officers' who help them in attracting passengers. He was silent on whether these also receive the same training given the marshals. He enthuses further: "NURTW, as a body, does not condone illegality and criminal tendencies, and we will go out of our way to fish out any officer who engages in such activities, and ensure that justice takes its proper course. But the men we train are those I can vouch for. But don't forget the fact that NURTW is not the only body responsible for the administration of park activities, we have others like the National Road Transport Owners, NARTO and the RTEAN, Road Transport Employers Association of Nigeria. These also are stakeholders in park administration and control. On our own part we will continue to discourage the activities of these touts as much as possible..."

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Business

Local content law: OICs to use Nigerian banks, insurance coys only

By Hamisu Muhammad

THE Nigerian Content Act has made it mandatory for all operators and contractors engaged in oil and gas business to only patronise the services of the local banks and insurance firms in the country.

Over \$18 billion spent annually in the oil and gas sector has not been felt in the Nigerian economy. Large part of the money goes to foreign firms through financial deals, insurances and legal services.

The Act which was signed by President Goodluck Jonathan recently stated that "All operators, contractors and any other entity engage in any operation, business or financial transaction in the Nigerian

oil and gas industry requiring financial services shall retain only services

Nigerian firms participating in the oil and gas industry accounts for less than 40 percent at the moment, which is well below the target of 70 percent for 2010.

According to the Act: "All operators shall submit to the Nigerians Content Monitoring Board every six months of its Financial Services Plan (FSP). The FSP shall include a financial services utilised in the past six months by expenditure and a forecast of financial services required during the next six months and the projected expenditure for the services".

On the insurance business, the Act states that no insurance risk in the

Nigerian oil and gas industry shall be placed offshore without the written approval of the National Insurance Commission which shall ensure that Nigerian local capacity has been fully exhausted.

"All operators, project promoters, alliance partners and Nigerian indigenous companies engaged in any form of business, operations, or contract in the Nigerian oil and gas industry, shall insure all insurable

risks related to its oil and gas business, operation or contracts with and insurance company(s), through an insurance broker registered in Nigeria under the provisions of insurance Act, 2003."

The Act has since generated debate in the oil and gas industry where some international oil companies doubt the capacities of the local business entities to handle some of their activities.

Tukur faults Nigeria's budgeting processes

THE Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) has faulted the current budgeting processes and practices in the country.

The Chairman of the RMAFC, Mr Hamman Tukur, raised the objection in his presentation at the 12th Annual Tax Conference of the Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria in Abuja.

He said the faulty processes had contributed to the under-development of the country as well as its economic woes over the years.

Tukur said it had become necessary to review the budgeting procedures and practices in order to achieve efficiency in both the preparation and implementation of budgets for the overall accelerated development of the economy and the nation at large.

According to him, any keen observer of the budgeting practices by all tiers of government from 1999 to date will have been concerned by certain practices and procedures.

The chairman also blamed the recurring dis-

putes between the legislative and the executive arms of government in respect of preparation, approval and implementation of annual budgets on faulty processes.

Tukur noted that "the critical issue is that these practices, procedures and disputes have impacted negatively on the country's economy.

"For too long, the abundance of natural resources in the country, rather than being used to stimulate growth and development, has not only become a source of economic instability but has also resulted in mismanagement and corruption.

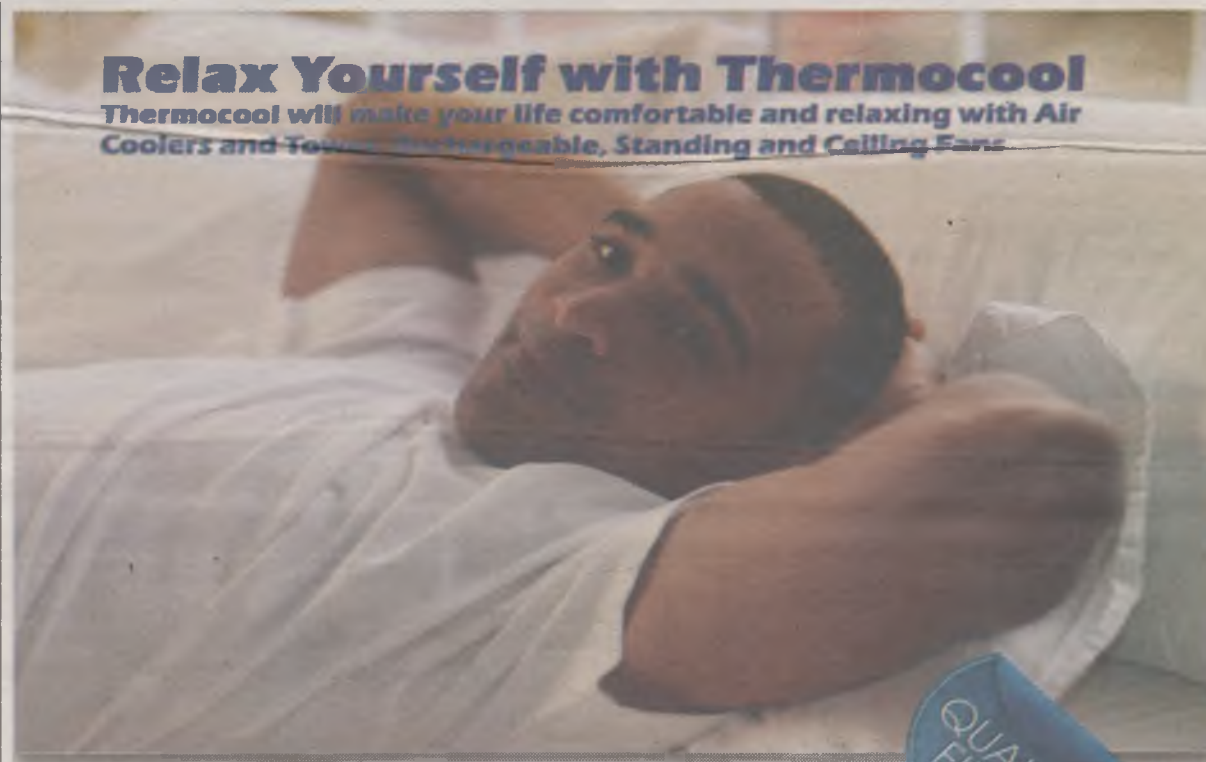
"Today, Nigeria cannot match its pace of growth and development with that of Botswana which has used its natural wealth to help diversify the economy and invest through prioritised budgetary sectoral allocation in health, education, agriculture and solid minerals."

Tukur expressed worry that "in spite of our penchant for well articulated budgetary ideas and the huge amount of financial outlay, the country's budget implementation has been a record of intangible performance and waste of resources".

He said a good budget must have realistic revenue projections, linkage of resource availability with expenditure plans, focus on project priorities and time-frame such as short term, medium term, long term and rolling.



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HAMMAN Tukur

Business/Aviation

We'll ground Virgin Nigeria if... - NCAA

STORIES from Nahimah Ajikanle Nurudeen, Lagos

THE recently acquired Virgin Nigeria by business mogul Jimoh Ibrahim may be grounded if it compromises safety or unable to meet the standard of the Nigeria's aviation sector, the Director General of the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) has said.

Dr. Olusegun Harold Demuren said that the regulatory agency is closely monitoring transition in the Virgin Nigeria Airways.

Speaking to newsmen at the Aviation Headquarters in Lagos after a meeting with the airlines operators and agencies' chief, he said a commercial transition in any organization is allowed but in aviation, safety must not be compromised.

According to him, putting NCAA searchlight on the airline is necessary because of the past record of Mr. Jimoh Ibrahim in the industry who



JIMOH Ibrahim

recently bought over Virgin Nigeria.

Demuren explained that the agency will not allow anybody to destroy the structure laid by the airline's former technical partner and the mother company of Virgin Nigeria which is Virgin Atlantic.

He stated that the only gain the country's aviation industry benefited from Virgin Atlantic is the foundation and structure it put in place to develop the system in Virgin Nigeria.



VIRGIN Nigeria aircraft

Demuren said: "We are monitoring everything. If we find out or discover that at any point in time the airline cannot carry

out a safe operation, for sure, we will not hesitate to ground it because we cannot afford to see anybody messing around this time."

On the Oceanic bank/Aero financial face-off, the NCAA boss stated that the minister of aviation Mrs. Fideila Njeze has

waded into the matter for the airline to commence a payment pattern for the settlement of its \$200 million debts.

Aviation unions wade into Aero, Oceanic face off

THE workers in the aviation industry under the aegis of the National Union of Air Transport Employees (NUATE), Air Transport Services Senior Staff Association (ATSSSAN) and National Association of Aircraft Pilots and Engineers (NAAPE) have called for a truce over claims and counter claims on the \$200 million (N30b) repayment proposals.

Speaking to newsmen on behalf of the aviation unions at the Murtala Muhammed Airport Lagos the newly elected National President of the National Association of Aircraft Pilots and Engineers (NAAPE), Engr. Balami Isaac David, said the recent newspaper publications relating to the above faceoff between Aero Contractors and Oceanic Bank is not a good omen for the aviation industry if not timely and carefully handled.

In this regard, he called for caution particularly on the side of Oceanic Bank in bearing its fangs on the bank account of Aero Contractors thereby crippling the airline's day-to-day operations, saying the act will have serious implication on the development and growth of the airline sector in the economy.

While not making claims for facilities granted to airlines by the banks, the Pilot boss reemphasised the role of the banks in the economy as providers of financial assistance to businesses at affordable rates.

According to him, the workers as stakeholders will use necessary network to reach out to well meaning Nigerians and our counterparts in the banking sector for amicable /acceptable solutions on this issue.

Aero records flight disruption

BARELY four days after the weather condition delayed an Abuja-Lagos bound flight operated by Aero contractor on Sunday which made the pilot to stay for extra 50 minutes in the air, one the airlines aircraft suffered yet another flight disruption on its Lagos-Benin bound flight on Wednesday in Lagos.

The aircraft which was due to depart Lagos for Benin at noon from the Murtala Muhammad Airport Two (MMA2) was discovered to have had technical fault when the pilot tried to start the engine failingly.

Passengers were however asked to disembark from the aircraft and booked for alternative flight to their destination by the airline. The aircraft was therefore parked at the Aero's hanger

for the aircraft engineers to carry out checks on it and unravel the problem with encountered.

Aero, in a statement said: "For over 50 years Aero has continued to operate to the highest safety standards in the aviation scene in Nigeria. On the 05 May 2010 at 14H20, Aero's flight AJ 161, was scheduled to depart from Lagos to Benin. On powering up the engines, the crew observed reduced power output on the number two engine. The captain immediately returned the aircraft to the terminal, customers were disembarked and the Boeing 737-500 was moved to the hangar for further investigation."

According to the statement, the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) was duly informed of the event.

Our problem is lack of funds - NAMA

THE Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA) has identified inadequate funds as major obstacles militating against the agency in actualizing its set objective of becoming a world class Air Navigation Service Provider (ANSP).

The Managing Director of NAMA Alhaji Ibrahim Auyo dropped the hint when he received members of the World Bank technical team who visited the Agency's headquarters in Ikeja, Lagos.

The Agency's boss highlighted to the visiting team some projects that the Agency had embarked upon such as the World Geodetic Survey (WGS-84) which will bring

about performance based navigation aimed at cutting cost for airlines.

According to him, other major priority set by NAMA is the Automation of the Aeronautical Information Service (AIS), the Total Radio Coverage of Nigeria and the Total Radar Coverage of Nigeria (TRACON) which is about to be completed.

The World Bank team came into the country to audit NAMA on mandatory audit of NAMA as part of the institutional reform engagement.

The team was led by William Fullertin who in his response said the team was in Nigeria to ascertain the priority areas.

“NAMA) has identified inadequate funds as major obstacles militating against the agency in actualizing its set objective.

Winners emerge in travel essay contest

THE first National Travel Essay Competition (NTEC 2009) has announced the winners of the Top Ten Finalists invited by the Independent Panel of Assessors to take part in the Grand Finale and Award Celebrations.

The event which was held at the conference room of the Murtala Muhammed International Airport had

among those whose entries made the last ten based on an average score of the assessment panel include: Coker Temitope of International School (UNILAG) Lagos; Olufolabi Jesuladun of Dalos College, Ota; Kabir-Gusau Amina of Murtala Muhammed Airport School; Ojo Oreoluwa of Dalos College, Ota and Shoberu Adesh-

ewa also of Dalos College, Ota. Others are Jonathan Patience of Christ Ambassadors College, Kaduna; Adesun Adeshikemi of Dalos College, Ota; Oyetayo Esther of SMA College, Lagos; Fashogbon Olamide of Dalos College, Ota and Adeyiga Jumoke of Starfield College, Lagos.

Business/Agric

'Food tax responsible for price hike'

By Tina A. Hassan

THE continuing rise in the prices of foodstuff in Nigeria has been blamed on the high and oppressive charges on the goods from unions, *Daily Trust* investigation has reveal.

Traders at the Wuse market in Abuja who prefer to speak under anonymity said the the rise in prices of food items and other commodity in the market are not going to end soon as

long as government and other bodies continue to place heavy tax on foodstuff and other item in the cause of movement.

On whether the proposed salary increase by the Federal Government will affect food prices, it would have no impact on the price of commodities in the market but only excise duty charges affect the prices.

One of the traders who spoke to *Daily Trust* said the prices of food staffs have experienced very little fluctuation between

last month and this month, although they still remain high.

He said when moving goods from Lagos to Abuja for instance, the amount levied on those goods are so high that when the goods arrive, the prices go up to offset the charges.

"If you are moving a canter of vegetable oil from Lagos to Abuja now, you pay nothing less than N150,000 as custom duty charges and that is too high and that is why vegetable oil is expensive," he said.

Irrigation farmers record 46,000mt of cereals, vegetables in Katsina

By Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

ELEVEN thousand hectares of land utilized by irrigation farmers across Katsina State this season produced forty six thousand metric tons of cereals and vegetables this year.

State governor Ibrahim Shema who made the disclosure while inspecting one Jibia irrigation site in the state disclosed of his administration's resolve to move from the rain-fed agriculture to meet the food requirements of the state in the nearest future.

He said the irrigable lands utilized by farmers in the state include a 7,135ha cultivated under the Fadama program, 2000 ha cultivated at Jibia irrigation site and the remaining 1,850 from other irrigation locations across the state.

Giving the breakdown of the yield, he said, a total of 3,750MT of wheat were cultivated in the state, while 15,000MT was that of sweet and hot potatoes in addition to 17,000MT of tomatoes as well as 4,000MT of maize and 6,212 of other vegetables and cereals.

The governor call on others in the federation to brace up in exploring irrigation potentials of irrigation to enable it feed self and generates substantial revenue for its people.

A total of 3,750MT of wheat were cultivated in the state, while 15,000MT was that of sweet and hot potatoes in addition to 17,000MT of tomatoes as well as 4,000MT.

