

FG to borrow another \$5bn to finance budget deficit



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Shugaba Darman dies at 80



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# PDP suspends Masari, Odili, Nnamani

By Muideen Olaniyi

NINETEEN leaders of the PDP Reform Forum who have been campaigning in recent weeks for the sack of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party's national chairman Prince Vincent Ogbulafor themselves got axed yesterday when the party's National

Working Committee (NWC) suspended them for anti-party activities.

Chief among those suspended were former House of Representatives Speaker Aminu Bello Masari, former Senate President Ken Nnamani and former Rivers State governor Dr. Peter Odili. Also suspended were former Senate President Adolphus

Wabara, former Abia State gubernatorial candidate Chief Onyema Ugochukwu, Chief Tony Ukasanya, Chief Sunny Iroche, Senator Emmanuel Agboti, Senator Sylvanus Ngele, Senator Ifeanyichukwu Ararume, former Imo State governor Chief Achike Udenwa, former presidential contender Chief Rochas

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PHOTO: AFOLABI SOTUNDE



FROM left: Former Speaker, House of Representatives Aminu Bello Masari, former Senate President Ken Nnamani and former Health Minister, Professor A.B.C Nwosu, at the People's Democratic Party Reform Forum meeting held in Abuja yesterday.

## Northern govs tell Plateau:

## Put aside indigenes, settlers

By Andrew Agbese, Jos

THE various communities in Plateau State should put the past behind them and forgive one another for what happened in recent years while the vexed indigene/settler question should henceforth be deemphasised since the constitution of Nigeria guarantees to anybody who has lived in a particular state all the privileges of an indigene, the Northern Governors

“ The governors agreed to create confidence among the populace such that people residing in any state would have confidence in their leaders

Forum declared yesterday after a crucial peace meeting in Jos.

It was the first time in memory that the Northern Governors held a meeting outside Kaduna, the old capital of the North. Yesterday's meeting was attended by nine governors from Plateau, Kaduna, Niger, Sokoto, Jigawa, Kebbi, Kwara, Kogi and Taraba as well as the deputy governors of Kano and Yobe States. The meeting lasted more than four hours.

The governors said they agreed that all the suspects arrested in connection with the Jos crises be tried in a Federal High Court. Sokoto State Governor Aliyu

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**SHEMA**  
Has Delivered!

# Military discovers more corpses from Riyom highway attack

From Ahmed Mohammedan & Mahmud Lalo, Jos

THE Joint military special Task Force (JTF) set up by the Federal Government to help restore peace in Plateau State has discovered more corpses buried in the bush in Riyom Local Government

Area of the state after Tuesday's attack by youths on the Riyom highway resulting in the death of seven persons who were passing through the area.

Their bodies were buried in a bush by the killers but security operatives yesterday dug out them

and took them to Jos township.

Police Public Relations officer ASP Mohammed Lerama said police and Army personnel went to the area under a joint operation with police sniffer dogs yesterday and discovered more bodies in two graves.

Assistant Army Public Relations Officer Lieutenant Colonel Galadima Shekari referred our correspondents to Colonel Kayode Ogundele, the Special Task Force Operational Officer, who confirmed the discovery but did not give the number of bodies

found.

The discovery came as Northern governors met in Jos yesterday to discuss an ultimate end to the recurrent violent crises in Jos and environs as they affect their people and pose threat to regional and national security.

PIC: NAN

## Gani's will: Trustees to preserve institutions

From Benjamin Auta, Lagos

THE will of late Gani Fwehinmi was yesterday read to members of his family with the first son, Mohammed Fawehinmi, saying institutions left behind by the late legal icon would be maintained by the trustees.

He added that he could not make the Will public until he had secured the certified true copy but identified the Trustees as First Trustees, Union Trustees and UBA Trustees.

"I have to read it (Will) before I am able to give you details. There

is a difference between listening and reading, and they are also intertwined", he told newsmen.

The reading of the Will which was handled by the Tayo Oyetobo Chambers coincided with Gani's birthday as he instructed before he died.

As part of an elaborate ceremony in honour of the late legal icon, 40 students were given N100,000 each in form of scholarships at his chamber in Ikeja. Mohammed led the family members including the two wives, Ganiya and Abike and 10 of his 15 children to the registry.

## Emir urges intensified attack against polio

EMIR of Zaria Alhaji Shehu Idris yesterday urged traditional institutions in the state to collaborate and play an active role in ensuring the total eradication of polio.

Idris, who is also the Chairman, Kaduna State Council of Emirs and Chiefs, made the call in his palace at a meeting with the state's Task Force on Polio Eradication.

The emir, who was represented by Chief of Kagoro, Mr Ufuwai Bonet, urged the traditional institutions to prevail on their subjects to support polio eradication exercise to record 100 per cent success.

He noted with regret that once a child was infected, even if he was lucky to be alive, he would suffer for the rest of his life.

Idris urged the traditional institutions to intensify efforts at creating awareness among their subjects to put an end to the rejection of polio vaccine, especially in northern Kaduna area.

The Chairman, Kaduna State Action Committee on Immunisation, Alhaji Mustapha Jumare, said every child in the state would be immunised in the next round of polio exercise. He urged stakeholders not to relent in their efforts, adding that the success of the exercise required a collective approach.

Delivering a lecture on immunisation status in Kaduna State,

Malam Lawal Abubakar stressed the need for local government areas with high risk of wild polio virus to intensify efforts at eliminating the disease. He said the programme was aimed at ensuring that the last child in the state was immunised.

Lawal commended traditional rulers for supporting the exercise, which he said had yielded a positive result in recent years.

"It is gratifying that through the cooperation of traditional rulers, no case of polio has been reported in the state since 2009. The percentage of missed children last year was 4.3 per cent as against the required 10 per cent. This has earned the state credibility among other states," he added. (NAN)

**He urged stakeholders not to relent in their efforts, adding that the success of the exercise required a collective approach**



ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan signing the 2010 budget in Abuja yesterday.

## 19 die in Niger auto crash

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

NINETEEN people died late Tuesday along the Tegini-Lagos highway in Niger State after a head-on collision between two commuter buses. The police and FRSC are however not in agreement on the casualty figure.

The two vehicles according to witnesses ran into each other in the pot-hole ridden Tegini road killing 19 persons on the spot.

Iliyasu, a witness, said there was no way the two vehicles could avoid each other as both of them were on top speed, adding that coupled with the bad road full

of pot-holes, both drivers had no chance of manipulating their vehicles to safety.

The Niger State police spokesman said yesterday in Minna that 19 persons died in the crash, adding that among the dead were two NYSC members.

He said 25 persons were taken to the Federal Medical Centres in Kontagora and Kagara for treatment as they all suffered various degrees of injury. The corpses of the dead were deposited in the mortuary for identification, he said. Meanwhile, the sector commander of the FRSC Mr Emmanuel Omotosho Abbe dif-

fered on the casualty figure, saying contrary to the police report which said 19 persons died, his men only recovered eight bodies.

He blamed the accident on over-speeding, saying if the drivers had maintained the safety speed limit the carnage would have been avoided. "Eight people have been confirmed dead as some people have been taken to the hospital for treatment on their injuries", he said.

He said efforts would be intensified on the campaign for safety in the state as the FRSC would deal with violators of traffic rules.

## Spouse's uncaring attitude breaks 16-year-old marriage

AN Ibadan Grade C Customary Court yesterday dissolved the 16-year-old marriage between a trader, Sekinat Yusuf and her husband, Taofeek Yusuf, on the grounds that the latter was uncaring.

Sekinat, who filed for the divorce, told the court that her spouse was not only uncaring but was fond of beating her.

She said he once beat her to the point that she could not go out for two weeks and that he also extended his aggression on their children. Sekinat said her husband accused her of dating their landlord because he advised him to treat her properly.

She told the court that after their landlord's advice, Yusuf came to the house to pack all their property

without her knowledge. Yusuf was however not in court in spite of being served court summons on two occasions. The President of the Customary Court, Mr Olayinka Owoade, dissolved the marriage and awarded the custody of their four children to Sekinat. He ordered Yusuf to be paying N3,000 for the upkeep of the youngest child. (NAN)

## FG to take \$5bn foreign loan

By Turaki A. Hassan

THE Federal Government is to borrow the total sum of \$5.2 billion from foreign bodies to finance the deficit in the 2010 budget that was signed into law yesterday by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan.

Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives Usman Bayero Nafada made this known during the debate on the request of the Acting President to borrow \$1 billion from the World Bank.

The House approved the request by the government to collect \$915 million out of the \$5.2 billion borrowing plan of the federal government from the World Bank.

This provoked members of the opposition All Nigeria People's Party (ANPP) who staged a walkout on the House in protest.

Rep. Ita Enang (PDP), chairman Rules and Business committee, said the Act establishing the Debt Management Office (DMO) allows the government to borrow and that it was part of the financing item of the 2010 budget approved by the National Assembly.

Minority Leader Rep. Muhammed Ali Ndume (ANPP, Borno) and his colleagues expressed stiff opposition to the loan and when it appears to them that the leadership of the House was bent on approving the request, the ANPP members left the chamber shortly after the request was approved through a controversial voice vote under the watch of Deputy Speaker Usman Bayero Nafada who presided over the day's session.

Briefing newsmen after they walked out, Rep. Ndume said history will bear them witness that they were not a party to the decision that will mortgage the future Nigerians yet unborn.

Jonathan had in a letter to the Speaker of the House sought approval to borrow the sum of \$915 million from the World Bank in order to finance the 2010 budget deficit.

The letter reads in part, "The World Bank Portfolio of the facilities totaling \$915 million out of which \$179 million would be drawn in fiscal 2010, is of particular essence as it would be deployed to Urban Water and Transport, Human Capacity Development and Power infrastructure projects across the country."

The total budget deficit in the 2010 budget stood at N1.5 trillion naira while the whole budget is N4.06 trillion.

## Reps fail to vote on constitution

By Turaki A. Hassan

THE House of Representatives yesterday failed to commence electronic vote on the proposed amendments of the 1999 constitution as earlier scheduled.

Deputy Speaker Usman Bayero Nafada had announced that the lower legislative chamber will vote electronically on the amendments assuring that the electronic voting machines in the House chamber have been repaired.

However, at the beginning of the plenary session the lawmakers went into closed door meeting which lasted two hours after which Nafada announced that they have postponed voting to next Tuesday.

*Daily Trust* gathered that the electronic voting machines have not been repaired, while some members deliberately absented themselves from the sitting.

A total of 240 out of the 360 members have to be present and vote yes to each of the clauses under review for it to meet the required number for amendment to any section of the constitution.

Last Tuesday, the House had to adjourn and postponed debate on the amendments because only nine of the members present had a copy of the report.

When the House passes its own version, they have to harmonise position with the Senate after which the amendments can be transmitted to the 36 state Houses of Assembly for endorsement before the amendment could be effected.



CHAIRMAN, National Agency for Control for AIDS (NACA) Professor Umaru Shehu (left) with Emir of Shonga Alhaji Dahiru Yahaya who is also Chairman, National Primary Health Care Development Agency, during the 50th anniversary celebration of Nigerian Medical Association in Abuja, yesterday.

# FG denies \$1bn loan as Jonathan signs 2010 budget

By Mohammed S. Shehu

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan yesterday signed in to law N4.6 trillion budget for 2010 just as Finance Minister Olusegun Aganga denied taking \$1bn loan from the World Bank to finance an expected deficit in the budget.

Aganga said the Federal Government intended to fund the budget deficit of about N1.53 trillion by selling government's assets and domestic borrowing.

"We are not borrowing a \$bn to fund the budget, I think what they are referring to is something which we are working with the World Bank on and the World Bank as you know helps a number of developing countries and that is just a quantification of the work they are doing which is broken down to quite a few segments, maybe eight or nine of them. So it is not one billion dollars borrowing upfront, it doesn't work like that. It has nothing to do with the budget.

Aganga said the government is also looking at other sources of revenue including raising a bond this year and going to the international capital market adding that the budget deficit is growing at an alarming rate.

While signing the budget in the Presidential Villa, Abuja, Jonathan said the 2010 budget will accelerate Nigeria's economic recovery through targeted fiscal interventions aimed at stimulating the economy, sustaining private sector growth

and enhancing the pace of national development.

The ceremony was witnessed by the President of the Senate, Senator David Mark, deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Usman Bayero Nafada, the Deputy Senate President, Senator Ike Ekweremadu, as well as other leaders of the National Assembly.

The budget was predicated on government's economic outlook for the fiscal year including oil production capacity of 2.35m barrels per day, oil price benchmark of \$67 per barrel and an average exchange rate of N150 to the US dollar.

The budget includes N1.85 trillion for capital expenditure and N2.077 trillion for recurrent, non-debt expenditure.

Jonathan said increased emphasis will be placed on monitoring the deliverables of MDAs by tracking the output of the financial and other resources appropriated under their stewardship.

"In this regard, the office of the Hon. Minister for Special Duties will be structured and empowered to undertake the task of monitoring and evaluation of all government projects and activities," he said.

He thanked both Chambers of the National Assembly for their contribution to the budgeting processes.

A budget proposal of N4.4trillion was presented to the National Assembly in November 2009, which the Legislature reviewed and passed an Appropriation Bill of N4.6trillion with a deficit of N1.52 trillion or 4.66% of GDP.

## Security fund underway, says Jonathan

By Mohammed S. Shehu

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan said yesterday that a special fund to combat security in the country is to be created soon. A statement by his spokesman Ima Niboro said Jonathan made this known during a visit of the South-East traditional rulers led by its Chairman, Eze Dr. Cletus Ikechukwu Ilomuanya,

at the State House, Abuja.

Jonathan said government is aware of the security challenges facing the country and is determined to tackle it noted that no investor would be encouraged to invest in the country if security is not guaranteed.

He said the fund would be used to acquire superior weaponry as well as technology for improved intelligence.

He also expressed concern over the erosion problem in the south-east and promised that the menace would be tackled with input from the ecological fund.

On the Amnesty programme in the Niger-Delta, Jonathan restated government's resolve to guarantee its implementation. He also assured the traditional rulers that the present administration is determined to conduct credible elections in 2011.

# Alleged fraud: Ogbulafor to be arraigned on Monday

By Atika Balal & John Chuks Azu

NATIONAL Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Prince Vincent Ogbulafor will be arraigned before a Federal Capital Territory (FCT) High Court on Monday over allegations of fraud.

Ogbulafor and four others are facing a 16 count charge proffered against them by the Independent and Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) for fraudulently paying the sum of N104 million for non-existent contracts.

The other accused persons are a former Secretary and Member of the National Economic Intelligence

Committee (NEIC), Emeka Ebilah, a former Director, Budget Implementation, Federal Ministry of Finance, Mr. Emmanuel C. Bosah, Mr. Henry Ikoh and Jude Nwokoro.

In one of the charges, the accused persons were said to have allegedly conspired to use NEIC's contract verification panel to verify a fictitious contract purportedly executed on behalf of the Federal Government.

Ogbulafor is also being accused of using his former office (Minister of Special Duties) to confer corrupt advantage upon himself by fraudulently receiving the sum of N11.5 million as payment for the fictitious contract. He will answer to 12 out

of the 16 count charge filed against them.

The accused persons are to appear before Justice Ishaq Bello.

However, a reliable source in the High Court confided in Daily Trust that the Prosecution will only be filing an application of leave to prepare charge against the accused persons on Monday, adding that the actual case is expected to commence on the date the matter is adjourned.

Legal Adviser of the PDP Chief Olusola Oke also said that Ogbulafor has not been formally served. He said when informed, the chairman has the capacity to arrange a capable legal team for his defence.



GOVERNOR Ibrahim Gaidam of Yobe State (left) with Minister of Police Affairs Adamu Maina Waziri when the minister visited Government House, Damaturu, yesterday.

## Gaidam endorsed me as minister, says Waziri

From Hamza Idris, Damaturu

MINISTER of Police Affairs Alhaji Adamu Maina Waziri yesterday said he was reappointed by acting President Goodluck Jonathan after Governor Ibrahim Gaidam, a member of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), gave him a clean bill.

Waziri, a founding member of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), who entered the Yobe State Government House for the first time in more than ten years, described Gaidam as a leader with unique human relations who have introduced maturity in the political equation of Yobe State.

"When acting President Goodluck Jonathan intimated Gaidam that he will re-appoint me as a minister,

the governor gave his support without any resistance even though we are from different political affiliation. In fact, he (the governor) also sent me congratulatory messages after my confirmation", the minister said.

Waziri was dropped by President Umaru Yar'adua while serving as minister of state for agriculture and he was a member of the 32- eminent Nigerians who signed a register calling for the resignation of the ailing president.

He contested for the governorship of Yobe State against Bukar Abba Ibrahim in 2003 and Senator Mammam Ali in 2007.

"I am profoundly appreciative of what Governor Gaidam did to me because there was never a time that I

was recognised by the governor of my state like this. That is why I am being circumspect in my political activities which culminated in my visit today", the minister who shade tears while delivering his speech said.

He said the as minister of police affairs, his greatest challenge is to see that the police become more responsive to the yearnings and aspirations of Nigerians including getting a free and fair election in 2011.

Responding, Gaidam said Waziri was known to be a forthright and committed patriot. I have no doubt in my mind that he will bring his wealth of experience to bear in the discharge of his duties and in repositioning the Nigeria police to face current challenges.

## Prisons reform law underway

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

A new law seeking to reform administration of prisons yesterday passed second reading on the floor of the Senate.

This follows the reported cases of congestion and attempted jail breaks by prison inmates, majority of whom are awaiting trial.

Lead sponsor of the bill seeking to "make comprehensive provisions for the administration of prisons in Nigeria..." Deputy Senate Leader Victor Ndoma-Egba (SAN) said the existing prison laws did not make provision for rehabilitation of prisoners during incarceration.

He said, "Basically, the major aims of imprisonment as part of the criminal justice system are execution of court judgments, protection of society from criminals, reform and rehabilitation of prisoners with the aim of re-integrating them into the society."

Ndoma-Egba however said the Nigerian prisons act as it is today only emphasizes the penal and punitive role of imprisonment and makes no provision for reformation and rehabilitation of prisoners during incarceration.

He said the resultant effect is that prison inmates become worse than they were before incarceration.

The Senator said the new law provides for internally generated revenue for the prisons through the farms and industries operated by inmates which would be utilised in efficient running of prisons.

## Jonathan commissions Shehu Yar'adua Barracks

By Misbahu Bashir

THE Shehu Yar'adua Barracks built by the Nigerian Army to accommodate 210 soldiers was yesterday commissioned by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan.

Speaking at the ceremony yesterday in Abuja, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Lieutenant General Abdurahman Bello Dambazau said the construction work of the barracks was done by army engineers and soldiers using direct labour.

The COAS said 105 soldiers were provided with homes in the new barrack while another 105 will be given in June this year after completion of construction.

"The Nigerian Army has cut down on construction cost by more than 80 per cent," he said.

He said the construction of the barracks will afford army engineers the opportunity to showcase their innate capacities and render services to the civil society.

While commissioning the barracks, Acting President Goodluck Jonathan commended the military for sticking to their constitutional responsibility of safeguarding the territorial integrity of the country, adding that he was satisfied with the conduct of the military.

Jonathan said the direct labour used by the army has reduced the cost in government spending and demonstrated the ingenuity of the army to do more.

He charged the army to look forward to doing works in the areas of communication, energy and space technology.

## FG to stop funding medical treatment abroad

By Ruby Leo

FEDERAL Government will no longer be interested in funding medical trips for its officials abroad, Acting President Goodluck Jonathan has said.

Jonathan said the funds used for such trips have led to loss of the nation's scarce foreign exchange through unbearably rampant trips abroad seeking medical care by teaming Nigerians.

He said the money will be channeled to developing tertiary hospitals to international standards.

Jonathan, who was represented by Minister of state for Health Alhaji Suleiman Bello, was speaking at the 50th anniversary celebration of the Nigerian Medical Association. "This scenario is no longer acceptable to government and plans are underway in this year's budget to ensure that some designated tertiary health institutions spread across the country upgraded to world class standard," he added.

Jonathan also appealed to the highly skilled health professionals abroad to come home to contribute their quota to development of health system.

"We need their expertise and partnership proposal on health care development framework that will bring the much needed value addition on our health systems," Jonathan added.

President of NMA Dr Prosper Igboeli said doctors must endeavor to change their attitude towards patient, adding that "There is a great need also to restructure our primary, secondary and tertiary levels of care."

PHOTO: AMINU SAIDU



VICE Chancellor, Bayero University Kano, Professor Attahiru Jega with Dr Haruna Wakili during the Malam Aminu Kano 27th anniversary Lecture in Kano.

## Nnamani-led group wants PDP NWC dissolved

By Muideen Olaniyi

SENATOR Ken Nnamani-led PDP Reform Forum yesterday called for the dissolution of the National Working Committee (NWC) of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

In a communiqué at the end of the group's meeting yesterday, the Forum asked for the reconstitution of the NWC with 'same men of integrity and commitment to the ideals of PDP in the interest of the Nigerian nation.'

The communiqué charged PDP founding fathers, the Acting President, the Board of Trustees (BOT), the expanded National Caucus and all members to 'take all necessary and appropriate steps' on the dissolution call.

The group decried the 'ineffectiveness' of the PDP NWC/PDP leadership which it said it was neither imaginative nor creative in generating ideas to reinforce founding ideals of the party.

It further abhorred the tendency in the PDP whereby names of flag-bearers in national elections are compiled in air conditioned rooms and at caucuses rather than at various congresses and conventions. The group also proposed that "the PDP must revisit the current criteria of selections of delegates for various congresses and convention with a to reducing the members appointable by a single individual", adding that elected delegates must outnumber appointed ones.

It said "the biennial national conference prescribed in the PDP Constitution, which is currently overdue by three months, be immediately summoned for the sole purpose of examining and effecting necessary far reaching internal reforms."

## 'No-fly' Nigerian allegedly on US-bound jet

A man detained in Puerto Rico had apparently managed to board a New York-bound jet in Nigeria even though he was on an official no-fly list.

A passenger tells The Associated Press that the pilot disclosed the apparent breach as the Delta Air Lines flight stopped to refuel in Puerto Rico. Passenger Joan Mower says the pilot said he was informed about the passenger while over the Atlantic.

Flight 215 originated in Abuja, Nigeria, where the man boarded the jet. It continued on to New York after the man was detained yesterday. US Customs and Border Patrol says the unidentified man is being held for questioning. He was taken into custody without incident. Customs officials had no immediate comment. (AP)

## PDP suspends Masari, Odili, Nnamani

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Okorocho, former deputy governor Chief Chris Ekpeyong and former Transport Minister Chief Abiye Sekibo.

Others members of the 'PDP Reform Forum' suspended from the party in accordance with Article 21.4 of the PDP Constitution were Auwal Tukur, former House of Representatives Chief Whip Abubakar Bawa Bwari, Prof. ABC Nwosu, Chief Kelechi Igwe and former PDP National Secretary Chief Bernard Eze. The latter has already been touted by the rebel group to succeed Ogbulafor as party chairman.

PDP National Secretary Abubakar Kawu Baraje, who announced the suspensions,

said the case of the suspended members has been referred to the PDP's National Disciplinary Committee for "further necessary action."

Baraje said the decision to suspend them came as a result of their refusal to appear before the party's National Working Committee (NWC) yesterday despite the invitation extended to them.

Baraje said, "The NWC of the PDP at its meeting held on the 22nd of April, 2010 considered current political events in Nigeria and came up with the following resolutions:-

"The NWC expressed its surprise at the refusal of members of the party, operating under a group called the "PDP Reform Forum" to appear before it despite exten-

sive invitations extended to them. "The NWC is of the view that the concerned members had adequate notice but declined to utilize the opportunity granted them by the invitation to explain their roles.

"The NWC held that the decision to dishonour the invitation to appear before it is a calculated attempt to disregard lawful directives of the party in order for them to continue to ridicule the party contrary to Article 12.1 of the PDP Constitution."

Daily Trust learnt that PDP leadership scheduled the proposed meeting with members of the PDP Reform Forum, whom it accused of planning to subject the party to "disrepute, contempt and hatred" in order to disrupt their

meeting scheduled to hold at the same time in Abuja.

The Forum, widely believed to be made up of Acting President Goodluck Jonathan's supporters, have been campaigning to remove Ogbulafor as party chairman, but it ran into a brick wall earlier this week when both the PDP Governors Forum and the Forum of PDP State Chairmen solidly came out behind Ogbulafor.

At a meeting the 28 PDP governors held with Jonathan on Monday night, he indicated to them that the Forum did not have his backing, which emboldened the governors to publicly attack the Forum. That in turn emboldened the NWC to move against it, culminating in yesterday's suspensions.

## Put aside indigenes, settlers

Continued from page 1

Magatakarda Wammakko, who briefed the press after the meeting, said his colleagues prevailed on Plateau State governor Jonah Jang to allow the trials to go on in the Federal High Court since it is a universal principle of justice that one cannot be a judge in his own case.

Governor Jang had in his opening of the meeting raised some issues which he said militated against the return peace in the state. He said those arrested in connection with the crises were taken to Abuja and that after the state government protested, some of them were brought to Jos but that even those brought to Jos were being tried in a Federal High Court instead of the state high court.

Jang said the Plateau State government would continue protest until the suspects are tried in a state high court.

Wamakko said the meeting advised Jang to allow a neutral body to try the cases for justice to be seen to be done, since Plateau State government which is a party in the dispute cannot be a judge in its own case.

"Once you are accused in a case, you cannot be the judge. I think that is the principle everywhere. Once you are, you have to allow a neutral body to see that justice is done. So the trial has to be in Federal High Court not state High court," Wamakko said.

Chairman of the Northern Governors' Forum Dr. Muazu Babangida

Aliyu also said the meeting agreed that the problem was not peculiar to Plateau State as all the northern states have security challenges. He said having identified some of the problems, the governors agreed to create confidence among the populace such that people residing in any state would have confidence in their leaders and not begin to see them as taking sides when there is a problem. Aliyu said the meeting identified the problem of youth restiveness and noted the need to create jobs for the youths, saying a particular state in the North has started solving that problem through biometric numbering of the youths.

The meeting also cautioned the media against sensational reporting. He said the forum will also meet with stakeholders through its members, saying the first one would be handled by Bauchi State governor Malam Isa Yuguda, who would meet with stakeholders on the Plateau to discuss the way forward. He said various monitoring mechanisms would be employed to check the implementation of the issues they agreed upon, and he called on the larger society to be part of the monitoring to achieve success.

Governor Jang thanked his colleagues for the meeting and the interest they had shown in resolving the Plateau crisis, adding that the issue of cross border raids has been most disturbing in the Plateau crises as people come from other states and launch attacks in the state, "which should not be."

# 'How we helped stranded Nigerians in London'

From Ibrahim Chonoko, London

THE Nigeria High Commission in the United Kingdom said it helped more than 20 Nigerians who were stranded in London following the closure of airspace in Europe due to the eruption of volcanic ash from Iceland.

The head of consular services and welfare, Alhaji Mustafa Aliyu, told Daily Trust in London that the commission assisted the affected persons mainly with food, while a few were

helped with accommodation.

He said a team led him regularly visited all the five terminals at Heathrow airport with a view to meeting Nigerians stranded at the airport, explaining that only a handful of them were met at Terminal Three, while the other terminals were virtually empty until the beginning of this week.

He said contrary to reports, the over-all number of Nigerians stranded in London was not in "hundreds or thousands," empha-

sizing that even when the flight ban was lifted, the number of those who turned out at the airport was negligible.

Meanwhile, most of the top government functionaries who were stranded in the UK have now returned home following the resumption of flights to and from Nigeria on Tuesday this week.

Daily Trust correspondent who was at Heathrow airport on Wednesday reports that top officials on the Nigeria-bound British Airways

flight to Abuja included Governors Ibrahim Shekarau of Kano and Adams Oshimhole of Edo; Minister of Information Dora Akunyili; and former First Lady Justice Fati Abubakar, among others.

Most of the Nigerian passengers who spoke with Daily Trust at the airport said though they experienced inconvenience as a result of the suspension of flights, they were not bitter because the action was taken in the interest of passengers' safety.

## Volcanic eruption: 3 grounded planes leave Abuja

By Shehu Abubakar

THE three Europe bound planes that were grounded at the Nnamdi Azikwe International Airport Abuja due to volcanic ash eruption have left the airport after receiving signals of clearer weather condition and the re-opening of most airports in Europe.

Three planes belonging to KLM, Lufthansa and British Airways were held up at the Abuja airport since Thursday last week when the weather condition made it impossible for commercial flight operations.

Most of the airports in Europe were closed down and flights postponed.

But following the reopening of airports in the United Kingdom and other parts of Europe, normal flight operations from the Abuja airport on the international route have resumed.

Public Relations Officer of the Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) Mr Alfred Itua who confirmed the report said, "Within the five days that those planes had to remain at this airport, none of their passengers was either stranded or remained within the premises of the airport. Even the crew members had to go and stay in a hotel until Tuesday when all the flights left," he said.

The head of the Immigration service at the airport who spoke through Mr Itua said they have cleared all the passengers that appeared before them travelling to various destinations in Europe.

## N900m scam: EFCC quizzes 10 Benue LG bosses

By Boco Edet

TEN local government chairmen in Benue State who are under investigation for allegedly pilfering over N900million excess crude fund allocated to their councils were quizzed again by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) yesterday. Those interrogated include Mr Joseph Akaaza (Markudi), Clement Agada (Ogbabibo), Iordue Orya (Oshongo), Jonathan Akputu (Kwande), Abaji Samuel (Gwer West), Iwar Simon (Gwer East), Innocent Onu (Otukpo), Odeh Ageh (Obi), David Separ (Ukum) and Ameh Linus (Ohimini). EFCC's spokesman Femi Babafemi said all suspects reported for the second round of interrogation and were kept in custody until the issue of payments were sorted out.

According to EFCC, Markurdi LG boss could not account for N30million out of N93million, in Ogbadibo N40million out of N78.3million was allegedly missing.

Oshongo LG boss allegedly pilfered N40million out of N85.5million granted the council, in Kwande N52.8million out of N99.8million is said to be missing and Gwer East allegedly diverted N54.5million out of a total sum of N86million. Otukpo LG boss is to account for N28.3 million out of N99 million allocation, while his counterpart in Obi is to explain what happened to N7.8 million missing from his N59 million grant. The LG boss of Ukum is to account for N1.2 million out of N92 million, the one in Ohimini council is to explain the misappropriation of N19.6 million out of an allocation of N70 million.



YOUTHS with their hands in the air showing support for the EFCC and police team who came to arrest former Delta State governor James Ibori in Delta State yesterday.

## 2011: Britain tasks politicians on credible polls

By Aisha Umar Agaie

BRITISH High Commissioner to Nigeria Bob Dewar said now is the right time for all Nigerian politicians to decide that they want a credible election in 2011, which is very important for the whole African continent.

The envoy made the statement at his residence in Abuja during the official celebration of the birthday of Queen Elizabeth II who turned 84 on April 21.

Dewar said Nigeria is standing at another important cross road, adding that democratic and constitutional principles and the rule of law need to remain the bedrock.

He said the spotlight is now on practical action to implement good policy,

political will and effective action to take forward important issues which need to be addressed right now.

"They know what behaviour is needed, in particular it would mean holding elections where every vote counts, with a level playing field for all parties and contestants, and where there is zero tolerance for political violence and corruption."

The envoy said Nigeria's electoral body should be truly independent, free from the influence of government or any party. He said the anticorruption agency should also be truly independent and fight corruption without fear or favour or political bias.

He congratulated Nigerians as the country approaches 50 years of independence.

## Jonathan signs local content bill into law

By Mohammed S. Shehu and Hamisu Muhammad

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan has directed that exclusive consideration should henceforth be given to Nigerian indigenous service companies which demonstrate ownership of equipment, Nigerian personnel and capacity to execute jobs in the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry.

He gave this directive yesterday while giving his assent to the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Bill 2010 which seeks to make indigenous participation in the nation's oil industry obligatory.

Jonathan said the new law will "address the compelling need for us as a nation to have indigenous participation in the oil industry", emphasizing that it shall "apply to all matters pertaining to Nigerian content in respect of all operations or transactions carried out or connected with the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry."

He said the Nigerian Con-

tent Development and Monitoring Board established in accordance with the local content Act shall make procedures to guide, monitor, coordinate and implement the provisions of the new law to ensure and enforce measurable and continuous growth of Nigerian content in all oil and gas operations in the country.

Reacting to the development, Minister of Petroleum Resources Mrs Diezani Alison-Madueke said "The Nigerian Content Law has the potential to generate over 30,000 jobs in the next 5 years and has far reaching implications for the issues of technological advancement, long term cost effectiveness, post amnesty programs in the Niger Delta and the improved impact of the Oil & Gas Industry on our National GDP."

GMD of the NNPC, Mallam Shehu Ladan said the multiplier effect of this new law is enormous, adding that the Bill is timely because it sets the stage for the anticipated growth that the PIB.

## Anambra election second best in Nigeria's history, says minister

By Francis Okeke

MINISTER of Labour and Productivity Chief Emeka Wogu said that the recent gubernatorial election in Anambra State was the second best election held in the country's history after June 12, 1993 general elections conducted by Professor Humphrey Nwosu.

Wogu stated this at a meeting with the national executive of Nigeria Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers

(NUPENG) who paid him a courtesy call demanding an end to labour abuses and for immediate electoral reforms before the 2011 elections commence. NUPENG's executive was led by its President Comrade Igwe Achese who expressed concern at what he called anti-Labour practices by oil majors operating in the Niger Delta just as he urged the government to address the issue for the sake of industrial peace and harmony in the region.

The minister said Acting President did not mince word when he came out to tell Nigerians that he will implement electoral reform and is only when you have good electoral reform that you will have a good election.

"The Anambra election has been acknowledged by most Nigerians to be most credible after June 12, 1993. So that shows you the seriousness of this Administration towards electoral reform, and it will be done," he added.

## Tribute

# Shugaba Darman dies at 80

From Isa Umar Gusau, Maiduguri

SHUGABA Abdurrahman Darman, a political actor during the era of late Sir Ahmadu Bello in the 1960's, died Wednesday in Maiduguri at the age of 80. Darman became famous when as majority leader of the Borno State House of Assembly under the defunct Great Nigeria Peoples Party (GNPP) he was deported to Chad in 1980 by the Federal Government under President Alhaji Shehu Shagari of the National Party of Nigerian (NPN) a development that generated intense debates and celebrated litigations in the Second Republic.

Family members at his residence, 71, Kyari Masu Road in Mafoni ward, Maiduguri told Daily Trust that the politician died at about midnight, hours after he was rushed to the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital when he complained of internal heat and was coughing. The family said he was diabetic and had a fracture on October 7, 2009 during a routine exercise to keep fit.

"At about 7:00 pm yesterday (Wednesday) he complained of intense heat and catarrh. He was coughing, so he was taken to the UMTH. At about 10:30 same day, his situation became severe, we all kept praying along with him. We all thought it was one of those illnesses because he was diabetic and on 7th of October last year he had a fracture when he was pedaling a bicycle for exercise which he normally used to do, he spent two months in the UMTH after that incident but he recovered and returned home until some five days ago when he started showing signs of illness for which he was taken to hospital yesterday (Wednesday) and at about 12:00 pm the doctors announced to us that he was dead", Ibrahim Darman, one of the late politician's 29 children said.

He described his late father as someone who was progressive with regular preaching of sincerity, honesty and straightforwardness to his family. He said the father was born in 1920.

Darman in his personal account said he began politics as a young member of the Northern Elements Progressive Union (NEPU) in 1952 in Maiduguri. In 1954, he left NEPU to join the Northern People's Congress (NPC) until 1966 when the republic was interrupted by a military coup in which prominent leaders were killed. While in NPC, he got the title of 'Shugaba' (meaning leader in Hausa) after he became Borno's leader of the youth wing of the Northern Peoples Congress (NPC) which was led by the late Sir Ahmadu Bello at the national level. He was called Shugaban samarin



ALHAJI Shugaba Abdurrahman Darman not long before he died

NPC (leader of NPC youths in Hausa) and even after the end of the First Republic, he remained nick named Shugaba. In 1978, he was a founding member of the Great Nigeria people's Party (GNPP) and was elected member of the Borno State House of Assembly in 1979, after which he became the House Majority Leader while Alhaji Mohammed Goni was governor of Borno under the same party. Darman took part in forming numerous political associations in the 1980's. After the formation of the defunct SDP and NRC by the Ibrahim Babangida regime, he aligned with the late Shehu

Musa Yar'adua in the SDP. In 1998, he was a founding member of the PDP and remained a party elder until he died.

The late Darman shot to limelight as majority leader of the GNPP in the Borno State House of Assembly from 1979 to 1980. Darman was one of the most outspoken leaders of the GNPP who was said to have been regarded as a stumbling block to the ambition of the NPN to make impact in Borno State. During political rallies, Darman attracted many spectators who enjoyed his political speeches that carried criticisms against the NPN which controlled the Federal

Government.

On January 24, 1980, then federal Minister of Interior, Alhaji Bello Maitama Yusuf issued a deportation order titled: Shugaba Abdurrahman Darman's Deportation Order 1980, which was published in the official gazette of the Federal Government of January 25, 1980 which read; "I, the federal Minister of Internal Affairs, being of the opinion that Shugaba Abdurrahman Darman at present in Nigeria ought to be classified as a prohibited immigrant and acting under the powers conferred on me by Section 18 (3) of the Immigration Act 1963, and all other powers enabling me in that behalf accordingly order that the said Shugaba Abdurrahman Darman shall thereafter remain out of Nigeria. This order may be cited as Shugaba Abdurrahman Darman's Deportation Order, 1980. Made at Lagos this 24th day of January, 1980".

The Immigration acted on the order and swiftly went to Darman's residence and whisked him to a village in Chad and left him there. The GNPP government in the state issued a statement and declared his deportation illegal. Initial attempts by his party and his supporters to have him returned after two days failed. He remained out of the country, staying in parts of Chad and Cameroon for nearly 50 days before a High Court in Maiduguri set aside the deportation order in March 1980. By then, the Federal Government was under immense pressure from the GNPP, opposition parties and the 'Nine Progressive Governors' - Alhaji Lateef Jakanda (Lagos), Abubakar Barde (Gongola), Michael

Ajasin (Ondo), Professor Ambrose Alli (Bendel), Abubakar Rimi (Kano), Mohammed Goni (Borno), Balarabe Musa (Kaduna), Bola Ige (Oyo) and Bisi Onabanjo (Ogun).

On his return, the nine governors were in Maiduguri in solidarity with him while he was welcomed with fanfare by opposition party members with some governors outside the North hosting him in state visits. Darman, supported by the governors and his party, filed a suit against the NPN government. The NPN government had brought in a Chadian woman who claimed to be Darman's biological mother, weeping in court and wishing to have her 'son' back in Chad. Darman on his part, insisted that the woman was an impostor and he pointedly claimed that his mother was still alive and was known to all in Maiduguri even though she suffered sight problem. He claimed that some NPN stalwarts in Borno conspired with the government to deport him for fear that the NPN couldn't penetrate the state. After arguments, a high court in a celebrated judgment in May, 1980, ruled in Darman's favour and ordered payment of N350,000 to him as damages. The federal government appealed but lost the case at a court of appeal in Kaduna. The case was taken to the Supreme Court in Lagos but along the line, the military took over and the matter seemingly died off.

Darman left behind three wives, 29 children and many relations. He was buried in Maiduguri yesterday with the funeral attended by many admirers and associates led by Minister of police affairs, Adamu Maina Waziri, former governor Mohammed Goni, PDP's governorship candidate in 2003 and 2007, Alhaji Kashim Imam and numerous other stakeholders of the party and elders in the state.



THE late Darman speaking in Akure while being hosted by the then governor Michael Ajasin of Ondo, (to his left), soon after he returned from deportation in 1980.

"We all thought it was one of those illnesses because he was diabetic and on 7th of October last year he had a fracture when he was pedaling a bicycle for exercise which he normally used to do

# Borno UBEB recruits 5,000 teachers

THE Borno State Universal Basic Education Board (UBEB) said yesterday that it had recruited 5,000 teachers in order to increase the number of teachers in schools.

"The board has recruited 5,000 additional graduate teachers to tackle shortages. Additionally, more than 3,000 others have been promoted and retrained for effective service delivery," Hajiya Maryam Abba-Ibrahim, the Permanent Secretary, Borno UBEB said.

Abba-Ibrahim said in an interview with newsmen in Maiduguri that the board had also absorbed 951 National Certificate in Education (NCE) holders into the service.

"The objective is to ensure that the current high standard of education is maintained through qualitative teaching staff," she said.

Abba-Ibrahim also commended the state government for

paying its counterpart fund for the UBE programme.

"I will like to commend the state government for the prompt payment of its counterpart UBE fund. This has made it possible for us to access the UBE grant regularly. We have been able to execute numerous projects and also purchased teaching materials," she said.

She said the state government had procured instructional mate-

rials worth N100 million for distribution to various primary schools in the state and that the materials would be distributed soon.

Also speaking, Malam Abba Maliwu, the Director of School Services, said the board had renovated several junior secondary schools to provide conducive learning atmosphere for pupils.

He named the schools to include those located in Abbaganaram, Biu and Gwoza, among others. (NAN)

## LG election: ISIEC to begin sale of forms

From Johnkennedy Uzoma, Owerri

THE sale of forms for aspirants for positions of chairman and councillor in the August 7th local government election in Imo State will commence Monday next week.

Chairman of the Imo State Independent Electoral Commission (ISIEC) Barr. Emma Nwonye, who said this while addressing newsmen in Owerri, yesterday said the exercise would take place at the commissions' headquarters in Owerri. He said each of the chairmanship aspirants is expected to pay N 20,000 while aspiring councillors would pay N10,000 each to collect the forms. The chairman said completed forms would be returned to the commission before the close of work on May 18, 2010 with N100,000 and N25,00 for chairmanship and councillorship aspirants respectively as stated in the ISEC law number 5 of 2010 as amended.

He assured that the commission would not charge aspirants for screening, adding that the aspirants could begin campaigns on April 27.

He added that the commission would ensure that competent persons are recruited to assist the commission in conducting the election, saying the commission was determined to ensure free and fair election in the state.

The ISIEC boss said the commission would organize a seminar to create awareness on the election. Nwonye, who assured that the election would be guided by law, warned political parties to desist from blackmail and campaigns of calumny.



FROM left: Chief J. Omene, High Chief Francis Ifie and Chief S. Omene, members of Association of Traditional Rulers of Oil Mineral Producing Communities of Nigeria (TROMPCON) from Delta State at the environmental cleanup and remediation subcommittee in the Niger Delta region meeting in Abuja yesterday.

## Bird strikes Arik plane in Calabar

From Muhammad Bello, Port Harcourt

A black kite bird (*Milvus migrans*) yesterday struck a passenger airliner minutes after it landed at the Margaret Ekpo International Airport in Calabar, Cross River State. The incident is the second in less than a week.

The aircraft, number 5N-MJE, belonging to ARIK airlines, which arrived Calabar from Lagos at about 8:00 a.m. had on board over 100 passengers.

A source at the airport told our correspondent that the bird strike affected the plane's landing gear, making it dif-

ficult for it to manoeuvre on the runway, minutes after it landed. It would be recalled that a Dana Air McDonnell Douglas Aircraft (MD83) on April 19, lost one of its engines on takeoff due to a bird's strike at the Murtala Muhammed Airport, Ikeja, Lagos. The incident forced the pilot to initiate an air return.

The pilot initiated an air-return back to the airport, with Fire Service officials of the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) providing fire cover for safe landing of the aircraft and eventual evacuation of the 97 passengers. Experts estimate that airlines lose N15 billion to bird strikes annually.

## Kebbi goes tough on e-payment saboteurs

From Ismail Adebayo, Birnin Kebbi

THE Kebbi State government Tuesday said it will no longer be lenient with saboteurs of the e-payment system in the state civil service. This followed attack on a female consultant to the Kebbi State government on e-payment. On Tuesday, one Isa Abubakar of the state's Ministry of Agriculture was reported to have beaten up the female consultant over undisclosed reasons. He was alleged to have also destroyed comput-

ers belonging to the consultant's firm.

The state's Commissioner for Finance Alhaji Muhammad Bello Tuga while addressing newsmen said the state government was shocked to hear that a civil servant in the state took the law into his hands without recourse to the civil service laws, to molest a consultant to the government.

The commissioner said the state was aware that some people within the system who had been taking undue advan-

tage of the previous method of payment of civil servants salaries had been working against the e-payment system. Alhaji Tuga said the government had already written to Abubakar's ministry and the Head of Service for a proper punitive action to be taken against him.

"We have also taken it up as a criminal offence so that the police will be involved in the investigation. Hence forth, anyone we get trying to sabotage the e-payment system will be dealt with," she said.

## 2010 training: NTI to give priority to rural teachers

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

PRIORITY will be given to teachers in the rural areas in this year's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) capacity building programme for primary school teachers, the Director-General of the National Teachers' Institute (NTI) Dr. Aminu Ladan Sharehu

has said. Speaking at a meeting with stakeholders on the 2010, MDGs capacity building programme in Kaduna yesterday, he said as much as possible, teachers in the rural areas that had been neglected in the past would be given priority this year. During this year's training, he said states with difficult terrains would be

given more training centres and urged government to provide suitable schools to host the training centres.

"We want to ensure that teachers that have benefited from previous workshops will not be re-nominated, except where all teachers from the state have benefited," he said.

He urged state governments to complement the efforts of the Federal Government by coming up with professional development programmes for teachers in their respective states for the overall development of education in the country. He said the institute is currently partnering with more than 20 states on various teach-

ers' professional development programmes.

Dr. Sharehu while reiterating the readiness of the institute to partner with state governments to upgrade the standard of teachers, said the development of the education sector would not be possible without the training and re-training of teachers.

# Doma charges LGs on sustainable development

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

NASARAWA State Governor Aliyu Akwe Doma has outlined measures to bring about sustainable development in the rural areas, saying local government administrators must meet aspirations of the people.

The governor who is on tour of local government areas and development areas of the state, told a crowd in Karshi Local Govern-

ment Area yesterday that he was not very pleased with the development efforts of the council, but that there was room for improvement.

He said local government chairmen in the state must make themselves part of the implementation of his economic development blue print christened 13-Point Agenda which outlines the development of all sectors within the resources of the state.

"In the course of implementing this agenda, we have embarked on massive socio-economic transformation of the state, particularly in the areas of agriculture, health, education, water supply, road construction and urban development, to mention just a few. "We have also ensured the sustenance of peace and stability, which are necessary for development", Doma added, saying in recognition of the potentials of Karshi and its

proximity to the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), his administration embarked on some priority projects in the area for the good of the people. He identified them as the construction of multi-purpose primary health clinics, renovation and upgrade of educational facilities and infrastructure, creation of access to agricultural loans and inputs for deserving farmers through the Badakoshi and Fadama III Agricultural Schemes

and the construction of Karshi - Takalafiya feeder road which will commence soon.

"I am aware that Karshi is also facing the challenges of rapid urbanisation. This development is not unconnected with the population explosion in the FCT. In order to remedy the situation, Karshi will be covered by the on-going master plan of the state as well as the services of the state's geographic information system", he added.

PIC: KENNEDY EGBONODJE



FROM right: Director, Food and Drug Services, Federal Ministry of Health chairman of the occasion, Chief J.E.B. Adagazu, Chairman, Association of Community Pharmacists of Nigeria (ACPN) Abuja branch, Dr. Ejiro O. Foyibo and Managing Director, Pharmatix Nigeria Limited, Abuja; Mrs. Obegi J. Ogbah, during the association's Pharmacy Week 2010 held in Abuja yesterday.

## NSCDC recruits 234 in Jigawa

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Dutse

TWO hundred and thirty four people have been employed by the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) in Jigawa State, the state Commandant of the corps, Mr Yakubu Wada has said.

Speaking through the Public Relations Officer, Abdulhamid Kabara, the commandant said over 4,000 applied for the job from across the 27 local government areas of the state.

He added that more than half of the successful applicants had collected their appointment letters and gone for training. Wada told the intakes, "You will be trained on how to protect lives and property, hence, you have to respect law and order before you could enforce same on others". The commandant also warned civil defence personnel in the state to desist from all acts capable of destroying the image of the NSCDC and Nigeria in general.

Wada told the intakes, "You will be trained on how to protect lives and property, hence, you have to respect law and order before you could enforce same on others"

## Police seek traditional rulers' support

From Hamza Idris, Damaturu

THE Police cannot comprehensively protect lives and property of citizens without adequate support of traditional rulers and other stakeholders, Mr. Efuntao Olusegun, the Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) in charge of 'F Department' at the Force headquarters in Abuja said in Damaturu Wednesday.

The DIG who paid a courtesy visit to the Emir of Damaturu

Alhaji Hashimi 11 Ibn El-Kanemi said activities of traditional rulers in Yobe State in the areas of community policing and peace building had assisted a lot in making the state one of those with the least crime rate in the country.

The DIG said he was in Yobe State over the rising insecurity in some parts of the country which prompted the Inspector General of Police Mr. Ogbonna Onovo to send his management team comprising all the DIGs to the 12 zonal

commands and state headquarters to appraise the crime prevention measures put in place.

"This tour is equally to restore confidence in the minds of members of the public on police readiness to serve and protect the lives, especially now that electioneering campaigns are about to start", the DIG said. He said efforts were being made to ensure the implementation of the Federal Government's white paper on police reforms, renewed commitment to

combating violent crimes as well as enhance the image and welfare of police personnel. Responding, the emir suggested that government at all levels should provide jobs ex-convicts who repented under oath in order to make them self reliant.

"In Yobe State, some years back we encouraged the government to offer employment to ex-criminals including armed bandits who repented under oath and the policy has helped a lot in reducing crime", the traditional rulers said.

## Anambra PDP gets LG caretaker c'ttees

From Beatrice Onuchukwu, Awka

THE Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Anambra State is strategizing towards the 2011 general election with the inauguration of a 105-member caretaker committee for all the 21 council areas of the state.

The committee comprises of five members from each of the 21 local governments, including at least a woman per council.

Inaugurating the members at

the Prof. Charles Soludo's campaign office in Awka yesterday, the party's chairman of the caretaker committee in the state, Chief Cosmos Ougua Agagbo charged the members to commence the reconciliation process aimed at getting aggrieved members who left the party.

This he said is to ensure that the party is strengthened at the grass roots, pointing out that council areas form the backbone of any political party.

Agagbo said, "We are aware of the issue of factionalization, disintegration and mass exodus of party members to other parties. We have started with the process of reconciliation, and will soon graduate into the secondary assignment and in the shortest time, will organise state, local government and ward congresses", adding that the main objective was to come out victorious in the 2011 election.

The committee's terms of

reference include, "To within 10 days in liaison with the State Caretaker Committee (SCC) constitute a 5-man Congress Caretaker Committee in each of the wards in the LGAs, liaise with the SCC, ward caretaker committee, register PDP members immediately and within the next 14 days produce authentic register for each ward to render periodic register on the committee's assignment to the SCC, and strictly comply with any other duties assigned to

the committee.

It is also to render periodic reports of its assignment as well as carry out any other assignment(s) that may be given to the committee by the SCC. Responding on behalf of the members, Chief Bennett U. Chinweze (Oyi) assured that they would discharge their duties accordingly. He called for support from other party members to ensure their success, promising that they would justify the confidence reposed in them.

## Yobe spends N260m on youth empowerment

From Hamza Idris, Damaturu

YOBE State government has expended the sum of N260m for the training and resettlement of about 1000 youth who acquired skills in various trades at the Youth Development Centre Kano.

Governor Ibrahim Gaidam who yesterday distributed working tools and equipment to the first batch of 700 youth who have completed their training said the initiative was meant to address problems of unemployment in the state.

Gaidam said if the youths are gainfully employed, social vices including restiveness, thuggery and lawlessness will be addressed and the society will develop socially and economically.

"Lack of employment especially among the youths who constitute a significant part of the population is a threat to nation building and self reliance", the governor said.

He said the state government had spent N139 million on the training of the youths while additional 121 million was spent in the procurement of basic tools which were distributed to the beneficiaries free of charge.

Some of the items distributed to the beneficiaries included computers, television and radio repairs kits, carpentry and auto mobile equipment, barbing saloon and welding equipment among others.

## 'Why foreign investors are shunning Nigeria'

By Tina A. Hassan

FOREIGN investors are afraid of coming in to invest in Nigeria because of persistence insecurity in the country, General Secretary of the Baptist Church in Nigeria Rev. Ademola Ishola has said.

He said at a press conference in Abuja that the alarming insecurity of lives and properties is evident in the collapse of infrastructures, especially bad roads.

Rev Ishola said lack of basic infrastructure like electricity, clean water, good roads and good security make investors scared of putting in their money in the Nigerian economy.

He also frowned at the state of roads across the country, which he said have become death traps.

"We are very concerned about the endless epileptic power supply in the country and the unfulfilled 6000MW promised by the present administration and also the level of insecurity of lives and property.

"We are also saddened by the collapse of many textile industries in Kaduna, Kano and other industrial cities as well as the mental agony many artisans and small scale businessmen go through," he added.

# Customs boss writes Jonathan over threat to life

By Adelanwa Bamgboye

COMPTROLLER General (CG) of the Nigerian Customs Service (NCS) Alhaji Abdullahi Dikko Inde has written to acting President Goodluck Jonathan over alleged threat to his life and that of counsel handling his cases in court.

In the letter dated April 20th, 2010 and signed by his counsel Amobi Nzelu, the Custom boss appealed to the acting president to order a 'proper and thorough' investigation to determine the source of all the text messages threatening their lives and prosecute the originators.

The CG also copied the Senate President, Speaker of House of Representatives, National Security Adviser, including the Director General of State Security Service (SSS) and the

Inspector General of Police, stating that six cases are pending in court challenging the libelous and defamatory publications made against him.

He said "On the 19th day of April, 2010 as we arrived court, one of the lawyers in the team defending our client, A.H. Umar Esq. received a text message in the following words: "Never be surprised if we got 'ur no. We shall all get u. Jail our crusader and we kill all of you," and another saying "Tell him let abandon this cases and resign or we kill him and all the arsenal."

Amobi Nzelu, who said he received similar text, noted that "The striking thing in this matter was to the effect that both messages came on the day the committal proceedings against Festus Keyamo was coming up and from the

same telephone number 0704-290-4173.

He said from the contents of the text messages, "it is clear that what the senders are after is not the issue of alleged certificate forgery concerning our client but the seat of Comptroller General of Nigeria Customs Services being presently by the grace of God occupied by our client."

The Custom boss, through his counsel Amobi Nzelu, said the purport of his letter is to draw attention to the threats to his life and those of his counsel, "especially in this era of unresolved murder and assassination."

Lagos lawyer Festus Keyamo had also written a petition to the acting president seeking a probe into the allegations of certificate forgery levelled against the CG.

The matter is now a subject of litigation.

PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE



FROM right: Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives Usman Bayero Nafada, Deputy House of Representatives Chief Whip Aminu Waziri Tambuwal and Deputy Minority Leader Sumaila Kawu during the public hearing on industry held in Abuja yesterday.

## Reforms to cut NNPC staff welfare by N500m

By Hamisu Muhammad

WITHIN the next 100 days, the expenditure of the staff welfare of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) will be slashed by about N500 million as a cost saving strategy, it has emerged.

Daily Trust also learnt that the NNPC management has set out three more strategic initiatives to reduce cost and promote staff efficiency.

The current compensation system of the

corporation will be reviewed anytime, and the Human Resources division said it is designing systems to achieve autonomy for business units and developing a dual career path for technical and managerial cadre.

The Group General Manager, Group Human Resources Division, Alhaji Auwalu Abubakar, said at a two-day retreat organised by division in Abuja last week that the reforms are necessary for the corporation to survive the ever-changing oil and gas business.

He said in the next 100 days, transforma-

tion plan of the corporate services directorate, the GHRD has marshaled-out four strategies.

Abubakar said in developing the human resource strategic aspirations for 2010 and beyond, the GHRD will focus on optimal resourcing of HR practice, effective service delivery and operational excellence.

He said the division will leave no stone unturned in supporting the corporate transformation as well as the oil and gas industry reforms.

## Ex-Permsec Umaru Aji dies at 58

By Muideen Olaniyi

MALAM Umaru Aji, who retired mid-last year as Permanent Secretary (Human Development) office of the Head of Service, died yesterday at the age of 58.

He died the National Hospital Abuja after protracted illness.

Umaru Aji attended

Government College Keffi from where he moved to Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria where he did his Bachelors and Masters Degree in Education and moved to University of Sokoto as lecturer.

An active member of the People's Redemption Party (PRP), he was appointed as Director, Agency for Mass Educa-

tion in Kano by Governor Abubakar Rimi where he excelled beyond expectations and was recognized by UNESCO which awarded the agency the prize for the best performing mass literacy programme in Africa in 1982.

He went back to the University of Sokoto but was brought back to Kano Polytechnic as Deputy

Rector.

In 1987, he moved to DFRRRI and when MAMSER was carved out from it, he became National Director, Mass Mobilization.

He subsequently moved to Jigawa as the State Director, after MAMSER was transformed into National Orientation Agency (NOA), a

position he held until he was appointed as Commissioner of Education in the state, among others.

A native of Gurin near Hadejia in Jigawa State, Malam Umaru is survived by a wife Maryam and two children Yusuf and Fatima as well as brothers, a sister and many relatives. He will be buried this morning in Gurin, Jigawa State.

# 'Character commission not quota system campaigner'

By Onimisi Alao

CHAIRMAN of the Federal Character Commission (FCC) Professor Shuaibu Oba Abdulraheem said commission is not a quota system campaigner but an institution that presents a fair playing ground for all Nigerians seeking appointments to public

offices across the country. "What we've always clarified is that this is not a quota system body, it is an equal opportunity commission, an equitable starting point for employment into public services," Professor Abdulraheem said.

The FCC boss who spoke in Abuja during a merit award

ceremony conducted for him by a nongovernmental organisation, CITAR, said the commission recognises merit and insists that merit supersedes all other considerations.

He said, "Even by the law that establishes the commission, it is an offence for an employer of labour to overlook the requirement

for merit. We don't give certificate of compliance to any employer who has been seen to have bypassed the requirement for merit. So, whoever is employable must be such a person that has met the minimum qualification required for the performance of the duty for which he is applying."

Professor Abdulraheem

made the clarification in a chat with newsmen at the close of a ceremony in which the CITAR, an organisation which says it specializes in encouraging sustainable human development conferred on him a 'Special Inspirational Leadership and Role Model Recognition'.

In a speech during the ceremony, the Team Leader of the NGO and former deputy Senate President, Senator John Wash Pam, said the NGO decided to give the FCC's chief executive the Role Model Award because he dared to make changes which his predecessors could not make.

## Mantu, Nakande, Sango others deny hand in Plateau crisis

By Abbas Jimoh

ALHAJI Ibrahim Mantu, Mr. Damishi Sango, Alhaji Ibrahim Nakande, Mr. Danladi Atu, Alhaji Sale Bayeri, Chris Giwa and Mr. Samaila Mohammed have all denied making any move to unleash terror and mayhem in Plateau State.

The group said in a jointly signed statement that the publication in last Wednesday's Nation Newspaper linking them to a planned attack today is all aimed at injuring their reputation by a group of

faceless person hiding under one Sale Garba and wonder why such a grievous allegation would be published without the address of the petitioner.

"It is clear that the authors have made these grave allegations against a combination of Muslim and Christian stakeholders in Plateau. Interestingly, even Chris Giwa who is Berom is among the accused persons. The curious question now is how on earth could we have shared these uniforms to the Christians and Muslims?"

## 75% of Nigeria's tax is not collected

By Sunday Williams

NIGERIA collects only about 25 percent of its tax while 75 percent is not collected, Director General of Centre for Management Development (CMD) Dr. Kabir Sabo Usman has said.

Speaking yesterday when visited the Nigerian Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), the Director General said that lack of data accounts for the difficulty

in collection of tax in the country.

He said: "It is not tax evasion issue but about lack of information. People don't have the record or relevant information so the infrastructure is not established as in other places like the UK. Unless you have the data in terms of demography, location, earnings, record of expenditure etc it will be difficult to collect all the collectable tax."

## Lawyers urged to uphold equal justice

By Ogechi Ohalee

FORMER Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India Justice P.N Bhaqwati has advised Nigerian lawyers to always ensure that justice reaches every one's doorstep irrespective of their social and financial status.

He gave the advice in Abuja on Wednesday during his induction into

the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies Hall of Fame.

Justice Bhaqwati who is currently the Vice Chairman, UN Human Rights Committee, emphasized that public-spirited individual or social action group which has initiated the public interest litigation and providing wide ranging remedies to the disadvantaged people, should not

remain content with merely obtaining court order but should take the necessary follow-up action and maintain constant pressure on the state authorities.

He said if any court order is not respected, it should be immediately brought to the notice of the court so that the court can call upon the state authorities to render an explanation as to why the court

order has not been carried out.

Speaking at the occasion, Director-General, Nigeria Institute of Advanced Legal Studies Professor Epiphany Azinge, SAN, said hall of fame is instituted to honour individuals that have made monumental contributions in the field of law and related disciplines, particularly those areas that impact on humanity.



The new Shehu Yar'adua Army Barracks, Abuja, constructed by army engineers through direct labour.

PIC: MISBAHU BASHIR

## Council condemns attack on travelers near Jos

By AbdulMutallib A. Abubakar

REGIONAL Council for Conflict Management and Mitigation (CMMRC) has condemned the unwarranted and violent attack on innocent travellers by some youth in Tahoss village in Riyom, Plateau State.

The council's Vice Chairman Ezekiel Gomos said in a statement yes-

terday that the authorities in Riyom including traditional and religious leaders, politicians, elders, ward and community leaders should join hands with the state government and the Special Military Task force to unravel and put a stop to this unending cycle of violence in the area.

Gomos also called on youths in other crises

affected parts of the state not to take the laws into their hands and resort to self-help but to allow the security agencies to handle all breaches of the peace.

He sympathised with the victims of what he referred to as "latest barbaric attack" saying violence only begets violence and no development can take place in such an

atmosphere.

He said it is obvious that if critical stakeholders do not urgently get together and stop the violence on the Plateau, socio-economic development will surely elude the state as already the economic and human cost implications of the lingering crises has reached disturbing dimensions.

### CORRIGENDUM



#### Ministry of Defence

(Presidential Committee on Barracks Rehabilitation)

Area 11, Garki - Abuja

This is to inform the general public that No 4 item C of the 2 half pages black and white advert placed in Dailytrust (pg 49) and Vanguard (pg 51) of Wednesday April 21, 2010 is expunged.

Please take note.

Signed:

ARC. O. OLADYINBO-OJOMO

Ag. Chairman, PCBR  
for Honourable Minister

## Sultan, Onaiyekan harp on peace

From Muhammad Abubakar, Bauchi

THE Sultan of Sokoto, Muhammad Sa'ad and the National President of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) Arch Bishop John Onaiyekan have called on Nigerians, irrespective of religious leanings to understand and tolerate each other so that they can co-exist peacefully for the development of the country. The two leaders said this at the opening ceremony of the first quarter general meeting of the Nigeria Inter Religious Council (NIREC) in Bauchi State yesterday.

The meeting which had in attendance religious leaders and traditional rulers from the North was aimed at finding a solution to incessant crises in the region. Abubakar Sa'ad and John Onaiyekan, who are co-chairmen of NIREC, condemned the crises in the region.

"We need to understand, respect and tolerate one another. As a Muslim, you need to understand your Christian brother and his religion and also as a Christian, you must understand your Muslim brother and his religion", the sultan said.

He said NIREC was made up of 25 Muslim leaders and 25 Christian leaders with 50 voluntary religious leaders.

"The council was formed to enable religious leaders come together and engage themselves in dialogue, because dialogue is the best way to tackle problems. By the Grace of God, we will find a solution to religious crises in the region," he added.

Archbishop John Onaiyekan while reiterating the council's commitment towards ensuring a cordial relationship between Christians and Muslims in the country said NIREC was not a government organization neither did it have any political ambition. He maintained that it was for the sole purpose of ensuring peace and harmony among the people.

Bauchi State Governor Isa Yuguda on his part said no country could witness any meaningful development without the peaceful coexistence of its people, warning politicians to desist from using youths to cause trouble while seeking elective offices. The meeting had in attendance many religious leaders and traditional rulers from the North, among them were the emirs of Kano, Ilorin and the Shehu of Borno.

## Jos crisis: Court discharges teenage suspect

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

THE Federal High Court in Jos, Plateau State yesterday discharged a 15 year old boy, Adamu Mohammed Rabi'u, of Yan kasuwa Rikkos of charges of involvement in the Jos crisis filed against him. Adamu, a motorcycle mechanic, was among the over 100 suspects of the Jos crises arraigned before Justice Binta Bala Aliyu yesterday.

The discharge followed an application by the prosecution counsel, who is the Director for Public Prosecution in the office of the Attorney General of the Federation, Barrister Alex Adama, to withdraw the charges filed against the accused. Barrister Adama said the office of the Attorney General will file charges against him in the Magistrate Court because of his age.

However, when the boy's counsel attempted to take him

out of the court, the Police Officer in charge of Legal asked the Mobile police men at the gate not to allow the suspect to go because he was only discharged, not acquitted. The matter was later settled.

The prosecution counsel also applied to withdraw the fresh charges filed against the suspects transferred from the Abuja Federal High Court to the Jos Federal High Court over the January 17, crisis. The judge agreed and struck out the charges filed in Jos on March 25, 2010 and continued with the earlier charges filed by the prosecutors in Abuja.

All the accused persons pleaded not guilty to the charges preferred against them by the prosecution and the judge fixed May 4, 5, 6 and 11, 12, 13, and 18, 19, 20 for continuation of hearing in the matter. He also ordered that the suspects be remanded in prison custody.

## Police orderly denies romance with deputy governor

MISS Nkeiru Ogueri, the police orderly to the wife of the Abia State deputy governor, has denied an alleged love affair with her principal's husband.

The denial followed newspaper reports that Ogueri was attacked by her principal, Mrs Uchechi Akomas, who allegedly accused her of getting too close to the Deputy Governor, Chief Chris Akomas.

Addressing newsmen in Umuahia yesterday, the orderly said at no time did her principal attack her or inflict injuries on her. She said the injury on her head was self-inflicted, saying she hit her head on the car door while hurrying to open it for her principal.

"We were scheduled for an assignment, but as we were waiting outside for signals to take-off, I was pressed and went into

the office to ease myself. Before I could finish, someone was shouting my name that we were set to move and as I rushed to open the door for my principal, I hit my head on the door," she said.

Ogueri said the deputy governor's wife could not have inflicted injury on her as she had never disagreed with her on any issue. Also speaking at the briefing, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) in the state, Mr Ali Okechukwu, said the clarification became necessary to dispel the rumour.

Okechukwu said those peddling the rumour might have wanted to use it to settle personal differences.

He said he had contacted the chief security detail of the deputy governor, who confirmed that the injury on Ogueri was self-inflicted. (NAN)

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- Responsible for channel management and market development in the area of operations
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- Undertake marketing support activities to enhance the product brand.

**Role Profile:** A first degree in any discipline plus an MBA from a recognized university or business school. Minimum of 10 years post qualification experience in sales and marketing, 5 of which must have been in leading and managing teams of sales and marketing professionals. Should not be more than 40 years.

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# Online Reactions

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON [www.dailytrust.com](http://www.dailytrust.com)



## ALHAJI Atiku Abubakar Adamawa PDP blocks Atiku

I have read with dismay all those berating Jubril Aminu and Nyako for opposing Atiku's return the PDP. They forgot so early the humiliating treatment Atiku meted to Aminu and Buba Marwa when the latter wanted to join the PDP in preparation for his 2007 presidential ambition. Let Atiku taste a portion of his bitter medicine which he wielded against his kinsmen when he was in power. What goes around comes around

**Aminu Baba**  
ambabazaria@yahoo.co.uk

This is unacceptable. How can you stop a bona fide citizen of this country from going back to a party he founded? I would advise the PDP NEC to wade into this matter before it gets out of hand. Atiku has our support and only God can stop him.

**Abubakar Umar**  
whatlegacy@yahoo.com

I have a question for Jubril Aminu, nyako and other Adamawa state PDP leaders who have refused to abide by the constitution of the party that Atiku be registered back in PDP together with his supporters. Could it be that they are scared of him hijacking the party from them as he returns or why have they decided to make him more popular by their action?

**Tina Oko**  
okotina45@yahoo.com

## Jonathan caves in - PDP NEC meets Tuesday

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan should please limit his scope to 2011 rather than set up an unrealizable target for 20:2020 vision. That way he will be effective.

**Abubkr Badru Jkamshi**  
damurna@yahoo.com

What is wrong in Jonathan becoming the president of Nigeria? I believe those who are against him are corrupt officers who need to be ousted out of office if need be. Jonathan has proved himself worthy in the short period of his acting presidency office. Nigerians, let's give him a chance. Thank you.

**Emmanuel U. Duru**  
emmyduru4gud@yahoo.com

The masses of this country are tired of northern/southern angles to everything in the leadership of this country. Goodluck, we can now see electricity for 24 hours and there are no more fuel queues. Please more of this luck that is good is what Nigeria needs and nothing else.

**Sagir Bununu**  
mgwaska@yahoo.com

## 'Why Kaduna prisoners rioted'

THERE is serious indiscipline in our prison system. Gullibility and the need to make easy money through whatever means are the

main problems with our public sector. Rich and influential prisoners will continue to have their ways in the prisons if real and concrete steps

are not taken by the prison authorities to check this activity. There are many 'Reverend Kings' and politicians in the prison who easily get

their ways simply because they can buy their freedom. It is a pity.

**Abdullahi Ibrahim**  
giriabdul@yahoo.com

## FG borrows \$1bn from World Bank

BUT why has emphasis of the budgetary provisions for so long now in Nigeria shifted significantly from the goal of achieving domestic & external balance to that of how to obtain financial resources to meet government proposed expenditure? I am worried because it now appears that we being gradually and cunningly trapped back into a debt crisis that would affect even the future generation because our politicians want to finance 2011's election under the veil of financing infrastructural deficit which for donkey years has defied solution. My honest advise is that we should not accept any carrot being dangled before us rather we should that ensure our proposed expenditure pattern is related to movement in receipt.

**Nura Kabuga**  
nurakabuga@yahoo.com

I will like to suggest to the Acting President Goodluck Jonathan that instead of a 7-point agenda,

he should please focus on a 1 point agenda that is achievable. The improvement in our power sector will suffice. That alone can help in achieving the vision 20-20 plans of the government.

**Abubkr Badru Jkamshi**  
damurna@yahoo.com

It's great to hear that the Acting President will be signing the year's budget today. We hope that the National Assembly will, through its oversight functions, ensure that the budget is implemented to the latter. Furthermore, it is disheartening to hear that Nigeria is going a-borrowing again after the loan pay back by the Obasanjo administration. Of what import are all these loans to average Nigerians?