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Business/Finance

Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Friday, May 7, 2010

2ND-TIER SECURITIES									
Company Name	No of Deals	Quotation(N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)					
CAPITAL OIL PLC	12	0.50	359,496	181,083.34					
Sector Totals	12		359,496	181,083.34					
AGRICULTURE									
FTN COCOA PROCESSORS PLC	40	0.97	967,000	970,522.16					
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	26	0.94	713,150	665,961.00					
THE OKOMU OIL PALM COMPANY PLC	2	15.92	100,500	1,599,960.00					
PRESCO PLC	4	7.50	35,700	254,711.00					
Sector Totals	72		1,816,350	3,491,154.16					
AIR SERVICES									
AIRLINE SERVICES AND LOGISTICS PLC	6	3.92	38,805	144,742.65					
NIGERIAN AVIATION HANDLING CO. PLC	269	13.94	11,881,176	165,182,895.99					
Sector Totals	275		11,919,981	165,327,638.64					
AUTOMOBILE & TYRE									
DN TYRE & RUBBER PLC	6	0.50	109,750	54,875.00					
R. T. BRISCOE (NIGERIA) PLC	24	5.90	526,368	2,901,519.84					
Sector Totals	30		636,118	2,956,394.84					
BANKING									
ACCESS BANK PLC	289	9.50	19,995,867	195,458,725.31					
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	89	2.52	4,194,553	10,190,784.25					
DIAMOND BANK PLC	95	8.82	8,547,333	74,089,066.13					
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	59	5.76	1,429,509	8,233,971.84					
FIRST CITY MONUMENT BANK PLC	36	7.86	1,596,913	12,624,274.56					
FIDELITY BANK PLC	155	3.04	5,533,840	17,255,709.46					
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	1,425	15.55	95,933,034	1,509,392,418.88					
FINBANK PLC	107	0.64	24,061,999	15,153,427.72					
GTBANK PLC	598	17.60	30,204,040	537,393,779.26					
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	61	10.39	5,246,791	54,514,158.49					
INTERCONTINENTAL BANK PLC	121	1.87	5,785,145	10,818,221.15					
OCEANIC BANK INTERNATIONAL PLC	139	2.06	11,225,926	23,029,201.87					
BANK PHB PLC	102	1.43	8,020,194	11,947,857.92					
SKYE BANK PLC	146	8.21	37,164,469	305,120,290.49					
SPRING BANK PLC	10	1.02	527,144	537,330.30					
STERLING BANK PLC	37	2.23	4,588,281	10,231,866.63					
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC	580	13.48	122,721,660	1,667,723,592.25					
UNION BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	193	5.61	4,273,926	24,718,843.18					
UNITY BANK PLC	48	1.11	5,681,567	6,081,967.48					
WEMA BANK PLC	41	1.15	1,972,587	2,268,180.09					
ZENITH BANK PLC	433	15.60	16,491,775	254,716,270.59					
Sector Totals	4,764		415,196,553	4,751,499,937.85					
BREWERIES									
GUINNESS NIGERIA PLC	88	158.99	768,915	119,318,221.12					
INTERNATIONAL BREWERIES PLC	38	4.90	471,255	2,359,664.20					
NIGERIAN BREWERIES PLC	193	73.00	12,663,970	905,600,559.60					
Sector Totals	319		13,904,140	1,027,278,444.92					
BUILDING MATERIALS									
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	122	21.50	1,831,670	40,293,991.95					
BENUE CEMENT COMPANY PLC	64	67.00	2,635,793	175,370,154.96					
CEMENT CO. OF NORTHERN NIGERIA PLC	157	22.14	4,190,037	89,569,491.99					
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	81	42.00	2,870,927	120,295,407.75					
Sector Totals	424		11,528,427	425,529,046.65					
CHEMICAL & PAINTS									
BERGER PAINTS NIGERIA PLC	17	8.74	237,650	1,998,009.51					
CHEMICAL AND ALLIED PRODUCTS PLC	6	31.15	6,050	197,835.00					
DN MEYER PLC	8	5.60	211,817	1,186,175.20					
Sector Totals	31		455,517	3,382,019.71					
COMMERCIAL/SERVICES									
COURTVILLE INVESTMENTS PLC	55	0.66	5,295,000	3,634,365.00					
RED STAR EXPRESS PLC	21	4.20	1,560,380	6,553,155.80					
Sector Totals	76		6,855,380	10,187,520.80					
COMPUTER & OFFICE EQUIPMENT									
OMATEK VENTURES PLC	10	0.69	326,553	225,321.57					
Sector Totals	10		326,553	225,321.57					
CONGLOMERATES									
A. G. LEVENTIS (NIGERIA) PLC	23	4.20	351,704	1,466,165.59					
PZ CUSONS NIGERIA PLC	68	29.50	4,971,946	147,118,006.75					
TRANSNATIONAL CORP. OF NIGERIA PLC	31	0.51	4,017,400	2,053,019.00					
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	77	53.50	1,302,269	69,483,612.52					
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	123	28.00	1,310,241	36,500,585.54					
Sector Totals	322		11,953,560	256,621,389.40					
CONSTRUCTION									
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	126	9.00	5,653,241	49,710,543.49					
JULIUS BERGER NIGERIA PLC	29	54.00	201,715	10,882,697.70					
MULTIVERSE RESOURCES PLC	9	0.50	217,600	108,800.00					
ROADS NIGERIA PLC	2	3.46	1,033	3,749.79					
Sector Totals	166		6,073,589	60,705,790.98					
ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY									
CUTIX PLC	10	4.20	105,470	452,279.18					
NIGERIAN WIRE AND CABLE PLC	5	1.16	119,818	144,979.78					
Sector Totals	15		225,288	597,258.96					
FOOD/BEVERAGES & TOBACCO									
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	19	44.54	86,244	3,838,313.39					
BIG TREAT PLC	55	0.83	3,962,836	3,452,894.88					
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	168	27.32	3,223,459	85,453,949.18					
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	491	23.10	16,943,044	393,059,713.05					
DANGOTE SUGAR REFINERY PLC	145	19.50	4,379,365	87,267,728.25					
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	127	72.30	2,700,747	192,134,941.19					
HONEYWELL FLOUR MILL PLC	37	8.25	480,145	4,012,761.77					
NATIONAL SALT COMPANY NIGERIA PLC	181	9.20	6,277,493	58,981,676.97					
NIGERIAN BOTTLING COMPANY PLC	23	36.00	177,066	6,371,243.70					
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	54	314.00	104,206	33,077,716.36					
NORTHERN NIGERIA FLOUR MILLS PLC	7	37.19	27,336	966,054.24					
TANTALIZERS PLC	32	1.15	2,125,950	2,436,442.50					
UNION DICON SALT PLC	1	4.67	5,000	23,350.00					
UTC NIGERIA PLC	28	1.59	1,443,690	2,213,368.84					
Sector Totals	1,368		41,936,581	873,290,154.32					
FOOTWEAR									
LENNARDS NIGERIA PLC	1	3.85	600	2,196.00					
Sector Totals	1		600	2,196.00					
HEALTHCARE									
EVANS MEDICAL PLC	31	1.69	553,424	918,814.30					
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	43	3.15	2,442,792	7,679,169.80					
GLAXOSMITHKLINE CONSUMER NIG. PLC	22	22.98	392,469	9,018,937.62					
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC	35	7.98	206,661	1,551,388.61					
NEIMETH INTERNATIONAL PHARM. PLC	5	3.08	120,000	369,600.00					
UNION DIAGNOSTIC & CLINICAL SERV. PLC	54	0.76	9,699,500	6,935,135.00					
Sector Totals	190		13,414,846	26,473,045.33					
HOTEL & TOURISM									
IKEJA HOTEL PLC	21	2.29	1,893,800	4,393,022.00					
Sector Totals	21		1,893,800	4,393,022.00					
INDUSTRIAL/DOMESTIC PRODUCTS									
B. O. C. GASES NIGERIA PLC	3	10.73	46,579	524,479.54					
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIGERIA PLC	1	0.51	40,000	20,000.00					
VITAFAM NIGERIA PLC	13	6.60	184,700	1,211,107.00					
VONO PRODUCTS PLC	3	0.51	170,000	87,200.00					
Sector Totals	20		441,279	1,842,786.54					
INFOMATION & COMM. TECHNOLOGY									
CHAMS PLC	118	0.89	10,051,369	9,210,366.27					
MASS TELECOM INNOVATION NIGERIA PLC	1	0.50	10,000	5,000.00					
STARCOMMS PLC	38	2.20	21,461,198	44,937,379.14					
Sector Totals	157		31,522,567	54,152,745.41					
INSURANCE									
AIIICO INSURANCE PLC	70	1.52	4,911,141	7,448,596.01					
CONTINENTAL REINSURANCE PLC	59	1.55	23,006,779	33,927,055.78					
CORNERSTONE INSURANCE CO. PLC	20	0.77	867,430	683,156.50					
CUSTODIAN AND ALLIED INSURANCE PLC	40	3.65	1,599,900	5,852,680.00					
EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC	2	0.50	24,700	12,350.00					
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	21	0.83	2,326,273	1,859,074.66					
GUARANTY TRUST ASSURANCE PLC	43	2.66	4,542,617	12,130,855.22					
INT'L ENERGY INSURANCE CO. PLC	73	0.64	3,685,114	2,358,139.61					
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC	42	0.51	4,535,101	2,201,396.71					



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and reviews should be no longer than 5000 words.

2. All Contributions must be sent by email attachment in Microsoft Word or WordPerfect format and the Document must be in English. A copy of the Document must additionally be sent by disk. Cases, statutes, articles etc must be cited accurately and in the correct format and must only be contained in footnotes which must be numbered consecutively throughout the text.
3. Each contribution must contain the original unpublished work and analysis of the author who undertakes to have any permissions or acknowledgments necessary for the publication of the contribution. Copyright in each contribution will be jointly that of the author and the CAC.
4. The Editors and Editorial Advisory Board will screen all contributions and will refer selected contributions to independent assessors. Contributions are accepted entirely at the discretion of the editors. The editors reserve the right to refuse any contribution or text or, if they accept a contribution, to make pertinent alterations to content or length.
5. Authors should submit biographical data limited to one page together with a single page abstract of the content of the contribution.
6. Published articles will attract a pen allowance/honorarium of N100,000.00
7. Articles for publication in the first twelve volumes to be published this year must be submitted by 30 June 2010.
8. Contributions should be sent to Damola Aderemi by email attachment to cacinternationaljournal@gmail.com and also by disk to CAC Journal, Corporate Affairs Commission, NO.17, AJE Street, Yaba, Lagos, Nigeria.

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Not later than two weeks from the date of this publication.

THE BODY OF NORTHERN SENIOR ADVOCATES OF NIGERIA

The Body of Northern Senior Advocates of Nigeria met in Abuja on the 10th of April, 2010, and passed the following resolutions:

1. The Body commends the various stakeholders in the Country for resolving the imbroglio surrounding the Presidency of the Country through recourse to the doctrine of necessity;
2. The Body hereby extends its congratulations to the Acting President, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan for assuming office as Acting President and taking appropriate steps to stabilize the polity including the dissolution and reconstitution of the Federal Executive Council.
3. On the whole, the Body applauds the Acting President on the commendable way and manner he has handled the affairs of the Nation since he assumed the aforementioned office.
4. The Body urges the Federal and State Governments in the Country to carry out desired urgent and radical electoral reforms, including a meaningful overhaul of INEC, in order to guarantee free and fair election in 2011 and thereafter. In this regard, in view of the controversy which surrounded the tenure of Prof. Maurice Iwu as the Chairman of INEC, the Body advises that the Federal Government should immediately appoint an able, suitable and non-partisan replacement to that very important office.

Dated this 28th Day of April, 2010

Signed:


MR. EMMANUEL J. J. TORO, SAN.
[CHAIRMAN]

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Human Resource Manager,
P. O. 6873
Wuse Zone 3,
Abuja.

Closing:

All applications must be submitted within 2 weeks of this publication.

IT WORLD

Hotline:08056159961

SIM card registration: Fashola calls for support

From Yunus Abdulhamid, Lagos

GOVERNOR of Lagos State, Babatunde Raji Fashola has called on telecom operators in Nigeria to cooperate and support the government towards the success of the SIM card registration exercise by the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC).

This would help reduce crimi-

nality he said. He also said the initiative will go a long way to "allow the telephone maintain its role as a tool of convenience and not a tool for crime."

Fashola said this at the Lagos State House when officials of the Zain Nigeria mobile telecommunications company paid him a courtesy call. He commended Zain for supporting the government

and other relevant state security agencies in their quest to provide adequate security services to the people of the state. He also lauded the management of Zain for providing a strong telecommunications platform to support the State's Emergency Call Centre, a digitalized helpline that captures security issues and emergency reports emerging from across the state.

The company has in recent time increased the capacity of the emergency helpline, which the governor said has gone a long way in saving many lives as well as resolving quite a few security issues.

Fashola also gave kudos to the Nigeria's telecoms sector for demonstrating that private capital, resources and skills can go a long way to propel and boost a nation's

economy.

"Just about eight years ago, we had 450,000 telephone lines, but right now, the growth of the telecoms industry is unbelievable as we have close to 70 million lines. I believe that if we channel the template and drive of the telecoms sub-sector in Nigeria to other sectors of the economy, we will achieve so much," said Fashola.



From left: Mrs. Lynda Amechi, head customer care, Mr. Clifford Onyeike DGM, marketing and strategy both of Visafone and Jude Oguorie, winner of a brand new car in the Visafone Easter celebration tagged; 10 Cars in 10 Weeks and, at the presentation ceremony at Odun-Ade, Orile, Lagos, recently.

Zenith donates ICT centre to Rivers state

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

ZENITH Bank Plc yesterday donated an ultra-modern information and communication technology (ICT) centre to the Rivers State Government. Powered by a 100 kva, the Centre has a capacity for 155 computers connected to the Internet, with 75 already switched on.

Speaking at the handing over ceremony in Port Harcourt, Managing Director designate of the bank, Godwin Emefiele, said the decision to build the Centre was aimed at giving a pride of place to ICT as one of the critical and central pillars in Government development aspirations.

"We are certain, based on the State Government's positive track record, that this Centre will be deployed for the good of the Rivers People," Emefiele said.

He also said the ICT Centre was the bank's response to the state government's vision for development based on active corporate involvement either by direct Social Responsibility Programmes or under Public Private Partnership (PPP) schemes.

Want to do a profitable business? Open a mobile phone shop

Though mostly poor and unsatisfied with their standard of living, which is anything but high, Nigerians are among the highest buyers of phones in the world. For them, poverty is not an obstacle to getting connected to the global information grid.

By Zakariyya Adaramola

UCHE Ifeanyi, who owns a shop in Abuja's Wuse market, has made fortunes from sales of phones in the Nigeria's capital. Since he started the business sometimes in 2007, Uche said it had been fruitful all along.

"Trading in mobile phones is one of the moving businesses in Nigeria today. This is because, as you know, many Nigerians have come to regard mobile phone as a device they can't do without. Unlike cars, which are only for the rich in the country, mobile phones are used by the rich and poor. So, this makes it a good business to do," he said.

The need to be in touch with people and information 24/7 makes about 78 million Nigerians to regard mobile phones as their indispensable companions. This has led to huge growth in mobile phones markets across Nigeria.

Phones of different shapes and brands are, almost on a daily basis, brought to the country from Europe, Asia and America. Though most of them cannot afford three square meals a day as they are among poorest people in the world, Nigerians reach deep into their coffers to buy these mobile phones and recharge their GSM lines on a regularly basis.

May be this is because most Nigerians have come to realise that communication is a vital aspect of human existence and effective telecommunications

services will, in the long run, enhance living standards and improve productivity and efficiency in other sectors. Thus communications and the devices that support it, occupy a strategic position now more than ever in the minds of Nigerians, the poverty notwithstanding.

Although cellular telephony services were launched in Nigeria in the mid 1980s, by the end of year 2000, the number of active cellular subscribers was just 20,000. This figure represents an average annual growth rate of only about 1,250 subscribers per annum.

There were only two countries in the world in 2000 which had teledensity levels that were worse than that of Nigeria - Afghanistan and Mongolia.

Many experts believe the liberalisation of the telecoms industry has helped to accelerate investment flow into the sector and resulting in the rapid roll out of multifarious communications services. "This sector transformation has also impacted other sectors of the economy and led improvements in efficiency and productivity, reduction in transaction costs,

increased service innovation and better quality of life", said the immediate past Executive Vice Chairman of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), Engineer Ernest Ndukwe.

Engr. Ndukwe is right. Daily Trust investigations across markets in the country reveal that trading in mobile phones and other IT devices is a brisk business, which if done with good business acumen, can catapult most Nigerians to richness.

At the popular Otigba Market in Lagos, many traders who started off with mobile phones retailing on make-do counters can now boast of chain of well stocked shops. Thanks to the phone -mania-attitude of Nigerians.

To start a retailing business in mobile phones, apart from renting a shop and other expenses, a trader can start with as little as N100,000. With this amount, he could stock between 10 and 25 phones. Of course, they may be rock-bottom phones but most Nigerians go for them as long as they are from renowned makers.

"Most people go for cheaper phones; only few rich ones go for phones with range

of functions way beyond phone-calls and SMS. Though it is towards the end of the year that we make huge sales, the daily demand for phones is averagely high here in the FCT", says Uche.

Uche makes an average profit of between N2000 and N3000 on a phone. If the business does well, he says, with N100,000 a trader can make a return of at least N200,000.

But Uche is not only into mobile phones trade; he complements it with the selling of recharge cards. According to him, recharge cards are sold even faster than mobile phones; and you can hardly lose your capital in it.

With as low as N10,000, Uche says, a recharge card retailing can be kicked off. And if the business is managed well, he says, a trader can make about N2000 as profit.

And this is why most Nigerians believe that mobile telephony is one of the best things to have happened to the country. It is an indisputable fact.

Surely, with telecoms and other things around it, Nigerians can shed off poverty from themselves.

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IT World

MTN expresses condolence over President Yar'Adua's death

By Zakariyya Adaramola

MTN Nigeria has expressed its condolence over the death of President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua in Abuja on Wednesday.

The Chief Executive Officer of the company, Mr Ahmad Farroukh, in a statement released in Lagos on Thursday described the demise of President Yar'Adua as a tragic loss to the country.

"President Yar'Adua was a man whose absolute commitment to the future of Nigeria inspired us at MTN," said Mr Farroukh.

"We would like to express our sincere condolences to the family of the late president, the Federal Government of Nigeria, and indeed the entire nation on the passing on of the great leader.

"We pray God to grant the family he left behind and the entire nation the fortitude to bear the loss," said Mr. Farroukh.

Firm inducts MTN's staff to UK varsities

Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

A foreign higher education provider, LeadMode Resource Centre has inducted 100 staff of communication giant, MTN Nigeria to study at eight different United Kingdom-based universities through distance learning.

The latest induction brings to 532 MTN's staff that have benefited and are still enjoying the scheme introduced in 2005 to encourage "everyone who works with MTN to reach for the top."

Speaking in Lagos at the weekend, the company's General Manager, Human Resources, Mrs. Funke Ameobi, the scheme initiated to provide opportunities for long serving and high performing staff and to also support its employees in the pursuit of their dreams.

Ameobi implored the inductees to work very hard, noting that the British schools are very detailed and thorough in their education. She advised them to be disciplined "by structuring your time because you cannot afford for your work rate to drop."

In his speech during the induction, the Country Director of LeadMode, Dr. Fakunle Odifa noted that the thrust of his firm's role was the delivery of credible Accredited Learning Scheme (ALS) and the assurance of quality and standards in the local management of programme delivery.



KADUNA POLYTECHNIC

P.M.B 2021 Kaduna, Nigeria

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR 2010 CAPITAL PROJECTS

Applications are hereby invited from reputable and interested contractors with relevant experience and good track record for pre-qualification tender:

1. CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS:

LOTA Construction and equipping of Blocks of Classrooms.

LOTB Construction, Equipping and Commissioning of Lecture Theatres.

LOT C Construction Equipping and Commissioning of Administrative Block Offices.

2. PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.

Reputable and interested contractors and suppliers are required to submit their applications along with the following documents;

- i. Evidence of Incorporation /Registration with Corporate Affairs Commission.
- ii. Evidence of Tax clearance certificate in the last three (3) years (2007-2009).
- iii. Evidence of V.A.T Registration and remittance in the last three years (2007-2009).
- iv. Company profile which should include names, qualification and experience of key personnel, list of similar projects previously executed with photographs, contract values, locations and names of clients to include GSM number(s) and e-mail addresses of the firm if available.
- vii. Evidence of valid subsisting registration with FME/FMH/FMWT.
- viii. Evidence of similar projects handled by the firm including cost (Practical Completion Certificate).
- ix. Evidence of valid subsisting registration with Kaduna Polytechnic in the relevant category.
- x. Evidence of financial capability to handle the chosen project.
- xi. Evidence of compliance with the provisions of the Pension Reform Act, 2004
- xli. Original documents should be available for sighting on demand during or after opening of pre-qualification documents.

3. SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION

Pre-qualification documents in sealed envelope with "Pre-qualification as Contractor" as the case may be written at the top left hand corner should be hand-delivered not later than 12 noon on Monday, 24th May, 2010 to

The Registrar,
Kaduna Polytechnic,
P.M.B. 2021,
Kaduna.

4. OPENING OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENT

Pre-qualification envelopes will be opened at 12.30 p.m. on Monday, 24th May, 2010 and interested members of the public especially the intending contractors are hereby invited.

5. NOTIFICATION OF PRE-QUALIFIED CONTRACTORS

Names of pre-qualified contractors will be displayed on the notice boards at the Central Admin Building, Bursary, and Department of Physical Planning.

PLEASE NOTE

- a) Submission of pre-qualification documents to Kaduna Polytechnic is neither commitment nor an obligation to award any contract to any contractor or agent.
- b) Advertisement for invitation for pre-qualification should not be construed as a commitment on the part of the Polytechnic, nor shall it entitle any contractor to make any claims whatsoever and/or seek any indemnity from Kaduna Polytechnic.
- c) Due diligence would be followed as all documents submitted would be verified, past executed works and contractor's offices may be visited. Discrepancies found would disqualify the contractor.

Signed
Alhaji Mamoon A. Abubakar
Registrar & Secretary to Council.



PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS SENIOR STAFF ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (PENGASSAN)

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (NEC) MEETING OF THE PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS SENIOR STAFF ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (PENGASSAN) HELD AT THE ROCKVIEW HOTEL, ABUJA ON FRIDAY APRIL 30, 2010.

The National Executive Council (NEC) of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PENGASSAN) met at the Rockview Hotel, Abuja on the 30th day of April, 2010 to discuss and deliberate on various Industrial Relations and National matters as they affect the Association.

At the end of the deliberations, the following resolutions were reached:

STATE OF THE NATION

The NEC-In-Session congratulates His Excellency, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan on his assumption of office as the President of our dear Nation and wishes him God's guidance, wisdom and the requisite courage to effectively steer the ship of the State through the mounting challenges of governance at this critical period in our Nation's history.

As frequent change of leadership might not be the best option for the stability of the polity, the NEC-In-Session stresses that the National Assembly needs to exhibit maturity to manage the leadership challenge and bring about cohesion and unity of purpose irrespective of party and political differences so as to support the consolidation of the people oriented programmes of the current administration.

The NEC-In-Session urges the President to concentrate and prosecute a 3-point agenda of: (1) Stable Power Supply (2) Anti-corruption Crusade and (3) Electoral Reforms which forms the basic foundation for the growth and development of any nation.

PETROLEUM INDUSTRY BILL (PIB)

The NEC-In-Session condemns the intrigues surrounding the processing of this Bill and hereby demands that the Government through the National Assembly should publicize the authentic version of the Bill being processed as well as all amendments so far made to promote transparency, accountability and ensure robust contributions from all stakeholders.

NEC-In-Session, reiterates that the National Assembly should adequately accommodate in the Bill our expressed concerns on labour issues bothering on job security, staff pension and gratuity, equity participation, employees transfer/transition matters and conditions of service as they appropriately apply to both employees in the National Oil Company (NOC) and those under the Incorporated Joint Venture (IJV) companies.

SAFETY AND SECURITY ISSUES

The NEC-In-Session notes that the insecurity situation in the country has not abated with kidnappings, killings and other criminal activities on the increase across the nation; hence the NEC reiterates, that the primary essence of governance would have been defeated if protection of citizens' lives and properties can be subjected to the freewill of attackers without challenge.

The NEC-In-Session demands sincere and aggressive Federal Government direct intervention and reversal of this negative trend as a matter of urgency by properly funding, equipping, holistically overhauling and repositioning our security agencies otherwise the Association will be compelled to take appropriate decisive actions.

CASUALISATION AND CONTRACT STAFF MATTERS

The persistent job losses of our members in the Oil and Gas industry as a result of Casualization and Contract Staffing is becoming worrisome and unacceptable to the Association. The NEC-in-Session condemns in its entirety the growing trend, wherein regular employees are frequently disengaged under the guise of dwindling economic fortunes only for some employees to be re-engaged as contract/casual employees in order to circumvent the company policy on fringe/deferred benefits.

On the protracted labour conflict in Mobil Producing Nigeria Unlimited (MPNU) and other companies, the NEC-in-session directs that appropriate industrial action be commenced against these Managements if by June 30, 2010 our sacked members are not recalled and the various lingering labour issues are not resolved.

Long live PENGASSAN!

Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!!

BABATUNDE OGUN
President

BAYO OLOWOSHILE
General Secretary



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

Shehu Shagari Road, Abuja

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE EXECUTION OF CAPITAL PROJECTS

INTRODUCTION

The Federal Ministry of Justice intends to undertake the execution of the under listed Projects under the 2010 Budget of the Ministry. To this end, competent contractors/vendors are invited to apply to tender for the projects.

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

The projects for execution are as follows:

LOT NUMBER	PROJECT TITLE
LOT 1	Library Books and Periodicals
LOT 2	Renovation/Repairs of Auditorium for Headquarters HQTRs Building
LOT 3	Establishment of Justice Data Bank
LOT 4	Acquisition of Law Books, Law Report and Periodicals
LOT 5	Renovation of Six Zonal Offices
LOT 6	Establishment of ICT Unit and Procurement of Laptops for Lawyers
LOT 7	Provision of Additional Security Items/Gadgets for the HQTRs Building
* LOT 8	Construction of Customized Library Infrastructure and Purchase of Law Books

*Special Note: Interested bidders for lot 8 are required to submit only prequalification documents. Please note that this is not an invitation to tender. Full tender documents will be given to bidders that have been prequalified and found capable of executing the project.

TENDER/PREQUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

All interested contractors are required to forward the following Documents along with the Financial Bids:

- Evidence of Company Registration with(Certificate of incorporation) by Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC);
- Company profile and Organizational Structure; including names and curriculum Vitae of Key Technical Staff as well as their addresses and individual attestation of capability (for, expertise/specialization and consultancy projects);
- Current Tax Clearance Certificate for the last three years;
- Evidence of VAT Registration Certificate and past Remittances;
- Evidence of Pension fund Remittances;
- Audited Accounts for the last three years;
- Evidence of financial strength and Banking Support;
- Previous experience and verifiable list of similar projects previously undertaken, including evidence of the projects such as letters of award, completion certificates etc. And
- Name, e-mail address and telephone numbers of contact person for the project.

COLLECTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS

Details of scope of works and specifications for the projects are to be collected in the office of the Secretary of Ministerial Tenders Board upon payment of non-refundable tender fees of N20,000 for each lot.

SUBMISSION OF TENDER/PREQUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

All submissions should be neatly packaged, placed in sealed envelope with the name of the project and lot number clearly marked on the top left side of the envelope. The financial tender must be submitted in a separate envelope marked "Financial tender" with clear indication of project name and lot number and addressed to:

The Secretary
Ministerial Tenders Board,
3rd Floor Room 3c30/32
Federal Ministry of Justice
Plot 71b, Shehu Shagari Road
Central District,
Abuja

CLOSING OF SUBMISSION

All submission of tender documents (Lots 1-7) ends 30th June 2010 at 12.00 noon and tenders shall be opened at 1.00 pm same day and venue. Bidders or their representative are strongly advised to be present. Submission of Prequalification documents in respect of Lot 8 closes at 12.00 noon on Monday, 24th May, 2010.

Signed

**Solicitor-General of the Federation and
Permanent Secretary
Federal Ministry of Justice**

DIGEST

Stressful jobs giving women heart disease: High flyers at 50% greater risk

HIGH-FLYING career women with stressful jobs face a higher risk of heart disease, warn researchers.

Traditionally, men under pressure at work have been the most likely victims of heart attacks, but a study has revealed that some young women are just as likely to end up in the coronary unit.

Those who feel the pressure they are under at work is 'much too high' are 50 per cent more likely to suffer heart disease than women who say their job is manageable.

Even after lifestyle factors such as smoking are taken into account, the additional risk remains high, at 35 per cent.

Women who said work pressures were a 'little too high' were 25 per cent more likely to suffer heart disease, according to the Danish researchers.

The study, published in the journal *Occupational And Environmental Medicine*, looked at the impact of work pressure on heart disease risk among 12,116 nurses, who were aged between 45 and 64 at the start of the research in 1993 and were followed for 15 years.

By 2008, 580 women had been admitted to hospital with heart disease, of which 138 had suffered a heart attack, 369 had angina and 73 had another type of heart disease.

The strongest risk factors were work pressures and age. Dr Yrsa Andersen Hundrup, who led the study at Glostrup University Hospital in Denmark, said younger women were bearing the brunt of the effect of work pressures on their health - and older women may be less at risk because they had given up their jobs.

Dr Duncan Dymond, consultant cardiologist at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, said: 'The age profile is shifting downwards. We assumed it was the effects of obesity, diabetes and increased rates of smoking coming through, but it could also be stress and other lifestyle issues.'

June Davison, cardiac nurse at the British Heart Foundation, warned: 'Feeling under pressure at work means stressed employees may pick up some unhealthy bad habits and add to their risk of developing heart problems.'



Pushed to the limit: Women with stressful careers could be at risk of heart disease, a study has found.

People who sleep for less than six hours 'die early'

PEOPLE who sleep fewer than six hours a night are more likely to die early, researchers have found in a study they claim provides 'unequivocal evidence' of a link between sleep deprivation and premature death.

They discovered that people who slept for less than six hours each night were 12 per cent more likely to die prematurely - before the age of 65 - than those who slept the recommended six to eight hours a night.

The team from the University of Warwick and Federico II University Medical School in Naples analysed 16 studies involving a total of 1.3 million people before reaching their conclusions.

They pointed out that previous studies had shown that sleep deprivation was associated with heart disease, high blood pressure, obesity, type 2 diabetes, and high

cholesterol.

However, the researchers also found that sleeping too much was linked to an early death.

Those who slept for more than nine hours a night were 30 per cent more likely to die early, the research published in the journal *Sleep* found.

That directly contradicts research published in the same journal last week which suggested that people who slept for ten hours or longer a night were more likely to live to 100.

This was thought to be because people who lived into extreme old age were healthier and therefore slept better.

However, the authors of the latest research contradicted this and suggested that long sleep was a sign of underlying illnesses such as depression and low levels of physical activity. Some cancer is also asso-

ciated with sleeping for longer.

Professor Francesco Cappuccio, leader of the Sleep, Health and Society Programme at the University of Warwick and Consultant Physician at the University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust, said: "Whilst short sleep may represent a cause of ill-health, long sleep is believed to represent more an indicator of ill-health."

"Modern society has seen a gradual reduction in the average amount of sleep people take, and this pattern is more common among full-time workers, suggesting that it may be due to societal pressures for longer working hours and more shift-work. On the other hand, the deterioration of our health status is often accompanied by an extension of our sleeping time:

"Consistently sleeping six to eight hours per night may be optimal for health. The

duration of sleep should be regarded as an additional behavioural risk factor, or risk marker, influenced by the environment and possibly amenable to change through both education and counselling as well as through measures of public health aimed at favourable modifications of the physical and working environments."

Culled from telegraph.co.uk

“People who slept for less than six hours each night were 12 per cent more likely to die prematurely”

PROPERTY

property@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 07041632079

Residents of Prince & Princess allege extortion

By Mustapha Suleiman

WORRIED by what he called the deplorable state of the Prince and Princess Estate, Abuja, a resident, James Odili, has petitioned the FCT minister urging him to call the estate's developer to order.

In the petition, copied to the inspector general of police, managing director of PHCN and FCT water board, Mr. Odili said roads in the estate were so bad that they looked like "post civil war roads where bombs and fighting left craters in the middle of the roads."

He said: "The environmental situation is compounded

by overgrown weeds, littering of waste, lack of gutters and central sewage system. There is apparent attempt to bring down the status and image of Abuja arising from conspiracy of some officials who fail to enforce compliance to standards and the developers as well."

Odili said managers of the estate, Legend Properties Ltd, had been extorting residents of "service charges" for services not rendered. "They have hired thugs, some of them pretending to be PHCN and water board officials, to be disconnecting residents from electricity and water supply," he said.

Mr. Odili urged for the urgent intervention of the

minister, saying the activities of the developer could lead to disturbance of peace because residents had mobilised to confront the "extortionists."

However, when contacted, Managing Director of Legend Properties, the developer of the estate, denied the allegations of extortion and lack of maintenance of the estate.

"We are not collecting any water or electricity fees from them. What we are charging is service charges which we use in maintaining the infrastructure in the estate. If anybody claims that we collect such levies from him, let him supply the receipts to that effect," he said.

Coy showcase products at Architects Forum

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

EMEL Building Materials, one of the leading names in Nigerian construction and building materials industry showcased its array of products at the Lagos Architects Forum and Exhibition 2010 organised by the Lagos State Chapter of the Nigerian Institute of Architects.

The Forum and exhibition which opened and runs through to Friday, April 30, at the Lantana & Orchids hall of New Eko Expo Centre of the Eko Hotels & Suites, Victoria Island, Lagos offered professionals in the industry, retailers and manufacturers of building materials and related business opportunity to converge and showcase their goods and services as well as the chance to interact and rub minds on the challenges in the industry.

Speaking at the forum, Vikram Mansukhani, General Manager, Emel Building Materials, the company's showcase of its affordable and most modern suspended ceiling products which includes PVC Tiles, Gypsum Tiles and Mineral Fibre Ceiling, Cladding materials, as well Security and Wooden doors is in consonance with its commitment to providing top-quality products with a view towards advancing the Nigerian construction industry.



ONE of the block of flats in a yet-to-be-completed estate near Jabi Lake, Abuja

Collapsed buildings: Blame govt, clients – Architects

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

THE Nigerian Institute of Architects (NIA) has berated government on high cases of collapse building in Nigeria saying it is government's unwillingness to sanitise the post-design aspect of the building process that is responsible for the incessant building collapse.

NIA, in a position paper on the unabated incidence of building collapse in Nigeria and signed by its President, Arc. Tunji Bolu, and made available to Daily Trust in Lagos said as "professionals, we are totally committed to a process which will identify all parties involved in the construction of any physical structure

within Nigeria. We advocate full disclosure of all consultants responsible for each and any project, in the form of statutory documentation to be submitted at pre-construction approval processing stage, and also boldly displayed on project information boards at the site."