**Ibrahim T. Ibrahim**  
elkutigi@gmail.com

The Federal Government is yet to convince us of any need to borrow funds again. It is counterproductive



ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan

because previous execution of borrowed funds has been in marred controversy. After all, the presidency has never executed any budget. The argument to borrow in other to fund this year's budget deficit is lame.

**Adzu Midlu**  
adzumails@yahoo.com

When OBJ paid-off Nigeria's foreign loan during his tenure we were

all proud and happy because we were told that that was the beginning of freedom. Here we are again going to borrow to augment budget deficit. What brought about the deficit in the first place? If our leaders are sincere the best way to manage our lean purse is to reduce the cost of governance.

**H. I. Rogo**  
papaharuna09@gmail.com

## The 'Mega Party' humpty-dumpty: Many chiefs, no Indians

THIS is a good analysis. The summary of all this is that a mass-based, ideologically oriented party cannot be formed overnight utilizing the methodology of chop-chop parties like the PDP. The party that you clamor for will take sustained mobilization, organization, discipline and struggle to create and nurture. It (the party)

is least about 2011 (or, even 2015,) elections, for that matter. But, it is about winning power on a long term basis and using it to improve the lives over 150 million Nigerians disempowered by the present scheme of things. Buhari is an ideal leader for such a movement. But, does he realize this? Does he realize and accept the practical impli-

cations of these? Or, is he consumed by the unnecessarily mindless and painfully distracting ambition to be 'President' at all costs, utilizing the discredited and corrupt PDP methodology? These are some of the questions, Malam Kawu. Only time will tell!

**Mohammed**  
excys1@yahoo.com

## Students want FG to abolish HND, degree dichotomy

WHY should the office of HOS stall the approval? Don't they see how organizations and individuals clearly discriminate on this issue? HND has no reason to continue if it cannot be equal to a university degree. NAPS please let's organize to protest the HOS action.

**Salisu**  
usman\_salisu@yahoo.com

The purpose of polytechnic is

to equip tomorrow's leaders with practical and technical knowledge for them to squarely address the potential and existing practical and technical problems that may arise. The problem lies with our government, both military and civilian. They would preach the gospel of technological development and instead of underpinning its foundation, they destroy it. Nigeria at 50 is still hiring foreign experts to install railways,

to dredge the Niger, to invest etc. The duration and academic exposure are the same for both HND and Bsc. But in practice and experience exposure, the HND holders are better. Government considers HND graduates undesirable. Private sector considers both university and polytechnic graduates half-baked. What is required in Nigeria?

**Ashafa Abubakar**  
ashman1428@yahoo.com

## ANPP demands Igbeke's swearing-in at Senate

THE Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria under the leadership of David Mark is setting a dangerous precedence by not swearing in Mr. Igbeke who was declared winner of the

2007 election in Anambra North senatorial district after INEC has issued him a certificate of return. If the Law must rule, the law makers must observe the rule of law by respecting the

verdict of the Court of Appeal Enugu division that returned Mr. Igbeke as the duly elected senator.

**Ibrahim T. Ibrahim**  
elkutigi@gmail.com

## 'Why doctors must head health ministry'

IT is quite unfortunate that Nigerians and the Nigerian nation live on falsehood and sycophancy all in search of favoritism either for self or group gain. The same medical doctors who strongly feel there should be a Surgeon-General are not in support of Pharm.D in the country - a programme that has been operational for long in the USA where they are borrowing the Surgeon-General portfolio from.

And I will like to ask this professor of medicine to sincerely tell us if the work in the health ministry is medical or administrative and what makes him think that it is only medical doctors that have got the training to lead any medical team which include other very prominent and dynamic professionals like pharmacists, physiotherapists, nurses, medical lab. scientists, microbiologist and others.

**Adinoyi Yahaya A**  
yahadeen@yahoo.com

## Come and clear your name - Farida tells Ibori

THE face-off between the EFCC and former governor of Delta state James Ibori is threatening to snowball into something more serious than just an investigation going by the recent reactions by his supporters.

**Abubkr Badru Jkamshi**  
damurna@yahoo.com

## Oyinbo at it again

“It is like someone using teaspoon to steal water from the ocean. By the time you become aware, he has already done enough damage.” That’s how they do it.

I once watched an ‘Oyinbo’ agency advert on television about child abuse; about a father who slapped his son and was about pulling his belt. I thought these people were being insincere. Knowing their ‘Oyinbo’ culture and values are very different from our own, couldn’t they have chosen something else to portray child abuse?

A visit to the NTA’s *Newsline* archive would surely provide a lot of footage to drive the point home better. And as people are bound to be ashamed by being beamed on national television, perhaps this would help in checking these problems.

We all know that our cultures are not the same. Therefore, before we swallow what they say hook, line and sinker, please remember this advert coming from a person whose child shouts at, whose child walks out on, as his talking does not give you an alternative to what to do otherwise. When he does, please remember to cross-check to see if it did work for him, or what kind of society he lives in.

I believe every religion preaches that we punish the wrong doer as a way of correcting him and deterring others.

Are we not the same people that get offended if given something with the left hand? So how can someone convince you to take the same left hand while eating?

Do you believe them because you feel they are always right? Imagine, they invented the feeding bottle and told our Mums to give us cow milk and now made a U-turn to say a mother’s breast is the best. They made profits off our Mums for the bottles and the milk and made many a grandmother grumble as she watched a human child being brought up on animal milk.

As a matter of fact, how many ‘un-oyinboyish’ things do you know? Things you can remember from olden days that Mum and Grand Mum did, that ‘Oyinbo’ is now discovering works better.

Is it child delivery? Yes it is confirmed and they have agreed that the squatting method is the most natural way. Now even their hospitals give the option of squatting if one wants.

Is it birth companion? They are now encouraging it even citing examples from ancient Egypt. African women have always known that you need someone very close to you, a woman like you, most probably who has had a child or two. So ones grandmother, mother and aunts are ever ready.

How about eating with the left hand? I cannot comprehend how it got into our people. Are we not the same people that get offended if given something with the left hand? So how

## Hajiyayye Liman

maumarzuq@yahoo.com

can someone convince you to take the same left hand while eating?

One just needs to watch the programs on our televisions to see how they dump their programs, trying to erode our culture and values? You can’t watch any television program without seeing a woman virtually naked. They’ve taken nudity to the height of fashion, the less you wear the more fashionable you are!

Because they are clever, the target audience are young adults who have time to devote to the Soap Operas, the musical clips – see this ‘shimi (camisole) age’ as I call it, these programs were bombarded with young girls wearing these things as the ‘in-thing’, that is in vogue, in season and so it caught on in Nigeria whether from ‘bend down’ markets or boutiques. Our girls just got to wear, but who says you have to be naked to be beautiful? Besides have you forgotten when they first brought us the ‘shimi’ chemise, camisole vest, they said it was to be worn beneath ones clothing! It was even considered ‘un-lady’ like to let it or the bra straps to appear from underneath your dress.

It’s like as they threw away their morals, a piece of clothing went with it. Just watch movies from the sixties and see how their women dressed. These were women who wouldn’t even let a man see their ankles! But they have reincarnated in women whose bosoms are a feast for the eyes of anyone that cares to look.

Just imagine the extra work to our University administrators. They now have to go about making dress codes for their students, when at eighteen and above, they are adults and should know better.

Let’s clean up our television programs/adverts, because we have a whole generation growing up on television programs. They have taken over ‘yar gala-gala’ (children’s play), ten-ten, etc. If we allow these people to dump every trash on us, not considering our culture and values, as we watch the stuff from day to day, even those things not in consonance with our culture and hitherto considered abnormal, become normal. It becomes a part of us and therefore ingrained in a considerable number of our young adults, therefore some people have succeeded over us, pushing their own culture, values and way of life on not only these young adults but, their children too.

This generation of people will now come to see the world their way, just how they want them to see it. So if this is not ‘abuse’ I don’t know what is – if you asked me, I would say it’s even ‘double abuse’.

Finally, don’t just believe this or that is child abuse because they say so. Give a stern look when it should be given, a shout when necessary, a spanking at the right time, a smile when it should be given, a hug when it is deserved and a reward when it is merited.



By Aloy Ejimakor

## Dingyadi vs. Wamakko: What Supreme Court’s intervention means

The Supreme Court recently issued a stay-of-proceedings order on the ‘second’ Sokoto governorship election petition, which is before the Court of Appeal. That intervention came at about the time appeal court was to give its final decision. A party to the case, Alhaji Magatakarda Wamakko raised a constitutional an under Sections 295 and 36 of the Constitution in addition to allegations of bias he previously made before the National Judicial Council (NJC) against six Justices of the Court of Appeal, including its president.

The case is certainly a controversial one, not least because of its drawn-out nature. It has already gone two full cycles from when it first began in 2007 with Dingyadi’s initial challenge of Wamakko’s electoral victory in court, and succeeded in getting the election annulled on his contention that the election was marred by irregularities and that Wamakko was unqualified to contest.

However, the court also ordered that Wamakko was eligible to contest in the re-run election, in which Wamakko prevailed. But the question that Dingyadi has been asking the courts to answer since then is whether Wamakko, who was ruled unqualified for the 2007 election could also, by the same judgment, granted be qualified to be a candidate in the re-run election. It may appear a simple question to determine, but it was one that to date is still exercising the bar

The process Wamakko filed under Section 295 before the Supreme Court is not a direct and absolute appeal of a ‘governorship election’ petition

and bench.

Now, Section 295(3) says that “Where any question as to the interpretation or application of this constitution arises in any proceedings in the Court of Appeal and the court is of opinion that the question involves a substantial question of law, the court may, and shall if any party to the proceedings so requests, refer the question to the Supreme Court which shall give its decision upon the question and give such directions to the Court of Appeal as it deems appropriate”.

The process Wamakko filed under Section 295 before the Supreme Court is not a direct and absolute appeal of a ‘governorship election’ petition, over which it is not in dispute that the Supreme Court has no jurisdiction; rather it is a single-issue, narrow appeal of Court of Appeal decision or opinion on a ‘question that borders on

the interpretation of the constitution’, which immediately triggered Supreme Court jurisdiction regardless of any other constitutional provision.

Another pertinent fact to keep in mind is that Section 295 (like Section 233(2) (b) also began by saying that “Where any question as to the interpretation or application of this constitution arises in any proceedings in the Court of Appeal”. So, both Sections are in companion and in pari materia. Besides, they are clearly meant

Thus, under the tenor of Section 233(2) (b) alone, an interlocutory appeal clearly lies to the Supreme Court on the narrow ‘question of law alone’ raised by Wamakko

to be a limited constitutional exception to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal on governorship election petitions, provided the specific conditions enumerated therein are met.

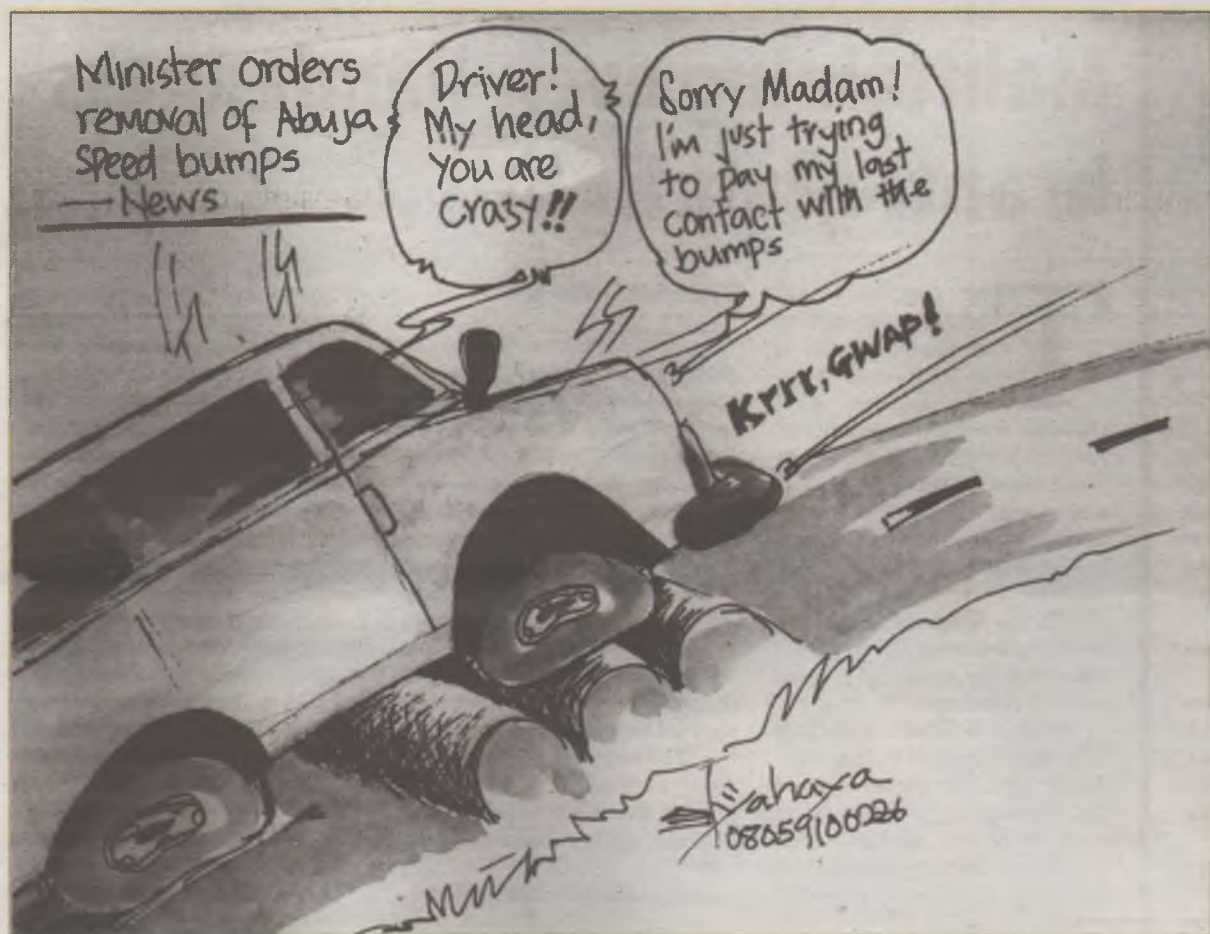
Upon due consideration, I dare say that Wamakko met all those conditions. Thus, under the tenor of Section 233(2) (b) alone, an interlocutory appeal clearly lies to the Supreme Court on the narrow ‘question of law alone’ raised by Wamakko. Therefore, at this juncture, I will again resolve this issue in favour of CJN Katsina-Alu.

Under the *Third Schedule to the Constitution*, the Chief Justice, sitting as the Chairman of the National Judicial Council, has disciplinary powers over the President and Justices of the Court of Appeal. And this often arises when a litigant before them raises allegations of bias or breach of other judicial code of ethics.

The disciplinary control of the NJC over the Court of Appeals and its President includes the authority to receive and determine petitions against them and recommend their removal from office. Removals are often mandatory once they are recommended.

Here we are with a spate of petitions pending against the President and five Justices of a Court of Appeals, believed by a party-opponent before them to have lost their impartiality. What to do? Simple - put the Court of Appeal case on hold, hear the Sections 295 and 36 actions, dispose of the petitions, and bam: the case goes back to the Court of Appeal, which, if however it renders its decision, the heavens will not fall in the Caliphate because everyone would have been rest assured that the proceedings passed all the necessary ‘integrity tests’.

Ejimakor can be reached at alloy-law@yahoo.com



By Vincent Agha

### Dingyadi vs. Wamakko: Awaiting Supreme Court's June 4 verdict

The intervention of the Chief Justice of Nigeria, Justice Aloysius Katsina-Alu in the appeal judgment in the Sokoto gubernatorial case has been controversial, to say the least. It may have exposed a possible rift between the CJN and President of the Appeal Court on one hand and Justices of the Supreme Court and Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) on the other.

What happened recently during the conferment of title of Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN) to some lawyers at the Supreme court further showed highlighted the rift between the bar and bench. The exclusion of the President of the NBA and Attorney General of the Federation to deliver their speeches at that occasion testified to that. The danger is that the Sokoto gubernatorial election saga is casting questions of integrity on the conduct of men of the noble profession. It has dragged some politics into it too.

Recently, Senator Dahiru Tambuwal, who is the Chairman Senate Committee on Judiciary, and who should be out of the fray as an impartial lawmaker, swore to an affidavit supporting the suspension of judgment of the Court of Appeal on Sokoto Appeal matter.

The stand taken by the CJN on this matter is a very complicating factor in this issue that long should have been determined without such interference.

Even the administrative interference of the court proceeding by the CJN will in no small measure further tarnish the image of the judiciary. It is high time to call CJN to order and allow justice to take its course no matter whose ox is gored! We may not know it, but the signs are they that crisis is brewing in the judiciary as a result of this unwarranted indiscrete intervention!

It is well-known that twice the judges of the appeal court attempted to deliver their judgment; twice the CJN and Supreme Court intervened and stopped its delivery.

This is not only delay tactics; it may eventually be a calculated effort to allow the case to lapse, which would be an unfortunate injustice.

Now that the justices of the Supreme Court have announced June 4 as date of ruling to determine their stand on this matter, it may be that the outcome would sharpen judicial independence over issues that affect election matters in Nigeria.

Counsel to Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Malam Yahaya Mahmud is understandably biased in his public comments on the matter because of the prior illegality in which INEC allowed to conduct the re-run election in dispute.

Nigerians look forward confidently to the statement of Justice Mahmoud Mohammed that doing justice has not been compromised; justice should be done to all the parties.

This is the most opportune time to reconcile themselves to protect the sanctity and trust of the law. The political stand of senators over such issue is pointer that some of our Senators are more interested in their selfish interest than ensuring fairness and justice.

For ensuring justice and rule of law according to the constitutional provision in Nigeria, the Presidency, National Assembly and other eminent jurists should have waded in as matter of principle into this judicial crisis, before the matter threatened to bring the judiciary close to disrepute.

On the other hand, the NBA was right to protest the undue interest of the CJN, to the extent of interfering in the processes of the Appeal court and other courts.

Nigerian Judiciary must maintain the provisions in the Nigerian Constitution that specify the constitutional limits of every court, as the NBA has canvassed. Great care must therefore be taken that superior courts do not go beyond the limits of their constitutional jurisdiction and trample on the jurisdictions of lower courts.

It is time we reminded our revered lordships that it's sensible to stand on their feet. They need not to succumb to any political pressure in order to go astray. Otherwise, it is the much-vaunted new-found independence of the judiciary would fizzle out like it never happened.

I'll close with this quotation of the NBA over the current debacle affecting the Judiciary. *'To make meaningful progress in our democracy, all of us involved in the administration of justice must always take steps not only to obey the constitution but adhere to its terms'*

Agha is of the Nigerian Network For Justice, Waff Road, Kaduna.

### Your Letters

Send your letters to [letters@dailytrust.com](mailto:letters@dailytrust.com)

### A tale of two cities?

I read in the papers that the legendary Diego Maradona has finalized (please note, not draft list of) his team for his Argentinean players that will trade tackles with their Nigerian counterpart come June 12 at the world cup. We also read that 20

players out of a possible 23 players (barring injury or other calamities) will be in his squad to South Africa.

Meanwhile, back home the Nigeria coach Lars Lagerback {some call him "Lag-at-Back" has just submitted a least of 44 players which he still needs to prune down to 23 before the start of the World Cup tournament which is some 50 days away. What it means is that we don't have a squad yet when other countries are already putting finishing touches to their

preparations. As at today, the South Africa team camping in Germany will be playing a warm-up match with North Korea, the quality of the opposition does not matter for as long as it affords a coach the opportunity to perfect his strategies.

With our level of preparation and other things staring us in the face, do we need a soothsayer to tell us how we will perform at the Mundial?

J Jatua, Minna

### Text us on 08 131 8000 30

#### No-go area?

IT is very unfortunate and painful that even passersby through Plateau State were not exempt from the incessant killing in that state. As far as various governments show no concern in protecting the lives and properties of the people, my advice to the travellers to the various states is that they should shun Plateau state to save their lives.

HAMISU G Mele, Abuja, 08039785895.

#### Why attack the innocent?

THE killing of innocent travellers in Jos is inhuman. Security agencies should not relent in their effort to restore peace in the state and the nation at large. Government should also make sure the killers are brought to book to avoid it spreading; and leaders and elders of that village should be held responsible for allowing the killing of innocent souls to take place in their communities. And life of

travellers along Jos road should be protected; otherwise travellers would resort to self-defence.

HARUNA Imam, Kaduna, 08038226335.

#### Hot air

WHETHER Gov Murtala Nyako and Senator Jibril Aminu like it or not, Atiku Abubakar will join the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) because Allah's will is beyond man's imagination.

BELLO, Jada, Adamawa State, 08032888305.

AS a true democrat, Gov Nyako should allow PDP congresses to take place in Adamawa state so that much-needed new blood and fresh brains will be injected in party.

OPALO Wodikada, Numan, Adamawa State, 07056881988.

#### Uniting for a purpose

NIGERIANS should say No! to

the under-develop politics of recycling mindless rulers. Nigerians should break away from the past out-dated regimes of kleptomaniacs. We need a Nigerian Obama.

ZAHARADIN Sarki, Funtua, Katsina State, 08066016906.

#### Re: 2011: I support Babangida's bid

THIS was on page 15, Daily Trust, April 22. Abba Mohammed B. Shuwa's first paragraph was an insult to most Nigerians! Please if he likes IBB, that's his prerogative, but language and statistics should be watched (no excuse because he is Leeds-based). IBB is not good for Nigeria; his economic, political experiments are the basis of our present impasse. Some people simply have no "good" in them.

ABDUL Murtala Muhammad, 08067697000.

# DAILY TRUST

## EDITORIAL

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

## Avoidable jailbreak

**A**n attempt at jailbreak at the main prison yard in Kaduna last Tuesday caused the death of seven inmates. Several other persons, including officials of Nigeria Prison Service, sustained injuries during the attempt. According to prison officials, no inmate escaped. However, the prison's administrative block was set ablaze, allegedly by the prison inmates.

This would be the second such incident in the same location in four months.

Trouble appeared to have begun when some of the inmates suspected that a colleague on death row was being transferred, preparatory to possible execution, and balked at the prospect. Other reports suggested that congestion inside the cell for robbery suspects might have led to discontent among the inmates, triggering protest for improved welfare.

Whatever the real cause was, the attempt at jailbreak and the fatalities that followed it, were all avoidable.

The nation's prisons are notorious for their congestion. The Kaduna prison, the scene of the jailbreak attempt, was built to hold 534 inmates; by the time of the attempt, they were 797 of them in it. Of that number, 539 inmates are those labelled as awaiting trial. Such a limited space for so many inmates is itself a source for security concerns. The prison officials also showed an appalling lack of intelligence and security consciousness to be unable to ascertain that the inmates were planning some mischief, and thus failed to take appropriate measures to nip it in the bud.

**C**ongestion in prisons is a national problem, and it would seem that the steps being taken to decongest the country's jails are not nearly fast enough to keep pace with its growing population. Problems associated with this are the slow pace in dealing with pending court cases. The various state committees for the prerogative of mercy are either inactive, or have not been working fast enough in the execution of their mandate. Some states are known to have no such committees in operation.

In addition to all these problems is the lack of diligent prosecution. In the vast majority of such cases, prosecution is usually carried out by police personnel, who often get moved to other areas of responsibilities, or transferred to other stations. In such conditions, the cases they handle get lost in the maze of paperwork, while suspects in remand languish in jails.

Often, suspects involved in minor cases like petty thefts, are remanded in prison for years awaiting trial because of slipshod documentation, or because the investigating police officer has been moved to another duty. Virtually forgotten, they spend more time incarcerated than they would if they had been convicted. There are categories of inmates who have been on death row for years and who exhausted all avenues in the judicial system. The relevant authorities have not signed the death warrants, or commuted their sentences.

**T**his puts a strain on the prison system, which must provide the funds to cater for the inmates, and on the individual, who is left in a legal limbo and who would *ipso facto* justifiably nurse a sense of injustice by agents of the state.

In order to avoid recurrences of such incidents, it is important that a comprehensive action plan to decongest the nation's prison system be put in place. Such plan, part of the ongoing prison reform, should include a programme to speed up the dispensation of justice in the country.

It should be part of the police code of procedure that any police personnel investigating or prosecuting civil or criminal cases, must remain engaged until the cases are properly disposed of, or properly documented in such a way that litigants' interests would not be jeopardized by their being transferred to fresh investigating or prosecuting officers.

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## Maintaining even-handedness in anti-graft fight

By Kenneth Uwadi

**T**he assumed fight against corruption in the Nigeria is as a long one. Various regimes have claimed to fight corruption. Pooh!! The fight against corruption between 1999 and now as we can see is laughable. The systematic and professional fraud in high places makes one wonder who deserves the dubious title of the King of Corruption in Nigeria among some public office holders, past and present and 419 fraudsters.

When Former President Obasanjo instituted the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission some years back, many Nigerians applauded his effort. But the applause did not last long. The hope of Nigerians then was that all those who had a hand in the looting of the nation's treasury, thus depriving ordinary Nigerians their share of the national cake, would be brought to book, irrespective of their social, economic or political standing. Pooh!! For where? With the present state of things in Nigeria, EFCC has shown its obvious ineffectiveness. EFCC has done enough to convince Nigerians that it is nothing but a figurehead that is being used as a tool to hound and discredit political opponents.

**T**he issue of James Ibori, former governor of Delta State, and the EFCC should be making every right thinking Nigerian burn with anger. EFCC has announced to Nigerians that it has declared Ibori wanted once again over alleged official corruption and money laundering. However, Ibori has described his current problem with the EFCC as political harassment that demands a vigorous legal challenge so that Nigeria is not ruled like a fiefdom. Ibori's camp has cried out against the renewed onslaught against him, alleging that it was ordered by Aso Rock to pay Ibori back for remaining in the camp of President Umaru Yar'Adua instead of being with Acting President Goodluck Jonathan. They claimed that Waziri has been told that the only way she would retain her job is to hunt down and imprison Ibori, in a scheme said to be geared towards getting him out of the way ahead of the 2011 elections

**I**bori's camp claimed that it is a matter of public record and judicial decisions that the EFCC has at various times on behalf of the Attorney General vigorously investigated every aspect of Ibori's tenure as Governor of Delta State and failed to find any crime committed, inclusive of allegations of conspiracy, official corruption, diversion and misappropriation of public funds, stealing and money laun-

dering for the period of May 29, 1999 to May 29, 2007.

They cited a Federal High Court sitting in Asaba, Delta State were Ibori was discharged and acquitted of all 170 charges of corruption brought against him by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). The case, which had dragged on for two years with the judgment date postponed no less than three times, was rested by the trial judge, Marcel Awokulehin. The judge threw out all the charges against Mr. Ibori on the ground that there was no clear evidence against the former governor.

It is good news that the Presi-

of Jigawa stole 36 billion naira, Joshua Dariye of Plateau state stole an amount not stated; Orji Uzor Kalu of Abia state (5 billion naira); Rasheed Ladoja of Oyo state (6 billion naira); Jolly Nyame of Taraba state (180 million naira); Chimaroke Nnamani of Enugu state (5.3 billion naira); Boni Haruna of Adamawa state (93 million naira) and Michael Botmang of Plateau (1.5 billion naira); Nyeson Wike of Rivers State (4.7 billion naira); Senator Iyabo Obasanjo allegedly (10 million naira); Babalola Borishade (5.6 billion naira); Femi-Fani-Kayode (250 million naira).

**W**hy are these men walking the street of Nigeria as free men?

The issue of James Ibori, former governor of Delta State, and the EFCC should be making every right thinking Nigerian burn with anger.

ency wants to review criminal cases against past public office holders. It is a good thing for the presidency to have the courage and the candour to begin to review criminal cases against past public office holders. However, whatever the case is, what is sauce for the goose is also sauce for the gander. It has been widely reported that Malam Nuhu Ribadu's case, which is pending before the Code of Conduct Tribunal is about to be discontinued. Why? The Presidency has not publicly told Nigerians whether the charge against Ribadu is being withdrawn on compassionate grounds or because he has reviewed the case and discovered that Ribadu actually declared his assets on assumption of office as EFCC chairman. Who re-looted Tafa Balogun's loot?

**N**igerians will also not forget when the EFCC released the names of 56 Nigerians it alleged collectively removed over N243 billion from the nation's treasury. The names, some of which the EFCC Chairman, Mrs. Farida Waziri, referred to as politically revered people in the international community, were contained in a list handed over to the leadership of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC). The list contained names of well-known politicians, former governors, ministers, permanent secretaries, civil servants, chairmen and members of parastatal agencies, local government chairmen, members of the House of Representatives and senators.

From the list EFCC alleged that ex-governors Saminu Turaki

Does it mean that EFCC does not have the capacity to bring them to justice?

We will never forget the EFCC report on the looting of Rivers State treasury during the regime of Dr Peter Odili. More than 100 million Nigerians will feel good if Kalu, Bola Tinubu, Odili and others are sent behind bars, since EFCC said they are corrupt.

The EFCC told us that they have evidence to prosecute Orji Uzor Kalu and his likes. They named Tinubu along with him. Hence, on the 10th of October 2006, the EFCC undertook what easily went as its single largest crackdown on corruption in Abia State. The crackdown even involved Kalu's mother! To elaborate on Abia State, he said: "Abia is number one not because it is number one alphabetically but because we have one of the biggest established cases of stealing, money laundering, diversion of funds against Governor Kalu," adding that the governor used his mother, daughter, wife and brother to divert billions to build his business empire, including Slok Airlines, Slok Pharmaceuticals, and a newspaper house. This was a very strong statement coming from Nuhu Ribadu.

For the fight against corruption in Nigeria to be successful, the EFCC must treat all suspects equally. The agency must ensure that in all cases of corruption involving politically exposed persons, justice must not only be done but must be seen to have been done.

Uwadi writes from Mmahu-Egbema, Imo state.

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# Felicitation! 40th Anniversary



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Hon. (Barr) Shaba Ibrahim, on behalf of  
the entire people of Kogi Local  
Government Area, heartily felicitate  
with *His Royal Majesty*,  
**Alhaji (Dr) Shuaibu Mamman Lafiya**  
OON, *Ohimege Igu Koton-Karfe*, on the  
occasion of the 40th Anniversary  
Of his coronation

**His Royal Majesty,**  
**Alhaji (Dr) Shuaibu Mamman Lafiya OON,**  
**Ohimege Igu Koton-Karfe**



**AGABA IDU, we wish you more fruitful and peaceful Reign. Amin.**

W.M.

Signed:  
**HON. (BARRISTER) SHABA IBRAHIM**  
Chairman, Kogi Local Government Area,  
Kogi State.

# INTERNATIONAL

## Iran's Ahmadinejad in Zimbabwe to meet with Mugabe

IRAN'S President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad arrived in Zimbabwe with President Robert Mugabe, as Mugabe's partners in a fractious unity government slammed the visit as a scandal.

Ahmadinejad, whose visit is expected to produce a raft of trade and cooperation agreements, is scheduled to open the country's main trade fair in the second city of Bulawayo today.

But the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), the party that shares power with Mugabe's ZANU-PF in a fragile unity government, said inviting Ahmadinejad to open the trade

fair was "a colossal political scandal". Ahmadinejad is like inviting a mosquito to cure malaria," the party said in a statement.

"Ahmadinejad's visit is not only an insult to the people of Zimbabwe, but an affront to democracy and to the oppressed people of Iran."

Both Ahmadinejad and Mugabe are known for their controversial policies and anti-Western rhetoric.

Ahmadinejad currently faces the threat of new United Nations sanctions over Iran's nuclear pro-

gramme, while Mugabe is embattled over complaints that he has ing agreement reached last year with the MDC in the wake of controversial elections.

Both men have also clung to power through elections marred by violence and allegations of fraud, Ahmadinejad after a bloody presidential election in 2009 and Mugabe after sharply criticised polls in 2002 and 2008.

Ahmadinejad's trip is part of an Africa tour also scheduled to include a visit to UN Security Council member Uganda, where he will discuss Iran's nuclear programme, according to Iranian

state television.

The trip gains significance as pressure for a new round of UN sanctions against Iran.

Uganda currently holds one of the rotating seats on the Security Council.

Iran's Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki has said Tehran plans to open talks with all 15 Security Council members in an effort to break a deadlock on a nuclear fuel supply deal that has put it at odds with Western powers.

In Zimbabwe, the Iranian leader is also due to sign various trade agreements and launch a

series of joint ventures between the two countries in the agricultural sectors.

The trade fair that he will open was a major calendar event in Zimbabwe, but has become more localised in recent years as the country has battled an economic crisis which saw inflation soar to multiples of billions.

Zimbabwe enjoys good relations with Iran as well as several east Asian countries after Mugabe launched a "Look East" policy in response to isolation by the West following Harare's controversial land reforms and the disputed 2002 elections.

## Rebels say Sudan troops preparing to attack Darfur



A fighter from the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) at an undisclosed location in Sudan's western Darfur region.

MAIN Darfur rebel group the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) yesterday accused Khartoum of preparing to launch an attack on the war-torn western Sudan region despite a peace pact.

"According to reports from our commanders on ground, an offensive is being prepared against our forces in the north and east of Darfur," JEM spokesman Ahmed Hussein Adam told AFP. "Armoured tanks and government troops are moving towards JEM strongholds right at this moment," he added.

"This proves that the government wants to extricate itself from the peace after the elections, and seeks to confront JEM on the ground." Adam warned that any "attack will destroy all hopes for peace."

"We will officially inform the mediators of this imminent attack on our forces and this aggression only crowns the numerous violations which have taken place ... since signing the accord," he added.

JEM and the Sudanese government in February signed a framework peace pact in Doha which was hailed by the international community as a major step towards bringing peace to Darfur after seven devastating

years of war in the western Sudanese region.

But talks between Khartoum and JEM have since run into trouble and a deadline set under the accord for completing the peace deal passed on March 15 without agreement. JEM, the largest militant rebel group in Darfur, on March 29 threatened to resume its armed struggle if the talks hit a dead end.

Sudan's chief peace negotiator Amin Hassan Omar at the same time accused JEM of being "not serious" about reaching a final settlement. Omar accused the rebels of violating the ceasefire and failing to free prisoners despite a pledge to do so.

JEM had also demanded a delay in Sudan's first multi-party elections in more than two decades but the poll went ahead from April 11 to 15. Results of the election, which was marred by opposition boycotts, are still awaited. Darfur, an arid desert region the size of France, has been gripped by a civil war since 2003 that has killed some 300,000 people and displaced another 2.7 million, according to UN figures. Khartoum says 10,000 people have died.

## Measles spread in Africa, UN raises alarm

ALMOST 200 children have died of measles in 16 African countries in three months, the UN World Health Organisation and UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) said yesterday, asking for funds for vaccinations. "Sixteen countries of west and central Africa are in the throes of a measles outbreak, with 22,364 cases and 185 deaths, in the year to March 28," the two agencies said in a statement.

The worst outbreaks have occurred in Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Liberia, Burkina Faso and Cameroon. Mauritania, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Sierra Leone, Benin, the Central African Republic, Senegal and Togo are also affected.

The UN agencies pointed out that in west and central Africa, most countries had vaccinated only 80 percent of their inhabitants, when the WHO recommendation was to reach a vaccination rate of 95 percent. "Such a figure means they (the countries concerned) can expect to have large, sustained outbreaks every three to four years," said WHO regional director for Africa, Luis Gomes Sambo.