Their position read in part; "the Nigerian Institute of Architects (NIA) views with great concern the repeated occurrences of building collapse and other building failures in the country. The totally avoidable loss of irreplaceable human life is of immense distress to us as managers of human and material resources.

"We are of the opinion that the true will-

ingness of government to totally sanitise the post-design aspect of the building process has not been made manifest.

"The NIA will not hesitate to impose the full weight of the law and sanction any member who has been proven to have been involved in any such occurrence.

It is of utmost importance to continue to emphasise the importance of and relevance to this issue, of a largely overlooked party in this equation called 'construction' - namely the client. "The recent collapsed structures at Oshodi Market, Lagos and at Auchi in Edo State that consumed innocent lives are alleged to be government projects.

NYSC DG wants more lodges for corps members

From Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

THE Director General of the National Youth Service Corp (NYSC), Brigadier General Maharazu Tsiga, has tasked respective states government on the need to construct more lodges to accommodate the growing number of corp. members in the country.

Speaking when he led the corp's management for a courtesy call to the Katsina State Governor on last week, the DG describes additional houses for corp. members as expedient with federal government directive to admit

more institutions into the scheme.

He said, no fewer than two hundred and fifty thousand (250,000) corp. members were expected for the scheme this year following the expected admission of some mono-technics and other institutions in the country.

Describing in adequate accommodation as contributing to corpers insecurity, Brigadier Tsiga then urge state governors to as a matter of urgency re-construct lodging facilities and or expand the existing ones where necessary.

He said, the law is very clear about corp. member's

entitlement to free accommodation and therefore exempted from paying all forms of rent for the period of their service.

Other issues raised by the DG include the creation of security committees for corp. members at the state and local government levels as well as increased allowances to serve as motivation for them to service.

In a response, Katsina state governor, Ibrahim Shema, promised to look into all the issues raised by the NYSC DG and appreciate the role of the directorate in the promotion of unity and service to the fatherland.

NIESV wants reform in housing sector

A top official of Nigerian Institution of Estate and Valuers (NIESV) has called on the Federal Government to simplify the process of acquiring land to boost the housing sector.

Mr Bode Adediji, NIESV's First Vice President, also called for the reform of the mortgage system to make the country's dream of providing affordable

housing to the average Nigerian a reality.

Adediji, who made the call on Wednesday in Lagos in an interview, said the high cost of housing would continue except if the practice of selling houses on cash and carry basis was stopped.

"In other parts of the world, individuals

acquire houses through an upward of 30-year mortgage facility and not through cash and carry.

"It is only in Nigeria that houses are sold on cash-and-carry basis and on mortgage facilities below 15 years and at higher interest rates.

"You can see that the high cost of housing is just obeying the basic law of demand and supply.

Jigawa earmarks N1bn for schools renovation

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Dutse

JIGAWA State Government has earmarked a total of N1.063bn for renovation of 377 primary and junior secondary schools, the state Commissioner for Information, Alhaji Aminu Muhammad, has disclosed.

Muhammad made the disclosure while briefing newsmen on the outcome of the last Wednesday's weekly executive meeting.

The commissioner said the project is to be executed jointly by the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) and the State Universal Basic Education (SUBEB).

He added that, the state government contributed of N531 and the federal government was also expected to contribute similar amount.

The present administration had since 2008 set up a committee under the state Deputy Governor, Alhaji Ahmad Mahmoud, to investigate all dilapidated schools in the state and recommends for proper solutions.

The committee, established that, a total of over 700 schools were dilapidated out of which 402 were renovated last year and the remaining 377 are to be renovated this year. Meanwhile, the council had also set up a committee under the leadership of the deputy governor for the successful celebration of the Nigeria's 50th anniversary.

We have powers over land disputes - Tribunal

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

CHAIRMAN of the newly constituted Kwara State Land Charge Tribunal Chief Magistrate Fabunmi Dada has said that the committee has rights to effect justice on any land disputes in the state.

The Tribunal chairman who stated this on Wednesday at a meeting with the Land Use and Allocation Committee (LUAC) of the state's Bureau of Lands, held at the Bureau's office in Ilorin, the state capital, said that justice would be the cardinal goal of the tribunal on all issues.

Dada also affirmed that the committee is readiness to discharge its lawful duties without fear or favour.

It would be recalled that the tribunal, consisting of the chairman and three members was inaugurated on Tuesday at the state High Court of Justice and has with its office at Sango along old Jebba road in Ilorin.

Speaking on the need for the bureau to embark on media sensitization programmes to enlighten the public on the existence and duties of the tribunal, the chairman said such move was imperative since ignorance will never be accepted as an excuse in court of law.

Earlier in his address, the Director General, Bureau of Lands, Barrister Kamaldeen Ajibade charged the tribunal to justify the confidence reposed in it by ensuring justice in all issues.

In his good will message, the Emir of Ilorin, Alhaji Ibrahim Sulu Gambari who was represented by the Balogun Gambari of Ilorin, Alhaji Mohammed promised his royal support to the tribunal to enhance the discharge of its duties. "Since the tribunal is set up in the interest of the masses, we shall do everything within our power to ensure it does not suffer any setback," the Emir said.



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Agency seals buildings to avert collapse

THE Lagos State Physical Planning and Development Authority (LASPPDA) has sealed off three premises to avert further building collapse on the Lagos Island and to safeguard lives and property.

A two storey building collapsed at No. 78 Obadina St., off Massey Children Hospital, Lagos, on Sunday but no lives

were lost.

On Monday, officials of LASPPDA were seen demolishing the remaining part of the building still standing.

Two other buildings located at No. 80 and 76 Obadina St., flanking the collapsed structure, were also sealed off for soil and material testing.

Residents of the three buildings were seen milling around with their properties scattered about while sympathisers gathered to console them.

Some residents of the collapsed building blamed the landlord and developer for neglecting to effect necessary repairs, which resulted to the collapse.

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Surveyors sanction members over breach of ethics

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

THREE members of Nigerian Institution of Surveyors (NIS) have been sanctioned by the National Ethics Committee put in place by the body for breach of the Code of Ethics, Mr. Olusola Atilola disclosed.

Atilola, who is president of the institute, said this in Ilorin, Kwara state at the weekend shortly after performing the foundation laying of their proposed secretariat in Ilorin. But he did not disclose the names of the affected members.

Atilola said they were working in concert with SIP of SURCON in ensuring a sanitized practice environment as he was confident that they were making progress and the public confidence in their profession was being strengthened.

"We now have the courts and other professional bodies resorting to the Institution in arbitrations and in obtaining independent opinions on several issues, some of them undergoing litigations. All these are being attended to and honourably discharged," he said.

He said that the majority of the rural Nigerians are very poor because their land cannot be used as capital because their holdings have no titles; hence they are "dead capitals" therefore recommended the need to urgently embark on comprehensive surveying and mapping at the relevant scales of our national geographical space.

He also disclosed that the body is proposing the creation of structures for the acquisition, archiving and management of the resultant data for availability and use by all sectors of the economy and society.

We now have the courts and other professional bodies resorting to the Institution in arbitrations and in obtaining independent opinions on several issues, some of them undergoing litigations. All these are being attended to and honourably discharged

Buildings obstructing water route to be demolished

TEN residential buildings obstructing water mains in Ilorin metropolis would be demolished, the Kwara State Commissioner for Works, Dr Abubakar Kanneke, at the weekend.

Kanneke, who is also the Chairman of the Inter-ministerial Committee set up to fast track the delivery of water infrastructure in the state capital, disclosed this in an interview in Ilorin.

He said the location of the buildings had hindered the speedy construction of the water mains.

He gave assurance that compensation would be paid to owners of property that might be affected by the ongoing construction work.

He, therefore, urged them to cooperate with the contractor as exercise was in the interest of all.

The commissioner advised property owners to adhere to the specified rules when building along the highways. (NAN)

News Extra

General Election 2010: How the newspapers backed parties

The *Telegraph*, the *Financial Times*, The *Mirror* and the *Guardian* made known their political allegiances before the election. Other newspapers too made their loyalties known.

The *Daily Telegraph* backed David Cameron's Conservatives. Our editorial concludes:

"Built on the concept that the state should do less, better, and that decisions are best taken as closely as possible to where they impact, it addresses the straitened circumstances of the time..."

"We believe that only a Conservative government can restore the nation's fortunes."

The *Daily Mail* also came out for the Tories.

Its editorial states: 'Certainly, the Mail has had its doubts about David Cameron, sometimes wondering if he was another Clegg-like heir to Blair.

But over the years and with every week of this campaign, he's grown in stature, displaying serious-minded conservative instincts and a tungsten determination to fulfil the Tories' traditional function of clearing up the mess left by Labour.'

The *Daily Express* believed only David Cameron could save Britain, telling readers: "David Cameron has decisively won the case for change. But he needs a clear mandate. So the *Daily Express* urges readers to vote Conservative tomorrow. The future of our nation is at stake."

The *Evening Standard* came out for the Conservatives on the eve of the election.

The paper's editorial said: "Mr Cameron has grown in this campaign. If the point of British elections nowadays is largely to test the characters of the would-be premiers, Mr Cameron is the clear winner. Despite the challenge of Mr Clegg, he stuck with it and learned from his mistakes. Few could now doubt that he has the strength and clarity of vision to lead the country."

The *Sunday Telegraph* backed the Conservatives, and stated that the party needs "a strong majority in order to tackle the enormous challenges it faces".

A *Sunday Telegraph* editorial states:

"Despite the parties' attempts to capture the all-important middle ground, the differences between them are clear. Labour believes that only the state can solve the country's economic and social problems.

"The Conservatives, by contrast, believe that the growth of the central state is the cause of the problem, not its solution, and want



GORDON Brown-Labour



DAVID Cameron-Conservatives



NICK Clegg-Lib Dems

to call upon the invigorating power of citizens and communities."

The *Financial Times* backed the Conservatives in the general election for the first time since 1987.

The newspaper, which has supported Labour since 1992, announced the switch in an editorial and argued that the Tories would create the best environment for enterprise and wealth creation.

The editorial expressed some reservations - including over the party's "reflexive hostility" to Europe - but said overall they offered the best option.

The *Mirror* followed the advice given by two Cabinet ministers and, while not formally endorsing

the *Liberal Democrats*, has published a general election tactical voting guide with the express aim of 'saving Britain from a Tory nightmare'

The Sun was the first national paper in this general election to clearly state its political change of heart in September last year with a front page headline declaring "Labour's lost it". The Sun had previously supported the Labour party for 12 years.

In the Sun's editorial, the newspaper told readers Labour had failed and was now backing David Cameron's Conservatives.

The editorial said: "The real story of the Labour years is one of

under-achievement, rank failure and a vast expansion of wasteful government interference in everyone's lives. Britain needs a brave and wise Government to restore our self-respect, our natural entrepreneurship and the will of every family to improve its lot through its own efforts, without depending on handouts.

"We hope, and pray, that the next Government will have the guts and the determination to do these things. And we believe David Cameron should lead it."

The Sun's sister paper, the *News of the World*, followed suit in March this year switching to the Conservatives after 13 years of

Labour support.

The *News of the World* editorial said: "Overwhelmingly, on all fronts, this country is crying out for change. Which is why, after much soul-searching, the *News of the World* believes that David Cameron and the Tory Party must now be given the chance to run the country. Right now, they are our best hope for a brighter, saner, safer, more honourable future."

On Thursday April 29, liberal-leaning current affairs magazine *The Economist* pledged its support for the Conservative Party. They had supported the Labour Party in the last two elections.

The Economist rejected the *Liberal Democrats*, calling their policies "less appealing".

The Economist editorial published on April 29 said: "In this British election the overwhelming necessity of reforming the public sector stands out. For Britain to thrive, this liberty-destroying Leviathan has to be tackled. The Conservatives, for all their shortcomings, are keenest to do that; and that is the main reason why we would cast our vote for them."

The *Guardian* and *The Times* announced that they were no longer supporting Labour.

The *Guardian's* editorial said: "If the *Guardian* had a vote in the 2010 general election it would be cast enthusiastically for the *Liberal Democrats*. A year ago, the *Guardian* argued that Labour should persuade its leader to step down... Labour chose to hug Mr Brown close. It was the wrong decision then and it is clear, not least after his humiliation in Rochdale this week, that it is the wrong decision now."

The *Times* announced its support for the Conservatives. Their editorial said: "The *Times* has not endorsed the Conservative Party at a general election for 18 years.

Tony Blair's Labour Party took up the promise of modernity, through its commitment to enterprise and the courage to stand tall in the world. Sadly, over the past 13 years that promise has faded. We all know that Britain can do better: it is surely time to regain our optimism.

"Labour is tired, defensive and ruinously reliant on higher government spending. David Cameron has shown the fortitude, judgment and character to lead this country back to a healthier, stronger future. It is time, once again, to vote Conservative."

Newspaper Allegiances Round-Up:

The *Daily Telegraph* - Conservatives
The *Sunday Telegraph* - Conservatives
The *Sun* - Conservatives
Daily *Mail* - Conservatives
Daily *Express* - Conservatives
News of the World - Conservatives
The *Guardian* - Liberal Democrats
The *Times* - Conservatives

The *Sunday Times* - Conservative
The *Economist* - Conservatives
The *Independent on Sunday* - Liberal Democrats
The *Observer* - Liberal Democrats
The *Mail on Sunday* - Conservatives
The *Financial Times* - Conservatives
The *Mirror* - Labour, but urging tactical voting for Lib Dems

News Extra

Pakistan Taliban 'was behind New York Times Square bomb plot'

The U.S. Attorney General says there is evidence the Pakistani Taliban was behind the failed car bombing in New York's Times Square.

American authorities had previously rejected claims by the group that it was behind the May 1 plot.

Naturalised American citizen Faisal Shahzad, who was born in Pakistan, is currently facing terrorism and weapons charges after authorities said he admitted rigging a car with explosives.

Appearing on ABC Television's This Week, Eric Holder said: 'We've now developed evidence that shows that the Pakistani Taliban was behind the attack.'

'We know that they helped facilitate it. We know that they probably helped finance it, and that [Shahzad] was working at their direction.'

He added there was nothing to suggest that the government of Pakistan was aware of the plot.

Yesterday, President Barack



FAISAL Shahzad

Obama's homeland security and counterterrorism adviser backed up the claims.

John Brennan said that while the investigation is ongoing, 'it looks like' Shahzad was working for the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, or TTP.

The militant group is believed to be hiding senior al-Qaeda lead-

ers, including Osama bin Laden.

Brennan, speaking on CNN's State of the Union, says the finding 'underscores the serious threat that we face from a very determined enemy.'

Meanwhile a money courier who helped funnel cash from abroad to finance the plot is being tracked by U.S. investigators.

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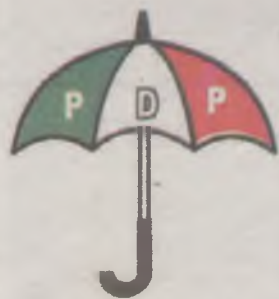
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All Hail Mr. President



Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, GCON
President and Commander-In-Chief of the
Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.



Prince Dr. Vincent Eze Ogbulafor (OFR)
National Chairman,
Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)

The National Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), **Prince Dr. Vincent Eze Ogbulafor (OFR)** on behalf of the National Working Committee and the entire Peoples Democratic Party heartily congratulate **Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, GCON** on his swearing in as President and Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

2. Mr. President Sir, your assumption of office at this point in time bears ample testimony to the triumph of constitutional rule in Nigeria. There

is no doubt that you have exhibited a deep commitment to the Nigerian nation through your selfless service and stabilizing role at a very critical moment in life of our nation.

3. The National Chairman wishes to pledge his unflinching loyalty and support to you on behalf of the entire Peoples Democratic Party.

4. May the Almighty God grant you the wisdom and understanding to steer the ship of state in the right direction.

Congratulations Mr. President.

Signed

Prof. Rufai Ahmed Alkali
National Publicity Secretary

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Wages commission director dies in auto crash

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

THE National Salaries Incomes and Wages Commission's Director of Administration, Barrister Chukwu Emeka Agbo, Friday morning died in a motor accident that occurred at Anini village, along the Abuja-Lokoja highway.

A witness said the accident happened when a Toyota Camry car with registration number GF 404 ABC veered off the road and crashed into a ditch, killing the director instantly.

The late director was travelling to the east before the incident happened.

Yangoji Unit Commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Abdullahi Umar, while confirming the accident, attributed its cause to speed violation, saying the corpse has been deposited at the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital's Morgue at Gwagwalada.

In a related development, five persons also lost their lives, while four others sustained serious injuries Saturday morning in another accident that occurred at Gada-Biyu village, along the same road.