In the region last year, "a major outbreak in Burkina Faso resulted in more than 50,000 cases and 340 deaths and localized outbreaks in Benin, Guinea, Mali, Niger, and Senegal accounted for 16,808 reported cases and 68 deaths."

**RE: AN OPEN LETTER TO THE ACTING PRESIDENT, DR. GOODLUCK JONATHAN****IN RE: EVIL PLAN TO ATTACK PLATEAU STATE ON OR BEFORE THE 23RD APRIL, 2010**

The above subject matter refers:

Our attention has been drawn to a publication on page 61 of the Nation Newspaper of Wednesday, 21st April, 2010. We say without

Garba to come out with his facts as alleged in the publication through the media or any other means that would bring the facts to the public domain.

Conscious of our innocence in all ramifications regarding the allegations under reference, we are completely at ease in stating that the publishers of the advertorial and those behind it only desire to injure our reputation for their selfish reasons. A careful look at the said advertorial reveals that it was written by a group of persons and not one person as the inconsistency therein is apparent.

We wonder why such a grievous allegation would be published without the address of the petitioner.

We do not intend to use this medium to engage any faceless person or persons who have decided to masquerade themselves in whatever guise for the purpose of damaging our hard earned reputation.

Be that as it may, we are by this letter challenging not only the imaginary Sale Garba, but any other person or group of persons who have facts and evidence of our involvement in the Jos crises to produce same.

Where there are no facts let alone evidence, we advise that perpetrators of the evil act in Jos should stop "giving a dog a bad name so as to hang it" or being diversionary in their antics and tactics.

It is clear that the authors have made these grave allegations against a combination of Muslim and Christian stakeholders on the Plateau.

Interestingly, even Chris Giwa who is Berom is among the accused persons.

The curious question now is how on earth

could we have shared these uniforms to the Christians and the Muslims?

Happily, we are not unmindful of the fact that there are still some discerning minds that clearly would be in a position to see through the said publication and identify same as the handwork of some wicked perpetrators of the Jos Mayhem.

We are innocent of all the allegations and we remain committed as ever to the course of justice and the peaceful co-existence of our people.

Meanwhile, we have passed on the said publication to our Solicitors who presently are studying the same and are expected to react shortly.

Long live the good people of Jos!  
Long live the good people of Plateau State!!  
Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!!!

**Signed:**

1. Alhaji Ibrahim Mantu
2. Hon. Damishi Sango
3. Hon. Ibrahim Dasuki Nakande
4. Hon. Danladi Atu
5. Alhaji Sale Bayeri
6. Chris Giwa
7. Hon. Samaila Mohammed

**Cc:**

1. The Rt. Hon. Speaker, House of Representatives
2. The Secretary to the Government of the Federation
3. The Chief of Defence Staff
4. The Chief of Army Staff
5. The Inspector General of Police
6. The Director General, State Security Service
7. The Commissioner of Police, Plateau State

C/o NO.6 River Niger Street, Maitama, Abuja, Nigeria.

# International



OPPOSITION leader Sarath Fonseka waves as he arrives for the inauguration ceremony at the Sri Lankan parliament in Colombo.

## Sri Lanka's opposition leader emerges from custody

SRI Lanka's detained former army chief briefly emerged from custody yesterday for the opening of parliament and accused the government of planning to silence his "fight for democracy."

Sarath Fonseka last year led troops to victory over Tamil Tiger rebels after decades of ethnic conflict on the island, but he later fell out with President Mahinda Rajapakse and unsuccessfully tried to unseat him in January elections.

He was arrested shortly afterwards and faces a court martial on charges of engaging in politics while in uniform and making corrupt arms procurement deals -- charges he says are politically motivated.

He was briefly allowed out of custody to attend parliament, in which he won a seat in parliamentary elections two weeks ago, making a muted performance during which he spoke in favour of democracy and the rule of law.

Speaking to AFP by telephone from parliament, he threatened to escalate his criticism of Rajapakse from the floor of the chamber but said the government would soon force through his conviction to muzzle his dissent.

## Two rockets strike Jordan 'near Israel border'

TWO military-grade rockets struck Jordan early yesterday, one slamming into an empty warehouse in Aqaba and the other splashing into the Red Sea near the Israeli border, a security official said.

"The preliminary investigation determined that the explosion in the (Red Sea) port of Aqaba yesterday morning was due to a Katyusha rocket," the security official said, citing sources close to investigators. "A second Katyusha rocket was found in Jordanian territorial waters," he added, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Prime Minister Samir Rifai later said the authorities were "100 percent sure" the rocket that hit the warehouse, which he said was a Grad-type projectile, had not been fired from Jordanian territory. Information Minister Nabil Sharif, speaking of the explosion at the refrigeration warehouse on the outskirts of Aqaba, said it had caused "no casualties and minimal damage."

Authorities said the investigation would try to determine whether the target of the rocket attack was Aqaba or the Israeli resort of Eilat less than 10 kilometres (six miles) away.

In August 2005, three Katyusha rockets were fired in Aqaba, missing two US warships docked in the port. One hit a warehouse, killing a Jordanian soldier, while another struck across the border in Israel.

That attack was claimed by a group linked to Al-Qaeda. Israeli media reported earlier on Thursday that a Katyusha rocket splashed into the Red Sea off Eilat and that another had exploded on the outskirts of Aqaba.

Israel's Channel 10 initially said the rockets were fired from Jordan, but later said it was possible they had been launched from Egypt's Sinai peninsula. Egyptian security officials denied that any rockets had been fired from Sinai, a rugged territory that borders southern Israel.

The Sinai was the site of a wave of attacks on tourists between 2004 and 2006 that killed more than 100 people, and last week hundreds of Israelis rushed home from there after an Israeli security alert. The travel warning concerned an alleged plot to kidnap Israeli tourists.

An Israeli military spokeswoman said Thursday's incident was under investigation. "This morning explosions and flashes of light were reported near the city of Eilat," she said. "The homefront command and the Israeli police searched the city following the reports but no evidence indicating a security-related incident was found."

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**FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRE, JALINGO**

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**INVITATION TO TENDER FOR 2010 CAPITAL PROJECTS****INTRODUCTION**

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**DETAILS OF PROJECTS****A. CONSTRUCTION WORK:**

\* Construction of Medical Records Department.

- Construction of Dental Unit
- Construction of Library
- Sinking of Borehole
- Completion of Roads drainages and Landscaping
- Parameter Fencing
- Dedicated PHCN Line
- Construction of House Officers Quarters, Amenity Ward and Accident and Emergency Unit.

**B. PROCUREMENTS**

\* Theater Equipment

- Intensive Care Unit Equipment
- Office Furniture for Pharmacy Complex
- Laboratory Equipments
- Obstetric & Gynaecological Equipments
- Ophthalmology Equipments
- Radiology Equipments
- Supply of Utility Vehicles
- Procurement of 500KVA Generator

**PREQUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:**

Interested Bidders are to submit the following:

- i) Name/Address and telephone number.
- ii) Certificate of Registration with Corporate Affairs Commission
- iii) Evidence of Tax Clearance for 3 years
- iv) Evidence of experience with similar jobs in the last 3 years
- v) Evidence of financial capability to handle the job.
- vi) Evidence of VAT registration Certificate.
- vii) Name(s) and address(s) of Bankers.
- viii) Company Profile with names and qualification(s) of key personnel
- ix) Evidence of Registration with Federal Medical Centre, Jalingo
- x) Evidence of payment **twenty five thousand naira (N25,000)** pre-qualification fee to the Account Department of Federal Medical Centre, Jalingo.

The pre-qualification documents should be submitted in sealed envelopes and to be addressed to the **Medical Director Federal Medical Centre, Jalingo**. Tenders should indicate at the right hand corner of the envelope Pre-qualification documents. Bidders documents will only be given to contractors that have qualify.

Pre-qualification documents will be opened at 12.00 noon four (4) weeks from the date of this advertisement.

**NB:** The Federal Medical Centre, Jalingo is neither committed nor obliged to reply any company not found suitable.

Also all expenses incurred in preparing a pre-qualification response and all expenses otherwise associated with the response, shall be borne solely by the contractors/suppliers concerned.

Signed:  
**Dr. Idris D. Balasa**  
Medical Director.

**International****Argentina's last dictator gets 25 years in prison**

ARGENTINA'S last dictator was convicted and sentenced to 25 years in prison for kidnappings and torture during the nation's 1976-1983 military regime.

Reynaldo Bignone, 82, was convicted along with five other former military officers in 56 cases involving torture, illegal detentions and other crimes in one of Argentina's largest torture centers, the Campo de Mayo army base.

Human rights groups say that of the 4,000 dissidents taken to the base, about 50 emerged alive. The army-run base also had a clandestine maternity center where detained dissidents gave birth only to have officials take their babies away to be adopted by military families.

Bignone was de facto president from 1982 to 1983, but the crimes he was convicted of were committed between 1976 and 1978, when he was a commander at the Campo Mayo base. Five other retired officers received sentences ranging from 17 to 25 years, while a former police official

was absolved.

The verdict was read by judge Marta Milloc in a small indoor stadium where many of those in attendance were family members of victims, who held up photos of their loved ones and applauded the ruling.

"Today is a good day for Argentines," said Estela de Carlotto, president of the Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo human rights group. "We are in agreement (with the ruling), but a lot remains to be done."

There are hundreds more accused. "Bignone, who is currently under house arrest, was not present. He was appointed president by the military junta in the waning years of the dictatorship and it fell to him to protect the military as Argentina returned to democracy."

He granted amnesty to human rights violators and ordered the destruction of documents related to torture and disappearances of political opponents before agreeing to transfer power to the democratically elected Raul Alfonsin.



ESTONIAN Foreign Minister Urmas Paet, right, and US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton speak during their meeting in Tallinn, Estonia, yesterday.

**Clinton reaffirms US commitment to defend Europe**

US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton reaffirmed America's commitment to defend Europe yesterday as she joined NATO representatives to discuss the future of US nuclear weapons on the continent.

Clinton was expected to spell out at a private dinner the Obama administration's view of how NATO should pursue the nuclear policy debate, which formally begins in this Baltic seaside capital and is due to climax in November when President Barack Obama

and other NATO government leaders gather in Lisbon, Portugal, to endorse a rewriting of the alliance's basic defense doctrine.

At a news conference with Estonian Foreign Minister Urmas Paet, Clinton said no one should doubt the United States' defense links to its allies. "Let me be clear," she said. "Our commitment to Estonia and our other allies is a bedrock principle of the United States and we will never waver from it."

Clinton and her aides declined to preview her

remarks on nuclear policy, but they pointed to the latest statement of US views on the subject: a Nuclear Posture Review published earlier this month that said nuclear weapons remain a vital part of NATO strategy for deterring attack.

That statement also said the presence of US nuclear arms in Europe contributes to alliance cohesion and confidence.

NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen echoed the US view at a news conference yesterday before the dinner meeting.

# HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES ANNOUNCES

## NGO Development & Management Training

This broad based training is aimed at addressing the highly deficient organizational capacity needs of nascent NGOs and providing the foundation for success to potential NGO founders and managers. It will therefore provide participants with invaluable NGO management, fundraising, networking and financial management skills as well as all round project development and implementation skills. Participants will benefit from the rich insights of Board members of successful NGOs and Consultants on governance and board development issues.

**For Whom?** Existing and Potential NGO Founders and Board Members, Executive Directors, Directors and Heads of Departments, Project Leaders, Programme Managers, Team Leaders, NGO Consultants etc.

**Faculty:** Prof. Sarah B.A. Olako, Prof. Omololu Soyombo, Prof. Bolaji Owasanoye and Mr. Thomas Ajibona

<p><b>DATES:</b>                  May Diet: 4 May, 2010                  July Diet: 6<sup>th</sup> July 2010                  September Diet: 7<sup>th</sup> July 2010</p>	<p><b>VENUE:</b>                  HDI-Child Rights Education Centre,                  2 Iwaya Road, Onike-Yaba, Lagos.</p>	<p><b>COURSE FEE:</b>                  N10,000.00 per participant.                  Fee covers tuition, course materials, tea break and lunch.</p>
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**2<sup>nd</sup> COURSE IN CHILD SOCIAL WORK**  
 Theme: The Social Worker & Child Protection Under The Child Rights Act  
 A 2-day intensive training programme to update the knowledge, skills and aptitudes of social workers for effective and efficient service delivery towards implementing the Child Rights Act/Laws.  
**For Whom:** 1. Those who work or intend to start work as social work practitioners. (2). Those who desire to enrich their experience in social work and 3. Those who provide child welfare services  
**Topics:**  
 1. Ethical Issues in Social Work Practice  
 2. Handling Children with Behavioural & Learning Challenges  
 3. Interviewing Skills for Social Workers  
 4. Dealing With Mental Health and Substance Abuse in Social Work  
 5. Legal Issues in Social Work  
 6. Best Practices and Challenges of Social Work  
 7. Case Studies & Practical Exercises in Child Social Work  
**Date:** 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2010  
**Venue:** HDI-Child Rights Education Centre, 2 Iwaya Road, Onike-Yaba, Lagos.  
**Course Fee:** N30,000.00 per participant.

**CHILD RIGHTS TRAINING FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS**  
 Theme: Promoting & Protecting Children's Rights in Health Care Practice  
 This 2-day training aims at equipping health professionals with in-depth knowledge and skills with which to uphold and promote children's rights in their daily practice. It also aims at enhancing the capacity of parents to meet the developmental and health related needs of their children with  
**Topics:**  
 1. Child Health and the Law  
 2. Child Protection Policy and Child Abuse  
 3. Girl-Child Health and Gender Equity in Development  
 4. Enhancing Child Rights within the Health Care System  
 5. Understanding Special Child Health Services Programmes: A Case Study of Selected States  
 6. Key Issues in Child and Maternal Health  
**Date:** 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2010  
**Venue:** HDI-Child Rights Education Centre, 2 Iwaya Road, Onike-Yaba, Lagos.  
**Course Fee:** N25,000.00 per participant.

**CHILD RIGHTS TRAINING FOR SCHOOLS ADMINISTRATORS AND CARE GIVERS**  
 Theme: Implementing Child Rights Legislations in Educational Institutions  
 This 2-day training aims at equipping professionals in the field of education with requisite knowledge and competencies with which to address and promote child rights issues in educational settings. It also aims at enhancing the capacity of parents and care givers to meet the developmental and education related needs of their children and wards.  
**Topics:**  
 1. Child Education Under the CRA and UBEC  
 2. Regulatory Framework for Establishment of Schools and Educational Institutions  
 3. The Montessori Education and Child Participation  
 4. Implementing Child Rights in Early Childhood Education  
 5. Effective Strategies for Coping With Challenging Behaviours in Early Childhood Environment  
 6. Case Studies and Practical Exercises  
**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2010  
**Venue:** HDI-Child Rights Education Centre, 2 Iwaya Road, Onike-Yaba, Lagos.  
**Course Fee:** N25,000.00 per participant.

**5<sup>th</sup> COURSE IN CHILD RIGHTS EDUCATION**  
 Theme: Implementing Child Rights Legislation in Nigeria  
**Training Focus:**  
 1. Implementing the Child Rights Act in Nigeria: Prospects and Challenges  
 2. The Family Court System Under the Child Rights Act  
 3. Child Education Under Child Rights Act and Universal Basic Education  
 4. Child Health and the Law  
 5. Child Participation and Cultural Standards in the Child Rights Act  
 6. Child Justice Administration Under the Child Rights Act  
 7. Wardship, Fostering and Adoption Under Child Rights Act  
 8. Handling Children with Behavioural Challenges  
 9. Programming for Orphans and Vulnerable Children  
**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2010  
**Venue:** HDI-Child Rights Education Centre, 2 Iwaya Road, Onike-Yaba, Lagos.  
**Course Fee:** N40,000.00 per participant.

**NB: Fee covers tuition, course materials, tea break and lunch.**

**HDI-CREC Faculty:** HDI CREC Faculty members are child care experts and professionals drawn from the academia, judiciary, education sector as well as child rights focused international and multilateral organizations. Past faculty members include: Professor Sarah B.A. Olako, Professor Omololu Soyombo, Hon. Justice Aminu A. Augie, Dr. Ademola Adio-Moses, Ms. Serri Solebo, Dr. Uzo Israel, Dr. Rotimi Coker, Dr. Funmi Bammeke, Dr. Idongesit Eshiet and Professor Bolaji Owasanoye.

For registration, kindly make payments in favour of Human Development Initiatives into GT Bank A/C No. 201 118 053 112. For further enquiries please contact Mike: 0802 322 5045, Sade: 01-793 8074 or email: [hudev2001@yahoo.com](mailto:hudev2001@yahoo.com)



## AREWA CONSULTATIVE FORUM (ACF)

No 11A Sokoto Road, P.O. Box 1149, Kaduna Tel: 062-218007, 218009, Fax 218004 Website: [www.arewaconsultativeForum.org](http://www.arewaconsultativeForum.org) E-mail: [info@www.arewaconsultativeForum.org](mailto:info@www.arewaconsultativeForum.org)

### TEN YEARS OF ACF

Theme:  
**Fighting Corruption And Social Conflict For Development**

Guest Lecturer  
**Prof. Bolaji Akinyemi**  
 Former Minister of Foreign Affairs

Other Lecturers  
 His Excellency  
**Comrade Adams Oshiomhole**  
 Executive Governor, Edo State

**Mrs Farida Waziri**  
 Executive Chairman  
 Economic & Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC)

**Prof. J. O. Irukwo**  
 Former Chairman  
 Ohanaeze Ndigbo

**Dr. Abubakar Sadiq Muhammad.**  
 Dept. of Political Science  
 Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

ACF Invites the General Public to Activities Marking it's Tenth Anniversary as Follows:

Special Guest of Honour  
**Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, GCON**  
 Ag. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

Chairman of the occasion  
**Gen. Yakubu Gowon, PhD, GCFR.**  
 Former Head Of State, Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Father of the day  
 His Eminence, Alhaji  
**Muhammadu Sa'ad Abubakar III, mni, CFR**  
 Sultan Of Sokoto.

Date: Thursday 29th April, 2010.  
 Time: 9:00am  
 Venue: Arewa House Main Hall,  
 Rabah Road, Kaduna.

Signed:  
**Col. Musa Shehu (rtd)**  
 Secretary - General

Presentation of  
**ACF History Book**  
 By:

The Chief Servant,  
**Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu**  
 (Talban Minna)  
 Executive Governor of Niger State &  
 Chairman, Northern Governors Forum

**ANNIVERSARY DINNER**  
 at 7:30pm  
 (Strictly on Invitation)

## EXHIBIT FOR BIDS


**KEBBI STATE MINISTRY OF HEALTH  
HEALTH SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT PROJECT II  
(WORLD BANK ASSISTED)**

CONSTRUCTION OF PRIMARY HEALTH CENTER  
PERIMETER WALLS, DRILLING OF BOREHOLE AND  
WATER RETICULATION

IFB NO: KBHSDP/AF/NCB/WKS/2010/001  
Credit No.: 4522 - UNI

1. This invitation for bids follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in Daily Trust Newspapers of April 2, 2009 as published by Federal Ministry of Health.

2. The Government of Federal Republic of Nigeria has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of the Kebbi State Second Health Systems Development Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for Construction of Primary Health Center, Perimeter Wall in Kwasara, Gulmare and Kasati, drilling of borehole and Water reticulation.

3. The Kebbi State Second Health Systems Development Project now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Construction and drilling at.

Lot No	Description of Works	Location	Bid Security Required	Completion Period
1	Construction of PHC at Kwasara Gulmare (Hospital main building)	Suru LGA	Not less than 3% of Bid Price	14 Weeks
2	PHC Kwasara (Staff Qtrs, i.e 1 no.2 Bed room houseboys qtr, Mortuary, Gen. House, VIP Toilet and Incinerator)	Suru LGA	Not less than 3% of Bid Price	12 Weeks
3	Construction of Perimeter Wall at Kwasara.	Suru LGA	Not less than 3% of Bid Price	10 Weeks
4	Construction of Perimeter Wall at Gulmare	Gwandu	Not less than 3% of Bid Price	10 Weeks
5	Construction of Perimeter Wall at Kasati L.	Bagudo LGA	Not less than 3% of Bid Price	10 Weeks
6	Construction of 2no Boreholes, over-head tank and reticulation at PHC Kwasara and PFU premises	Project office B/Kebbi and Kasati in Bagudo LGA	Not less than 3% of Bid Price	8 Weeks

• Bidders may quote for one or more complete lots, as bids will be evaluated and awarded on a lot by lot basis or combination of lots, whichever result to be most economical to the Employer. Unconditional discounts offered for the award of combined lots will be considered in bid evaluation. Bids for part of a lot will be considered non responsive.

4. Bidding will be conducted through the National competitive bidding procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, January 1995 (revised January and August 1996 and September 1997), and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the guidelines.

5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the Kebbi State Second Health Systems Development Project at the address below, from 0900 to 1500hrs Mondays through Thursdays and 0900 to 1300hrs (Fridays).

6. Qualifications requirements include

• An average annual financial amount of construction work over the last five years of:

- a) Lot 1: NGN 41,440,000
- b) Lot 2: NGN 29,600,000
- c) Lot 3: NGN 20,720,000
- d) Lot 4: NGN 29,600,000
- e) Lot 5: NGN 29,600,000
- f) Lot 6: NGN 47,360,000

• Experience as prime contractor in the carrying out of at least two projects of similar nature and complexity equivalent to the Works over the last five years (to comply with this requirement, the works cited should be at least 70 percent complete)

• Availability (own, lease, hire, etc.) of the essential equipment listed in the Bidding Data Sheet;

• Liquid assets and/or credit facilities, net of other contractual commitments and exclusive of any advance payments which may be made under the Contract, of no less than -

- a) Lot 1: NGN 2,014,444
- b) Lot 2: NGN 1,233,333
- c) Lot 3: NGN 719,444
- d) Lot 4: NGN 1,027,777
- e) Lot 5: NGN 1,027,777
- f) Lot 6: NGN 1,315,555

• A margin of preference for eligible national contractors/joint ventures SHALL not be applied.

7. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee of Fifteen thousand naira (N15,000) for first Lot and Five Thousand naira (N5000) for any additional lot. The method of payment will be through cash or bank draft. The document will be sent by hand/courier service on request.

8. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 10:00 am local time on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2010. Electronic bidding shall not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened physically in the presence of the bidders' representatives, who choose to attend in person at the address below at 10:00 am local time on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2010. 9. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of the amount stated in the table above or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.

10. The address referred to above is:

Project Manager,  
Kebbi State Second Health Systems Development Project  
21 Emir Haruna Road, Birnin Kebbi, Kebbi State.  
GSM: 08034213375, 08030931408,  
Email: kbhsp2two@yahoo.com

## INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)


**FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA  
KEBBI STATE SECOND HEALTH  
SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT  
(KBHSDP)**

PROCUREMENT AND INSTALLATION OF  
COMPUTERS AND EQUIPMENT FOR DRUG  
MONITORING UNIT

CREDIT NO: CR4522 - UNI  
IFB NO: KBHSDP/AF/GDS/NCB/2010-02

1. This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in Daily Trust Newspapers of April 2, 2009 as published by Federal Ministry of Health.

2. The Federal Government of Nigeria has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of Second Health Systems Development Project (KBHSDP II), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the Contract for Procurement and Installation of Computers and Equipment in Kebbi State.

3. The Kebbi State Second Health Systems Development Project (KBHSDP II) now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Procurement and Installation of Computers and Equipment for Drug Monitoring Unit as follows.

Lot No.	Description	Qty	Delivery Schedule	Bid Validity Period	Bid Security Value	Site of Delivery
1	1. Desktop 2. Laptop 3. Printer 4. ADSL UPS	34 13 16 34	60 Days from the date of contract award	90 days	Not less than 3% of Bid Price	KBHSDP No. 21 Emir Haruna Road, B/Kebbi.
2	1. Heavy Duty Photocopier 2. Portable Photocopier	2 4	60 Days from the date of contract award	90 days	Not less than 3% of Bid Price	KBHSDP No. 21 Emir Haruna Road, B/Kebbi.
3	1. 100 Basic 10 Category 5E UTP Cable 2. 8P Blink Network Switch 3. Cabling and Networking 4. DSL Subscription	3 1 1 1	60 Days from the date of contract award	90 days	Not less than 3% of Bid Price	KBHSDP No. 21 Emir Haruna Road, B/Kebbi.
4	1. Computer Table and chairs	6	60 Days from the date of contract award	90 days	Not less than 3% of Bid Price	KBHSDP No. 21 Emir Haruna Road, B/Kebbi.

• Bidders may quote for one or more complete lots, as bids will be evaluated and awarded on a lot by lot basis or combination of lots, whichever result to be most economical to the Employer. Unconditional discounts offered for the award of combined lots will be considered in bid evaluation. Bids for part of a lot will be considered non responsive.

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

5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from The Kebbi State Second Health Systems Development Project (KBHSDP II), and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 0900hrs to 1600hrs, Mondays through Thursdays and 0900hrs to 1300hrs on Fridays.

6. Qualifications requirements include: Evidence of Registration with Cooperate Affairs, Manufacturers Authorization, Power of Attorney, Warranty Period, Evidence of experience in similar project executed, Audited Financial Statement and Tax Clearance. A margin of preference for certain goods manufactured domestically "shall not" be applied. Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.

7. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee N10,000 only. The method of payment will be in cash/bank draft. The Bidding Documents will be delivered directly or sent by courier.

8. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 10:00 a.m. local time on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>, May 2010. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>, May 2010:

All bids must be accompanied by a "Bid Security" of not less than 3% of Bid Price.

9. The address referred to above is:

The Project Manager,  
Kebbi Second Health Systems Dev. Project  
21, Emir Haruna Rd., B/Kebbi.  
GSM: 08034213375, 08030931408  
Email: kbhsp2two@yahoo.com

## INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)


**FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA  
KEBBI STATE SECOND HEALTH  
SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT  
(KBHSDP)**

PROCUREMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES  
CREDIT NO: CR4522 - UNI  
IFB NO: KBHSDP/AF/GDS/NCB/2010-01

1. This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in Daily Trust Newspapers of April 2, 2009 as published by Federal Ministry of Health.

2. The Federal Government of Nigeria has received credit from the International Development Association towards the cost of Kebbi State Second Health Systems Development Project (KBHSDP), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the Contract for Procurement of Motor Vehicles.

3. The Kebbi State Second Health Systems Development Project (KBHSDP) now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Procurement of the following Motor Vehicles

Lot No.	Description	Qty	Delivery Schedule	Bid Validity Period	Bid Security Value	Site of Delivery
1	33 Seater Bus	2	60 Days from the date of contract award	90 days	Not less than 3% of Bid Price	KBHSDP No. 21 Emir Haruna Road, B/Kebbi.
2	4x4 Wheel Drive (Jeep)	1	60 Days from the date of contract award	90 days	Not less than 3% of Bid Price	KBHSDP No. 21 Emir Haruna Road, B/Kebbi.
3	4x4 Wheel Drive (Double Cabin)	2	60 Days from the date of contract award	90 days	Not less than 3% of Bid Price	KBHSDP No. 21 Emir Haruna Road, B/Kebbi.

• Bidders may quote for one or more complete lots, as bids will be evaluated and awarded on a lot by lot basis or combination of lots, whichever result to be most economical to the Employer. Unconditional discounts offered for the award of combined lots will be considered in bid evaluation. Bids for part of a lot will be considered non responsive.

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

5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from The Kebbi State Second Health Systems Development Project (KBHSDP II), and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 0900hrs to 1600hrs, Mondays through Thursdays and 0900hrs to 1300hrs on Fridays.

6. Qualifications requirements include: Evidence of Registration with Cooperate Affairs, Manufacturer Authorization, Power of Attorney, Warranty Period, Evidence of experience in similar project executed, Audited Financial Statement and Tax Clearance. A margin of preference for certain goods manufactured domestically "shall not" be applied. Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.

7. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee N10,000 only. The method of payment will be in cash/bank draft. The Bidding Documents will be delivered directly or sent by courier.

8. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 10:00 a.m. local time on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>, May 2010. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>, May 2010:

All bids must be accompanied by a "Bid Security" of not less than 3% of Bid Price.

9. The address referred to above is:

The Project Manager,  
Kebbi Second Health Systems Dev. Project  
21, Emir Haruna Rd., B/Kebbi, Kebbi State.  
GSM: 08034213375, 08030931408

# THE HOME FRONT

In Today's Edition

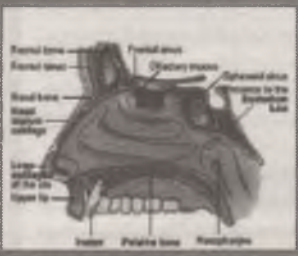
**Fragments**

JAMB, JAMB again?

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Health Interactive with Dr Aminu Magashi

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**FEATURE**

How to monitor your children's internet use

Page 28



## Facts about vaginal infection

By Maureen Onochie

SEVERAL ladies have continually suffered from vaginal itch infection. Most of them do not know the cause of this infection which often makes them uncomfortable.

Vaginal itch is a kind of irritation that occurs either in the inner or outer part of the vagina or vulva. It is tingly in nature and always gives one the desire to scratch the affected area. Statistics have shown that about 10 million ladies in the United states of America visit their doctors regularly mostly due to vaginal infection. Not only does it cause discomfort, it leads to discharge and vaginal odor.

A discharge can result from certain sexually transmitted diseases such as chlamydial infection or gonorrhoea. These diseases affect other reproductive organs, such as the cervix or uterus. Genital herpes which causes blisters on the vulva, in the vagina, and on the cervix, can also cause a vaginal discharge.

**Symptoms**

Dr. Gaidam said trichomoniasis which is a single-celled parasite that can also live in men's prostate glands, causes a yellow-green vaginal discharge when it finds its way into the woman's genital area. This discharge is a symptom of the infection. He said itching and burning which is as a result of vaginal irritation is a symptom and may be contacted by the use of cream and jelly spermicides or other vaginally inserted contraceptives, including the sponge.

He also identified candidiasis which is the more common infection as one of the symptoms of the vaginal itch. It is mostly identified with itching and burning and is sometimes called the yeast infection. The typical symptom of a vaginal infection is a vaginal discharge. The discharge differs because sometimes the discharge is accompanied by itching, soreness or redness of the vaginal area.

There are different reasons responsible for vaginal discharge. The appearance and amount of the discharge determines the cause of the infection. The vaginal infection sometimes affects ones sleep as well as makes sexual intercourse and urination painful. Sometimes symptoms are mild or do not even occur.

**Causes**

A consultant gynecologist at the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital, Dr. Danazumi Gaidam said part of the causes of the vaginal infection is the use of chemical irritants like the use of perfumes in the vaginal area as well as the use of douches and

vaginal creams, toilet papers and vaginal contraceptives.

Vaginal infections may also be caused by bacteria, yeast, and other microorganisms. When there is reduction of acid in the vagina, there is a high chance of one contacting the infection. This is because the number of protective bacteria which normally lives in the vagina is decreased and the number of bacteria that can cause the infection will then increase.

Poor hygiene is also a critical cause of the infection. The genital area has to be kept clean else the bacteria in the system will likely increase. The use of tight and non absorbent underwear also causes vaginal infection. This is because moisture is been prevented thereby encouraging the growth of bacteria and yeast. Tissues damaged in the body also cause vaginal infection. If there is any tissue in the body that gets damaged then the body's natural defenses are weakened. These damages can result from tumors, surgery, radiation therapy or structural abnormalities such as birth defects or fistulas.

The use of condoms can also cause vaginal infection. This is because there are women who are allergic to latex which is the type of rubber condoms are made of.

There are specific causes of vaginal infection among certain age groups. In children, the infection is mostly caused by bacteria's that emanate from the anus. Girls between the ages of 2 to 6 are likely victims of this infection. The bacteria move to the vagina from the anus if the genital area is

not properly cleaned after a bowel movement.

Fingering the genital area, particularly if girls do not wash their hands after bowel movements, may also move these bacteria to the vagina. Children must be cautioned against putting objects like toys in the vagina to prevent vaginal infection. Another age group that can be infected are women of reproductive age. Most of the time, there are hormonal changes that takes place in the body before and during menstrual periods or during pregnancy which can reduce the acidity in the body. This reduction of acidity increases the growth of bacteria which cause the infection. If one leaves a tampon too long in the vagina, it can lead to vaginal infection. This is because a tampon provides a warm and moist environment where these bacteria settle and lead to the infection.

Women in the postmenopausal ages are also likely to be infected. This is because the estrogen levels decrease after menopause. This results to the tissues in the vagina getting thinner drier and more fragile.

**Prevention:**

Dr. Gaidam said it is important for ladies to keep their genital areas clean and dry to prevent the infection from occurring.

Young ladies should be taught hygiene thoroughly. They should be taught how to wipe the genital area properly after a bowel movement. Ladies are advised to wear loose and absorbent clothing such as cotton or cotton-lined under-

pants to allow the free flow of air into the genital area and to keep it dry. Frequent use of douches should be discouraged because it can remove normal and protective cells from the vagina as well as reduce the acidity of the vagina.

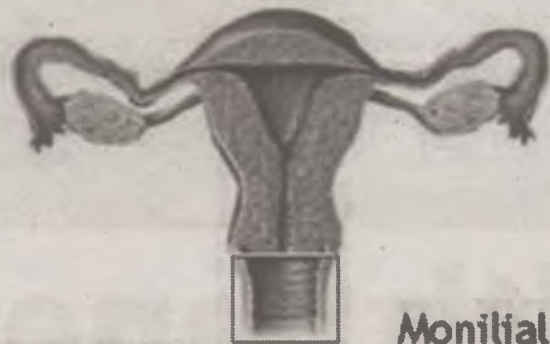
This makes infections and pelvic inflammatory disease more likely. Strong or scented soaps and unnecessary topical products such as feminine hygiene sprays should also be avoided.

**Treatment:**

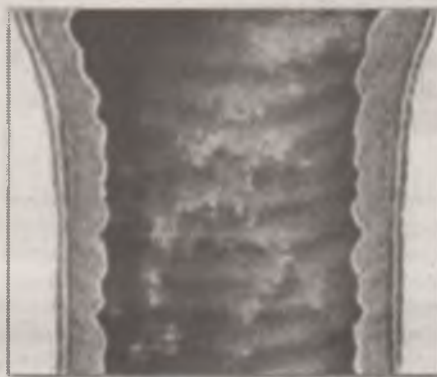
Dr. Gaidam said canex cream can be used to treat the infection especially if it is the candidiasis. This is known as the over the counter treatment (OTC) which has to do with the patient going to the nearest pharmacist to get a drug for treatment. The infection can be treated with antibiotics.

Ice packs can be occasionally placed on the affected genital area while sitting in a cool sitz bath. This may reduce soreness and itching. Flushing the genital area with lukewarm water squeezed from a water bottle may also provide relief. Drugs or injections may be taken if the sitz measures do not work.

Sexual intercourse must be avoided if the vaginal itches. This is so especially if the bacteria that caused the itching is from the sexual partner. For ladies who are not allergic to condoms, they have to use condoms during a sexual intercourse to prevent any sexually transmitted disease. Condoms provide protection against both unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease.



Trichomonas vaginitis



Monilial vaginitis (vaginal yeast infection)





FORGIVENESS-letting-go

# Health benefits of forgiveness

By Boco Edet

## What is forgiveness?

It is the view of many that forgiveness is a gift given freely to those who have hurt you, evidence that love exists in the forgiver. But Clive Staples Lewis, a famous novelist was quoted to have said, "Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea until they have something to forgive." It therefore suggests that forgiving can be difficult. Forgiveness occurs in two dimensions—in terms of a person forgiving himself or an individual forgiving another. Sometimes the offender offers some form of acknowledgement but at other times this is not possible in a situation where such a person is dead or is not within reach.

Wikipedia lists several emotions that have to be resolved for forgiveness to have occurred. It is the "process of concluding resentment, indignation or anger as a result of a perceived offense, difference or mistake, and ceasing to demand punishment or restitution." Forgiving is also letting another know that there is no grudge, hard feelings or animosity for any wrongdoing.

## How do you cultivate forgiveness?

When we read about Mahatma Gandhi, Buddha, Jesus Christ, Abraham Lincoln and so many great personalities in history, one common attribute they share is forgiveness. Frederic Luskin, PhD, director of the Stanford University Forgiveness Project in Northern California, readily admits that forgiveness, like love, can't be forced.

"You can't just will forgiveness," says Luskin, author of *Forgive for Good: A Proven Prescription for Health and Happiness*. "What I teach is that you can create conditions where forgiveness is more likely to occur. There are specific

practices we offer that diminish hostility and self-pity, and increase positive emotions, so it becomes more likely that a genuine, heartfelt release of resentment will occur."

In order to increase your ability to forgive and forget, you need to recognize what this behavior involves. Important questions that could help address this include:

What role do you feel forgiving and forgetting has in your relationships? How could you improve? How has the absence of forgiving and forgetting affected your current relationships?

What are the signs of the absence of forgiving and forgetting in your relationship with your family of origin, current family, significant others, spouse, children, parents, relatives, friends and co-workers? What beliefs block your ability to forgive and forget? What would be necessary to change these beliefs? What new behavior do you need to develop in order to increase your ability to forgive and forget? Now that you have a better picture of what is involved in forgiving and forgetting, you are ready to extinguish blaming behavior.

## Negative consequences of forgiveness.

In the absence of forgiveness, the hurt party and the offender run the risk of continuously being hurt with pain and suffering going unresolved, seeking revenge and paybacks from one another, exhibiting defensive, self-protective and distant behavior, secretive and non-communicative behavior and being caught up in unresolved anger, animosity and bitterness.

There is also the fear of making a mistake or of having the mistake revealed, being stuck in a battlefield stockpiled for future offensive attacks, being lost in a festering wound that never realizes the revitalisation of healing and high stress.

## When not forgiving is ok.

Sometimes it's ok not to forgive says Jeanne Safer, PhD, a psychotherapist and the author of *Forgiving and Not Forgiving*. "Many don't have to forgive in order to resolve their feelings," Safer says. "They say, 'I can never feel OK about these terrible things, but I'm not going to be vengeful.'" To help them achieve this resolution, Safer offers a three-step process.

The first step involves re-engagement - a decision to think through what happened. The second step, recognition, means looking at every feeling you may have about the injury. "You ask yourself, 'why do I want revenge? Revenge is based on powerlessness and it's doomed to failure. The final step involves reinterpretation of the injury, including an attempt to understand the person who caused it. This is where forgivers and non forgivers divide. Sometimes you're not able to reconnect with the person, but if you go through this process, at least you won't be a victim. What's important is working it through and achieving resolution, whether it leads to forgiveness or not. Forgiveness involves wishing the other well. You're already there if you don't wish them ill," Safer says.

## Health benefits of forgiveness.

It has been scientifically proven that forgiveness can bring enormous benefits to the person. Recent research suggests that if you can bring yourself to forgive and forget, you are likely to enjoy lower blood pressure, a stronger immune system, and a drop in the stress hormones circulating in your blood.

Back pain, stomach problems, and headaches may disappear and you'll reduce the anger, bitterness, resentment, depression, and other negative emotions that accompany the failure to forgive.

## FRAGMENTS

By Safiya I. Dantiye  
safiyaadantiye@yahoo.com

# JAMB, JAMB again?

I know that I seem obsessed with JAMB (Joint Admission and Matriculation Board) exams, but it has become a thorn in the flesh of many parents and their children, because passing it no longer guarantees that you get admitted into a higher institution. What with post UME screening, which incidentally doesn't also mean passing it is a guarantee for admission, because there are so many people, and no slots to contain them.

With JAMB written last Saturday, my feelings regarding it were brought about sharply, knowing that most of it indeed was a wasted effort, after all how many would secure admission?

I pity Nigeria as a country where we don't seem to have any plan that works, because even where a government may have a good plan or projects, as soon as that government goes, the succeeding one will stop it and bring its own.

If to say there were plans of expansion in anticipation of the rising population, such as building more schools at all levels of primary, secondary and tertiary institutions, and in schools that have more room for expansion to do so, we wouldn't be in this dilemma. In some schools there are about 70 students in a classroom and some don't have seats, they have to do with sitting on the floor. And even in some universities, students, especially females that can hardly withstand standing for one or two hours lecture sit on the floor. It is also a well known fact that in some higher institutions lectures are conducted under the trees. With this appalling scenario, it is indeed a grand illusion for Nigeria to think of being among the twenty largest economies in the world by 2020.

In any event, what is exactly the stance of WAEC and NECO, if you cannot secure admission with them? This is because I know of a brilliant young boy that passed JAMB and WAEC with four distinctions including mathematics and physics, but his chance was truncated at the gate of post JAMB screening, where he 'failed' by two points. And there are so many such devastating instances of dashed hope.

The government should find an urgent solution to end the frustration of Nigeria's youth, since they are the future of the country. Unless our leaders want a hoard of people that will engage in drugs, prostitution, fraud and other vices as a way out since the system has failed them.

Last year, a friend sent her children to a private university, saying even though she would have preferred the children to go to Ahmadu Bello University Zaria (ABU) the admission 'wahala' was too much. "Since we can afford to, it is better than going through post JAMB screening and not getting admission at the end of the day," she said.

If only all of us had this option! But since we don't, you find that some have written JAMB three to four times or even more, and they passed in each sitting, but they are always said to have failed post UME, screening, which is quiet demoralising.

It is now common to hear young people say, "zan sake JAMB", which means "I will sit for JAMB again", and if these were poor students I wouldn't have been worried, but they are brilliant people, full of zest to pursue their education further.

When the results come out, even though those that passed will be happy, there will still be a new trepidation of post JAMB screening, which as I said before does not guarantee admission. Someone says, "It is just luck and prayer now." This may well be the case, since the government doesn't have plans for the population which keeps rising.

And the funny thing is many Nigerians are proud to tell anybody who cares to listen that, "Our population is 140 million." It is a huge population, akin a household of many people living in one room, while the head of the family has the means to move to a house with more rooms and keep feeding the large family with the same amount he spent when he and his wife first got married without any children. Pray, what sort of people will turn out from such a deprived family, especially knowing that their father is wealthy?

“The government should find an urgent solution to end the frustration of Nigeria's youth, since they are the future of the country”

# Health interactive

Write in confidence to [healthinteractive@hotmail.com](mailto:healthinteractive@hotmail.com); [www.healthinteractive.wordpress.com](http://www.healthinteractive.wordpress.com) or send a text message to 080-89972539 or P.O.Box 14807, Kano, Nigeria

## Advice by Dr Aminu Magashi

### Need information about Snoring

**I have a relative who snores a lot when sleeping. It disturbs the people close to him. Please I need a detailed explanation about the problem and the remedy.**

**Thanks a lot.  
Ms Habashiya**

Snoring, like all other sounds, is caused by vibrations that cause particles in the air to form sound waves. For example, when we speak, our vocal cords vibrate to form our voice. When our stomach growls (borborygmus), our stomach and intestines vibrate as air and food move through them.

While we are asleep, turbulent airflow can cause the tissues of the nose and throat to vibrate and give rise to snoring. Essentially, snoring is a sound resulting from turbulent airflow that causes tissues to vibrate during sleep.

Any person can snore. Studies estimate that 45% of men and 30% of women snore on a regular basis. Frequently, people who do not regularly snore will report snoring after a viral illness, after drinking alcohol, or when taking some medications.

In general, as people get older and as they gain weight snoring will worsen.

#### What causes snoring?

While we are breathing, air flows in and out in a steady stream from our nose or mouth to our lungs. There are relatively few sounds when we are sitting and breathing quietly. When we exercise, the air moves more quickly and produces some sounds as we breathe. This happens because air is moving in and out of the nose and mouth more quickly and this results in more turbulence to the airflow and some vibration of the tissues in the nose and mouth.

When we are asleep, the area at the back of the throat sometimes narrows. The same amount of air passing through this smaller opening can cause the tissues surrounding the opening to vibrate, which in turn can cause the sounds of snoring. Different people who snore have different reasons for the narrowing. The narrowing can be in the nose, mouth, or throat.

#### The function of the nose in normal breathing

For breathing at rest, it is ideal to breathe through the nose. The nose acts as a humidifier, heater, and filter for the incoming air. When we breathe through our mouth, these modifications to the air entering our lungs occur to a lesser extent. Our lungs are still able to use the colder, drier, dirtier air; but you may have noticed that breathing really cold, dry, or dirty air can be uncomfort-

able. Therefore, our bodies naturally want to breathe through the nose if possible.

Mouth breathing and snoring

As discussed above, we naturally want to breathe through our noses. Some people cannot breathe through their noses because of obstruction of the nasal passages. This can be caused by

1. A deviation of the nasal septum
2. Allergies
3. Sinus infections
4. Swelling of the turbinates,
5. Large adenoids (tonsils in the back of the throat).
6. In adults, the most common causes of nasal obstruction are septal deviations from a broken nose or tissue swelling from allergies.
7. In children, enlarged adenoids (tonsils in the back of the throat) are often the cause of the obstruction.
8. People with nasal airway obstruction who must breathe through their mouths are therefore sometimes called "mouth breathers."

Many mouth breathers snore, because the flow of air through the mouth causes greater vibration of tissues.

#### The soft palate and snoring

The soft palate is a muscular extension of the bony roof of the mouth (hard palate). It separates the back of the mouth (oropharynx) from the nasal passages (nasopharynx). It is shaped like a sheet attached at three sides and hanging freely in the back of the mouth.

The soft palate is important when breathing and swallowing.

- During nasal breathing, the palate moves forward and "opens" the nasal airway for air to pass into the lungs.

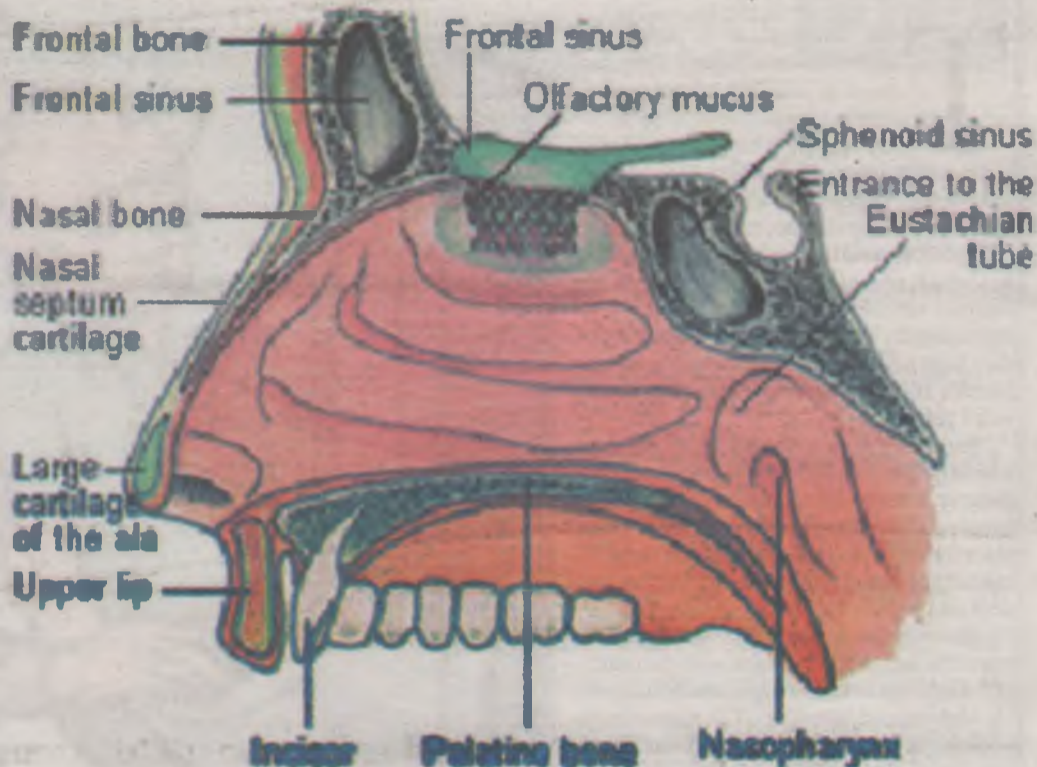
- During swallowing, the palate moves backward and "closes" the nasal passages, thereby directing the food and liquid down the esophagus instead of into the back of the nose.

The uvula is the small extension at the back of the soft palate.

The palate and attached uvula often are the structures that vibrate during snoring and surgical treatments for snoring may alter these structures and prevent guttural fricative sounds.

#### Narrowed airways and snoring

The tonsils are designed to detect and fight infections. They are located at the back of the mouth on each side of the throat (oropharynx). They are also called the palatine tonsils. Like other infection-fighting tissue, the tonsils swell while they are fighting bacteria and viruses. Often, the tonsils do not return to their normal size after the infection is gone. They



can remain enlarged (hypertrophied) and can narrow the airway vibrate, and cause snoring.

The soft palate, as described above, is the flap of tissue that hangs down in the back of the mouth. If it is too long or floppy, it can vibrate and cause snoring.

The uvula is suspended from the center and back of the soft palate. An abnormally long or thick uvula also can contribute to snoring.

#### Sleeping position and snoring

When we are asleep, we are usually (though not always) lying down. Gravity acts to pull on all the tissues of the body, but the tissues of the pharynx are relatively soft and floppy. Therefore, when we lie on our backs, gravity pulls the palate, tonsils, and tongue backwards. This often narrows the airway enough to cause turbulence in airflow, tissue vibration, and snoring. Frequently, if the snorer is gently reminded (for example, with a gentle thrust of the elbow to the ribs or a tickle) to roll onto his or her side, the tissues are no longer pulled backwards and the snoring lessens.

#### How should someone with snoring be evaluated?

To thoroughly evaluate someone with a snoring problem, it is important to also talk to that person's bed partner or family members. A complete history and physical examination is often performed.

In addition, more detail about their snoring and sleep problems needs to be obtained. The patients may be asked about their sleep pattern and sleep hygiene, daytime symptoms of sleepiness, daytime napping, and frequency of

awakening at night.

A thorough physical examination may also be performed including assessing the patient's body weight and body mass index (BMI), assessment of the neck circumference (area around the neck), and visualization of the throat, nasal, and oral cavities to determine how narrow the oral and nasal passages are.

How is it determined if snoring is a medical problem?

People who sleep (or lie awake not sleeping) near a snorer often report signs that may indicate a more serious problem. Witnessed apnea (stopping breathing) or gasping can suggest a breathing problem like sleep apnea (see below) or heart problems. Referral to a sleep specialist may be recommended if obstructive sleep apnea occur.

#### What are the treatments for snoring?

The goals for the treatment of surgery may be difficult to determine. The problem of snoring usually is a problem for the bed partner or roommate. Therefore, successful treatment should also include the goal of achieving a successful night's sleep for the bed partner or roommate.

#### What are some non-surgical treatments for snoring?

The main categories of non-surgical treatment of snoring are:

1. Behavioral changes
  2. Dental devices
  3. Nasal devices and medications
- Behavioral changes are the easiest to identify, but some of the hardest to accomplish. For example, if a person gains too

much weight, his or her snoring may become a problem. Behavioral changes include weight loss, changing sleeping positions, avoiding alcohol and smoking and changing medications that may be the cause of snoring.

#### Dental devices

As previously discussed, snoring is exacerbated by normal airflow through a narrowed area in the throat. Part of the narrowing is caused by the tongue and palate falling back during sleep. Some dental devices have been developed that hold the jaw forward. Since the tongue is attached in the front to the jaw, the tongue also is held forward when these devices are used. Some devices are designed to hold the palate up and forward.

#### Nasal devices and medications

For people with narrow nasal passages, snoring can be alleviated with nasal devices or medications.

If nasal mucosal (lining) swelling from allergies or irritation is causing the problem, nasal sprays may help. Nasal saline irrigation spray is a way to clean and moisturize the nasal lining since environmental irritants that stay in the nose (dust, pollen, and smoke) continue to irritate as long as they are present. The nasal lining also swells when it is cold and dry. Nasal saline helps to wash away irritants and moisturizes the mucosa without side effects. Other nasal sprays that may be used to improve nasal breathing include nasal steroid sprays and nasal decongestants. They are very helpful for swelling due to mirror allergies or irritation.

# How to monitor your children's internet use

By Tosin Omoniyi and Akor Ojoma

**T**HE Internet is a wonderful resource for children. They can use it to research school assignments, communicate with teachers and other children, and play interactive games among others. Kids who are old enough to punch in a few letters on the keyboard can literally access the world.

Today, several homes have internet facilities which allow family members access the internet whenever they wish. A lot of parents consider their children's accessibility of the internet as an outlet for entertainment besides the conventional television set or video games.

For some, it is a sign of social prestige whereby they brag about their children's computer or 'internet literacy.' And for others it is simply a sign of times as it would seem out of place for people to find out that their children cannot access the unlimited possibilities evident on the internet.

However, many parents are totally oblivious of the fact that side by side with the beauty of the internet lies other indisputable dangers.

Mohammed Sanni, an IT personnel with a computer firm in Abuja says parents do not exercise enough control over the activities of their children's once on the internet. "With more and more children gaining unfettered access to the internet, it is necessary to put in place specific control mechanisms to limit their operations to worthwhile their activities while on the internet. The internet has come to stay and it is impossible to prevent children's total access to it but parents and guardians should learn ways to monitor what their children do on the internet on a daily basis. Many kids are into pornography nowadays and their parents are unaware of it. It is quite easy to watch immoral films on the net today especially because it is for free; everyday more children learn about this through internet freedom."

He said the consequence of this for family values and the society at large is not palatable, albeit becoming a trend amongst children and youths. "Over 50 percent of kids that you see browsing in our cybercafés today are into online pornography. If that is the case in the cybercafés then you will begin to wonder what other children in the confines of their homes do on the internet on a daily basis. There are some control measures that can be employed by parents to monitor the activities of their young ones on the Internet", he said.

It is important to be aware of what your kids see and hear on the Internet, who they meet, and what they share about themselves online. Just like any safety issue, it is wise to talk to your kids about your concerns, take advantage of resources to protect them, and keep a close eye on their activities.

There are online tools that will enable you control your kids' access to adult material and help protect them from Internet predators. No option is going to guarantee that they'll be kept away from 100% of the risks



on the Internet but to an extent it curtails certain immoral activities. It is important to be aware of your kids' computer activities and educate them about online risks. The KidsHealth website advises that you can get involved in children's online activities by first becoming computer literate and learning how to block objectionable material.

#### You can monitor children's internet use in the following ways:

**K**ee the computer in a common area, not in individual bedrooms, where you can watch and monitor its use; such as the family room or living room. Set hours that your child are allowed to be online. According to e-how.com, "set time limits. The average adult user spends three recreational hours per day on the internet. Limit your child to no more than one hour a day. You may even break this up into twenty minute segments. You may want your child to continue engaging in extracurricular activities. This limit ensures your child will spend more time engaging in social interactions offline."

Block websites that you do not want your children to see. Many Internet service providers (ISPs) provide parent-control options to block certain material from coming into a computer. You can also get software that helps block access to certain sites based on a "bad site" list that your ISP creates. Filtering programs can block sites from coming in and restrict personal information from being sent online. There are other programs that can monitor and track online activities.

Also, make sure your children create a screen name to protect their real identity.

According to e-how.com, "Add privacy controls. How many times have you searched for an item and ended up with a sexually suggestive ad? This may happen to a child if you don't protect the privacy features. The top two browsers, Internet Explorer and Mozilla Firefox, have built-in privacy controls under their Tools section. Set the controls on medium to high so the browser can act as a filter, no matter what search engine is used. Create an email account for your child. On the Internet, your child will require a web identity. Create an email account with your child and link it to your own account. This privacy control gives you access to their emails. Unless they will be corresponding with their teachers, do not use their name as part of the user name. Gmail is recommended as the email account because it has access to other popular networks and video sharing sites and it is easily monitored."

Protect your child from unwanted and objectionable email. Tell your child not to give his email or yours out to anyone, and use a program like Norton to block any email that contains select vulgar words or content you do not wish for your children to see. Such a program essentially requires you to list every word or topic you do not wish for your children to get in email and have these messages re-directed to a spam folder or just deleted. Again, anti-spam software can help weed out objectionable content email, but spammers make money by figuring out how to circumvent these systems and getting email not to be blocked, so some mail will still come through. Have a policy in your house against opening or responding to email from people you or your children do not know.

Set boundaries for what type of information is acceptable to give out online. It is reasonable to set limits on what types of information or photos your child can post on myspace.com, photos sites such as flickr.com, or forums and chat rooms that might list a town and state with a name. Children need to know not to reveal personal information such as their address, home telephone number, or the name and location of their school. Tell them any request

for information needs to be run by parents first. Furthermore, restrict photo sharing to family and friends. Allow your teen to enter into social networks, but restrict what they can share. Make sure photos of family and friends are only accessible with a password. Do not allow them to post pictures that display identifying information in the background of the picture such as school names, address numbers and street signs.

Establish a set response in the possible event that someone scares or threatens your child on the Internet. Find out the policies implemented at other places where your child accesses the Internet. Some libraries will allow children free access to almost any website, feeling they have no accountability for what children see.

When necessary, consider other software options. If you are afraid that your child is disobeying you and placing herself at risk, in addition to checking the history in the browser, you can consider a type of program called a key logger. This records the keystrokes your child types in email, forums, chat room, IM, etc. So if your child is looking to meet up with a stranger or giving out information you are not comfortable with, it will record this information.

Block your child with a password. If you want to block your child's access to the Internet when you are at home, consider password-protecting your computer itself with a password that he cannot guess, (birthdays, pets names and anniversaries are all easy to guess) so that he can't be online without your knowledge or when you are not at home.

Also take your child seriously if he or she reports an uncomfortable online exchange.

e-how also adds: "Be a sleuth, not a snoop. There are two types of parents: those who ransack their children's rooms for a journal and those who don't. If you are one of the former, this snooping behaviour can extend to the web. Join your child's social network, but don't make your presence known. Try not to interact with your child there. You want them to be free to interact with others, while aware that you may see what they're sharing. In short, linger, but don't snoop. Become a guide.

While you may be tempted to be a cool parent and make your presence known, your role is to guide your child in internet etiquette. Communicate with your child primarily through email, not on their social networks. Send great content their way via links. Music, videos, articles, and pictures relating to their hobbies will prepare them to filter information.

At this age they will use the Internet as a social tool, and you are teaching them to find and comment on relevant information. Above all be aware of warning signs. Just like you ask identifying information about your child's friends, ask about their Internet friends. Ask about their parents, background, hobbies and other unique details."

It concludes: "Be wary of your child making friends on the Internet. Look out for warning signs of new relationships. For instance, new friends calling your home number or packages in the mail; if these are from names you're not familiar with, your child may be engaging in a relationship with an Internet friend.

The hope is that they will simply extend their social network to the Internet. Still, teens are beginning adolescence where they may feel awkward and alone. Predators are always willing to play the role of caring counsellor. Stay alert!

**“There are some control measures that can be employed by parents to monitor the activities of their young ones on the Internet**



## PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

1. The Nasarawa State Government has earmarked about 400Ha parcel of land situated along Abuja – Keffi Expressway for a Housing Programme under the Public Private Partnership scheme between the State Government, the Federal Housing Authority and Sharp Little City Ltd. The project is targeted to provide about 11,450 Housing Units.
2. The parcel of land falls between Kuchikau and Auta Baleifi bordering the Bingham University and Sayidna Village in Karu LGA more particularly described as follows:-  
Starting from A3670G:- Whose UTM Coords are:- N=990042.37m, E=355666.83m, the boundary runs for a distance of 398.91 metres on a bearing of 273°31' to A3671G thence for 390.30 metres on a bearing of 273°42' to A3672G thence for 227.43 metres on a bearing of 358°20' to A3673G thence for 286.54 metres on a bearing of 332°41' to A3674G thence for 319.35 metres on a bearing of 332°41' to A3675G thence for 395.55 metres on a bearing of 350°08' to A3676G thence for 261.00 metres on a bearing of 01°02' to A3677G thence for 3771.01 metres on a bearing of 06°19' to A3678G thence for 364.98 metres on a bearing of 05°23' to A36789 thence for 402.54 metres on a bearing of 98°02' to A3680G thence for 230.50 metres on a bearing of 97°06' to A3681G thence for 221.00 metres on a bearing of 97°57' to A3682 thence for 354.09 metres on a bearing of 93°08' to A3683G thence for 352.26 metres on a bearing of 91°30' to A3684G thence for 232.10 metres on a bearing of 185°02' to A3685G thence for 243.81 metres on a bearing of 181°51' to A3686G thence for 349.34 metres on a bearing of 90°42' to A3687G thence for 330.33 metres on a bearing of 148°25' to KRA 1025 thence for 27.05 metres on a bearing of 149°56' to KRA 1026 thence for 33.68 metres on a bearing of 89°04' to A3692G thence for 235.96 metres on a bearing of 80°55' to A3693G thence for 268.25 metres on a bearing of 81°19' to A3690G thence for 335.49 metres on a bearing of 165°59' to A3691G thence for 75.64 metres on a bearing of 253°49' to KRA 3650 thence for 240.28 metres on a bearing of 253°46' to KRA 3649 thence for 180.87 metres on a bearing of 252°00' to KRA 3648 thence for 248.70 metres on a bearing of 250°16' to KRA 3647 thence for 362.18 metres on a bearing of 192°16' to KRA 3645 thence for 147.39 metres on a bearing of 236°38' to KRA 3644 thence for 272.77 metres on a bearing of 221°36' to KRA 783 thence for 114.57 metres on a bearing of 223°39' to KRA 3643 thence for 139.05 metres on a bearing of 211°32' to KRA 3642 thence for 372.34 metres on a bearing of 276°05' -----  
----- back  
to the starting point, thus enclosing the area stated above. All corners are marked by concrete beacons and all bearings are referred to National North.
3. Accordingly, the State Government wishes to convey through this medium again this Notice of Intention to acquire all that parcel of land for the overriding public interest.
4. Notices of Intention to acquire all property within this defined area have been dispatched to all statutory holders and customary occupiers have been equally informed.
5. Consequently, Compensation Assessment Exercise has been scheduled to commence from Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2010 to end on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2010 at the site. Affected persons are requested to be at site for enumeration as scheduled, please.
6. For further inquiries contact the Ministry of Lands, Survey and Town Planning, Lafia,

SIGN:

Permanent Secretary  
For: Hon. Commissioner

## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (re-advertisement)



The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Nigeria would like to invite registered Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) for Pre-qualification and possible inclusion in a database of NGOs specialized in the following areas:

**Elections**

**Media**

**Conflict Management**

**Political Parties**

**Gender**

**Human Rights, Rule of Law and Access to Justice**

**Youth**

**Other Democratic Governance areas not specifically mentioned above**

The United Nations Development Programme in Nigeria, through the Democratic Governance for Development (DGD) project is looking to complete a comprehensive roster of NGOs working in the area of democratic governance in Nigeria.

Interested NGOs must meet the eligibility requirements for consideration which can be downloaded at the following UNDP websites: [www.ng.undp.org](http://www.ng.undp.org), [www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org). The application template can also be downloaded from the websites.

### SUBMISSION DETAILS:

The EOI and supporting documents must be received not later than the 13 May 2010 by 3:00 PM (local time) and must be forwarded to the address below in a sealed envelope clearly labeled "EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PRE QUALIFICATION OF NGOs in NIGERIA" PLEASE INCLUDE THE NAME OF THE NGO AND THE GEO-POLITICAL ZONE OF INTEREST.

### OPERATIONS MANAGER

UNDP/DGD 4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR

ELIZADE PLAZA, OPPOSITE BOLINGO HOTEL  
CENTRAL AREA, GARKI (ABUJA)

**The EOI submissions that are not in compliance with the requested information as outlined above will be not be considered eligible to be included in the next stage in this process.**

This EOI does not amount to a commitment on the part of UNDP, either financial or otherwise. UNDP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOI without any obligation to inform the affected applicants of the grounds for acceptance or rejection.

ta dawo!

# garabasar 9ja taik 4 free



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

### babu gasar mal rabo ka dauka

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

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

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

Garabasar zata kai har talatin ga watan afrilu, 2010

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# BUSINESS

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## Jonathan gets President's allowances

By Jibrin Abubakar & Idris Ahmed

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan would as from next month start enjoying allowances due to the President and Commander in Chief, Daily Trust has learnt.

Since he became acting president, Mr. Jonathan has been paid allowances of a vice president.

But there have been no laws that allow him to enjoy the allowances of the president.

The Revenue Mobilization Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) is submitting a proposal to the National Assembly recommending that he be paid the allowances.

An impeccable source in RMAFC told Daily Trust on phone that an in-house committee was set up to look into it and the committee recommended to Accountant-General of the Federation that Jonathan gets the allowances of the President.

The source said: "We can't pay him double salaries-the salary of President and Vice President at the same time-what we can do is to pay him the allowances of the president."

But the commission said the new pay package for Jonathan would not affect the allowances and salaries of ailing President Umaru Musa Yar'adua.

RMAFC is one of the 14 executive bodies set up by the Constitution directly. It is not as a result of a law made by the National Assembly.

The Commission fixes the salaries of political office holders including those of the judiciary.

A letter to the National Assembly is being prepared by the RMAFC, Daily Trust learnt.

The source said the allowances will be retroactive to the time Jonathan became acting president.

Base on the revised revenue package of certain political office holders which became effective late last year, Jonathan's annual basic salary is N3, 013, 572.50 while his current allowance is N7, 232, 574.00. The President's annual basic salary is N3, 514, 705 while his allowances add up to N8, 435, 292.

If the RMAFC's recommended for the improvement on the acting president's pay package is approved by the National Assembly, Jonathan would now add the president's allowance of N8, 435, 292 to his basic salary to make it N11, 448, 864.50 instead of his current N10, 246, 146.50 pay package.

The source said that the National Assembly



ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan

can carry out amendment of the 2008 Act of the RMAFC for the payment to be effected and that this can be done in a week.

"Hopefully, the acting President should start enjoying the allowance by next month," the source added.

In the same vein, any deputy governor of a state that acted on behalf of his governor would also enjoy the allowances of the governor but if a Speaker of the State House of Assembly acted as governor, he is not entitled to any allowance, Daily Trust learnt.

## Skye bank grows earnings by 70%

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

SKYE Bank Plc has recorded gross earnings of N126.67billion for the year ended December 31, 2009 as against N74.62 billion achieved in 2008. The result represents a 69.76 per cent growth.

In its audited results released yesterday on the floor of the Nigeria Stock Exchange (NSE), the bank's net interest income rose by 54.52 per cent, from N30.47billion to N47.09billion; which is indicative of a high degree of efficiency in the management of its interest expense, and quality earning potential.

The Bank also took its high quality earnings capacity a step further, recording an increase in operating income from N51.94billion to N75.02billion, a growth of 44.44 per cent.

Despite the inclement operating environment, and the significant challenges faced by the Banking industry during the year, it declared a profit before tax of N2, 15billion, and profit after tax of N1.13billion, respectively.

During the financial year also, its loan portfolio recorded a 28.97 per cent increase, from N246.39billion to N317.76billion.

### STOCK MARKET INDEX

Date:	Thursday, April 22, 2010
Index:	27,515.02
Volume:	590,133,604
Cap.:	N 6,655,329,886,440.00

### TRUST INDEX

Inflation	12.3%
GDP	6.68%
Budget	N11.6tr
Ext. Reserves Acct	\$41.5bn
Excess Crude Acct	\$3.9bn
Poverty Ratio	54.4%
Monetary Policy Rate	6%
Banks	24
Oil Price	\$82 a barrel
Power Supply	2,500MW
Oil import gas bill	2.6mbd
Broad Money Supply	N10,618,587.9m
Credit to Private Sector	N10,006,236.9m
Inter-Bank Rate	11.700%
Inflation	2.02%
Deposit Rate	10.98%
Prime Lending Rate	18.28%

### CBN EXCHANGE RATES

21/4/2010	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)
CEA	0.2841	0.2941	0.3041
DANISH KRONER	26.1919	26.5818	26.6716
EURO	197.2319	197.9008	198.5697
POUND STERLING	226.8558	227.6691	228.3714
RIYAL	39.3147	39.448	39.5813
SDR	223.725	221.1838	225.2125
SWISS FRANC	137.605	138.0717	138.5384
US DOLLAR	147.43	147.93	148.43
WAUA	223.7507	224.5096	225.2684
YEN	1.58	1.5876	1.5929

### Bureau de Change Rates

BUYING	
Dollar	141.11
Euro	N204
Yuan	N236
SELLING	
Dollar	N152
Euro	N206
Pound	N236

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

CBN

## Travelogue

# Ovia Osese: Why young girls sing

The people of Ogori, a sleepy town in the Ogori-Magongo Local Government Area of Kogi State, have numerous festivals, among which is Ovia Osese, an annual initiation of young girls to womanhood. **Isiaka Wakili**, our correspondent who was present at this year's Ovia Osese festival which held last Saturday, reports that the age-old tradition is caught in a season of change.

**A**LL roads leading to Ogori were busy, as visitors from home and abroad, surged to witness the festival believed to symbolize chastity, virility, fertility and procreation. Aside top government functionaries and royal fathers in attendance, varying cultural troupes also added glamour to the festival.

Ovia Osese is a festival of songs, for the Ogori are a singing people. During the festival, there are very many songs expressed, but among the Ovia, exclusive songs are meant to be sung by only the initiates and the already initiated girls, when an Ovia (young girl) is being dressed or at the kindred square.

When and how did the Ovia Osese festival start? While most of the elders see it as a festival that is as old as the community itself, some agree it started over a century ago. Mr Adegbola Tedy, a native of Ogori, explained: "Ovia Osese started as a family festival. The daughter of the person who started it was accused of being wayward, and her would-be husband almost disowned her. As a result of this, priests and oracles were consulted, and it was discovered in the end that the girl was not wayward, as alleged. Her mother then returned home joyous, hosting friends and relations to rejoice over the fact that her daughter was still a virgin. That was how the tradition was passed from one family to another, and generations to generations."

Out of 92 young girls billed for this year's Ovia Osese festival,

only 26 turned up. While many of them were said to have gone for JAMB examinations which coincided with the festival, others were said to be absent for unknown reasons.

Before the festival commenced proper, our correspondent spoke with some of the initiated girls, and sought their views on the festival. One of them was 16-year-old Uninibele Adegbola, a 100 level student of the department of History and International Relations, Kogi State University, Anyigba. Before now, she had been longing for the day she would be initiated into womanhood. Her reason was very simple: She believed it would dignify her as a pride of the family.