Sources at the scene of the



SCENE of an accident where five persons lost their lives Saturday.

crash said three persons died instantly at the scene, while two others later died at Kwali General Hospital, after they were conveyed to the hospital by an FRSC rescue team.

Our reporter who arrived the accident scene at 6.13 am counted about 28 dead donkeys, while two human corpses were covered with grasses as FRSC officials were busy removing a

trapped truck driver.

An eyewitness said the accident happened at about 4 am when a Mercedes Benz truck with registration number XF 774 DKA loaded with donkeys

wrongly overtook and collided with another truck with registration number FX 962 ABC that was carrying bags of cement.

"The Mercedes Benz truck which was coming from Gwagwalada axis overtook dangerously and collided with another truck coming from Abaji, while a Jetta car also rammed into the truck from behind," a witness said.

The FRSC unit commander blamed the accident cause on the driver of the truck carrying donkeys, who he said drove dangerously.

"The corpse has been taken to the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital's Morgue, while four injured person were rushed to Kwali General Hospital.

He further disclosed that six persons were also injured in another accident that happened on Thursday evening at Piri village, when a Nissan Pick-up van with registration number IS 03 KB collided with a Toyota Hilux Van with registration number XA 597 ZRM.

He said the injured are responding to treatment at Kwali General Hospital.

How corps member was duped of N2m

By Ogechi Ohalee

A female corps member (names withheld) attached to E-Barclays Micro-finance Bank as a customer service officer was on May 1 duped by fraudsters of N2 million that belongs to the bank's customers.

The corps member while narrating her ordeal said she boarded a painted Abuja cab at Arab Contractors junction on her way to Dutsen-Alhaji and met three other passengers in the vehicle.

"The cab was carrying two ladies and a male cripple, who was crying loud," she stated.

She said the cripple was begging the driver to stop, while he insisted of taking him to a police station to explain where he got so much money from.

The corps member narrated further that the cripple, who called himself Okoh, told them that the money was over a million dollars and belongs to his master a Chadian, adding that she insisted that they take him to the police.

"Everybody in the vehicle appealed to me to cool down as this was an opportunity for everyone in the car to be rich and advised that we look for a place to share the money," she added.

The corps member said the cab driver took them to Angwan Cement, along Karmo -Gwagwa road, where a man (called Baba) resides that prepares charm to neutralize curses from money and she was hypnotised.

According to her, the man called

Joseph Ojo, on sighting them began to reveal their mission to his place and made them all take an oath of secrecy, before telling the corps member to get N2 million.

"When they inquired what I do, I told them that I am a banker and also revealed that I normally collect N2 million every Tuesdays from the bank's head office at Utako to my branch, after which they instructed me not to discuss with anyone but to bring the money straight to them so that the dollars they have can be neutralised," she added.

The corps member said the syndicate informed her that she stands to get N200 million as her cut from the deal, which excited her.

"After signing for the two million naira on Tuesday, I left the driver waiting and rushed to the syndicate with the money, who forcefully took the money from her, along with her handsets and gave her only N170 to go back home," the corps member lamented.

She said few minutes after leaving the apartment, the spell left her and she immediately accosted a police patrol team to tell them she had been duped and was transported by the patrol van to Life Camp police station, where a detective, Abah James, immediately swung into action by arresting three suspects, including the alleged kingpin of the syndicate.

When our reporter chatted with the alleged kingpin, he gave three different statements, agreeing that he collected

N2 million from the victim and later saying the victim gave him N150,000 to help her make charms to get a husband.

He later said the N150,000 giving to him was meant to buy a cow to make charm for protection.

The other two suspects James Amah and Kayode Okosun said they were only members of the syndicate, who got N150,000 each.

When contacted, E-Barclays Micro-finance Bank's Head of Operation/Administration, Mr. Alfred Oragun, where the corps member served, said she must pay the N2 million back to the bank as they have no business with the criminals.

When our reporter visited Angwan Cement, along Karmo -Gwagwa road, where the crime took place, a food vendor said people living around the area have suffered in the hands of the fraudsters and commended the police for arresting them.

Reacting to the incident, the Divisional Police Officer Life Camp, M.I. Umar Mahmud, a chief superintendent, said the police are doing everything to apprehend the rest members of the gang as well as to recover the money.

He said greed lured the corps member into the hand of the syndicate and advised the public to desist from looking for easy money at all cost.

Mahmud also vowed that his division will not tolerate criminals and vowed that they will be brought before the law.

Robbers strike along Abuja-Lokoja highway

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

DARE -devil armed robbers Saturday morning struck along the Abuja-Lokoja highway, about 400 meters away from Abaji town.

The robbers numbering about eight with sophisticated weapons put logs of wood to barricade the highway, before attacking motorists and dispossessing passengers of their belongings in the wee hours of the morning.

A victim, Umar Faruq, who was a passenger in a commercial bus, said they were a few metres away from Abaji when their bus ran into heavy logs of wood and was forced to stop.

"Six young men immediately rushed on us from the bush and at gun point, collected

money, handsets as well as other valuables," he added.

The victim lamented that he engages in fish business and was conveying fresh fish from Ibadan to Abuja for delivery when the incident happened.

Our reporter gathered that the robbers also attacked six vehicles and robbed them of valuables at the scene.

When contacted, the Abaji Divisional Police Officer (DPO), Mr. Adepebga K. Adetoye, confirmed the robbery incident but said he received an alert at about 3 am and immediately mobilised his men to the scene to clear the road.

He said investigation is ongoing to trail the fleeing robbers in order to bring them to book.

Gwarinpa police arrest suspected robbers

By Ogechi Ohalee

POLICE detectives from Gwarinpa Police Station Friday night arrested four suspected armed robbers who robbed from a resident in the area.

A resident said the robbers arrived in the area at about 6 pm, brutalised residents in a compound and collected their belongings, including foreign currencies, laptop, jewellerys and handsets.

Gwarinpa Divisional Police Officer, Dalhatu Balarebe Imraia, said immediately he got a tip off of the where about of one of the robbers, he mobilized a team of detectives, who arrested him with some of the stolen items. He said on interrogation, the suspect confessed that their gang has been the one terrorising residents of Gwarinpa for a long time and revealed other members of the gang, which led to the arrest of four out of six of their members.

He said the police also arrested a suspect that receiver a laptop stolen in the robbery operation, add-

ing that the man confessed that he bought the laptop worth N180,000 for N7,000.

"The case will be transferred to the FCT Criminal Investigation Department because it is a capital offence," the divisional police officer said.

One of the suspects, Edwin Arochi from Ebonyi State, told our reporter that he got only N70,000 from the operation.

He said the security man of the residence where they robbed leaked out the information that his daughter was planning to travel aboard in a few days. "Dan Fulani, a security man to the rich man informed us about his wealth and that his daughter was planning to travel on Sunday to England, which made us rob his house before the girl goes," he confessed.

The suspect said he has pneumonia, tuberculosis and other diseases and needed money to cure myself, hence he engaged in the robbery operation.

Another suspect, Adamu Musa, said he is a labourer in a construction firm and

has been redundant for two weeks, which made him broke.

"That is why I decided to rob and we entered Gwarinpa through Galadima to rob the man but I did not touch him as it was other members of the gang, who touched him," Musa stated.

He confessed that they have been robbing in Gwarinpa in the past but the police have been spoiling their business, which made them arm themselves with dangerous weapons.

Musa lamented that he received a call from relatives in his village, who asked him to send money, adding that since he had no money, he bought the idea to rob the rich man and got three hundred dollars, a laptop, gold jewellerys and other items as his share from the loot.

The owner of the robbed house told our reporter that Dan Fulani was his former guard, who he treated very well and wondered why he should treat his family badly.

"My daughter is supposed to be in England but see what they have done to us," the man lamented.



ABAJI Area Council Chairman, Alhaji Yahaya Musa Mohammed (right) receiving his certificate of return from Dr. Stephen Manyan, resident electoral commissioner of INEC, on Friday in Abuja.

Abaji council boss collects return cert

By Abubakar Yakubu

THE incumbent Chairman of Abaji Area Council, Alhaji Yahaya Musa Mohammed, Friday collected a certificate of return from the FCT Resident Electoral Commissioner, Dr Stephen Manyan at the FCT office of the Independent National Electoral Commission in Abuja.

The certificate was issued to Alhaji Mohammed due to his victory at the last council poll in Abaji and this means that he will serve for a sec-

ond term in office.

After receiving the certificate, the council boss thanked God for providing the opportunity for him to serve his people for the second time and promised residents of the FCT that he will not go back on his election promises in transforming the Abaji.

The chairman appealed to his opponents to down their shields and work closely with him in providing democratic dividends, adding that last week, MDG

invited qualified companies to bid for Abaji Mini Water Dam that will ensure potable water supply in the council.

Mohammed thanked his numerous supporters as well as officials of INEC for conducting a free and fair election in the FCT area councils.

He used the opportunity of the event to pray for the soul of late President Umaru Yar'adua and wished President Goodluck Jonathan luck in his tenure.



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Ahmet Y. DEMIRKOL (REGISTRAR)

Residents condemn works on Nyanya-Gbadalape road

By Maryam Abdallah

RESIDENTS of Nyanya Phase IV, Abuja have criticised the construction work on the Nyanya- Gbadalape road.

A resident said they noticed tippers bringing red sand at the middle of last month to pour on the road with a caterpillar leveling the sand, before insufficient tar was poured on top of the sand. "When ever it rains, the road is muddy

and very slippery," the resident complained.

Flood from the road now enters other street and causes floods in some houses around Daito Hotel at Area C area of Nyanya. Phase IV residents complained bitterly of the road under construction and claimed that the project was abandoned after it was first graded a long time ago.

"The bad state of the road has drastically changed our lives as we pay more for

transport fare," Mrs Dorcas, a resident lamented.

She said commercial vehicles and cyclists now avoid the area and called on the Abuja Municipal Area Council authority to get the contractors to do the right thing. An electronics trader, Mr. Isaac, lamented that his business no longer thrives as according to him, "no one would want to pay high fares to his shop to purchase electronics when such can be gotten elsewhere."

FCT Water Board repairs damaged pipes

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar, Usman A. Bello & Hussein Yahaya

THE FCT Water Board's Director, Mr. Jibril Ibra-

him, yesterday announced that the board has successfully repaired all damaged pipes in the city that were damaged by a construction company.

The director said CCG Construction Company that is handling the construction of a overhead bridge near the Federal Housing Estate, Gwarinpa, along the Kubwa way damaged 1400mm pipes on Friday.

"Garki I & II, Asokoro District, Wuse I & II, Apo Legislative Quarters, Nyanya and Kubwa were affected by such incidences that resulted to poor water supply," he said.

According to him, other affected areas were Durumi, Wuye, Gwagwalada, Prince and Princess Estate, Abuja University Campus and the Games Village.

The director assured that water supply would be restored today but will take extra time for the water to travel down from the lower Usman Dam to the city.

He appealed to consumers to cooperate with the board, adding that the board would commence the monitoring of projects within the city to ensure that such damages do not recur.

He however advised contractors to always make use of iron discovering machines and follow the city's design with accurate measurement before piling their construction work.

In another development, the FCT Water Board has urged Kubwa residents not to engage in any cash dealings with its staff but to pay their water bills through the bank.

The board's director said this on Saturday during a customer's forum organized by the board at Kubwa.

"If you deal with my staff in respect of water bills, you are at your peril because you will definitely repay the bill as such staff does not work on our data base," he warned.

Ibrahim advised consumers in the area to preserve the uninterrupted water supply they are enjoying by paying their bills through the bank, adding that it will enable them to serve them better.

While responding to complaints from the residents, Ibrahim urged the resident to install water meters, saying the board will not demand any payment from its customers for the provision and installation of meters.

Earlier, the board's Kubwa Area Manager, Mr Abubakar Mohammed, disclosed that the area office generated N47,350,990 from January to March, 2010 despite the challenges that faced their operations in the area.

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Teachers allege sack threat by SSS

By Abubakar Yakubu & Usman A. Bello

TEACHERS of Community Secondary School, Asokoro, last Wednesday alleged that their jobs have been threatened by their employers over their agitation for regularised appointments.

The school, which contains primary and secondary sections, is owned by the State Security Service (SSS).

An aggrieved teacher said the fear became pronounced during a Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) meeting, where the threat message was made known by the school's executive secretary, Ms. Maria Edch in the pres-

ence of the DG'S representative on the school's Board of Trustees, Mr. Desmond Ihijerika.

The teachers told *City News* that much effort have been put over the years by the teachers to turn the school around and called their impending sack as unfair.

"We never doubted the executive secretary's message because she dissolved the current executive of the PTA and set up a caretaker committee, an action which did not go down well with the parents," a teacher said.

Parents who attended the March 27 meeting of the school voiced out their feelings that it runs foul of

the constitution guiding the association for an outside body to interfere with how the school is run.

Responding, Marilyn Ogar, the spokesperson of the SSS, denied the sack allegation and said the school was registered as a private institution and not government institution.

"The teachers are demanding to be fixed into the federal civil service which is not possible because they were told during their employment of their status and how can we go to the federal civil service to ask them to convert someone who has worked in a private institution for 14 years to the federal civil service," she said.

She explained that there are rules guiding the civil service, adding that the teachers were told from the on set that the school is a private institution and that they can not be converted into the civil service.

The spokesperson said some of the teachers have submitted letters to them dissociating themselves from the demand.

"We have opened pensions and other welfare schemes for them, which they rejected and we also started blocks of 10 flats as their staff quarter last year November to ease accommodation problems but all that they want is regularization into the service which is not possible," she said.

Unnamed streets worry police at Gwagwalada

By Misbahu Bashir

THE police at Gwagwalada in the FCT yesterday said unnamed streets in most parts of the town hampers their operations and responses to distress calls.

Divisional Police Officer of the area, Mr Charles Mozie, a chief superintendent, said policemen find it difficult to locate crime scenes in streets without names or house numbers.

He said his division has adequate emergency telephone numbers which people often call to inform them of occurrence of crimes but the police take time to locate the scenes because of inadequate street numbering.

The police officer listed the telephone numbers as: 08037757119, 08036122849, 08036441074 and 08036542165.

"In some place such as Dagiri, Gwandodo behind Abattoir and old Kutunku, the roads are so poor for vehicular movements that we always charter commercial motorcycles to locate crime scenes, which is not ideal and we respond to emergency calls swiftly even at odd hours at night," he said.

He advised distressed persons to call the emergency numbers and give detailed accounts of their locations so that the police can respond on time, add-

ing that a hotelier recently called the private line of a police officer to inform him of a robbery incidence but the officer's phone battery ran down while he was trying to locate patrol vehicles.

Reacting to the recent robbery incidence at the home of a World Bank official, late Mr. Sunday Achejenu, the police officer said Mr. Achejenu was not home when the incidence occurred but died five days after in his office of health complications.

He said the police in conjunction with the community monitors the movements of all residents but the influx of university students have affected both the

community and police to differentiate between genuine students and mischief makers as some criminals disguise as students.

Group wants Nigerians to emulate Yar' adua

By Hamisu Muhammad, Zainab Shehu & Romoke W. Ahmad

MEMBERS of the Jonathan Goodluck Ambassadors of Nigeria (JOGAN) yesterday in Abuja called on Nigerians to emulate the humility qualities displayed by President Umar Musa Yar' adua when he was alive.

The group's President, Francis O. Francis Wainwei, who stated this during a press briefing, said President Yar' adua came into power with great humility and would have taken the country out of the political doldrums if not for ill health that claimed him.

He advised youths to brace-up in order to take their destiny into their hands and shun those trying to use them as political thugs.

Wainwei called for sup-

port for the new president and advised him to focus on power, electoral reforms, amnesty programmes of the Niger Delta and security of lives as well as property.

In another development, physically -challenged persons in Abuja have described the death of late President Yar' adua as a great lost to their members and Nigerians in general.

The Sarkin Guragu of Karmajiji village, a suburb near Abuja, Alhaji Sulaiman Mohammed described the late president as a great icon that dedicated his life to serving humanity and uplifting the wellbeing of the physically -challenged in Abuja.

Alhaji Sulaiman sympathised with the former first lady, Hajiya Turai,

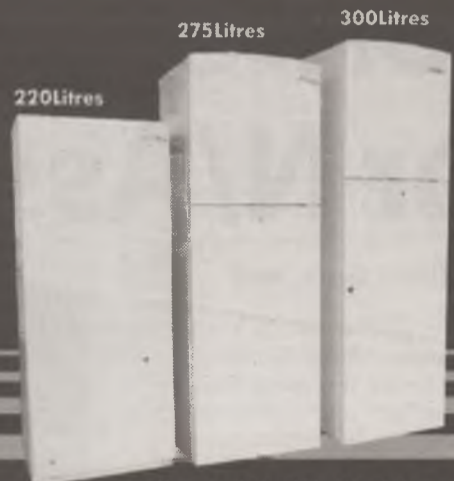
and other family members for the late president's family for the death and said late Yar' adua will be remembered by the good things he did for the country.

"The first Lady Hajiya Turai Yar adua in the past visited us personally and donated a bus to us, which is now used to convey pregnant women to hospital for safe delivery," he said

Alhaji Sulaiman also advised the new leader to emulate the virtues of late Yar' adua by remembering the hardship faced by physically-challenged persons in the society.

He solicited for assistance from the government and other privileged individuals so that proper facilities that will aide them move freely are provided.

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IRI's Statement on the Death of Nigerian President Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua

Abuja, May 7, 2010

The International Republican Institute expresses its deep condolences to the people of Nigeria for the loss of their president, Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua.

President Yar' Adua worked tirelessly to promote peace and stability, both in Nigeria and on the African continent. He will be remembered for his strong commitment to improving the lives of the more than 140 million Nigerians, starting to bring peace to the Niger Delta and beginning to reform the electoral system. In 2007 Yar' Adua initiated a process to reform Nigeria's electoral system. Key amendments to Nigeria's electoral framework are currently being finalized by Nigeria's National Assembly.

With less than one year remaining before scheduled national elections, IRI encourages the Federal Republic of Nigeria to honor the memory of President Yar' Adua by publicly renewing their commitment to his goal of ensuring that the 2011 elections are transparent, credible and fair.

Signed:
IRI NIGERIA

Inside Politics

Contenders in brutal struggle for N/Assembly slots in Borno

From Isa Umar Gusau, Maiduguri

THERE are no official figures of deaths so far but it is feared that some members of conflicting groups may have died while others were said to have sustained severe injuries following repeated clashes between supporters of incumbent office holders and those of aspirants within the ruling All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) in desperate scramble to secure seats at the national assembly in 2011.

Three senatorial positions of the state as well as ten seats in the House of Representatives will be contested in the next general election. At the moment, Senators Maina Maaji Lawan, Kaka Malam Yale and Omar Abubakar Hambagda represent the northern, central and southern zones of the state respectively. Lawan and Yale are serving their first term while Hambagda will be completing two successive terms by June, next year. All of them are members of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP).

The House of Representatives has ten members, many of them serving their first term except for a few. All for them were elected on the platform of the ANPP. As the election approaches, aspirants have been springing up, mounting challenges, some of which have resulted into bloody clashes. The clashes are either between the incumbent and a key aspirant or in some cases between aspirants who seemingly keep the incumbent at bay.

The most prominent of bloody rivalry appears to be that between supporters of Alhaji Shettima Shehu (Kaga/Gubio/Magumeri constituency) and those of Mohammed Sanda, a member of the Borno state House of assembly representing Kaga local government area of the state who is seen as a top contender for Shehu's seat. About two months ago, their supporters were said to have engaged physical combat in Magumeri local government when Governor Ali Modu Sheriff was in the council during his (still ongoing) tour across the 27 local government areas of the state. Many sustained severe injuries while unconfirmed reports said lives were also lost.

Not long after that, the supporters clashed again in Benesheik, headquarters of Kaga local government while Sheriff was on similar visit.

The struggles for other federal constituency seats are also full of intrigues and in most cases, contenders have mobilised supporters to humiliate each other during rallies in councils visited by Sheriff. Our correspondent learnt that the idea was to convince the governor of their popularity. For the Jere federal constituency, the incumbent, Abba Dawud Lawan may face challenge



GOVERNOR Ali Modu Sheriff

from Babagana Bolori, a former reps member. Bolori crossed over to PDP but he is said to be courted by Sheriff to return to ANPP to contest the election. Lawan is, however, the immediate younger brother to Sheriff's wife and that may give him an edge against many odds.

Kaka Adam Mustapha (Dikwa/Mafa/Konduga fed. constituency) is said to be facing challenge from the chairman of Mafa local government area, Mahmud Lawan Maina. The chairman has for many years remained in charge of Mafa either as caretaker appointee or as elected chairman and he is from a family with large presence in the state's corridor of power. Adam has tested the bitter pill. Modu Alhaji Musa representing Kukawa/Mobbar/Abadam/Guzamala) is also said to be challenged by the chairman of Guzamala local government while Mustapha Baba Shehuri (Maiduguri Metropolitan Council) is likely to compete with the state commissioner for commerce, Alhaji Mohammed Imam who is said to be working seriously.

Alhaji Babagana Tijjani representing Bama/Ngala/Kala-Balge is being challenged by Alhaji Mai Sheriff, a former commissioner for poverty alleviation in the state and also a younger brother to governor Sheriff. The ex-commissioner is said to have the blessing of his father, Galadima Modu Sheriff who has tremendous political influence in the state. One campaign that may go his way is the fact that the incumbent is serving his third term in the seat and so, the 'not-your-birth-right' chorus may come to play.

But the younger Sheriff may be pressured by his family to keep off if the rumoured plan that the gover-

nor is plotting to handover to one of his brothers, Mala Sheriff turns out to be true. The governor himself is said to be eyeing the senate while his younger brother, Goni Modu Sheriff is already the chairman of Ngala local government area.

The struggle for the southern senatorial seat is also a troubled one. Clashes have already started between supporters of the minority leader of the House of Representatives, Mohammed Ali Ndume and those of Hajiya Asabe Vilita Bashir, a former member of the state assembly and current commissioner for education in the state. Few days ago, their supporters clashed in Damboa at a political rally attended by Sheriff.

Ndume is gunning for the senate given calculations that the reps seat he occupies may be zoned to Chibok in 2011; the seat rotates between aspirants from the three local governments in the constituency. In ANPP's political calculation, Gwoza is allocated the southern senatorial seat due to its high population while Biu, also in that zone, is allotted the deputy governorship position.

In Sheriff's troubled times in 2007 when he was barred from contesting the governorship by the EFCC, Ndume was said to have helped him get over the troubles.

However, some people believe that Sheriff may support Mrs Bashir's senatorial ambition. At the moment she appears to be the only member of his cabinet who openly aspires for an elective office ahead of 2011. Other appointees have remained underground apparently for fear that the governor had warned that any one with desire to contest any position in 2011 must



SENATOR Maina Maaji Lawan

not accept to be appointed in the first place.

Though Mrs Bashir may not enjoy Ndume's kind of grassroots support and connections at the national level of the ANPP, having Sheriff's backing may be a plus for her. But supporters of Ndume believe that he has clearer chance because of his popularity which the governor will equally need in order to actualise his dream of sailing through his anointed successor.

To her credit, Mrs Bashir is so far one of the few if not the only politician in the state that has crossed to another party after primaries and won elections. This she did in 2003 when she crossed over to the PDP after she was denied ticket in the ANPP for the state assembly. She however returned to ANPP two years later. With that feat, her supporters say she is not a walk over.

While both politicians and their supporters wrestle for the senatorial seat, the incumbent, Senator Hambagda appears to be on a political-sabbatical leave. He is rarely seen, hardly heard and seldom discussed in the political space.

In the central senatorial zone many believe that Sheriff is likely to take over from Senator Kaka Malam Yale who is currently in his first term and, perhaps, it is for that reason that no one in the ANPP has shown any interest for that position. So far, it is seen as a no-go-area.

In the northern senatorial district, lots of intrigues are presently playing out. Many believe that Senate Minority Leader, Senator Maina Maaji who occupies the seat presently may seek re-election if he foresees problems in his governorship aspiration. Senator Maina had served briefly from 1991 to 1993 as

governor of old Borno State. He is seen as an experienced politician and is believed to have the financial muscle to prosecute his campaign.

But Governor Sheriff and Maaji have an unclear relationship. They were only believed to have engaged in a marriage of convenience prior to the 2007 elections when Sheriff lured him. It is also believed in some quarters that Sheriff may want to compensate his SSG Ambassador Baba Ahmed Jidda with the senate in 2011. In 2007, Jidda had prepared to contest the northern senate seat but the governor urged him to step down for Maina. The governor was said to have promised to support Jidda to succeed him as governor in 2011 but it doesn't seem that promise is alive.

Jidda was lured into the ANPP from the PDP by Sheriff in 2005 to contest a bye-election planned by INEC for the northern senatorial zone, when the Court of Appeal cancelled the election. But the bye-election never took place. Jidda was then appointed SSG after the death of Alhaji Abbagana Terab.

Another likely contender for Maaji's seat is the state commissioner for Urban and Rural Water Supply, Alhaji Abubakar Kyari who was in House of Reps in 1999. Though Kyari is seen as one of the contenders for the governorship position, he may find solace in being a senator. Though Governor Sheriff had last recently warned against violence, as these battles hot-up, there are fears that unless urgent steps are taken, there could be more bloodletting by apprehensive supporters working for desperate runners.

Inside Politics

AD urges Jonathan to appoint honest person to head INEC

By Muideen Olaniyi

NATIONAL Chairman of the Alliance for Democracy (AD) Chief Michael Koleoso has asked President Goodluck Jonathan to appoint an honest and humble person that would be dedicated to the conduct of free and fair poll in 2011 to head the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

Koleoso, who was speaking during the National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting of AD in Abuja, said new INEC Chairman should be somebody who will command the respect of majorities of political parties.

While noting that corruption is a major impediment to Nigeria's development, the party challenged Jonathan to tackle corruption in a decisive manner that would command the respect of Nigerians and the international community.

The party described late President Umaru Musa Yar'adua as a unique personality from a unique family background who was a gentleman.

It said Yar'adua's short period was remarkable especially in the areas of the amnesty programme and the rule of law, noting that his government also initiated the electoral reforms.



PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan

Group cautions Jonathan on 2011 presidency

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

ORISUN Igbomina, a socio-cultural group yesterday called on President Dr. Goodluck Jonathan to turn down calls on him to contest the 2011 election.

The group, that draws its membership from Kwara and Osun states also advised the President to be wary of former President Olusegun Obasanjo as he sets sail the ship of his government.

The group in a press statement signed by its

National President Chief Gbenga said rather than focusing on 2011 Presidency, Jonathan should work hard to bring the country's economy back on track especially in the areas of Power, Agriculture and road construction.

Chief woyale also said any retired military officer that is 65 years and above should not be allowed to rule Nigeria again since there are vibrant youths in the north and south who could get Nigeria out of the woods.

Chime rules out automatic tickets in 2011

By Muideen Olaniyi

ENUGU State governor Sullivan Chime has ruled out the possibility of automatic tickets for all elected public office holders in the state during next year's general elections.

Speaking in Abuja during an interactive session/inauguration of the Total Mandate Group (TMG) Abuja chapter, the governor gave an assurance that his administration would not impose candidates on the people.

While inauguration the TMG, which is a socio-political pressure group with the aim of promoting good governance and development in Enugu State, Chime dismissed the rumour making the rounds that candidates for elective offices would be imposed.

"There will be nothing like automatic tickets in Enugu State during the next year's general elections. No automatic ticket for any elective office holder. We will also not impose candidates on the people," he said.

Independent candidacy not practicable in Nigeria, says ANPP scribe

INDEPENDENT candidacy recommended by the Justice Mohammed Uwais-led Electoral Reform Committee is not practicable in the 2011 elections, the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) has said.

Mr Emma Eneukwu, the ANPP National Publicity Secretary, said at the weekend in Lagos that independent candidacy could be practicable only where there were two or three parties.

"Independent candidate is one of the things we advocated for, but where we differ a little is that where you have about 57 political parties there is no need for an independent candidate," he said.

The House of Representatives had earlier in the week approved the committee's recommendation on independent candidacy.

The candidate, however,

will have to register with the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) at least 90 days before the election date.

"The ANPP is not against independent candidacy, but when the person is supposed to register 90 days before the election date, we see that as a diplomatic way of denying the individual the opportunity," he said.

According to Eneukwu, people often emerge as independent candidates when primaries in their political parties are not transparent.

"Primaries, I know, take some time. By the time the political parties are through with their primaries, the person will not have up to 90 days to register with INEC. So it is another way of frustrating independent candidates" he said. (NAN)

Bauchi Senate aspirant lashes out at 'poster-politicians'

From Muhammad Abubakar, Bauchi

A retired comptroller of customs and senatorial aspirant in Bauchi state, Malam Ali Wakili, has described politicians who rely on posters to get across to the electorate as lazy politicians saying they should instead take the pains to meet the people in their wards and villages and get to know their problems.

Malam Ali Wakili, who is one of the aspirants jostling for the Bauchi South senatorial seat vacated by Senator Bala Mohammed Kaura following his appointment as minister of the FCT, advised politicians strive to meet the needs of electorate instead rely on

posters to sell themselves.

"Some politicians feel by just pasting their posters they will reach out to the electorate. That is lazy politics. They should take their time and go to the nook and cranny of their constituencies to know the people, their attitude and problems," he said.

The aspirant said ever since he answered his people's call to vie for the senatorial seat which is made up of Alkaleri, Bauchi, Bogoro, Dass, Tafawa Balewa, Toro and Kirfi local governments of the state, he has taken the pains to visit all the wards and villages in the constituency to have first hand information of the people he hopes to represent in the senate.

'Sango's candidature will resolve injustice in Plateau PDP'

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

AN appeal has gone out to members of the PDP in Plateau State to give the party's gubernatorial ticket for the 2011 elections to former minister of sports Mr. Damishi Sango to address the injustice done to him in 2007 primaries.

A group that calls itself the "2011 Movement in Plateau" in statement said Sango suffered injustice in 2006, when the party was not allowed to have a rerun election even when none of the aspirants at the primaries met the party's criteria to be declared winner.

The statement signed by its coordinator,

Ezekiel Bwakan said despite the injustice he suffered by the party's insistence not to have a rerun when there was no clear winner at the primaries goes to show he has the interest of the party at heart and should be rewarded for his loyalty to the party.

Sango had come second during the PDP gubernatorial primaries in 2006, and had expected a re-run according to the party's guidelines since none of the aspirants made the 50 percent required vote to be declared winner but was later prevailed upon to allow Mr. Jonah Jang who scored the highest vote fly the party's ticket for the sake of the party.

SANYO

AIR CONDITIONERS

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Emma Progressive Electronics Nig. Ltd.

Tel: 07055602027

TRUST CLASSIFIED

WOMEN SUPPORT AND CHILDREN DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

The general public is hereby notified that the above named organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matter Act No. 1 of 1999.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:-

- Dr. Salihu Yakasai	- Chairman
- Dr. Shiek Abubakar	- Secretary
- Professor D. J. Shehu	- Executive Director
- Hajia Aishat Moh'd Namera	- Coordinator
- Luba Moh'd Bello	- Programme Officer
- Bello Samba	- Financial Officer

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To support women and children
- To improve the quality life of women, youth and children through reduction in child mortality and morbidity, HIV/AIDS, Malaria, OVC and other related diseases
- Enhance the capacity of women and youth to participate in community development and leadership.

Any objection to the above registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of the publication.

UGO IFEONU EDUCATION FOUNDATION, LAGOS

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matter Act No. 1 of 1999.

The Trustees are

1. UGOCHUKWU IFEONU
2. EZEABASILI OKWUDILI
3. IFEONU OLIVER
4. ILO COSMOS
5. ANTHONY IFEDIORA

Aims and Objectives

1. To carry out humanitarian and charity activities for the upliftment of the less privileged.
2. To assist indigent students.

Any objection to the above registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of the publication.

Signed
Val Igboanus Esq
Solicitor
08033571640

FARMERS & CYCLISTS INTEGRATED INITIATIVE

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Ministry 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. CHIEF Alfred Opara | 2. Elder Chukwunyeré Egwim |
| 3. Alh. Kabiru Suleiman Dumbulum | 4. Madam Georgine Wala |
| 5. Mr. Okiyo Poland | 6. Alh. Babangida Shehu Maihula |
| 7. Mr. Oliver Origba | 8. Mr. Prince Amadi |
| 9. Nze Chibuzo Ehirim | 10. Kamarudeen Adams |

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. To produce surplus food & create job opportunities to people of Nigeria.
2. To flood Nigeria market with local produce Rice other crops.
3. To export cassava finished produce.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight (28) days from the date of this publication.

Signed:
Secretary

KANTIN KWARI YOUTH EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Initiative has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matter Act No. 1 of 1999.

TRUSTEES

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. IBRAHIM HARUNA YAKASAI | 2. DR. SANI YUSUF YAKASAI |
| 3. HABIBU ABDULLAH MAHMOUD | 4. ABDULLAH IBRAHIM LADIYO |
| 5. NURABATURE | 6. ABDULLAH GARBA |
| 7. MAL. UMAR HAMZADANDAGO | 8. MURTALAMAI SALLAH |
| 9. AMINU LIKORO | 10. ALINUMANALIYU |

AIM & OBJECTIVE

1. To inculcate the spirit of mutual co-existence, unity, harmony, self help and encourage modern skill of industrialized trade among members of the association.
2. To promote public awareness towards understanding and support to governmental, developmental, humanitarian programmes and policies that are beneficial to humanity.
3. To liaise with government in achieving its goals and objectives with a view to providing and protection to all places of its trade.