"I am very excited to be part of the young girls involved in this year's Ovia Osese festival. It is a day I have been praying fervently to witness. Initiation means different things to different people. There is nothing fetish in Ovia Osese festival. It is just a culture



"OUT of 92 young girls billed for this year's Ovia Osese festival, only 26 turned up."

which proves to the entire world that despite the influence of westernization all over the place, we, the innocent girls of Ogori land,

have our sanctity and virginity preserved. Any girl of about between 15 and 25 years that does not do would bring shame to her family. The festival is important to me, and that is why I came all the way from school to be part of it", she said.

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FUTURE Ovias also at a performance

"Ovia Osese is a festival of songs, for the Ogori singing people."

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old Asiyawu Amuda, who said she was initiated at 21, considered the tradition fast changing from its original norm: "You can see that the girls being initiated here today, are wearing the local fabric called *ofi* and beads. It was never like that in the past. All girls to be initiated would come out naked. They would only put on some beads on their waists. And because they were truly virgins, they would not feel that they were naked in public. I doubt if all the girls being initiated today are still what they are expected to be. Could they afford to appear naked today? Let them answer the question".

Corroborating this view, Right Reverend Odunitan Festus David of the Diocese of African Church in the community said: "I was told that in those days, the way the Ovia Osese festival was celebrated was different from what we are seeing today. In the past, all the female children would come out naked. They would merely bring some beads to cover their private parts. Unlike now that they are all well-dressed. Nevertheless, the festival has to be continued, because the Bible says we should train our children the way they would grow, and when they grow, they would not depart from it.

"Parents in Ogori brought up their female children in a very good way. Having properly brought them up, the parents are now saying that the children have come of age and should be conscious of this. We, in the Diocese, are not leaving them at this stage of initiation. We make sure they come in as a ladies' forum to be well equipped in the words of God, before going into any marital relationship. We are trying to save them from premarital sex".

Elder Salimon Akano, who referred to himself as one of the custodians of Ogori traditions, equally observed that due to socio-economic changes, and the influence of western civilization, the Ovia Osese festival has undergone a slight departure from its original core value. According to him, rather than the three years the festival used to cover, it has virtually become a one-week affair. In those days, he said, the essence of making it to cover so long a period, was to ensure a proper development of all the female children who were due for initiation.

For Mr Bola Boro, a native of Ogori, young girls billed for the Ovia Osese, used to be camped before the festival, noting that these days, such practice is no longer possible, as most of the girls are in school.

The National President of Ogori Descendants' Union, Tony Animasahun, says despite the influence of modernization, the Ovia Osese festival is fast gaining both national and international prominence, by moulding the character traits of the young girls, and fostering unity among the people. "We are building on the foundation laid by our predecessors, and as a people, we will ensure that the Ovia Osese Cul-



"IN the past, all the female children would come out naked."

tural Festival remains a cherished tradition which we hope to bequeath to generations of our children", he said.

The Chairman, Education and Culture Committee of the festival, says Ovia Osese is just "a peep into the future. We are preparing a future for our young girls, who will eventually become wives and mothers. It is not for nothing that we often say that when you educate a woman, you educate a whole nation. This is the spirit behind Ovia Osese cultural festival. It places emphasis on the chastity of our young girls, equipping them to become wives, mothers and worthy torch bearers. In these days of the rising scourge of HIV/AIDS, there is no better time than now to stress the essence of this festival. It has helped Ogori community to keep its young girls in check, and thus, helped to reduce the scourge of HIV/AIDS."

Relishing the potentials of the festival, the acting Chairman of the Ogori-Magongo Local Government Area, Prince Sumbo Ayo, says: "What we are witnessing today is the totality of our people. The Ovia Osese festival has come a long way. It is one tradition that brings our people home from far and near. The whole essence is purity of the heart, soul and body. It is a crowd-pulling festival. We have neighbours from Edo and other states, who have travelled here to witness the festival. I wish to call on the Kogi State government to explore the possibility of partnering with our people to expand this scope of the festival.

"The involvement of a corporate organization like MTN is an indication of the great potentials of the festival. On the part of the local government, we have always striven to support this great festival within our limited resources. I appeal to the government to get the festival listed by the Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation (NTDC). On several occasions, we have had tourists from abroad grace the festival. Ovia Osese is a festival waiting to be fully harnessed. With the grad-

ual, but steady fall in the global oil price, tourism might just be a safe alternative to boost the country's revenue base.

Otunba Olusegun Runsewe, the Director-General, Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation (NTDC), represented by Hajiya Abdulrahman Mohammed, a manager with the Corporation, regards the Ovia Osese festival as a beautiful cultural display, saying that soon it would be one of the first to be reckoned with

Describing Ovia Osese as a festival that propagates decency in womanhood, the representative of MTN, Mr Nurudeen Seriki, leaves no one in doubt that his organization will continue to partner with the people of Ogori to support the festival.

In the view of the Speaker of the State House of Assembly, Clarence Olafemi, the Ovia Osese festival signposts the uniqueness of the Ogori culture, which he considers marketable both nationally

**"The whole essence is purity of the heart, soul and body."**

and internationally. Governor Ibrahim Idris, who was conferred with the traditional title of Ogbuloko of Ogori land, pledged through his representative at the event, Chief Bala Haruna, the Chief of Staff of the Government House, to improve on the Ovia Osese festival to make it a tourist attraction.

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GIRLS lining up for the initiation rites.

With the influence of civilization the world over, one nagging question, perhaps, is: hasn't the objective age-long Ovia Osese festival been? Answering this question, 67-year-

festival of  
gori are a

## Business

### Bharti-Zain acquisition deal faces hitches

By Zakariyya Adaramola

THE acquisition deal in which India's Bharti has reportedly paid \$9 billion for Zain's African assets appears to be facing renewed problems in some key markets, including Nigeria, *Daily Trust* can report.

Our correspondent reports that workers of Zain Nigeria are protesting, voicing their concerns to the government and the legislature by calling for a thorough examination of what their fate, and those of retailers and local shareholders will be like when the deal comes to a conclusion.

The Zain Nigeria workers, *Daily Trust* learnt from a source in the company yesterday, fear that Bharti will cut jobs, and supervise its operations with Indian expatriates where it is not doing so via remote Internet Protocol (IP) resources.

According to them, this will also introduce obstacles to the marketing process which could potentially destroy the investment of up to 100 major Nigerian retailers.

But the spokesman of Zain Nigeria, Mr. Emmanuel Otokhine, said it was not true that the workers of Zain Nigeria are protesting about the Bharti deal, "it is mere speculations", he said.

Apart from the workers' challenge, it is also said that Strive Masiyiwa's challenge of the legality of the sale of Econet Wireless to VMobile and subsequent buyers is still pending in the courts both in Nigeria and in the Netherlands.

This, *Daily Trust* learnt, has profound consequences as Zain Nigeria remains the key asset of Zain Africa. In two other countries in Bharti's stable - Congo and Gabon - different kinds of issues are threatening the deal.

The National, an Abu Dhabi based news journal reported on April 13 that in the Republic of Congo, the country's Minister for Telecommunications, Thierry Mounghalla, said the sale of Zain Congo was illegal and he would not approve the deal under the current conditions.

In Gabon, hostilities are more pronounced with the government reported to have disapproved outright, the sale of Zain Gabon because both operators failed to comply with the country's telecoms regulations.

### BOI's investment hits N66bn

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

THE Bank of Industry has announced the sum of N65.9 billion as total value of its investment for the year ended December 31, 2009.

The value represents 572 percent growth on N9.8 billion recorded in December 2005.

Besides, the bank's cumulative investments grew by 730 percent from 88 as at December 2005 to 731 percent by December last year.

Managing Director of the Bank Mrs. Evelyn Oputu said the exponential growth in the financial institution was sequel to the launch of its paradigm shift initiative in 2006.

She said in line with one of the elements of its paradigm shift under which 85 percent of its resources were earmarked for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), the percentage of Bank of Industry's annual lending to Small and Medium Enterprises increased to 92 percent by December 2009 from 65 percent in 2005.

"The emphasis on MSMEs is due to their higher multiplier effects per unit of investment. As a result of the conscientious monitoring of its investments, the bank's Portfolio At Risk (PAR) was significantly reduced to an average of less than 21 percent in 2009 from 65 percent in 2005", she said.

According to her, the bank has also deepened its credit delivery process by lending to cooperative groups comprising mainly women and youths under collective guarantee arrangements.

She said over N1.4 billion has been approved to various groups since 2008.

### FG grants 9,300 new mining titles

FEDERAL Government has processed 9,300 new mining titles, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Mines and Steel Development Alhaji Shiekh Goni has said. Goni said the development was part of government's efforts to encourage investment in the nation's solid minerals sector.

He spoke on Wednesday in Abuja at a two-day retreat on "Deepening Governance Issues", organised by the Nigerian Geological Survey Agency (NGSA). Goni said that the titles which varied from exploration licences to mining leases were processed within five months from October last year to February this year. He said that the beneficiaries had been issued letters of conveyance. "The rate of investment can be assessed by the high level of mining activities nationwide. "This is unprecedented, as we now have investment ranging from \$1 million and above", he said.

Goni, who spoke on: "The Delay of the Mining Regulations", said that the absence of necessary framework would not pose any threat to investors.

He said the Ministries of Mines and Steel Development, the Judiciary as well as stakeholders were collaborating to ensure a world-class regulation.

Director-General of NGSA, Prof. Siyan Malomo, said the sector had grown professionally in the last five years. (NAN)



MINISTER of State for Finance Mr. Remi Babaiola (right), the Group Managing Director of Diamond Bank Plc Mr. Emeka Onwuka and the Divisional Head (Public Sector) of the bank Mrs Eunice Williams, during a meeting in Abuja with the minister, yesterday.

## BPE appoints Lead Capital as advisers to Transcorp IPO

By Yunus Abdulhamid

LEAD Capital Markets Limited Consortium has emerged the Transaction Advisers for the Initial Public Offering (IPO) of NIRMSCO Properties Limited (owners of Transcorp Hilton Hotel Abuja).

Spokesman of the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) Chukwuma Nwokoh announced yesterday that the consortium outscored three others with 92.58 points to win the bid.

The others are: FCMB Capital Markets Limited Consortium, which came second with 69.13, FBN Capital Markets Limited Consortium, came third with 58.90 and Chapel Hill Management Consortium, fourth, with 54.44 points.

The BPE said the financial

bid opening for the selection was done in Abuja on Wednesday, April 21, 2010.

Acting Director General of the BPE, Ms Bolanle Onagoruwa scored Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja, high in the hospitality industry, saying the hotel was one of the few in the industry that distributes profit to shareholders on quarterly basis.

Ms Onagoruwa said with its performance, the National Council on Privatization (NCP) through the BPE decided to divest 24 percent out of the outstanding FGN's 49 percent equity in the company to the general public through an initial public offering of its shares.

She said as incentive to staff of the company, 10 percent of the shares on offer would be preferentially allotted to them. The

Acting DG charged the successful advisory firm to show a high level of diligence, accountability and transparency throughout the duration of the transaction process.

NICON Insurance Corporation had in 1987 obtained loan facilities guaranteed by the Federal Government from a consortium of foreign banks to finance the construction of the hotel which began operations on April 14, 1987 and later gave rise to NIRMSCO properties.

The privatization of NIRMSCO Properties Ltd through core investor sale was concluded in 2005 with the company's 51 percent shares sold to Capital Consortium/Transnational Corporation Plc while the remaining 49 percent was scheduled to be divested later through Initial Public Offer.

## Diaspora group plans employment boost in Nigeria

By Yunus Abdulhamid

A group of Nigerians in the Diaspora have declared plans to embark on massive transportation system in Nigeria that is capable of generating about 4,000 job opportunities.

The group is operating under the aegis of Diaspora Integration Programme and is coordinated by Dr. Marcel Ezenwoye.

Dr Marcel who addressed newsmen in Abuja recently said the initiative would see the deployment of made in

Nigeria buses that are currently being engineered in China by renowned Nigerian auto experts.

The experts are led by Prof. Emmanuel Ezugwu, the world-renowned Nigerian in the area of machining for aero-engine components, he said.

Prof. Emmanuel is known to have undergone researches and consultancy projects for Rolls Royce and numerous international auto firms. First batches of the buses under the trade name; Zhope Automobiles are

expected in Nigeria in May.

"We have decided to come with investment tools and skills to develop our motherland. We are seeking land, energy and enabling environment to bring the company home," he said.

Ezenwoye is currently the President of Concepts University College in London. He said that the Diaspora Integration Programme was initiated to encourage Nigerians and Africans, who have excelled in various fields abroad to come back home to impart on the society.

## Business/Power

# FG poised to deregulate power sector

By Fidelis Mac-Leva

MINISTER of State [power] Nuhu Somo Wya has identified deregulation as the most viable and economically realistic means of guaranteeing government's desire for rapid and irreversible progress towards surmounting the problems that have beset Nigeria's public utilities, particularly electricity.

Wya who spoke at the opening ceremony of the 7th Annual Conference of the African Forum for Utility Regulators in Abuja said the federal government was poised to deregulate the Power sector in line with the provisions in the Electric Power Sector Reform Act 2005.

"The telecommunication industry has made a giant stride in Nigeria as a result of deregulation and the power sector has no option but to follow suit", the Minister said.

Admitting that Nigeria was facing challenges of "a great imbalance between electricity supply and demand", the Minister said the challenges of the Nigeria Power sector were multifaceted and need to be tackled in a pragmatic manner that would ensure sustainable, adequate and reliable supply of electricity in the country.

Wya said: "It is now more evident than ever that Nigeria needs to upgrade and expand her elec-

tricity infrastructure in order to improve her socio economic performance and to achieve the aspiration of being in the League of the top 20 economies in the world by 2020."

Professor Assi Benie, chairman of the African Forum for Utility Regulators, AFUR, acknowledged the leading role played by Nigeria in African integration, especially through the New Partnership for Africa's Development, NEPAD.

He said it was the third time that the annual conference of AFUR was being hosted in Africa pointing out that independent regulatory framework was necessary for development of public utilities

in the continent.

Administrator of the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission, NERC, Immamudeen Talba said infrastructure development remains a focal point on the Seven Point Agenda of the federal government, adding that: "hosting the AFUR conference in Nigeria at this point will no doubt assist policy makers, regulators and industry operators to address some of the key challenges of meeting the demands for infrastructure development in Nigeria."

Over 300 delegates from around the world, including utility regulators, senior government officials and the private sector as

well as representatives from international development and finance institutions, investors and utility service providers are attending the AFUR Conference which lasts for one week.

AFUR came into being in 2002 based on clause 110 of the framework document of the New Partnership for Africa's Development [NEPAD]. It is a voluntary organization whose members are regulators of water, telecommunication, energy and sanitation in their respective countries. It comprises 30 African countries, including Nigeria and has a Secretariat based in Pretoria, South Africa.

## PHCN installs High Voltage Distribution System at Karu

By Fidelis Mac-Leva

RESIDENTS of Karu area of the Federal Capital Territory may have a cause to smile as the World Bank funded project on the conversion of Low Voltage Distribution System [LVDS] to High Voltage Distribution System [HVDS] on the Karu 11kv Feeder has been completed and handed over to the Abuja Electricity Distribution Company for further maintenance.

The conversion of LVDS to HVDS is a world Bank initiative that was introduced as a pilot scheme known as CREST [Commercial Reorientation of Electricity Sector Tool Kits] funded through the National Energy Development Project [NEDP], a credit facility of the Federal Government with International Development Association [IDA].

The contract which was

awarded to PIVOT Engineering Limited at the cost of N191.8million was formally handed over to the Project Management Unit [PMU] of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria, PHCN. It is expected to boost power supply through improved service delivery to electricity consumers at Karu and environs.

General Manager, Project Management Unit [PMU] of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria, PHCN, Engineer Mosiru Afolabi Ganiyu who spoke through a representative called on PHCN customers in Karu, Mararaba and Nyanya to ensure prompt settlement of their bills to reciprocate government's huge investment on the project.

"The need to foster good working relationship between Karu Business Unit and customers in safeguarding installations against vandalism and overloading through

illegal connections can not be over-emphasised", Ganiyu said.

While requesting the Abuja Distributing Company to ensure that all customers in Karu business were properly metered and billed correctly, the GM disclosed that a new contract for the supply and installation of 117,000 prepayment meters has also been awarded through the World Bank to address the commercial losses incurred in the area.

The CEO Abuja zone of PHCN who spoke through the AGM Technical Services, Hope Torro, commended the quality of work done on the project saying it was aimed at improving the quality of voltage in the area.

Managing Director of Pivot Engineering Company, Dave Ogre, who formally handed over the project commended the host community for the cooperation enjoyed by the company while executing the project.



PIC: FIDELIS MAC-LEVA

HIGH voltage distribution system on Karu 11kv feeder commissioned on Wednesday by PHCN.

## Lagos to complement FG's efforts in power generation

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

LAGOS state government has declared its intention to complement the efforts of the Federal Government in the area of electricity generation by partnering with reputable local and international players on power generation, transmission and distribution.

To this end, the state also called for a structural and holistic reform of power generation in the country, through public-private partnership with the state government.

The Director-General of Lagos State Office of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Mr. Ayo Gbeleyi, disclosed this during one of the sectoral work groups on Power Infrastructure, Institution and Operations at the on-going

5th Lagos Economic Summit.

Addressing participants, Gbeleyi said: "Nigeria has the lowest per capital in electricity generation in the whole world and that no meaningful development can take place without an increase in power generation in the country", adding that available information shows a strong positive correlation between electricity consumption and economic development.

Gbeleyi further stated that Lagos State is a choice destination to investors, because of its mega city status and its contribution to Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) which is over twenty percent.

Engineer Mansur Ahmed, Director General, Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commis-

sion (ICRC), called on the Lagos state government partner with the Federal Government on Power generation in the country.

He noted that there was an urgent need to fully implement the Electric Power Sector Act (EPSRA) for the resolution of distortions in gas prices, completion of NIPPs as well as exploration of other energy sources in the country.

**Nigeria has the lowest per capital in electricity generation in the whole world**

## Gas shortage will hinder Jonathan's power reform efforts -NGA

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

THE Nigerian Gas Association [NGA] has expressed fears that the efforts of the Acting President, Goodluck Jonathan, to turn around the nation's power sector might be thwarted by gas shortage occasioned by the non-implementation of some aspect of the Gas Master plan.

President of the Association, Charles Ozesua expressed the association's feeling at a news conference in Lagos observed that epileptic power generation in Nigeria would persist until "alignment is achieved among the parties involved in gas delivery."

He however expressed the association's readiness to support the Acting President and the Minister of State for Power to ensure that gas supply hiccups to power generation is addressed. "We note with great

interest the progress made so far in the effort to accelerate the implementation of the Gas Master Plan. We note specifically, the establishment of the Strategic Gas Aggressor. We note also, the efforts to fast track gas price for power, bringing it closer to economic price parity for gas supply", he said.

These progresses notwithstanding, Ozesua said there were still significant challenges in achieving alignment among the interdependent parties involved in gas delivery for power.

Noting that agreed strategies for gas supply in some instances were not being implemented, the NGA President: "We risk, or indeed have a situation where we have power generating capacity without gas; and gas available for delivery without an off-taker."

## Business

### Bristow Group supports Zaria Aviation Tech with \$1m

By Yunus Abdulhamid

A leading air services provider in the country, Bristow Group has pledged technical and equipment support to the tune of \$1 million (N150 million) to the Nigerian College of Aviation Technology (NCAT), Zaria.

President and CEO of Bristow Group Worldwide, Williams Chiles, gave the commitment on Tuesday on the college's campus after signing a Mutual Cooperation Agreement with the management of the institution.

"We are dedicated to the growth of this institution," said Chiles. "That is why we will constantly make considerable contributions towards making it world class in terms of equipment and quality of training."

According to the Deputy Rector of the school, Engineer Henry Toluhi, who stood in for the Rector, Captain Adebayo Araba, at the document signing ceremony, "Bristow has been very supportive to our institution."

Out of about 200 students currently undergoing engineering and flight training in NCAT, Toluhi said up to 50 of them are fully sponsored by Bristow Group.

Managing Director of Bristow Group, Nigeria, Captain Akin Oni said, "What we are doing may be described as Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) because we are giving back to the community; but for us, it is more than CSR. We will like to develop this school so that very soon, there would not be a need to train pilots and engineers abroad. The aviation industry also has something to gain, too: a lot will be saved when we don't have to send anyone overseas for training and re-training." The agreement takes off immediately.

"We are dedicated to the growth of this institution," said Chiles. "That is why we will constantly make considerable contributions towards making it world class in terms of equipment and quality of training."



ENGINEER Manshop Christopher explains the workings of the Flight Maintenance Department to Mr. Williams Chiles, President and CEO of Bristow Helicopters worldwide (4th right), while Captain Akin Oni (3rd right), Managing Director, Bristow Helicopters, Nigeria and others observe after the official signing of the Mutual Cooperation Agreement between NCAT and Bristow for Bristow to provide sustained technical and personnel support to the college... in Zaria.

### FCT Customs rakes in N971m in Q1

By Yunus Abdulhamid

AS part of efforts to meet the 2010 revenue target set for the Command, the Federal Capital Territory [FCT] Area Command of the Nigeria Customs Service has generated N971, 090,965.87 for the first quarter of 2010. This is against N284, 561, 125.94 it collected in the corresponding period of 2009. This shows a difference of N687 million in the same corresponding quarter in 2009 which represent 241% over the collection of 2009.

A statement issued by the command said in March alone, a total of N414 million was generated as against N188 million in the corresponding month of 2009.

Similarly, the Command generated N297 million in Janu-

ary 2010 and N260 million in the month of February 2010 as against N13 million and N82 million in the month of January and February, 2009 respectively.

The statement which was signed by Public Relations Officer of the command Eke Chukwuma, quoted the Command's boss, Comptroller Usman Kankara Bello to have commended officers and men of the Command, who contributed to the achievement and urged them not to relent until the 2010 target is achieved and surpassed.

Also, the Customs Boss called on Customs Licence Agents, operating in the Command to always ensure due process in the processing of documents in clearing their imported goods in the Command.



COMPTROLLER General of Customs Abdullahi Dikko Inde

### 35,000 households to benefit from improved legumes

From Ruqayyah Yusuf Aliyu, Kano

AT least 35,000 households in Kano and Kaduna States will benefit from legumes yield improvement programme initiated by the Bellinda and Bill Gate foundation with collaboration with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA). The project is titled, N2Africa project in Nigeria.

The project leader Dr Ken Dashiell said this at the official launching of the project at the IITA field office yesterday in Kano. He said the project will be carried out in six other African countries.

Dashiell said the objective of the project is to increase yield of soya bean, groundnut and cowpea through an advanced nitrogen fixation technique where the plants

can produce additional nitrogen through the pods on their roots to boost yield. He further said the project which will be implemented within four years will also improve family incomes through enhanced best economic practices in agriculture. He said the project will reach grassroots farmers through agriculture extension workers who will be trained on the technique along-

side a number of farmers.

Also speaking, the Coordinator of the project in West Africa, Dr Abdullahi Bala said the project will be implemented in Giwa, Igabi, Kachia, Sabo and Zangon Kataf local government areas of Kaduna State while Bichi, Bunkure, Dawakin Kudu, Garko, Warawa and Wudil Local government areas would be covered in Kano State.

### Arewa youths fault comment on NNPC GMD

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

THE Arewa Youth Forum (AYF) has condemned a statement credited to the Niger-Delta renaissance group kicking against the appointment of Alhaji Shehu Ladan as the Group Managing Director of

NNPC. Addressing newsmen, the President of the forum, Ibrahim Gambo Gunjunga said the appointment of Alhaji Ladan by the Acting President was based on his outstanding and credible performances while he was the Group Executive Director, Commercial and Investment of the cor-

poration. Ibrahim said it was unfortunate that at a trying moment like this "when our great nations is try to meet up with global challenges, yet some people with myopic thinking are at the forefront of bringing sectionalism and tribalism in the scheme of affairs."

## Business/International

## Chinese electronics tycoon on trial



HUANG Guangyu

A tycoon who only recently topped China's rich list has gone on trial on charges of insider trading and bribery.

Huang Guangyu - the founder of China's second largest chain of electronics stores - has been in detention since January last year.

Huang Guangyu built a billion dollar business from almost nothing, after dropping out of school and starting a market stall nearly 30 years ago.

His business grew into a chain of more than 1,300 stores across China.

The BBC's Chris Hogg in Shanghai says canny investments in property helped Mr Huang build a fortune estimated to be between \$2.7bn (£1.72bn) and \$6.3bn at the time of his arrest.

In 2008 he topped the Hurun Report's China rich list. A few months later he was arrested.

The 40-year-old has been in detention ever since, charged with illegal business practices, insider trading and bribery, the official Xinhua news agency quoted a court statement as

saying.

He is suspected of manipulating share trading for two listed companies - Sanlian Commercial Co and Beijing Centergate Technologies Co, Xinhua reported.

His wife, Lisa Du Juan, and the former chairman of a Huang-controlled property developing company, Xu Zhongmin, are also on trial with him in Beijing.

According to state media reports, government officials and police have also been implicated in the case.

Gome Appliances Co, a mainland subsidiary of the firm Mr Huang founded, is also accused of corporate bribery.

He stepped down as Gome's chairman last year, but is still its largest shareholder.

The trial, which is not open to the media, is expected to last three days. Our correspondent says it will be watched closely by the business community in Beijing.

The case will be the highest profile yet involving an entrepreneur in China. *BBC*

## A new world economy

Robert B. Zoellick

IF 1989 saw the end of the "Second World" with Communism's demise, then 2009 saw the end of what was known as the "Third World". We are now in a new, fast-evolving multipolar world economy - where North and South, East and West, are now points on a compass, not economic destinies.

Poverty remains and must be addressed. Failed states remain and must be addressed. Global challenges are intensifying and must be addressed. But the manner in which we must address these issues is shifting. The outdated categorisations of First and Third Worlds, donor and supplicant, leader and led, no longer fit.

Today, we already see the strains in multilateralism. The Doha World Trade Organization round and the climate change talks in Copenhagen revealed how hard it will be to share mutual benefits and responsibilities between developed and developing countries. And this will be the case for a host of other looming challenges: water; diseases; migration; demographics; and fragile and post-conflict states.

It is no longer possible to solve big international issues without developing country buy-in. But in discovering a new forum in the G-20, we can't impose a new, inflexible hierarchy. Nor can we

address this changing world through the prism of the old G-7; developed country interests, even if well-intentioned, cannot represent the perspective of the emerging economies.

But modernizing multilateralism isn't all about developed countries learning to adapt to the needs of rising powers. With power comes responsibility. Developing countries need to recognize that they are now part of the global architecture and have an interest in healthy multilateralism.

We cannot afford geopolitics as usual. A "New Geopolitics of Multipolar Economy" needs to share responsibility while recognizing different perspectives and circumstances, so as to build mutual interests.

Financial reform: of course we need better financial regulation. But beware unintended consequences like financial protectionism. Regulations agreed in Brussels, London, Paris or Washington might work for big banks but could choke off economic opportunity and growth in developing countries. Wall Street has exposed the dangers of financial recklessness, and we need to take heed and serious actions. But financial innovation, when used and supervised prudently, has brought efficiency gains and protected against risk, including for development. A G-7 populist prism

can undercut opportunities for billions.

Climate change: it can be linked to development and win support from developing countries for low carbon growth - but not if it is imposed as a straitjacket. Developing countries need support and finance to invest in cleaner growth paths. 1.6 billion people lack access to electricity. While we must take care of the environment, we cannot consign African children to homework by candlelight or deny African workers manufacturing jobs. The challenge is to support transitions to cleaner energy without sacrificing access, productivity, and growth that can pull hundreds of millions out of poverty.

Crisis response: in a world in transition, the danger is that developed countries focus on summits for financial systems, or concentrate on the mismanagement of developed countries such as Greece. Developing countries need summits for the poor. Hearing the developing country perspective is no longer just a matter of charity or solidarity: It is self-interest. These developing countries are now sources of growth and importers of capital goods and developed countries' services. Developing countries do not just want to discuss high debt in developed countries; they want to focus on productive investments in infrastructure

and early childhood development. They want to free markets to create jobs, higher productivity, and growth.

This new world requires multilateral institutions that are fast, flexible, and accountable, that can give voice to the voiceless with resources at the ready. The World Bank Group must reform to help play this role. And it must do so continually at an ever quicker pace. This is why we have launched the most comprehensive reforms in the institution's history, including boosting developing country voting rights and representation. Yet problems need resources to fix them. The World Bank needs more resources to support renewed

growth and to make a modernized multilateralism work in this new multipolar world economy. Should the recovery falter, we would have to stand on the sidelines. This is why the World Bank is seeking its first capital increase in more than 20 years.

In the new multipolar global economy, most governmental authority will still reside with nation-states. But many decisions and sources of influence flow around, through, and beyond governments. Modern multilateralism must bring in new players, build cooperation among actors old and new, and harness global and regional institutions to help address threats and seize opportunities that

surpass the capacities of individual states.

Modern multilateralism will not be a hierarchical system but look more like the global sprawl of the Internet, interconnecting more and more countries, companies, individuals, and NGOs through a flexible network. Legitimate and effective multilateral institutions, such as the World Bank Group, can form an interconnecting tissue, reaching across the skeletal architecture of this dynamic, multipolar system. We must support the rise of multiple poles of growth that can benefit all.

Robert B. Zoellick is the President of the World Bank Group



WORLD Bank President Robert Zoellick.

## Russia raises \$5.5bn first Eurobond

RUSSIA has raised \$5.5bn (4bn euros; £3.5bn) in its first international debt sale since it defaulted in 1998. Initial reports said that demand for the Eurobond was five times over-subscribed despite investors' growing caution about government fundraising.

The Eurobond was split between a \$2bn issue repayable in five years, and \$3.5bn in ten years. "The placement is rather a success," said Nikolay Podguzov, analyst at Renaissance Capital

in Moscow.

Reports said that the 5-year tranche was priced at 125 percentage points above US Treasury bonds, and the 10-year tranche priced at 135 points above.

Final pricing was expected yesterday, and it is possible that Russia could raise more than \$5.5bn. Demand for the Eurobond was high as some investors believe economic growth in Russia could now be stronger than elsewhere in

Europe and the US.

Russian Finance Minister Alexei Kudrin has said that the growth of the country's total economic output, as measured by gross domestic product (GDP), might reach 4 percent this year, more than the initial official forecast of 3.1 percent.

The success of the fund-raising is seen as another step towards re-building investors' confidence in Russia since it defaulted on \$40bn of debts 12 years ago. *BBC*

## Business/International



A woman harvests roses in a greenhouse at the ET Highland Flora flower farm just outside Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa

# Kenyan flower farmers fight to overcome ash cloud

AS flights resume in Europe, Kenya's vital flower industry is racing to make up for the \$10 million loss when tonnes of roses wilted or were destroyed while aircraft were grounded, a flower growers' body said.

During the worst of the ban Kenya's horticulture industry - of which flowers make up most - was losing \$3 million a day, the country's association of exporters said.

Key European markets were out of reach and the industry ground to a halt, workers were sent home and flowers dumped.

"Floriculture alone has lost an estimated \$10 million," the Kenya Flower Council (KFC) said in a statement late Wednesday.

KFC Chief Executive Jane Ngige said European markets had felt the weight of shrinking supply with supermarkets reporting empty shelves.

"We shall get out of the crisis," Ngige said, adding she

hoped exports would stabilise by the end of the week.

"We have not stopped harvesting and getting produce ready to go to the markets and as soon as full haul returns, it will be business as usual," she said.

"KLM, Martinair and Kenya Airways have resumed flights and ferried an estimated 700 tonnes of produce," she said.

The alternative routes pursued by the industry -- including through Spain with onward transport by road and accessing U.S. markets through South Africa -- slowed delivery and pushed costs up almost 60 percent, KFC said.

Horticulture exports are the leading hard currency earner in east Africa's largest economy, raking in 71.6 billion Kenya shillings last year. The sector provides thousands of jobs in a country with a high unemployment rate. Flowers accounted for more than half of horticulture export earnings in 2009. (Reuters)

## S/Africa central bank committed to low inflation

THE South African Reserve Bank is committed to promoting financial stability and maintaining low inflation, its chief economist Monde Mnyande said yesterday.

"An environment of financial stability and low inflation reduces the uncertainty and inflation premia built into interest rates. It also counters volatility and brings down the level of

nominal interest rates," he told a banking meeting.

Mnyande, who is also advisor to SARB Governor Gill Marcus, said output growth was expected to remain below potential for both 2010 and 2011, but investors should not read too much into a weak reading of a single indicator, such as retail sales. (Reuters)

## Anglo Platinum's output falls by 3%

ANGLO Platinum, the world's No. 1 producer of the precious metal, said yesterday first-quarter output fell 3 percent from a year ago after the group closed some shafts.

Anglo Platinum (Angloplat), majority-owned by Anglo American Plc, reiterated that it would produce 2.5 million ounces of the metal this year, and was in a position to produce extra ounces should demand for platinum rise.

Angloplat, which supplies close to half of the world's platinum, said it expected platinum to be in deficit in 2010 due to a significant rise in demand, and forecast an average price of \$1,500 per ounce during the year.

The metal is mostly used in making catalytic converters to cut pollutants from motor vehicle exhausts and in jewellery.

"Jewellery demand might well be lower in 2010 as inventory levels in the supply chain appear to be adequate, but overall demand for platinum is expected to increase significantly due to substantial industrial and autocatalyst restocking," the company said in a statement.

Angloplat said it had kept its costs largely flat at 11,099 rand per platinum ounce. (Reuters)



A worker casts an ingot of platinum at the Krastsvetmet nonferrous metals plant in the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk

## China blames Nigerians for importation of fake goods

CHINA on Wednesday denied that it flooded Nigerian markets with sub-standard products.

The Chinese Consul-General in Lagos, Mr Guo Kun, told journalists that Nigerian entrepreneurs should be blamed for the importation of such products into the country.

He spoke while receiving members of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC).

"Some Nigerian entrepreneurs and businessmen are responsible for the importation of fake and sub-standard products into Nigerian markets.

"Nigeria and China have established cordial relations and it will be diplomatically wrong for us to flood Nigeria markets with such products," Guo said.

Guo, who expressed the Chinese government's dissatisfaction with the situation, said it was eager to enforce the necessary laws to check production and exportation of sub-standard goods. He alleged that some unscrupulous Nigerian entrepreneurs had colluded with Chinese companies in their bid to make fast money.

The official promised that the Chinese government would soon begin enlightening its entrepreneurs on the need to produce standard products for other countries.

"We need to strengthen the bilateral relations that had existed between both countries and effort must be made to ensure free flow of quality goods between China and the rest of the world," Guo added. (NAN)

## UK borrowing hits record £163.4bn

GOVERNMENT borrowing hit a record high of £163.4bn this year, official figures have shown. The borrowing figure for the 2009-10 financial year is lower than the £166.5bn predicted by Chancellor Alistair Darling in April's Budget.

Including financial intervention measures, borrowing totalled £152.8bn - lower than the £155.9bn forecast. It is the biggest annual borrowing figure for a UK government in peacetime.

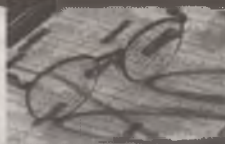
A further £23.5bn was borrowed in March, the figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) showed. Borrowing in March is typically high as civil servants seek to spend the remainder of their annual budgets.

Total government debt now stands at £890bn - equivalent to 62 percent of GDP. The £163.4bn borrowed is equivalent to 11.6 percent of GDP. Although the annual figure came in below the Budget prediction, City analysts reacted cautiously.