Any objection to the above registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of the publication.

Signed
SALTEE & CO.

CAR FOR SALE

This is to inform the general public of the sale of a Toyota Hiace Commuter 15 Seater bus . Year of Manufacture is 2001.

If interested please contact Tanzania High Commission, No 11 Ganges Street, Maitama. Cell Phone: 08069531931

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public that the original C of O No.BO/5907 and plot Nos.165 and 173 on BOTP/61 commercial layout Maiduguri, belonging to Ferohe and Brothers is declared missing. All effort to trace it proved abortive. Please if found return to the nearest police station.

PREVAILING PRAYING PEOPLE MINISTRY

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Ministry 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. Mr. Bulus Kewa | - Chairman |
| 2. Mr. David Bature | - Secretary |
| 3. Mr. Manasseh Wakawa | - Member |
| 4. Mrs. Obahi Comfort Ogidi | - Member |
| 5. Dr. Steve Danlyam | - Member |

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. Developing leaders for God's kingdom in accordance to the foundation Jesus laid through the power of the holy spirit.
2. To declare the advent of the kingdom of God to the wider church world, bringing people, churches, businesses, ministries, corporation, government and organizations into updated positions of the spirit of God and current truth.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight (28) days from the date of this publication.

Signed:
Barr. Dan Gwaza
DAN T. GWAZA & CO
20 New Zaria Terrace, Jos

BIG BROTHERS PROGRESSIVE CLUB OF JOS

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Ministry 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. IFEANYI OTUNANYA | -CHAIRMAN |
| 2. AFAM TIMOTHY | -SECRETARY |
| 3. SUNDAY IGBOKA | -MEMBER |
| 4. SUNDAY AKOTO | -MEMBER |
| 5. CHIDI EZE | MEMBER |

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To help each other in times of need.
2. To cater for the interest of all members of the association.
3. To discuss our welfare and common problems with view to solution where possible.
4. To promote mutual understanding and social interaction.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight (28) days from the date of this publication.

Signed:
Ifeanyi Otunanya

HAUSA AND AREWA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION IN ONDO STATE

The general public is hereby informed that the above named Organization has applied for registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission under part C of the Company and Allied Matters Act 1990.

The Trustees are:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Babangida Ahaji Sadiq Kusada Katsina | - Chairman |
| 2. Babangida Pambagua | - Secretary |
| 3. Ahaji Hassan Dokers | |
| 4. Mallam Tijari Yusuf | 5. Mallam Yusuf Kabir |
| 6. Ahaji Umaru Abdullahi | 7. Garba Karda |

Aims and Objectives:

1. To pursue the Unity, progress & peaceful co-existence of members with themselves and their host communities
2. To be the umbrella between members and government agencies within and outside the state.
3. Provide religious, social and cultural leadership for members
4. Pursue Universal Basic Education, free medical services and beggars' re-orientation/Rehabilitation, make publication
5. Protect members from infiltration by extremists and fanatics from outside the state/nation

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, P. M.B 198, Garki, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
Lona Asako-Adeku
Attorneys Ad Idem
Suite 38, Mangal Plaza Area 11 Garki, Abuja

A NEW DECADE OF HOPE FOUNDATION

This is to inform the general public that the above named Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Joy Otuechere | 2. Uwama Otuechere |
| 3. Nonah Nneoma | 4. Iheoma Okonkwo |

Aims and objectives:

1. To promote the well being of orphans and vulnerable children in the society.
2. To advocate for the better living condition of children and women.
3. To build the capacity of children for maximization of their potentials.

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. Chibulka Oyoyo
08036997331

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as **GARBA ZAKARI ABDULRAHAMAN**, now wish to be known as **ABUBAKAR MUHAMMADU GAGO**. All former documents remain valid. PHCN PLC, and general public to take note.

I, Formerly **MISS BLESSING AKPORODE ONAYOMAKE**, now wish to be called as **MRS BLESSING AKPORODE GABRIEL OGBOGU**. All former documents remain valid public should take note.

I formerly **NUHU ADAMU SULEIMAN**, now wish to be called as **NUHU SULEIMAN**. All former documents remain valid **TATARI ALI POLYTECHNIC BAUCHI**. public should take note.

I formerly known and Addressed as **MISS GLORIA VOU PAM-CHUN** now wish to be known and Address as **MRS GLORIA VOU KANONYE**. All former documents remain valid. The general public should please take note.

I, formerly **MISS ADEWOLU CHRISTIANAH OMOLADE**, now wish to be called **MRS ADEBIYI CHRISTIANAH OMOLADE**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **MS OLUYEMISI OLUJOKE FASAKIN** now to be known and addressed as **MRS OLUYEMISI OLUJOKE LAWAL**. Former documents remain valid, Orolu Local Government and general public please note.

I, formerly **MISS AJAYI-OBE VICTORIA AYODELE** now to be known as **MRS BALOGUN VICTORIA AYODELE**. All former documents remained valid. General public note.

I, formerly known as **MISS ERUA CHINWE ANTHONIA** now wish to be known as **MRS EZENKIRI CHINWE ANTHONIA**. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public to take note.

I, formerly known as **ABDUL HAMID UMAR AZARE** now wish to be known as **ABDULHAMID ADAMU UMAR**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly **GIDEON DUROJAIYE** now **GIDEON DUROJAIYE OLUWA**. All former documents remain valid. Nigeria Immigration Service and general public note.

TRUST CLASSIFIED

AWESOME GRACE CHAPEL

This is to inform the general public that the above named Chapel 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. Pastor Sojnu Oluwakemi
 2. Deaconess Sojnu Oluwakemi
 3. Pastor Faith Bankole
 4. Mr. Philip Enyibine

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To preach the gospel of Jesus Christ in all part of the world evangelism, healing and ministration.
 2. To establish and maintain churches and mission in Nigeria and abroad.
 3. To provide spiritual and moral support to people.
- 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:

Adekunle Oladapo Otitoju

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the theft of a 2008 Model Volkswagen Jetta Car, Black Colour with Reg. No. EE238 ABJ, ENG No. BY2048755 and CHASIS No. WVWZZZ1K27M198591 belonging to Rafpoco Nig. Ltd by armed men on 14/03/2010 at FHA Kubwa. Please If found report to the nearest Police Station on call 08033358903

THIS SPACE IS FOR SALE

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as **MARY YAKUBU** now wish to be known as **MARY IBRAHIM DABOH**. All former documents remain valid. **FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC NASARAWA** and general public take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as **MISS RUTH EBISEME IMODE** now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS RUTH EBISEME ASIKHIA**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as **OSAS ELIZABETH IKPONMWONSA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **OSATO ELIZABETH IDEMUDIA**. All former documents remain valid. UK Embassy & general public take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known and addressed as **MISS STELLA OGAH** now wish to be known as **MRS STELLA ENAJIYERIN**. All former documents remain valid. Nigeria Police Force and general public to note.

I, formerly **IBIRONKE SUSAN AJAYI** now **MRS IBIRONKE SUSAN GIDEON**. Former documents remain valid. Nigeria Immigration Service and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **DR MODU FATIMA ADAM** now wish to be known as **DR (MRS) ABULFATHI FATIMA ADAM**. Former documents remain valid. **MEDICAL & DENTAL COUNCIL MOD** and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS JOY AJE AKWA** now wish to be known as **MRS JOY AJE KEN-OMOIKE**. All former documents remain valid. **HEALTH CARE INTERNATIONAL** and general public should please take note.

NORTHERN CONSORTIUM UNITED KINGDOM (NCUK)

in conjunction with

ZAMANI COLLEGE KADUNA

invites applications from suitable candidates for the **NCUK International Foundation Year (IFY)**

scheduled for **September 2010**.

The NCUK International Foundation Year (IFY) is a one-academic year, modular programme for **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS** wishing to enter one of the NCUK partner universities for an undergraduate course in September 2011.

NCUK 11 Partner Universities:

Bradford, Huddersfield, Leeds, Leeds Metropolitan, Liverpool, Liverpool John Moores, Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan, Salford, Sheffield, Sheffield Hallam.

Entry Requirements for the NCUK IFY at Zamani College:

- 6 SSCE credits at C5 and above
- Credits must include English and Mathematics
- Willingness to work

Public presentations will be held for interested students and parents in Kaduna, Jos and Kano when **Dr Terry Jevs, Deputy Chief Executive of NCUK**, will be available for on the spot discussions.

Candidates wishing to apply for the NCUK IFY should bring with them their SSCE results/SS1-3 reports.

KADUNA

**8th May, 2010 (11.00a.m-2.00p.m)
 & 12th May, 2010 (3.00 - 6.00 p.m.)
 @ Zamani College, Malali, Kaduna**

For all enquiries, please contact:

Mrs J. Mohammed

or **Mr O. Shingyu**

or **Mrs I. To-Anadu**

Principal (0805 648 0340)

Vice Principal (0802 917 0280)

School Administrator (0703 568 2002)

ZAMANI COLLEGE 1 Waziri Maccido Road, Off Isa Kaita Road, Malali, Kaduna

JOS
 11th May 2010
 2.00 - 5.00 p.m.
 @ The Crest Hotel,
 Old Airport Road,
 Jos.

KANO
 13th May 2010
 2.30 - 5.30 p.m.
 @ Tahir Palace Hotel,
 Nassarawa, Kano



**FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, KATSINA.
KATSINA STATE**



*Inna Lillahi Wa Inna
Ilaihir Raji'un*



Late President
Umaru Musa Yar'adua, GCFR.

ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL, MANAGEMENT, STAFF AND STUDENTS OF FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, KATSINA. I WISH TO COMMISERATE AND EXTEND OUR HEARTFELT GRIEF OVER THE DEATH OF OUR BELOVED PRESIDENT, MALLAM UMARU MUSA YAR'ADUA GCFR, TO THE ENTIRE PEOPLE OF NIGERIA, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, KATSINA STATE GOVERNMENT, EMIRS OF KATSINA AND DAURA, THE FAMILY MEMBERS OF THE LATE PRESIDENT AND THE PEOPLE OF KATSINA STATE.

MAY ALLAH (SWT) GRANT HIM ETERNAL REST IN ALJANNAH FIRDAUSI. AMEEN!!

SIGNED
SEN. GARBA S. TAURA
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

SPORT

Chelsea
win Premier
League
Page 63



NSC stalls Eagles' World Cup build-up - NFF

By Ismaila Lere

NIGERIA'S bid for a successful outing at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa is under serious threat.

According to an aide of NFF President Sani Lulu, the National Sports Commission (NSC) has refused to release the appropriated funds for the Super Eagles preparation.

Last week, the Federal Government approved a total budget of N1.25b (over \$8 million) for the national team's participation for next month's Mundial in South Africa. But only weeks to the tournament, the money is yet to get to the NFF for the team's World Cup build-up.

The Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) is to receive N900m, while supervising government agency, the National Sports Commission (NSC), gets N350m.

The amount to the NFF is to cover players' match bonuses, allowances and hotel accommodation during the tournament as world football governing body, FIFA, will only subsidise a player's boarding by \$400-a-night.

Special Assistant, Media to the NFF president, Tunde Adedigbe, told Trustsports that

after the Glass House wrote a letter of authorization to the Accountant General of the Federation since April 9 as directed, the NSC has refused to ensure smooth access of the money for the teams preparations to the World Cup.

"The federal government released 8 million dollars about N1.25b for Super Eagles' preparations and participation. On our part as the organization responsible for running football in Nigeria, we were requested to write a letter of authorization to the Accountant General of the Federation which we did since April 9.

"But to ensure we access the money for the team's preparations, the National Sports Commission as the supervisory body in charge of sports was to play its part in the release of the money, unfortunately up till this moment they have frustrated the NFF from getting the money. And this is dangerous for the team as it can affect preparations and ultimately performance in South Africa," the NFF official revealed.

All attempts made yesterday to reach the NSC spokesman, Tony Oheari, for comments proved abortive.



SUPER Eagles striker Osaze Odemwingie, right, celebrates with teammate Dickson Etuhu against Mozambique at the African Cup of Nations in Angola in January.

Lagerback to unveil 30 players for World Cup camp

By Ismaila Lere

THE 30-man Super Eagles squad that will fight for places in the final cut of 23 will be unveiled today by manager, Lars Lagerback.

The Swede, who led his country to the Round of 16 in the past two World Cup finals, returned to Abuja yesterday and is expected to meet with chieftains of the NFF Technical Committee and defend his selection before the announcement this evening.

The 30 players will be the

ones to travel to London for a pre-World Cup training camp, at the Five Lakes and Golf Country Club, Colchester Road, Tolle-shunt Knights, Maidon, Essex from May 21, and play international friendlies against Saudi Arabia in Austria (May 25) and Colombia in London (May 30).

However, it is the group that makes the final cut of 23 that will prosecute the last friendly match, against North Korea in South Africa on June 4, eight days to Nigeria's first match against Argentina at Johannesburg's

Ellis Park.

Meanwhile, there are strong indications that the Swede tactician has picked Everton striker Yakubu Aiyegbeni, Austria-based defender Rabiu Afolabi as well as the Utaka brothers, John and Peter.

Also on the list are Nice defender Onyekachi Apam, Moroka Swallows of South Africa goalkeeper Greg Etafia and Russia-based defensive midfielder Sani Kaita.

All these players have received their medical forms and

invitation letters for the warm-up matches against Saudi Arabia and Colombia later this month.

Aiyegbeni was the butt of criticisms for his performance at the Nations Cup in Angola earlier this year, while Afolabi is staging a comeback to the team after he was frozen out after the 2008 Nations Cup in Ghana.

Similarly, Lagerback has moved to ensure that only fit players make his final squad to the World Cup by getting doctors of the respective foreign clubs of these players to certify them fit

ahead of a training camp in London later this month.

For the first time in Nigerian football history, the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) on the prompting of Lagerback have sent out a 15-page medical form to all the players on the country's provisional squad for the World Cup.

It is a comprehensive document, which tries to ascertain the injury history of a player in the past 12 months along with his vital signs like the heart, blood and bones.

Basketball Premier League finally dunks off

BASKETBALL enthusiasts hailed the final take-off of the 2010 Nigeria Premier League Men's Basketball which dunked off on Saturday in Lagos after several postponements.

Ganiyu Otenigbagbe, the match commissioner of the opening match between Dodan Warriors and Union Bank, said it was good that the competition finally began as the players would now have something to look forward to.

Former Nigeria Basketball Federation (NBBF) League Director, Agboola Pinheiro, said enthusiasts were getting anxious if the competition would hold

this year.

"I think it's a good thing that the league finally began," said Pinheiro.

NBBF President Tijani Umar said the postponement was not the fault of the federation as some clubs claimed that they needed time to prepare for the competition.

Meanwhile, League sponsors, Multi Choice Nigeria Ltd, pledged its continued support for the sport in Nigeria through the sponsorship of the DSTV/NBBF Premier League.

Multi Choice Managing Director, Joseph Hundah, said he was optimistic

that his company's partnership with the NBBF would bring out the best in the game in Nigeria.

"We in Multi Choice believe that sports is a vehicle that can drive the youth of any nation to a desired height and as such we will not relent in our effort to support basketball," Hundah said.

NBBF President Umar told newsmen that the Nigerian league would develop to become the best in Africa with the support of the company.

Umar attributed the postponements to "unforeseen circumstances."



THE 2010 basketball League season dunks off on Saturday in Lagos.

Taekwondo: Nigeria seek wild card for Youth Olympics

NIGERIA is hoping the World Taekwondo Federation (WTF) will give a wild card to the country to participate in August's Youth Olympics after failing to secure a berth in the qualifiers held in Mexico.

The Junior World Taekwondo Championships were held in Tijuana, Mexico from March 3 to March 9. The championships also served as qualifiers for the Youth Olympics in August in Singapore.

Two males, Anthony Osudia, Usman Daku and a female, Chinazum Nwogu represented Nigeria at

the championships but none could get a place in the maiden Youth Olympics.

Peter Omagbemi, assistant secretary of the Taekwondo Federation of Nigeria (TFN), said efforts were on to get a wild card for Nigeria at the Youth Olympics.

Ferguson Oluigbo, President, Nigeria Taekwondo Referees Association (NTRA), who served as the coach of the three-man team, told NAN that the athletes were picked on their past record as the taekwondo federation could not organise trials.

Oluigbo attributed their failure to late arrival following the refusal of the Mexican Embassy in Nigeria to issue visas to them early.

He said the delegation travelled in batches and did not have to acclimatise before their first fight.

He said he travelled with the male fighters ahead of the federation's secretary, who came with the female

He admitted that the athletes saw some of the equipment for the first time, adding that the inclement weather and unfamiliar equipment affected their performance.

Iorfa lauds Owumi's election

By Orkula Shaagee

LOBI Stars Football Club of Makurdi Chairman Dominic Iorfa has described the choice of Davidson Owumi as the chairman of the Nigeria Premier League as the right decision.

Speaking to Trustsports shortly after the election last Saturday at Lamonde Hotel in Abuja, the former Super Eagles striker said he expect positive developments during Owumi's reign as the NPL boss.

According to Iorfa, the former Rangers of Enugu boss has a lot of experience as a player, manager and administrator to pioneer the nation's apex league governing body to higher heights.

The Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) board member also commended the transparent manner in which the election was conducted, and urged family members close ranks with the new board to raise the standard of the nation's football league.

"The choice of Owumi as the NPL chairman is the best because he has enough experience to take the league to higher heights. He has played the game at the highest level, managed it and administered it.

"So, I expect a lot of positive changes under him. He has seen it all, so he is the right choice for the post. He should continue from where Chief Obaseki stopped", Iorfa stated.

Speaking further, Iorfa commended the ongoing development in the nation's football which allows former players to take charge of the administration and management of the

game.

"It is a good thing that former players are being given the opportunity to serve in the administration and management of football in this country and that is how it should be", he concluded.

“So, I expect a lot of positive changes under him. He has seen it all”

Ivorian leader honours Lulu

THE President of the Nigeria Football Federation, Alhaji Sani Lulu Abdullahi has received a National Honour of Cote d'Ivoire after being presented with the award of "Officer of the National Order of Cote d'Ivoire".

The award, which comes with a special medal, was bestowed on the Presidents/Chairmen of the Football Associations of African continent that have qualified to play in the 2010 FIFA World Cup finals in South Africa, the first FIFA World Cup on African soil since the championship began 80 years

ago. The presentation was done by the President of Cote d'Ivoire, Mr. Laurent Gbagbo.

The other beneficiaries are the Heads of Football Associations of host country, South Africa, Ghana, Cameroon, Algeria and Cote d'Ivoire.

Nigeria has been at three previous World Cup finals (1994, 1998 and 2002) but failed to reach the finals of the last tournament in Germany. For this summer's finals in South Africa, Nigeria has been drawn against Argentina, Greece and Korea Republic in Group B.

IBB:

A man with vision and hope for 2011



As the sufferings continue to break our backs, we must not continue to bend backwards, we must break out from the old ways of doing things. We must choose new ways, new ideas, new commitments. This is the time for the change.

Choose the man with ideas, a man with commitments. He has served the country before, he is coming back to serve the country better with his ideas, wisdom, etc. A man of the people with no discrimination. A man that is always ready to serve humanity (i.e. less privilege).

He has touched the life of many Nigerians positively. A great listener. Always patient to listen to everyone at all times, whether big or small. Always willing to forgive.

A man that brings people together/closer.

Indeed, he's a rare gem.

Choose wisely, Choose IBB 2011!

Signed
UMAR MALA.



Chelsea's Didier Drogba celebrates with team mates as he scored their fifth goal during the English Premier League match between Chelsea and Wigan Athletic at Stamford Bridge yesterday. Chelsea won 6-0 to clinch the Premier League.

Chelsea thrash Wigan to win Premier League

CHELSEA reclaimed the English Premier League title in style on Sunday, a 8-0 win over Wigan ensuring they pipped Manchester United by a single point after racking up a record haul of 103 goals.

As well as denying United what would have been an unprecedented fourth consecutive title, the stunning display ensured Carlo Ancelotti's first season in charge ends with the league trophy back in west London for the first time since Jose Mourinho masterminded back-to-back triumphs in 2004-05 and 2005-06. The defending champions did their job by beating Stoke 4-0 at Old Trafford but there was never any prospect of Chelsea falling at the final hurdle.

Against injury-depleted opponents, it took Nicolas Anelka only five minutes to calm the Chelsea supporters' nerves with the opener and any doubt over the destiny of the trophy disappeared just after the half hour mark when Gary Caldwell wrestled Frank Lampard to the ground inside the box.

The Scotland defender was given his marching orders and Lampard got up to fire in a textbook penalty for his 22nd league goal of the season.

Didier Drogba got involved in an unseemly spat with Lampard over who was taking that penalty but still finished the afternoon with a hat-trick, which ensures he takes the EPL's golden boot with a total of 29 league goals.

Anelka ended up with a double and Salomon Kalou and Ashley Cole also got in on the act as Chelsea ran up their biggest ever victory in the top flight. The only other outstanding issue was resolved in Arsenal's favour. A 4-0 win over Fulham ensured Arsene Wenger's men clinched third place, ensuring another money-spinning season of Champions League football at the Emirates.

The Gunners enter directly at the group stage while Tottenham's fourth place means they must come through a final qualifier to fully benefit from their elevation

to a place among Europe's elite.

Andrey Arshavin, Robin van Persie and Carlos Vela were on target for Arsenal, who also benefited from an own goal by Chris Baird against opponents who clearly had one eye on Wednesday's Europa League final against Atletico Madrid.

The atmosphere at Old Trafford was distinctly subdued as news from west London filtered through but United still performed effectively, with goals from Darren Fletcher, Ryan Giggs and Park Ji-Sung and an own goal by Danny Higginbotham delivering a convincing win.

A memorable season for Spurs ended with a weary wimper, Harry Redknapp's side conceding a two-goal lead to lose 4-2 at relegated Burnley. Gareth Bale and Luka Modric had put them in the driving seat but Wade Elliot, Jack Cork, Martin Paterson and Steven Thompson turned the match around in unlikely fashion.

A deeply frustrating season for

Liverpool ended with a goalless draw at Hull that ensured Rafael Benitez's side could finish no better than seventh in the table.

Above them, in fifth place, are Manchester City, who were held to a 1-1 draw at West Ham, and Aston Villa, who held on to sixth place despite a late Richard Dunne own goal resulting in a 1-0 defeat at home to Blackburn.

Those results mean Liverpool will have to come through a final qualifier as well as the play-off round to get into the group stages of next season's Europa League.

Everton finished their campaign with a 1-0 win over FA Cup finalists Portsmouth that was secured by Dinyar Bilyaletdinov's 90th-minute strike.

Birmingham went down to a 2-1 defeat at Bolton but Alex McLeish's side—tipped as favourites for relegation at the start of the season—still ended the campaign in a creditable ninth place, while Wolves edged their meeting with Sunderland 2-1.

Van Basten drops Milan hint

FORMER Netherlands coach and AC Milan striker Marco van Basten on Saturday dropped a huge hint that he may take over from Leonardo as coach of the Italians next season.

Leonardo is in the first year of a two-year deal but speculation has been rife for some weeks now that the powers that be at the San Siro are unsatisfied with his tenure and will terminate his contract in the close season.

Milan are third in the Serie A table and, barring defeat in the last two games, will almost certainly finish there. But they reached only the second round of the Champions League, where they were thrashed 7-2 on aggregate by Manchester United, and the quarter-finals of the Coppa Italia.

The season has been something of a failure given that a little over a month ago they had several chances to go top of the table, only to lose or draw each time.

And van Basten, who also played for and coached Ajax, is one of the names in line to take over from Leonardo should he leave. Talking to regional television in Lombardy he said: "We will talk about this when the time is right, now is not the time."

"Milan have commitments in the league. I won't say anything, it's not right."

Leonardo was also being evasive when he said ahead of Sunday's clash with Fiorentina: "First we need to get results and then we'll talk about my future."

RESULTS

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Arsenal 4, Fulham 0
A. Villa 0, Blackburn 1
Bolton 2, Birmingham 1
Burnley 4, Spurs 2
Chelsea 8, Wigan 0
Hull 0, Liverpool 0
Man. Utd 4, Stoke 0
West Ham 1, Man. City 1
Wolves 2, Sunderland 1

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Dundee 0, Hibernian 2
Heart 1, Celtic 2
Rangers 3, Motherwell 3

SERIE A

Palermo 1, Sampdoria 1
Napoli 2, Atalanta 0
Udinese 3, Bari 3
AS Roma 2, Cagliari 1
Bologna 1, Catania 1
Fiorentina 1, Siena 1
Livorno 1, Lazio 2
Genoa 1, AC Milan 0
Juventus 2, Parma 3
Inter 4, Chievo 3

Totti saves Roma to set up grand finale

TWO late goals from Francesco Totti gave AS Roma a nervy 2-1 victory at home to Cagliari on Sunday and ensured the Serie A title will be decided on the final day of the season.

Inter Milan maintained their two-point lead at the top with a 4-3 success over Chievo at the San Siro that proved less comfortable than it should have been.

Inter travel to Siena while Roma will be entertained by Chievo next weekend where the nerazzurri can sew up a fifth title

in a row with victory while Roma need to win and Inter to fail to do so to secure their first scudetto since 2001. At one stage in the afternoon's proceedings, Inter were cruising at 4-1 while an Andrea Lazzari goal direct from a free-kick gave Cagliari a shock 1-0 lead in Rome with just 17 minutes remaining, meaning Inter were virtual champions.

Inter fans were celebrating in the stands but two goals just four minutes apart from Roma captain and talisman Totti silenced them.

And it was the perfect response from the 33-year-old forward who was roundly criticised in midweek after being sent off in Roma's 1-0 Coppa Italia final defeat to Inter for a wild kick at Mario Balotelli.

His first was a cross shot from the left with 11 minutes left and his second, from the spot with seven minutes remaining, came after Davide Biondini was penalised for handling a John-Arne Riise cross.

Roma had dominated the first period with Totti and Marco

Motta hitting the post but they were lacklustre at the beginning of the second period and failed to heed the warnings when both Jeda and Alessandro Matri wasted glorious opportunities to give Cagliari the lead. But after Lazzari's strike, Roma's dramatic late comeback ensured they are still alive and kicking.

At the San Siro, Inter were off to a fast start as on five minutes Dejan Stankovic hit a blockbuster from distance that crashed back off the bar.

THE MONDAY COLUMN

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Encounters with Umaru Yar'adua

My first close encounter with Malam Umaru Yar'adua took place sometime in mid-1995. I was editor of *The Sentinel* magazine, published by his then detained elder brother General Shehu Yar'adua, and we had suspended publication after only 11 editions because we had ran out of money. One day, I was strolling in the yard of the Nation House Press premises in Kaduna when I was told that I had a visitor waiting for me. I walked back to the office, only to find Malam Umaru Yar'adua already seated in the big settee.

Though it was our first close encounter, I knew him very well by reputation. In fact, a few months earlier, when General Shehu was first detained, I went a few times with *Sentinel's* managing director Malam Adamu Adamu to the General's house in Kaduna. Malam Umaru had relocated to the house soon after the arrest and we always found him sitting either inside or just outside the mosque, with a *tas-bih* in hand. On one occasion, we were told that he had gone to the Boys' Quarters to take a nap.

Even before that, I was in Katsina in June 1993 to condole the General, in particular, when their father *Mutawalle* Musa Yar'adua died. This was days after the June 12 election was annulled. On that day, I found Malam Umaru squatting right across the door of the family house, and every now and then, he was sent inside the main house to relay a message.

Even by then he was well known to me, because in 1991, I went to Katsina many times from *Citizen* magazine to report on the state's hot SDP and NRC primaries and the subsequent elections. Malam Umaru was the SDP state secretary before he joined the guber primaries. Though I went looking for him many times, I never saw him, but I interviewed many of his political associates, who regaled me with stories about his physical dynamism during the campaign in those days. It was ill-health that later slowed down Malam Umaru Yar'adua.

On the day he came to my office at *Sentinel*, he asked for a brief on why we suspended publication. It was the money, basically, because General Shehu had separated the company that once published *The Reporter* into two distinct entities, Nation House Press [commercial printers] and *Sentinel* Publications, and Nation House's general manager Mr. Geithing, a White-man, had refused to print *Sentinel* until we pre-paid cash down. So Malam Umaru formed what he called a Task Force with himself as Chairman, with the editor of *Nasiha* Haladu Ashiru Kofar Sauri, the chief accountant Malam Garba Umar and me as members.

We held a few meetings, at which it was decided to sack most of the staff except the 3 of us, and to look for money to pay them off. Though we were retained, my monthly salary was cut from N10,000 [everything inclusive] to N5,000. Malam Umaru was not sure where to get the money to pay off the staff, but on the chief accountant's advice, Habib Bank's then managing director Malam Falalu Bello was approached and he agreed to advance the money.

When the cheque was cashed, I was miffed that the three of us who were retained were not paid anything. It was my second unhappy financial encounter with the Yar'aduas within months because, the previous October when I was

employed as deputy editor to Malam Adamu Adamu, *Sentinel* was already broke and the then managing director, Dr. Stanley Macebuh, could not pay me any salary for three months.

Malam Adamu too had not been paid for more than three months, and in December 1994 he complained directly to General Shehu. His three months' net salary was N24,000, minus the promised car and house. The General asked about me, and Malam Adamu told him I had not been paid either, so he gave a note addressed to Habib Bank's Kaduna Main Branch manager Sani Galaudu to give N30,000, N24,000 for Malam Adamu and N6,000 for me.

Now, in January 1995, after he removed Macebuh as *Sentinel's* MD and appointed Adamu in his place, the General gave money to pay off all outstanding staff salaries. When I was paid, Malam Adamu said I should bring the N6,000 so that he would repay the General the money that he gave us in December. I protested that it was not a loan, but Malam Adamu collected it anyway and to my surprise, when he took it to the General, he collected it.

Looks like all the Yar'aduas were a bit queer with money, because in January 1991, I was sent from *Citizen* magazine to interview *Mutawalle* Musa Yar'adua in Katsina for our special edition to mark 25 years since the January 1966 coup. When I saw him on a Monday, the *Mutawalle* told me to return the next morning, and I had to spend the night in Katsina. The following day when I went for the interview, he said he was no longer granting one, but he thrust out two N20 notes and sternly warned me to accept them.

Anyway, back to *The Sentinel* story. After the staff were laid off, Umaru Yar'adua and the Task Force began shopping around for money to resume publication. He asked me to calculate how much was needed, and the chief accountant Malam Garba estimated that we needed N80,000 to restart publishing.

I took the estimates to Malam Umaru's house. He was living in a cramped 2-bedroom flat at Badarawa, Kaduna at the time, with his second wife. I did not see any sign of children around the house in the more than two dozen visits I made over the next few weeks.

Malam Umaru took the estimates, studied them, said it was reasonable, and told me to go the next day to Mr. Rizvi, chief accountant of Hamada Carpets, and collect the money. The next day, I went to Mr. Rizvi, but he said Malam Umaru had not spoken to him about it.

In those days, there was no GSM, so I had to make many trips to Malam Umaru's house to tell him what happened. His wife was very hospitable, and she would tell me to sit down and wait because he would soon be back. I however preferred to go away and come back because she appeared to be alone in the house.

When I told him what Rizvi said, Malam Umaru listened attentively, was silent for several minutes, and then said I should go back to Rizvi the following day. I did, and the Pakistani man again said Malam Umaru had not spoken to him. This happened many times over the next one month. I only discovered the truth much later, and it was Malam Umaru who was telling it.

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I took the estimates to Malam Umaru's house. He was living in a cramped 2-bedroom flat at Badarawa, Kaduna at the time



LATE President Umaru Yar'adua

SPORTS REPORT



TIGER Woods

Injured Woods out of tournament

Tiger Woods withdrew from the Players Championship after seven holes of the final round because of a neck injury.

He called over an official after his tee shot and although he hit his second shot, he then shook hands with playing partner Jason Bohn and left the course.

Woods, who was playing only his third

event since returning after admitting marital infidelity, was two over par for the day and two under overall.

"I've been playing with a bad neck for about a month," said a Woods.

"I've been playing through it. I can't play through it anymore."

The world number one added that he thinks he may have a bulging disk in his upper back.



MARIA Sharapova shows her dejection during her straight sets defeat by Lucie Safarova

Henin, Sharapova lose in Madrid

Former world number ones Justine Henin and Maria Sharapova made early exits at the Madrid Open yesterday.

Sharapova suffered a 6-4 6-3 defeat by Lucie Safarova in her first match since March following an elbow injury.

And there was an even bigger shock when Belgium's Henin, who won her last tournament in Stuttgart, lost 6-4 5-7 6-0 to Aravane Rezai of France.

Sharapova, seeded 11th, recovered from losing the opening four games to level at 4-4 against Safarova, but the Czech - who made recent quarter-finals in Stuttgart and Rome - took eight of the next 10 games for victory. "It's a struggle trying to find the rhythm," said Sharapova. "I thought she played really solid, good tennis and did everything she needed to win the match. More solid than me anyway."