"The big picture is that this is still the biggest budget deficit since the Second World War," said Jonathan Loynes, economist at Capital Economics. With all parties' fiscal plans based on extremely optimistic economic assumptions and unspecified spending cuts, a further sizeable fiscal squeeze will still be needed after the election, whoever is in charge."

Borrowing came in lower than expected partly as a result of a 3.8 percent increase in tax income in March. Income from VAT also rose following the return to the 17.5 percent rate at the start of the year, and corporation tax receipts were up by more than 50 percent. BBC

# Business/Finance



Nigerian Stock Exchange  
(Source: APT Securities)  
Thursday, April 22, 2010

STOCK Name	Prev Day Close	Open	High	Low	Price	Change	Deals	Volume Traded	Value
ZUP	43.02	45.17	45.17	45.17	45.17	2.15	28	928,402	41,935,920.00
ABCTRANS	1.05	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.05	11	301,265	331,391.50
ACCESS	10.55	10.18	10.30	10.03	10.03	-0.52	188	11,432,008	115,641,664.00
AFRIBANK	2.88	2.88	2.88	2.74	2.74	-0.14	45	1,979,149	5,454,931.50
AFRINSURE	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	1	4,717	2,358.50
AIICO	1.70	1.62	1.66	1.62	1.64	-0.06	154	13,551,603	22,034,804.00
AIRSERVICE	4.47	4.69	4.69	4.69	4.69	0.22	7	81,379	381,667.50
AP	42.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	-2.00	93	676,305	27,133,748.00
ASHAKACEM	21.48	20.50	20.70	20.41	20.41	-1.07	139	3,422,185	70,197,744.00
ASOSAVINGS	0.63	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	-0.03	54	21,878,818	13,127,291.00
BCC	63.82	63.83	63.83	63.80	63.80	-0.02	52	1,336,466	85,067,440.00
BECOPETRO	1.59	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	0.07	20	335,357	549,897.88
BERGER	7.57	7.94	7.94	7.94	7.94	0.37	37	180,543	1,404,329.12
CAPOIL	0.50	0.51	0.52	0.50	0.52	0.02	23	2,760,896	1,403,896.88
CCNN	22.07	22.05	22.05	21.00	22.01	-0.06	64	1,360,237	29,185,080.00
CHAMS	0.87	0.83	0.87	0.83	0.83	-0.04	37	3,012,494	2,512,645.50
CHELLARAM	12.76	12.13	12.13	12.13	12.13	-0.63	8	216,767	2,629,333.75
CHEVRON	69.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	69.79	0.00	7	3,586	262,746.22
CILEASING	3.79	3.79	3.79	3.75	3.75	-0.04	24	35,485,180	134,455,600.00
CONOIL	53.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	53.47	0.00	57	305,194	17,133,592.00
CONTINSURE	1.11	1.06	1.16	1.06	1.06	-0.05	27	5,175,776	5,374,812.50
CORNERST	0.84	0.88	0.88	0.81	0.82	-0.02	22	3,826,233	3,202,329.00
CUSTODYINS	3.50	3.50	3.65	3.50	3.60	0.10	26	4,742,425	16,766,040.00
CUTIX	3.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.76	0.00	6	87,200	343,568.00
DANGFLOUR	24.53	24.11	24.11	23.11	22.21	-1.22	530	4,819,937	113,630,616.00
DANGSUGAR	18.97	19.00	19.91	18.98	18.98	0.01	147	3,748,102	72,254,576.00
DIAMONDBNK	8.50	8.49	8.74	8.08	8.51	0.01	185	11,459,998	96,488,872.00
DNMEYER	3.97	4.16	4.16	4.16	4.16	0.19	7	129,869	540,255.06
DUNLOP	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	25	1,015,100	507,550.00
ECOBANK	6.00	6.00	6.00	5.80	5.80	-0.20	61	552,312	3,285,489.25
ENAMFLWA	47.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	47.70	0.00	1	1,000	90,640.00
EQUIT A JR	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	4	43,000	21,500.00
ETERNAOIL	8.15	8.10	8.15	8.10	8.15	0.00	40	819,421	5,021,661.50
ETI	19.00	19.01	19.25	19.01	19.25	0.25	45	3,574,393	68,313,600.00
EVANGMED	1.90	1.90	1.90	1.81	1.81	-0.09	25	454,540	840,787.00
FCMB	9.00	8.56	9.01	8.56	9.00	0.00	105	3,136,740	28,044,420.00
FIDELITYBK	3.08	3.08	3.08	2.96	2.99	-0.09	151	5,446,432	19,447,888.00
FIDSON	3.60	3.50	3.50	3.42	3.43	-0.17	44	1,822,635	6,286,019.00
FIRSTALUM	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	4	19,000	9,500.00
FIRSTBANK	15.80	15.83	16.59	15.83	16.59	0.79	1093	43,130,464	710,554,944.00
FIRSTINEND	0.66	0.63	0.64	0.63	0.63	-0.03	57	8,330,709	5,250,459.00
GLAXOSMITH	27.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	27.00	0.00	13	78,526	2,035,674.75
GOLDINSURE	0.86	0.83	0.90	0.83	0.90	0.04	29	10,588,941	9,122,651.00
GTASSURE	2.95	2.91	2.98	2.83	2.98	0.03	36	2,103,910	6,149,566.00
GUARANTY	18.88	18.70	19.00	18.45	18.81	-0.07	386	25,221,580	474,410,944.00
GUINNESS	165.00	169.20	173.25	169.20	173.25	8.25	118	2,006,385	341,026,848.00
HMARKINS	0.50	0.50	0.52	0.50	0.52	0.02	24	6,695,336	3,423,121.25
HONYFLOUR	8.64	8.65	8.70	8.50	8.50	-0.14	72	1,317,740	11,350,364.00
IBTC	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.01	10.11	-0.39	112	2,781,234	28,216,540.00
IKEJAHOTEL	2.99	3.13	3.13	2.85	2.86	-0.13	26	1,155,474	3,326,205.00
INTENEGINS	0.72	0.70	0.75	0.70	0.72	0.00	74	10,367,103	7,533,013.00
INTERCONT	1.90	1.85	1.90	1.81	1.83	-0.07	89	4,316,990	7,976,730.50
IPWA	1.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.20	0.00	2	1,500	1,710.00
JAPAUOIL	1.79	1.71	1.71	1.71	1.71	-0.08	109	2,440,135	4,172,630.75
JBERGER	61.88	64.97	64.97	58.79	58.79	-3.09	131	4,038,278	256,621,408.00
JOHNHOLT	9.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.28	0.00	2	1,800	15,876.00
LAWUNION	0.66	0.66	0.69	0.63	0.69	0.03	38	4,041,355	2,645,287.75
LENNARDS	3.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.85	0.00	1	1,000	3,850.00
LINKASSURE	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	27	3,572,000	1,786,000.00
NEIMETH	2.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.96	0.00	21	178,327	552,813.69
NESTLE	300.11	314.00	314.00	314.00	314.00	13.89	50	182,743	44,566,692.00
NIGERINS	1.27	1.33	1.33	1.33	1.33	0.06	24	1,861,776	2,476,162.00
OANDO	117.21	120.00	123.07	119.00	123.07	5.86	256	1,606,245	196,429,280.00
OASISINS	0.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.77	0.00	2	65,000	48,100.00
OCEANIC	1.90	1.88	1.99	1.84	1.99	0.09	168	10,341,417	20,212,630.00
OKOMUOIL	21.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	21.62	0.00	2	671	13,782.34
OMATEK	0.82	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.04	23	1,462,850	1,258,051.00
PLATINUM	1.52	1.51	1.52	1.45	1.45	-0.07	140	12,582,846	18,516,698.00
POLYPROD	3.63	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	-0.18	2	56,500	194,925.00
PREMPOINT	13.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.40	0.00	2	152	1,934.96
PRESCO	8.21	8.60	8.62	7.80	7.80	-0.41	27	2,380,767	20,485,340.00
PRESTIGE	4.61	4.62	4.62	4.40	4.40	-0.21	11	243,919	1,097,939.62
PZ	31.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	31.94	0.00	47	193,790	5,917,128.00
REDSTAREX	4.42	4.22	4.28	4.20	4.28	-0.14	45	1,628,267	6,868,170.50
REGALINS	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	3	150,000	75,000.00
SKYEBANK	7.91	7.89	7.89	7.52	7.52	-0.39	156	17,180,296	129,738,368.00
SOVRENINS	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	5	240,000	120,000.00
SPRINGBANK	0.97	1.00	1.00	0.97	0.97	0.00	12	255,445	252,685.44
STDINSURE	0.59	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	-0.02	18	2,639,914	1,504,751.00
STERLNBANK	2.47	2.47	2.47	2.35	2.35	-0.12	89	3,737,586	8,828,565.00
TOTAL	185.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	185.87	0.00	41	280,361	53,837,868.00
TRANSCORP	0.51	0.50	0.53	0.50	0.53	0.02	43	2,392,030	1,235,177.50
UACN	56.00	55.00	55.80	53.22	53.22	-2.78	88	3,029,067	166,198,656.00
UBA	16.00	15.95	16.45	15.20	15.20	-0.80	467	31,806,845	501,476,736.00
UBN	6.02	5.95	6.10	5.95	6.00	-0.02	189	8,149,216	49,031,432.00
UNIONDICON	4.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.91	0.00	3	7,735	36,122.45
UNITYBNK	1.05	1.01	1.09	1.00	1.09	0.04	42	2,174,731	2,242,076.75
UNITYKAP	0.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.60	0.00	1	31,000	18,600.00
UNIVINSURE	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	3	119,998	59,999.00
VANLEER	15.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.03	0.00	1	2,094	29,902.32
VITAFOAM	6.90	6.56	7.00	6.56	7.00	0.10	30	350,335	2,331,747.75
WAPCO	44.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	44.50	0.00	21	55,380	2,351,266.00
WAPIC	0.90	0.94	0.94	0.90	0.90	0.00	17	422,256	388,096.22
WEMABANK	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.10	0.00	37	359,163	384,138.09
ZENITHBANK	15.67	15.60	15.66	15.53	15.61	-0.06	399	41,477,990	645,360,832.00



## BORNO STATE GOVERNMENT MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, BORNO STATE

### INVITATION FOR TENDERS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF NEW REFUSE COMPACT (SINOTRUK)

The Borno State Ministry for Environment hereby invites tenders from suitably Qualified contractors/supplier for submission of qualification documents for the procurement of the underlisted:-

#### a) REFUSE COMPACT WITH THE FOLLOWING SPECIFICATIONS

ENGINE	Make: Sinotruk Diesel: 4 stroke injection diesel engine Engine Model: WD615.87. Euro II. Emission standard 6-cylinder in line with water cooling, turbo-charging and intercooling Maximum output: 290 hp(213KW) at 2200 rpm, option 196kw @ 2200rpm Maximum torque: 1160 Nm at 1300-1600rpm Number of cylinder: 6 Displacement: 9.726 L Bore: 126mm Stroke: 130mm Compression ratio: 29.8 hp/L Specific fuel consumption: 198g/KWh Engine oil filling quantity: 19L Cooling system filling quantity (long-term filling): 40L Thermostat with 71°C opening begin Single cylinder air compressor Rigid fan
CLUTCH	Single-plate coil -spring clutch, diameter 420mm, hydraulically operating with air assistance.
TRANSMISSION	ZF transmission, model ZXF 5S -150GP, Synchronesh, 9 forward & 1 reverse Ratio: 13.04 8.48 6.04 4.39 3.343 2.47 1.76 1.28 1.00 11.77 (R)
PROPELLER SHAFT	Double u niversal joint propeller shaft with gear -shaped coupling flange
FRONT AXLE	Steering with double T-class section beam
REAR AXLE	Pressed axle housing central single reduction with hub reduction and with differential locks between wheel and axles
CHASSIS	Frame: U-profile parallel ladder frame with section of 300X80X8mm, all cold riveted cross members Front suspension: 9 semi-elliptic leaf spring with hydraulic telescope double-action shock absorbers and stabilizers Rear suspension: 12 leaf semi elliptic spring with bogie spring Spare wheel carrier, with one spare wheel Fuel tank: 200 litre capacity, with locking fuel cap
STEERING	ZF8098, hydraulic steering with power assistance Ratio: 22.26:1
BRAKES	Service brakes: dual circuit compressed air brake Parking brake (emergency brake): spring energy, compressed air operating on rear wheels Auxiliary brake: engine exhaust brake Option: ABS
WHEELS & TYRES	Rims: 8.5-20, 10 hole steel Tyres: 12.00-20 tube Option 12R20 tube, 12.00-24 tube, 12R22.5 tubeless
ELECTRICS	Operating voltage: 24 V, negative grounded Starter: 24 V, 7.5 Kw Alternator: 3-phase, 28 V, 1500w Batteries: 2X12 V, 165 Ah Cigar-lighter, horn, headlamps, fog lights, indicators and reverse light
DIMENSION IN mm	Wheel base 3800+1350 Front wheel track 2022 Rear wheel track 1830 Front overhang 1500 Rear overhang 1859 Approach angle (°) 19 Departure angle (°) 24 Overall dimension (L x W x H mm) 9695x2500x3290
WEIGHT in kg	Dead weight 14870 Rated loading capacity at fifth wheel 10130 Gross vehicle weight 25000
	Maximum driving speed (km/h) 75

PERFORMANCE	Maximum driving speed (km/h) 75 Maximum gradeability (%) 40 Maximum ground clearance (mm) 298 Minimum turning circle (m) 15.4 Fuel consumption (l/100km) 28
BODY	Volume of body (m3) 20 Volume of filter (m3) 2.5 Time of one filling cycle (s) S 25 Lifting time of filler (s) 8-10 Time of discharge (s) S45 Pressure of fluid system (Mpa) 20 Front/rear sewage capacity (L) 250+150 Max compression force (kg) 35000

#### b) TENDER DOCUMENTS

The tender documents will be available for collection by all interested Contractors/Suppliers upon the payment of non-refundable fee of N30,000.00 per set with effect from Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2010 in the office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Musa Usman Secretariat, Maiduguri.

All completed tender documents should be accompanied with the following requirements:-

1. Evidence of Registration and Incorporation by the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) or Borno State Ministry of Commerce.
2. Evidence of registration with Borno State Government as a contractor or supplier.
3. Evidence or Tax Clearance certificate for the last three (3) years
4. Evidence of Financial Capability
5. Company Profile
6. Experience.

#### TENDER CLOSING DATE

The closing date for the submission of all tender documents has been fixed for Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2010 by 10:00am prompt.

#### TENDER OPENING

All Contractors/Suppliers that have submitted their bidding documents should come for the opening at the office of the Permanent Secretary on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2010 by 2:00pm prompt.

Signed  
Engr. Baba Sanda  
Permanent Secretary  
Ministry for Environment  
Borno State

# DIGEST

## Danger of iPod decibels that match a jet engine

YOUNG people are putting their health at risk by listening to music at the same volume as jet engine noise, an expert has warned.

Playing MP3 players such as iPods at high volumes and using ear-phones that fit into the ear canal could lead to loss of hearing, it is claimed.

Professor Peter Rabinowitz, from Yale University School of Medicine, said some players generate volumes in the ear in excess of 120 decibels, which is 'similar in intensity to a jet engine' and louder than a pneumatic drill.

His warning comes after the European Commission claimed up to 10 per cent of 30-year-olds would have to wear a hearing device within the next decade because they listen to music too loudly through headphones.

Surveys have shown that more than 90 per cent of young people in Europe and the U.S. used them, often for several hours a day at maximum volume.

The professor, writing online in the British Medical Journal, said: 'Concern is growing that children and young adults are developing noise-induced hearing loss as a result of over-exposure to amplified music.'

'As with mobile phones, the use of personal music players has grown faster than our ability to assess their potential health consequences.'

He said several small studies had found young people had worse hearing if they listened to music players.



Young people are putting their hearing at risk by having their iPods on too loud

## Popular brain training games 'do not make users any smarter'



**THE findings show that on a range of tests, the volunteers did no better than a control group who simply surfed the internet**

POPULAR brain training games played by millions every day do not make users any smarter, scientists claim.

In the largest experiment of its kind they showed that the games, found on machines like the Nintendo DS, did not improve memory or a host of other mental skills.

Although volunteers achieved higher scores over time, that was simply because of practice the scientists say.

But there was no evidence that the 'brain training' had had any effect on a set of "benchmarking" tests they took before and after the experiment.

More than 11,000 people used the games for six weeks as part of a nationwide experiment for a BBC television programme.

The findings, published in the respected journal Nature, show that on a range of tests, the volunteers did no better than a control group who had spent a similar amount of time simply surfing the internet.

Dr Adrian Owen, assistant director of Medical Research Council's Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit in Cambridge, who led the study, said: "The results are clear.

"Statistically, there are no significant differences between the improvements seen in participants who played our brain training games, and those who just went on the internet for the same length of time."

Scans taken of some of the volunteers also show that the training had no effect on the make-up of the brain.

Dr Owen added: "The brain trainers got better at the things that they were doing, but the holy grail of brain training is that it has some genuine effect on mental ability or intelligence and that we showed was that was categorically not the case."

While most of the volunteers completed around 25 sessions over the six weeks, some did more than 200 and still saw no effect from the training, he added. Despite the short space of time over which the experiment was conducted, Dr Owen insisted that if there had been any effect it would have been uncovered by the study.

However, experts said that it was still open to question whether the games helped to maintain mental skills as people aged, reducing the decline often associated with getting older.

The findings show that

the games did not enhance 'brain power' - that is memory, concentration, planning skills or the ability to solve problems.

'Brain training' is a multi-million industry, and more than 100 million Nintendo brain training games, advertised by Nicole Kidman, have been sold across the world.

Millions more keep their brain active on a daily basis through puzzles and crosswords.

But researchers say that, until now, there has been too little hard evidence on whether the games actually work.

The findings of the experiment will be shown on a special programme of Bang Goes The Theory on BBC One tonight.

In total 11,430 volunteers up to the age of 60 trained for at least 10 minutes three times a week using games created by the research team specifically designed to mimic those commercially available.

Culled from telegraph.co.uk

Sign Language



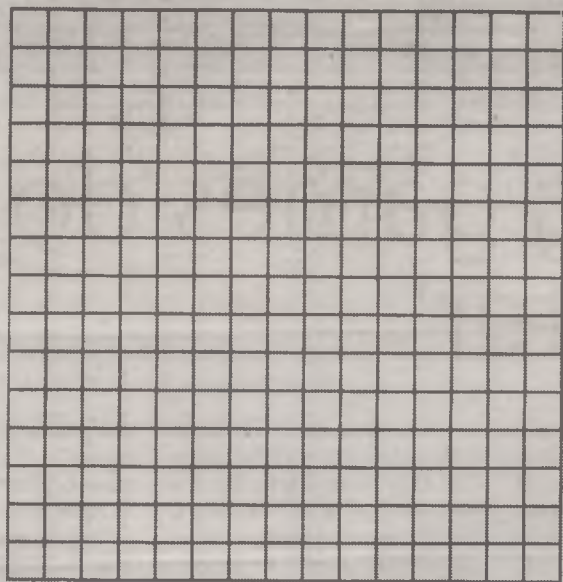
Flesh Food. Don't worry, he means FRESH.

Photo location: Tokyo, Japan.

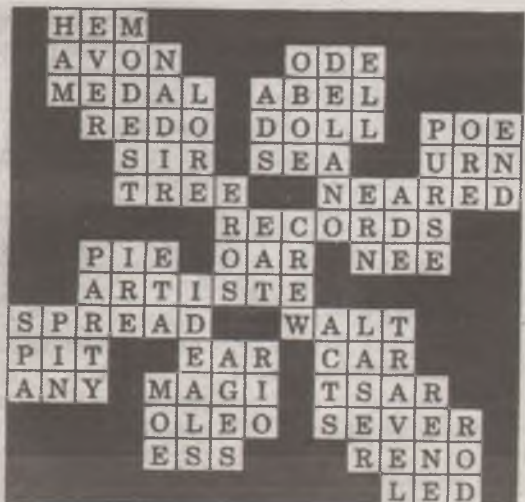
Culled from telegraph.co.uk

DIAGRAMLESS 4

- |                          |                       |                          |                        |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>            | 23. Yuccalike plant   | <b>DOWN</b>              | 18. Greek trio of myth |
| 1. Open-handed smack     | 24. Until: 2 wds.     | 1. "Who cares!" gesture  | 19. Dark: poetic       |
| 5. Brave guy             | 28. Bumpy             | 2. Tenant's document     | 21. Used a loom        |
| 6. Billiard frame        | 30. Laugh heartily    | 3. Curved doorway        | 23. Transmit           |
| 7. Tooted (a horn)       | 31. Salty liquids     | 4. Slow-moving           | 25. Common fund        |
| 11. Like some eyebrows   | 32. Throw (dice)      | 7. Shiny metal           | 26. Chat               |
| 12. Reckless             | 33. Weakened          | 8. Swan song: 2 wds.     | 27. Paris airport      |
| 13. Tribute              | 34. White and powdery | 9. Spot                  | 29. Dorothy, to Em     |
| 16. Grating, as a voice  | 36. Baldwin brother   | 10. Child's query        | 31. Hay bundle         |
| 17. Skater Heiden        | 37. Twilled silk      | 11. Holding area: 2 wds. | 33. Funny person       |
| 18. Belligerent          | 39. Richard of films  | 13. Thyme or basil       | 34. Canadian Indians   |
| 20. Private or corporal  | 40. Affirm            | 14. Of the mouth         | 35. Shrill woman       |
| 21. Ohio River tributary | 41. Preserve          | 15. Old Hebrew weight    | 37. Ginza drink        |
| 22. Tattle               | 42. Uncomplicated     | 16. Iranian coin         | 38. Eye layer          |



SOLUTION TO DIAGRAMLESS



3

SUDOKU

The Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 square grid made up of smaller 3x3 square grids (regions). The numbers already present within the puzzle are "given"- these are there to start you off. The aim is to complete the puzzle by filling the empty cells. Every digit from 1-9 needs to fit in each row, column and region of 9 squares. Each row, column and region must contain just one instance of each number, 1-9.

134

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

Solution to Sudoku 133

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

## News Extra

# How did three people survive this?

... The wreckage of a Russian cargo plane torn in two after bursting into flames mid-air

Shreds of twisted, molten metal lie scattered over what was a peaceful Filipino rice field, now a scene of tragedy.

These are the remains of a Russian cargo plane that burst into flame mid-air after an electrical fire. The desperate pilots attempted an emergency landing that ended up tearing the plane into pieces after it exploded on impact.

Three of the six crew on board died - but, miraculously, the other three survived the crash.

The Russian-made Antonov-12 aircraft was flying from Mactan in the central Philippines and crashed late Wednesday in the field about 22 miles south of Clark airport, the former U.S. air base near Manila, said Alfonso Cusi, director-general of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines.

Firefighters struggled into the night to put out the flames that engulfed the aircraft after it exploded on impact, ripping the plane into two sections, said police Chief Inspector Carlito Fabro.

Villagers managed to rescue three crew members - two Russians and an Uzbek, who suffered bruises and were brought to a hospital in nearby Mexico township, police said.

Three other crew were found dead near the cockpit, Cusi said, adding investigators were trying to identify the burned bodies. A police report said they included two Russian ground engineers and a Bulgarian.

'They had a technical prob-

lem, and a fire broke out inside the plane,' Cusi told The Associated Press.

'Their communication signal suddenly got garbled then the plane disappeared in the radar.'

Police quoted the Russian pilot as saying that the plane encountered electric circuit trouble about an hour into the flight, and a fire that broke out forced him to make an emergency landing on the open field.

The plane was chartered by shipping company UPS Inc. from its owner, Interisland Airlines of the Philippines, police said.



THE propellers of the plane appear to be completely embedded into the ground from the force of the impact



THE wreckage of a Russian cargo plane torn into pieces after it exploded during a crash landing in a rice field in the Philippines. Three of the six crew on board died in the crash, the other three survived



LOCAL residents gather around the crash area. The three who survived the crash were pulled from the wreckage by locals who had rushed to the scene

## News Extra



ASH billows from the Eyjafjallajokull volcano

## Iceland's volcano a mouthful to say

An event as big as a volcano that disrupts transportation around the globe might be expected to have its name added to the English lexicon, perhaps meaning "to cause widespread disruption," an English-language monitor has said.

"People talk about a 'Krakatau,' right?" said Paul J. Payack, president and chief word analyst of the Global Language Monitor, in a telephone interview. He was referring to the 1883 eruption of a volcano in Indonesia that unleashed a tsunami that killed more than 34,000 people.

Payack's Austin-Texas-based monitor analyzes and catalogues trends in word usage and word choices and their impact on culture, with an emphasis on English.

"Tsunami" itself has gained in usage since the 2004 South Asia event that left 245,000 people dead or missing across the region, said Payack.

When prices collapsed economically, the first thing that they called it was an 'economic tsunami,' he said.

But what happens when that volcano's name is Eyjaf-

Media outlets differ on pronunciation

Google search finds more than 2.5 million citations for the word

jallajokull, as in the Icelandic volcano whose ash clouds have grounded thousands of flights worldwide?

Payack was not optimistic. "I've never heard anybody pronounce it right yet, and I couldn't even try," he said.

The name pronunciation depends on whom you ask. Here's how a CNN Wire story put it in an editors' note: "AY-yah-FYET-lah-YOH-koot." And this from the *Chicago Tribune*: "EY-ya-fyat-lah-YOH-kuht."

And this from NPR: "AY-yah-fyah-lah-YOH-kuul."

However you pronounce it, it's a mouthful that is really three words in Icelandic meaning island mountain glacier.

A Google search finds more than 2.5 million citations for the word. "There are very few words that appear millions of times in print yet can be pronounced by so few," said Payack.

During the 1,400 years of the English language, it has adopted a number of proper names,

“There are very few words that appear millions of times in print yet can be pronounced by so few—Paul J.J. Payack, president of Global Language Monitor

including caesarean section, named after Julius Caesar, born through a procedure Shakespeare described as "plucked from his mother's womb;" the cardigan sweater, worn by the 7th Earl of Cardigan, who also led the Charge of the Light Brigade; and "shakespearean" for a literary masterpiece, Payack noted.

Whether the world's more than 1.5 billion English speakers will one day wrap their tongues around Eyjafjallajokull is an open question, he said.

"It depends how long the eruption goes," he said. "If this thing goes on, it will undoubtedly be a word, but one of the few in the English dictionary that no English speakers can actually pronounce."

The press officer for Iceland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs was expected to be the final arbiter.

But, when startled out of her slumber by a call after midnight and asked for the pronunciation, she panted. "You will need somebody who is wide awake for this," she said, then hung up the phone.

Culled from [cnn.com](http://cnn.com).

## Trust Islamic Forum

In the name of Allah the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful. All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the worlds. We testify that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, and that Muhammed (peace be upon him) is His prophet and messenger. May the benediction and blessings of Allah be on Prophet Muhammed who is the noblest of mankind, his household, his companions and those who follow their foot steps till the day of resurrection.

## ASK YOUR IMAM

### Is it permissible to refer to a particular person as a waliy'llah (close friend of Allah) because of his righteousness

ALLAH has mentioned the signs by which His close friends or awliya' may be known. They are: faith (eemaan) and piety (taqwa). Allah says (interpretation of the meaning): "No doubt! Verily, the Awliyaa' of Allah, no fear shall come upon them nor shall they grieve. "Those who believe, and fear Allah much (by abstaining from evil deeds and sins and by doing righteous deeds)" [Yoonus 10:62-63]

But it is not possible to be certain that a particular individual is one of the awliya' of Allah, because achieving true faith and piety are matters of the heart that are hidden, and people cannot find out about them. Hence it is possible to think that someone is likely to be a waliy, but it is impossible to be certain.

Shaykh Ibn 'Uthaymeen (may Allah have mercy on him) said: All Muslims should measure the deeds of those who are claimed to be awliya' by that which is in the Qur'aan and Sunnah. If they are in accordance with the Qur'aan and Sunnah, then we hope that he is one of the awliya' or close friends of Allah, but if they go against the Qur'aan and Sunnah, then he is not one of the awliya' of Allah. Allah has mentioned in His Book the fair standards by which His awliya' may be known.

Whoever is a believer and is pious is a close friend of Allah, and whoever is not like that is not a close friend of Allah. If he has some faith and piety then he is a friend of Allah to some extent. Nevertheless we cannot be certain about a specific person, but we say in general that everyone who believes and is pious is a friend of Allah (waliy). Fataawa Muhimmah, p. 83, 84.

And Allah knows best.

## Reading Soorat al-Mulk protects one from the torment of the grave

READING Surat al-Mulk protects a Muslim from the trials of the grave, but how often does one have to read it? Once a day or more? It was narrated from Abu Hurayrah that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "A soorah from the Qur'aan containing thirty verses will intercede for a man so that he will be forgiven. It is the soorah Tabaarak Alathi bi yadihi'l-mulk [i.e., Soorat al-Mulk]." Everybody should read it every night, act in accordance with the rulings contained in it, and believe in the information mentioned in it.

It was narrated that 'Abd-Allah ibn Mas'ood said: Whoever reads Tabaarak allaahi bi yadihi'l-mulk [i.e., Soorat al-Mulk] every night, Allah will protect him from the torment of the grave. At the time of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) we used to call it al-maani'ah (that which protects). In the Book of Allah it is a soorah which, whoever recites it every night has done very well.

One this basis there is the hope that whoever believes in this soorah and reads it regularly, seeking the pleasure of Allah, learning the lessons contained in it and acting in accordance with the rulings contained therein, it will intercede for him [in the Hereafter]. Fataawa al-Lajnah al-Daa'imah, 4/334, 335 And Allah knows best.



MUSLIM First Aid workers burying a corpse

# Why the torment of the grave is hidden from man

Is the torment of the grave one of the matters of the unseen or of the seen world? What is the reason why it is made one of the matters of the unseen? Shaykh Muhammad ibn 'Uthaymeen (may Allah have mercy on him) said: The torment of the grave is one of the matters of the unseen. How many people in these graves are being tormented but we do not realize it, and how many of their neighbours are being blessed with a door opened for them to Paradise, but we do not realize it? What is beneath the graves is known only to the Knower of the Unseen. The torment of the grave is one of the matters of the unseen, and were it not for the revelation that came to the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), we would not know anything about it. But Allah may cause whomsoever He wills of His slaves to see people being tormented in the grave, as He caused His Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) to see the two men who were being punished, one for going about spreading malicious gossip, and the other for not taking precautions to protect himself from urine.

The reasons why this is one of the matters of the unseen are as follows:

1 - Allah is the Most Merciful of those who show mercy, for if we were to see the torment of the grave this would make our lives a misery, because if a person were to know that his father or brother or son or

spouse or relative is being punished in the grave and he is not able to save him, then he would be distressed and unable to relax. So this is a blessing from Allah.

2 - It would be a scandal for the deceased. If Allah had concealed him and we did not know his sins, which were a matter between him and his Lord, then he died and Allah showed us his torment, that would be a great scandal for him. So concealing him is a mercy from Allah towards the deceased.

3 - It might become difficult to bury the dead, as it was narrated that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "Were it not that you would not bury one another, I would have asked Allah to make you hear the torment of the grave." Narrated by Muslim, 2868.

This indicates that burial might become too difficult and people would not do it, even though if a person deserves to be punished he will be punished even if he is lying on the surface of the earth. But people might imagine that the torment only takes place when the person is buried, so they would not bury one another.

4 - If it were visible, belief in it would serve no purpose, because it would be visible and no one could deny it. And this might force all people to believe, as Allah says (interpretation of the meaning):

"So when they saw Our punish-

ment, they said: We believe in Allah Alone"

[Ghaafir 40:84]

So if the people saw those who had been buried and heard their screams, they would believe and none of them would disbelieve, because he would be certain that the torment is real and he would see it with his own eyes as if it were happening to him.

But the wisdom of Allah is great, and the true believer is the one who believes with certainty what Allah tells him more than what he sees with his own eyes, because what Allah tells us cannot be subject to confusion or lies, but what the eyes see may be imaginary. How many people have sworn that they have seen the new crescent moon, when it was in fact a star; how many people have seen the new moon and it turned out to be a white hair on his eyebrow; how many have seen a shadow and said that it was a person coming towards him, but it turned out to be the trunk of a palm tree; how many people have seen a stationery object moving and a moving object standing still. But what Allah tells us cannot be subject to confusion.

We ask Allah to make us steadfast, for what Allah tells us about these matters is stronger than what we can see, and concealment is in the best interests of people. And Allah knows best. Majmoo' Fataawa al-Shaykh Ibn 'Uthaymeen (may Allah have mercy on him), 2/32.

# PROPERTY

property@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 07041632079

## I didn't revoke FCT plots-Minister

By Nasir Imam

THE FCT Minister, Senator Bala Mohammed, has denied reports that he had revoked FCT plot allocations as reported by some media organisations but would review them to ascertain that they were done in tune with the laid down guidelines.

The FCT Minister made the denial while receiving the report of the 17-member Committee set-up to chart a road map for the sustainable development of the Federal Capital

Territory.

The minister remarked that the FCT Administration from January 1, 2007 to date due to outcry on the allocation of land in the FCT which were done without guidelines resulting in indiscriminate allocation, multiple and in some instances triple allocation which also negatively affected Mass Housing Programmes.

He pointed out that a sound institutional framework would be entrenched in the Federal

Capital Territory Administration that would accelerate development in all spheres.

The setting up of the committee was predicated on the fact that the administration will continue the pursuance of making Abuja a first class capital territory with effective service delivery comparable to the best in the World.

Speaking earlier, the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Odesanmi Dele thanked the Minister for the opportunity given them to serve their father land.

## Ogun asks NSCDC to retake land

From Kehinde Akinyemi, Abeokuta

OSUN state governor, Otunba Gbenga Daniel has directed the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) to retake possession of landed property allocated to it for the execution of the College of Security Management, Abeokuta.

The Commandant General of the Corps, Dr. Ade Abolurin made this disclosure at the recent commissioning of the College, hinting that for the intervention of the state governor, the Corps would have lost the landed property.

According to Abolurin, it is noteworthy to state that over the weekend, on realizing that part of the land allocated to Corps for the execution of this project has been cut-off; His Excellency immediately directed the Corps to take possession of the initial land area allocated to it.

He added that the governor further directed "the Ministry of Lands to take note of this development and adjust their records accordingly. He said that we should quickly go and do something on the land and get it fenced," Abolurin disclosed as he commended the governor for the gesture and magnanimity, adding that the Corps would continue to support the efforts of government aimed at delivering dividends of democracy to the people of the state.

The NSCDC boss also disclosed that the governor had promised to assist the Corps with the provision of facilities, that include I.C.T centre, blocks of classrooms, hostel facilities and access road to the training college, "to prove to the world that indeed, Ogun state is the Gateway to Knowledge and to Nigeria. His Excellency has equally promised that these structures will be fully in place before the end of year 2010."

Meanwhile, the Commandant-General has disclosed that as part of the welfare programmes of the state command of the NSCDC, the Cooperative Society has acquired 37 acres of land at Obada Oko for construction of about 150 housing units and other facilities.



FCT Minister, Sen. Bala Mohammed, left, with the ag. chairman, ministerial committee on charting a new road map for Abuja, Mr. Ode Odesanmi, who led a team to present its report to the minister on Wednesday.

## Lagos to raise N57.5bn for infrastructure

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

AT least N57.5 billion bonds will be issued soon to the general public by the Lagos state government, the commissioner, economic planning and budget and chairman Lagos economic summit group, Mr. Ben Akabueze has said.

The N57.5 billion tranche is part of the about N275 billion the state government intends to raise to fund infrastructural development in the state as the state journeys to a megacity status by 2015 when its population would hit 25 million. Lagos current population is put at 18 million.

Akabueze said at the 5th Lagos economic

summit (Ehingbeti 2010) which started Tuesday in Lagos that the completion board meeting for the bonds has been held adding that the bonds will soon be in the market.

The first tranche was two state bonds of N50 billion each, and was oversubscribed said the governor Batunde Raji Fashola (SAN).

Fashola who was represented by the deputy governor Princess Adebisi Sarah Sosan said, that represented a positive indication of confidence of local investors in the Lagos economy and the government.

According to him, the enablers of infrastructure to be provided in Lagos, the Lagos megacity project, infrastructure provision, transport, water and sanitation, among oth-

ers, Lagos represents a huge investment gold mine.

Fashola also explained, in preparing for the status of Africa's model mega city, Lagos is addressing poverty by creating jobs, made the streets safer by bringing down violent crimes by 79 percent, improved traffic and is making the state cleaner.

"For an economy that is experiencing infrastructure on such a sustained scale after a lull of almost three decades, the possibilities for growth, expansion and opportunities are truly exciting as our road projects are being completed, additional water supply is being delivered and the rail project underway," he noted.

## Ansar-ud-deen to raise N100m for mosque renovation

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

THE Niger state chapter of Ansar-ud-deen is set to raise N100 million for the renovation of a mosque in Minna, the chairman of the society, Alhaji Abdurazaq Olatinwo.

According to him, the fund will also be used for the reconstruction of an Islamic school, adding that they are presently in a state of dilapidation due to many years of neglect due to absence of funds.

He called on the public to avail the society with funds, say-

ing that it would help to further propagate the Islamic religion as people will not only have comfortable Mosque to pray in but also have a school with requisite academic facilities for learning.

Among dignitaries to grace the occasion, the chairman confirmed are, speaker of the house of representative, Dimeji Bankole, the governor of Kano state, Alhaji Ibrahim Shekarau, Senate President, Senator David Mark while the governor of Niger state, Dr Muazu Babangida Aliyu is to be the host.

Olatinwo disclosed that the society has earmarked some

prominent Nigerians for the award, adding that they have been chosen based on their commitment to service to humanity and the worship of Allah.

Those to benefit from the award includes, Prof (Sen) Jubril Aminu, Hon Baba Shehu Agaie, Deputy leader house of Rep, the speaker House of Rep, Dimeji Bankole, former governor of Osun state, Sen. Isiaka Adeleke.

Others includes; Sen. Zaynab Kure, Hon Jummai Jafaru, Alhaji Abubakar Gimba, Justice Fati Abubakar and mother of the Niger state government Hajija Jemila Aliyu.

## Property



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## 'Over N13tr left untapped in Lagos real estate market'

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

THE Managing Director of UAC Property Development Company Plc, Mr. Akeem Oguniran, has disclosed that over N13 trillion is yet to be tapped in the Lagos State real estate market.

The UAC Managing Director stated this Wednesday while speaking at one of the sectoral work group on Real Estate: Infrastructure, Institutions and Operations at the on-going Lagos Economic Summit tagged: "Ehingbeti 2010."

Mr Oguniran noted that the challenges faced by real estate and property developers includes infrastructural challenges such as deplorable road network, lack of availability of professionals, electricity among others discourage the involvement of private sectors in partnering with the state government to combat the problem of housing in the state.

He added that the delay in processing of necessary document in building of property as laid down laws by the state government also contributed a lot as time and man hour are being wasted in getting documents prepared adding that the state government should interfere in the loan percentage being charged by the banks or financial institutions which he described as outrageous.

Earlier, the Commissioner for Justice, Supo Sasore, (SAN), explained that the state government is doing all in its capability in encouraging the private sectors to participate in the state development through the the Public Private Partnership (PPP) in attaining the mega city dream of the present administration.

Also speaking at the venue, the General Manager of Lagos State Development Property Company, Abiodun Oki hinted that alot of business opportunities abound in Real Estate and Property saying that currently the sales of 90 units of luxury flats in Lekki Phase II is on going while in the same vein, the sales of shops at Oluwole and Abraham Adesanya would soon be fully subscribe. He called on private investors who wants to invest in estate and real property to take advantage of the on-going infrastructural transformation of the state to meet its mega city status challenges.

## Presidential project c'ttee to report in two weeks

By Ben Atonko

THE Presidential Projects Assessment Committee has promised to start putting down its findings two weeks from now after it might have visited some major projects in the country. This was made known when the committee visited the Minister of Special Duties, retired Navy Captain Caleb Omoniyi Olubolade in Abuja on Tuesday.

The committee's chairman, Arc Ibrahim Bunu, told the minister, "We believe that in the next two or three weeks when we would have seen enough projects, we can begin our basic inspection and assessment and then we can sit down in the office and write our interim report so that government will be able to carry out our recommendations within the limited period. "We shall be on our way to Ajaokuta and on our way back we will stop at Lokoja to look at the Itape Iron Ore mills and the dredging of the River Niger up to Lokoja and other projects on the way to Abuja.

"We are strong and ready to work and we need your support. As you know, we had taken off even before we were fully mobilized and we believe we would do justice to this assignment because you are aware of the capabilities and antecedents of the various members of this committee.

"They are all well educated, well experienced people who are specialists in their various fields. Therefore, we would do our best to justify the trust and confidence reposed in us by the Acting president.

"We know that with you [Minister of Special Duties] between us and government, we will not have any problem expressing our worries if any, seeking clearance if any, and if the assignment demands further explanation, you can also carry it to government."

In his response, the minister said, "Because I am also a member of this committee, I honestly wish to thank you for the good job you are doing. You have hit the ground running as ordered by the Acting President and that gives me joy because that means we are all determined to bring about development within a short time that this administration has.

## COREN vows to prosecute quacks

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Dutse

THE Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN) yesterday vowed to prosecute any unregistered and unprofessional engineers that found practicing engineering profession in the country, the National President of the Council, Engineer, Habu A Gumel has said.

Speaking at the inauguration of the Jigawa state chapter

of the COREN's Engineering Regulation Monitoring (ERM) in Dutse, Engineer Gumel explained that, the council has established an investigating panel and a Registered Engineers' Disciplinary Tribunal in that respect.

Engineer Gumel added that while the investigating panel was responsible for carrying out investigation into any reported case, the Tribunal was mandated to try any engineer that was found to have committed professional misconduct.



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## PUBLIC NOTICE

## CANCELLATION OF SECOND SESSION OF

## MCPD PROGRAMME

This is to inform all members of Association of National Accountants of Nigeria (ANAN) that the Second Session of Mandatory Continuing Professional Development (MCPD) Programme scheduled to hold in Jos, Plateau State from 17th - 20th May, 2010 has been suspended due to popular demand bordering on uncertainty of security of lives and property of people living in and around Jos.

State Branches grouped for this session can attend either the Kano Session (26th - 29th July, 2010) or the Lagos Session (20th - 23rd September, 2010).

We regret any inconvenience this might cause.

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12th April, 2010.

# Dallaje Ingawa dam to gulp N4.3bn

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

CONSTRUCTION of Dallaje Ingawa dam in Katsina state is to gulp N4.3billion and will be completed in two years.

Managing Director, Sokoto Rima River Basin Development Authority, Alhaji Danlami Bala Zango disclosed this while speaking with Daily Trust in Sokoto.

The Sokoto Rima River Basin Development Authority boss said construction work for the dam has successfully commenced.

He said the dam is strategic in the nation's quest to achieve food security even as he noted the socio-economic importance of the dam in the provision of portable water to people in the state.

The Managing Director said remarkable land area has been improved for irrigation with the rehabilitation of Bakalori dam which had suffered a lot of neglect with regards to rehabilitation.

According to Alhaji Zango, the Bakalori dam was rehabilitated at the cost of N300million.

"Only about 4,000 was previously cultivated due to the neglect of the rehabilitation but with this rehabilitation of this year, we have increased the land to about 7,000 hectares that is about 3,000 hectares more", Alhaji Zango stated.

He said more irrigation areas are being constructed in dams across the Sokoto Rima River Basin authority area of jurisdiction of Kebbi, Sokoto, Zamfara and Katsina states, adding that in Zube dam about 1,800 hectares are under construction while 2,000 hectares have been increased at Jibiya through the rehabilitation.

## Durumi residents warned over illegal developments

By Zakariyya Adaramola

THE residents of Durumi, a suburb of Abuja have been warned not to build beyond the space of 8,000sqm designated for them by the government.

Giving the warning Tuesday in a meeting with some representatives of the village in his office, the Director, Department of Development Control in the Abuja Metropolitan Council, TPL Yahaya Yusuf, said the department would not condone illegal developments in the area.

TPL Yusuf told the village delegation that the Development Control would not hesitate to bring down any illegal structure found in the area.

He said the Department would meet with the Resettlement and Compensation Department of FCTA to ascertain the areas and limit of encroachment by the indigenes.

Meanwhile, the Department has begun the demolition of structures built under high-tension electric lines in Dawaki settlement, along Kubwa road.

A statement from the Department said it began the demolition after the expiration of one month notice given to the residents.

"The Department has also moved in to remove the structures built under high-tension electric lines in Dawaki settlement, along Kubwa road", the statement said.



A newly opened restaurant in the central area of Abuja.

## Quantity Surveyors appeal for the creation of Quantity Surveying department.

By Mustapha Suleiman

THE National Institute of Quantity Surveyors (NIQS) led by its National President, Chief Felix Onyeri yesterday appealed to the Federal Government to create an autonomous Quantity Surveying department in the newly created Ministry of Land, Housing and Urban Development.

This appeal was made when NIQS Executive Members paid a courtesy call on the Minister of Land, Housing and Urban Development Hon. Nduese Essien in Abuja.

Onyeri said that the appeal is in response

to the sweeping reforms being introduced and implemented in the country, especially in the Civil Service.

He said that the appeal is hinged on the institute's previous requests for a proper structure in the civil service in which the profession of Quantity Surveying can function effectively and efficiently.

"This is with regard to the separation of powers and checks and balances in the conduct of government businesses. Another reason is to prompt the Minister to dispassionately review status of the Quantity Surveying profession in your ministry against those of

the State Governments which have since created autonomous Quantity Surveying Departments. We are aware that there will be need to re-structure. Often Quantity Surveyors are not represented in any management fora and policy decisions are taken, because they never had a Director or a Permanent Secretary since Independence."

He complained that under the present dispensation, Quantity Surveyors are hole-up in the Building Department which has five Divisions - four for Builders and one only for Quantity Surveyors which has always been headed by a Builder.

## Developer hails moves to sanitise FCT land administration

By Mustapha Suleiman

THE recent suspension of all processes relating to lands in Abuja have been commended by a group of Abuja based mass housing developers.

Speaking through the chairman of FHT Ventures Plc Prince Olu Faboro, the group frowned at the abuses which the mass housing scheme of the Federal Capital Territory

Administration have been subjected to by shysters who lacked the requisite qualifications in terms of funding and experience to undertake such projects.

Prince Faboro who made the group's position known in a chat with newsmen Tuesday said the mass housing scheme introduced by the federal government through the Public Private Partnership initiative was a convenient and cost effective way of providing affordable housing for civil

servants in particular and other interested members of the public in general.

While describing the minister's directive as timely, Prince Faboro said the move would bring sanity back into the scheme, lamenting that a large percentage of mass housing plots were in the hands of fake developers who have resorted to racketeering rather than develop the plots in accordance with approved guidelines.

## CITY NEWS



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# FCT minister vows to decongest city centre

By Nasir Imam

THE FCT Administration will do everything it takes to decongest the Federal Capital City, Abuja, in line with its Master Plan.

The hint was dropped by the FCT Minister, Senator Bala Mohammed, when he received the Minister of Land, Housing and

Urban Development, Mr. Nduese Essien, in his office on Thursday.

The minister remarked that the decongestion of Abuja metropolis would allow facilities provided to work optimally without being overstretched.

Senator Mohammed emphasised that in order to achieve the desired result in this regard, the

FCT Administration will open up the area councils and satellite towns to enable them play their statutory role as enshrined in the Abuja Master Plan.

He called on the Federal Ministry of Land, Housing & Urban Development; the Federal Housing Authority as well as private Mass Housing developers to seize

the opportunity by moving into such areas to build mass housing for the people. The minister promised to establish a more robust relationship with the Federal Ministry of Land, Housing & Urban Development to enable the two bodies discharge their statutory responsibilities to the Nigerians.

Speaking earlier, the Minister of Land, Housing & Urban Development, Mr. Nduese Essien called for closer ties with the FCT Administration on housing development.

He revealed that his Ministry is planning to build 25,000 housing units in Bwari Area Council; assuring that the first phase would commence in earnest.



AMBASSADOR Lawrence Nwuruku and Ambassador Egun Oyagbola during the former's visit to Attitudinal Healing organisation at Gwarinpa, Abuja yesterday.

## Ambassador tasks farmers

By Abubakar Yakubu

THE Nigerian Ambassador to Mexico, Chief Lawrence Nwuruku, yesterday visited the coordinator of 'Attitudinal Healing' organisation at Gwarinpa, Abuja, to be abreast with their activities.

Receiving him, Ambassador Egun Oyagbola, said Nigerian have a lot to gain if they adopt attitudinal healing.

She stressed of the need to eradicate discrimination and corruption for the sake of the country's unborn children, so that the country can develop fast.

Oyagbola, who was the first female minister in the country as well as one time Ambassador to Mexico, said Nigeria, especially the FCT Administration has a lot to learn from the Mexicans in terms of sanitation.

According to her, the streets and fruit markets of Mexico City are very neat and after any market activity, the place is properly cleaned and washed," she added.

She decried the rate of

corruption in the country and said when she was leaving her position as a minister, the two Peugeot 505 cars given to her were returned back to government.

"I did not have a car for a while until one of my banker friends loaned me one of her cars to use for three months until I could purchase a car," she disclosed.

She advised Nigerians to learn to love themselves instead of finding faults and to let go fear so that they can achieve attitudinal change.

Responding, Ambassador Nwuruku, said he was amazed to see an orange pluck in 1999 still fresh in Mexico this year, adding that Nigeria farmers ought to gain knowledge of such storage facility.

He identified corruption as one of the problems affecting the country and said discipline as well as attitudinal changes was needed to eradicate such vice.

The Ambassador expressed his desire to join the organisation in order to fly its flag to Nigerians in Mexico.

## Head of co-operatives arraigned in court

By Bunmi Omolehin

THE Managing Director of Toaclel Cooperative Loans and Credit, Abuja, was last Friday arraigned before an Abuja Upper Area Court for allegedly converting N2.7million belonging to customers to his personal use.

Tolu Akinlowo, 35, was accused of committing offences contrary to Section 312 and 322 of the Penal Code Law.

Prosecutor Mohammed Garba informed the court that on February 10, Okolo Ndubisi, Ozor Bamabas, Ibenyenua Ugo, Chukwu

Nwazurke, Ngene Arinze and Jude Ugwudor reported to the police that the accused person deceitfully converted the sum of N2, 785,000 deposited in the bank to his personal use.

When the charges were read to the accused person, he pleaded not guilty and requested for bail, which was objected by the prosecutor.

Judge Umar Kagarko granted the accused person bail in the sum of N3million with one reliable surety in like sum, who must reside within the court's jurisdiction.

The case was adjourned to May 25 for hearing.

## AEPB arrests 22 underage children

By Usman A. Bello & Maureen Onochie

OFFICIALS of an Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB) taskforce have arrested 22 underage children for hawking in the streets of Abuja.

The Special Adviser to the Board's Director, Titus Ndawa, said the children were arrested while hawking along the streets at Wuse market area on Tuesday and Thursday, between the hours of 4 pm and 8 pm.

According to him, children between the ages of four and twelve as well as their parents will be handed over to the Social Welfare Secretariat for appropriate action.

Titus warned parents to desist from sending their children to hawking items along the city, stressing that the board will prosecute any parent whose child was arrested for child abuse.

He said in order to effectively stamp out hawking in the city, the board has extended its taskforce operation to 24 hours.

In another development AEPB has warned defaulters of the monthly sanitation exercise that it will start to arrest pedestrians walking along the streets during the period.

FCT Environmental Stakeholder's Chairman, Odunfa Amos, disclosed this yesterday during an AEPB/stakeholders

interactive forum.

He said every resident is supposed to be at home to take part in the sanitation exercise, adding that loitering around the city violates the AEPB's Act.

"Apart from vehicles, pedestrians will be arrested as well as people hiding under the authority of their office to violate the movement restriction order," he said

Amos disclosed that the board will concentrate more on residential areas, especially satellite towns in order to make sure that the entire city is effectively covered, saying they have met with area councils chairmen to ensure that the exercise is observe in their councils.

## Man jailed for trespass

By Bunmi Omolehin

A 21-year-old man, Abacha Yakubu, was last Friday sentenced to three months imprisonment by an Abuja Upper Area Court for criminally trespassing into an apartment at Prince and Princess Estate with the intention to commit an offence.

Prosecutor Ambi Ayuba told the court that on April 3, a team of policemen attached to Garki Police Station arrested the accused at Prince and Princess Estate, Garki, Abuja, after he criminally trespassed into House 21, Close 1, and broke the fence.

He said the offences committed by the accused are punishable under Sections 342, 324 and 95 of the Penal Code Law.

When the charges were read to the accused person, he pleaded guilty and begged the court for leniency.

After the plea, the prosecutor asked the court to try the accused summarily under Section 157 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC) and Judge Umar Kagarko sentenced him to three months imprisonment or to pay N6,500 as fine.

In another case, a 26-year-old man, Ibrahim Baba, was

last Friday arraigned for allegedly misappropriating the sum of N600,000 entrusted to him for selling a car.

Prosecutor Mohammed Garba told the court that on April 9, 2010, one Dauda Bugus reported to the police that sometime last year, he gave a Honda Civic car belonging to one Otobo I.S. Otobo to the accused person to sell at the cost of N600,000, which he sold and dishonestly converted the whole money to his own use.

He said during police investigations, it was discovered that the accused sold the car at the rate of N480,000 and refused to give the owner the money back, saying that the offence is punishable under Section 309 of the Penal Code Law.

When the one-count charge was read to the accused person, he pleaded not guilty and requested for bail, which was objected to by the prosecutor.

Judge Umar Kagarko, granted the accused person bail in the sum of N600,000 with one reliable surety in like sum, who must reside within the court's jurisdiction and adjourned the case to May 22 for hearing.



WATER vendors in Mararaba last Weekend.

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## Conman jailed 4yrs over N1.8m

By Romoke W. Ahmad

A 23-year-old man was on Tuesday sentenced to four years imprisonment by an Abuja magistrate court for the offences of giving false information, false pretence and cheating.

Barry Obiorah was convicted for committing the offences which are contrary to Sections 179 and 320 of the Penal Code Law in October 2009.

Prosecutor Umar Muhammed told the court that on April 16, one Peter Chibuka of Jikwoyi Phase I reported to the police that the accused told him he has some goods coming from Cameroon and collected the sum of N1.8 million from him with the pretence of supplying him the goods when it arrives.

He said when the complainant asked for the goods the accused could not produce it or refund the money back, adding that during police investigation, N195,000 was recovered from the accused.

The accused pleaded guilty when the two-count charges were read to him and begged the court to temper justice with mercy.

Chief Magistrate Shuaib Ahmed sentenced the accused to one year imprisonment or to pay N5000 as fine option in the first count, while in the second count of cheating, he was sentenced to three years without fine option.

The Magistrate also ordered the convict to pay N1.6 million back to the nominal complainant.

## Council boss pledges more democratic dividend

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

THE Gwagwalada Area Council Chairman, Alhaji Zakari Angulu Dobi, has promised to continue to provide more democratic dividends to residents of the council.

Dobi, who made the pledge over the weekend

when he was conferred with an award as the best "Vibrant and Transparent chairman" of the North-Central Zone by the National Councillors Forum (NCF), said his administration will continue to address the immediate problems and challenges facing his people,

especially those in the rural areas.

He said by tackling such problems, food production will be improved.

The council boss assured that the award will serve as a reminder to any elected officials to be transparent while discharging his duties.

# Suspect disappears from court

By Romoke W. Ahmad

AN accused person, Jeremiah Awor, yesterday disappeared from the premises of Karu Magistrate Court, minutes after he was granted bail by the magistrate.

The accused did not wait to complete his bail conditions of getting a surety in the sum of N20,000 before the prosecutor and prison's officer noticed that he had vanished.

Prosecutor Silas Nanpan had earlier arraigned the accused

for alleged theft of two Jincheng motorcycles.

The prosecutor told our reporter that since the accused was already in prison custody, he had expected the prison officer to take him away after the case but the officer left him in the open

court and was attending to other issues outside the court when the accused ran away.

Reacting, the prison's officer said he was not aware when the prosecutor took the accused out of the court cell, adding that he was with another accused in a

court within the premises when the prosecutor removed the accused.

"The prosecutor did not inform me when he finished and was going out of the court in order for me to watch over the accused," the prison officer said.



PIC: HUSSEIN YAHAYA

## Muslim centre organises workshop for teachers

By Hussein Yahaya

THE Muslim Community Centre, Abuja, yesterday ended a two-day workshop for classroom teachers in the centre.

Director of the centre, Alhaji Abdullahi B. Yawa advised teachers to strive for fairness, adding that it has been identified as an effective tool to achieve self respect and ensure effective classroom discipline as well as management.

Alhaji Yawa in his paper noted that students have a distinct sense of judging situations, thus making it a must for teachers to always act fairly to them at all situations.

He advised them to have good discipline plans at the beginning of each year, avoid confrontations in front of students, be consistent, have clear rules and collaborate with other teachers.

He described classroom

management as an agent of change, adding that effective classroom management should serve as a preventive measure in checking students' behaviours.

Earlier, the centre's Governing Board Chairman, Senator U.K Umar, who was represented by Malam Ismaila Tsiga, said the workshop is aimed at training and re-training the staff of the centre so that they are well developed in order to enhance their professional effectiveness.

"It is the sole aim of this workshop to inspire the teachers to take their job more as careers rather than vocations," he said.

One of the participants, Mrs Rakiya S. Bamalli, thanked the centre for organizing the workshop, adding that it has further broaden their knowledge on classroom management and other teaching techniques.

## Kuje council boss vows to eradicate poverty

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

THE Kuje Area Council's Chairman, Mr. Danladi Etsu Zhin, yesterday vowed that his administration will not relent in tackling the high rate of poverty in the council.

Zhin, who stated this during his 'thank you' tour to residents of the council, observed that the poverty situation, especially among rural dwellers was disturbing.

He said the council made efforts by initiating youth/women empowerment schemes as well as by creating special vocational training centres where women can learn various hand skills.

According to him, the council is

mapping out strategies for the youth to get themselves empowered through scholarships, especially to the less privilege and indigent ones so that they acquire qualitative education.

The council boss however observed that the only problem militating against the council was lack of sufficient potable water, adding that the council has already consulted the FCT Administration to assist by connecting River Gurara with Kuje in order to enhance constant water supply at the council.

The council chairman urged residents of the council to be law abiding and appealed to them to continue to pray for his administration to achieve its desired goals.

## Bizman charged over phone theft

By Usman A. Bello & Doris Afoma West

A 25-year-old businessman, Promise Inmo, was on Tuesday arraigned before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly absconding with a lady's phone

Police Prosecutor, David Udeh, told the court that on April 14, one Mary Peter reported to the police that the accused who resides at Mabushi Village collected her Nokia phone valued at N15,000 on the pretence that he was going to make a call with it.

He said the accused absconded with the phone and sold it to a taxi driver at

the rate of N3, 500.

"During investigations, the accused confessed to the crime, while the sum of N1000 was recovered from him," the prosecutor said.

When the charge was read to the accused, he pleaded not guilty and requested for bail, which was not objected by the prosecutor.

Magistrate Folashade Oyekan granted him bail in the sum of N50,000 with one surety in like sum.

The magistrate also ordered that the surety must live within the court's jurisdiction and adjourned the case to May 5 for hearing.

In another case, a 27-year-old artist, Kelvin Nduka and

a 26-year-old businessman, Chris Nwadiobi, were also arraigned for allegedly stealing a police officer's phone.

Prosecutor David Udeh informed the court that one Harrison E. of the Nigeria Police Headquarter reported to the police that the accused persons stole her Nokia phone valued at N32,000 at Wuse bus stop.

When the charge was read to the accused persons, they pleaded not guilty and requested bail.

Magistrate Folashade Oyekan granted them bail in the sum of N50,000 each with one surety each in like sums and adjourned the case to May 5 for hearing.

## AMAC chairman-elect to tackle education problems

By Usman A. Bello

THE newly elected Chairman of the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC), Micah Y. Jiba has said that education and empowerment of people in the council will be his priority while in office.

Jiba disclosed this on Tuesday during the Inauguration of the Transition Implementation Committee to ensure smooth transition from the incumbent administration to the new one.

He said he decided to choose education and empowerment because they form the bedrock

through which development can be achieved in a society.

"During my campaign, I discovered that the problem my people are facing is education and I will achieve this by implementing a scholarship programme so that children of the council can have access to education," he disclosed.

He called on the oppositions to eschew bitterness and join hand with him to bring democratic dividends to people in AMAC.

Earlier, the committee's Chairman, Olisa Ezewlu Wulus, said the essence of the committee is to lay a foundation for the smooth take-off

of the incoming administration.

"Our mandate is to take a survey of the projects that have completed and the ongoing ones so that as soon as the new administration assumes office, they will commence work immediately and not embark on projects verification," he added.



## NIGERIAN SHIPPERS' COUNCIL 4 PARK LANE APAPA LAGOS

### INVITATION TO TENDER FOR VARIOUS WORKS, GOODS AND SERVICES

The Nigerian Shippers' Council in line with the Public Procurement Act of 2007 hereby invites reputable and experienced suppliers and contractors to tender in respect of these lots indicated below:

**LOT 1.0**  
Computerization Supply, Installation of Computer Hardware and Software Systems, Peripherals and Accessories.

**LOT 2.0**  
Advance Cargo Information system (ACIS) Development, supply and installation.

**LOT 3.0**  
Supply of Project Vehicles (Toyota Hilux Trucks) for Inland Container Depots.

**LOT 4.0**  
Digitalization of the Maritime Resource Library- Supply and installation of Hardware and Software Systems.

**LOT 5.0**  
Supply and installation of various Conference Centre Equipment.

**LOT 6.0**  
Supply of Utility Vehicles (Toyota Hilux Trucks, Haice Buses, Coaster Buses, Honda Motorcycles).

**LOT 7.0**  
Supply and installation of Electricity Generating Sets- (500KVA Sound proof).

**LOT 8.0**  
Supply of Elevators- (10 Persons, 12 Stops/ 12 Openings)

**LOT 9.0**  
Supply of Medical Equipment.

**LOT 10.0**  
Improvement on Building (Renovation Works) - Shippers' Towers, Lagos.

**LOT 11.0**  
Improvement on Building (Renovation Works) - Shippers' Plaza, Abuja.

**LOT 12.0**  
Control of Erosion (Remedial works) - Jos Zonal Office Land.

#### 2.0 REQUIREMENTS

Interested suppliers and contractors wishing to carry out any jobs in the above listed areas must submit the following:

- i. Certificate of Registration/Incorporation with Corporate Affairs Commission
- ii. Current Tax clearance Certificate for the last three (3) years
- iii. Evidence of previous experience for similar jobs.
- iv. Evidence of registration with relevant professional Bodies (Where applicable)
- v. Reference from banker.
- vi. Any other information that will further confirm the qualification of the company.

#### 3.0 COLLECTION OF BID DOCUMENTS

- Bid documents/detailed specifications of the required goods and works are obtainable from the office of the
- (i) **Secretary, Procurement Planning Committee, (7<sup>th</sup> Floor) Nigerian Shippers' Council, No. 4 Park Lane, Apapa Lagos**  
OR
  - (ii) **Abuja Liaison Office, Nigerian Shippers' Council, Shippers' Plaza Plot 438, Michael Okpara Way, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja**

on payment of a non-refundable bid processing fee of N20,000.00 for each Lot through bank draft payable to **Nigerian Shippers' Council, Lagos.**

#### 4.0 SUBMISSION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS

The Tender documents are to be enclosed in a sealed envelope clearly marked at the top left hand corner "TENDER FOR \_\_\_\_\_" The job for which the tender is submitted should be clearly indicated on the envelope (e.g. "TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY OF UTILITY VEHICLES LOT 6.0").

The tender documents should be submitted to any of the addresses listed above not later than **4 p.m. Friday 4th June, 2010.**

#### 5.0 OPENING OF TENDER

The opening date of the tenders will be at **12.00 noon, Wednesday 9th June, 2010 at the Board Room of Nigerian Shippers' Council (9<sup>th</sup> Floor) 4 Park Lane, Apapa, Lagos.**

#### Please note

- i. No submission will be entertained after 4pm Friday 4th June, 2010.
- ii. This notice shall not be construed to be a commitment on the part of Nigerian Shippers' Council to award any form of contract to any respondents nor shall it entitle any organization submitting any documents to claim any indemnity from the Council.

**SIGNED:  
MANAGEMENT**



# NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe Way, P. M. B. 159, Minna, Niger State.

## THE NATIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATION Into SS1 of FEDERAL UNITY SENIOR SECONDARY COLLEGES Holding on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2010

### GENERAL INFORMATION

The National Entrance Examination for Admission into SS1 of Federal Government Unity Senior Secondary Colleges (NEEFUSSC) in September, 2010 will be held throughout the Country on **SATURDAY, 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2010.**

(1) **ELIGIBILITY:**  
Pupils in their final year of the Junior Secondary (i.e. JS 3 students/upper Basic 3) are eligible to sit for the examination. Private candidates who have completed JS 3 are also eligible to sit for the examination. However, a private candidate will have to provide evidence of having completed JS3. Such evidence shall include JSS certificate, school testimonial issued by the principal. A letter issued by the school principal will suffice for candidates in JS3 who may wish to make their private arrangements for registration.

(2) **ENTRY PROCEDURE:**

- (A) **Registration for the 2010 National Entrance Examination will be strictly on-line**
- (B) **Heads of School Based Candidates will collect carbonized Entry Schedules from respective NECO Zonal/State Offices for completion. The entry schedules are in triplicate.**
- (C) **Private Candidates can obtain scratch cards from any NECO Zonal/State Offices for their registration.**
- (D) **To register for the examination, a candidate must pay the sum of N2,800 (Two thousand eight hundred Naira) only in Bank draft at the NECO office in the State he/she intends to sit for the examination.**
- (E) **SUBMISSION OF ENTRY SCHEDULE AND PURCHASE OF ON-LINE REGISTRATION CARDS BY SCHOOLS:**
  - (i) **Two copies of Entry Schedules and appropriate fees will be submitted to respective NECO Zonal/State Offices to collect on-line registration cards for the candidates.**

**To Register a candidate:**

- Click on [www.mynecoexams.com](http://www.mynecoexams.com)
- Enter your Pin number and Serial number
- Enter your registration details and upload your passport photographs
- Print your Photocard to obtain your registration number

(3) **STRUCTURE OF THE EXAMINATION:**

The papers for the examination will consist of the following:

<b>PAPER I:</b>	English Language	<b>PAPER II:</b>	Numerical Aptitude
	Mathematics		Verbal Aptitude
	Integrated Science		Spatial Aptitude
	Social Studies		

(4) **LIST OF FEDERAL UNITY COLLEGES**

The list of Federal Government Colleges, Federal Government Girls Colleges and Federal Science and Technical Colleges for Candidates to choose from is hereby provided.

STATE	CODE	COLLEGE	STATE	CODE	COLLEGE	STATE	CODE	COLLEGE
Abia	01	FGGC UMUHIA (GIRLS ONLY) FGC OHAFIA (BOYS & GIRLS) FSTC OHANSO (BOYS & GIRLS)	KADUNA	14	FGC KADUNA (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC ZARIA (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC KAFANCHAN (BOYS & GIRLS)	RIVERS	27	FGC PORTHARCOURT (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC ABULOMA (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC AHODADA (BOYS & GIRLS)
Adamawa	02	FGC GANYE (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC YOLA (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC MICHKA (BOYS & GIRLS)	KANO	15	FGC KANO (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC MIN-JIBIR (GIRLS ONLY)	SOKOTO	28	FGC SOKOTO (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC TAMBUAL (GIRLS ONLY)
Akwa-Ibom	03	FGC IKOT-EKPENE (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC IKOT-OBIO-ITONG (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC UYO (GIRLS ONLY)	KATSINA	16	FGC DAURA (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC BAKORI (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC DAYI (BOYS & GIRLS)	TARABA	29	FGC WUKARI (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC JALINGO (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC JALINGO (BOYS & GIRLS)
Anambra	04	FGC NISE (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC ONTSHA (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC AWKA (BOYS & GIRLS)	KEBBI	17	FGC BIRNIN-YAURI (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC GWANDU (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC ZURU (BOYS & GIRLS)	YOBE	30	FGC BUNI-YADI (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC POTISKUM (GIRLS ONLY)
Bauchi	05	FGC AZARE (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC BAUCHI (GIRLS ONLY)	KOGI	18	FGC UGWOLAWO (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC KABBA (GIRLS ONLY)	FCT	31	FGC KWALI (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC BWARI (GIRLS ONLY) FGGC ABAJI (GIRLS ONLY) FGC GARKI (BOYS ONLY) FGC RUBOCHI (BOYS & GIRLS) FSTC OROZO (BOYS & GIRLS)
Benue	06	FGC VANDEIKYA (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC GBOKO (GIRLS ONLY) FGC OTOBI (BOYS & GIRLS) FSTC OTUKPO (BOYS & GIRLS)	KWARA	19	FGC ILORIN (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC OM-U-ARAN (GIRLS ONLY)	BAYELSA	32	FGC ODI (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC MIRINGI (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC TUNGBO (BOYS & GIRLS)
Borno	07	FGC MAIDUGURI (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC MONGUNO (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC LASSA (BOYS & GIRLS)	LAGOS	20	KING'S COLLEGE LAGOS (BOYS ONLY) FGC LAGOS (BOYS & GIRLS) QUEEN'S COLLEGE LAGOS (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC YABA (BOYS & GIRLS)	EBONYI	33	FGC OKPESI (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC EZZAMGBO (GIRLS ONLY)
Cross River	08	FGC IKOM (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC CALABAR (GIRLS ONLY)	NIGER	21	FGC MINNA (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC BIDA (GIRLS ONLY) FGGC NEW-BUSSA (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC SHIRORO (BOYS & GIRLS)	EKITI	34	FGC IKOLE-EKITI (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC EFON-ALAYE (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC ISI-EKITI (BOYS & GIRLS)
Delta	09	FGC WARRI (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC IBUSA (GIRLS ONLY)	OGUN	22	FGC ODOGBOLU (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC SHAGAMU (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC IJEBU MUSHIN (BOYS & GIRLS)	GOMBE	35	FGC BILIRI (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC BAJOGA (GIRLS ONLY)
Edo	10	FGC IBILLO (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC BENIN (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC UROMI (BOYS & GIRLS)	ONDO	23	FGC IDOANI (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC AKURE (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC IKARE-AKOKO (BOYS & GIRLS)	NASARAWA	36	FGC KEFFI (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC KEANA (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC DOMA (BOYS & GIRLS)
Enugu	11	FGC ENUGU (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC LEJJA (GIRLS ONLY)	OSUN	24	FGC IKIRUN (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC IPETUMODU (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC ILESA (BOYS & GIRLS)	ZAMFARA	37	FGGC GUSAU (GIRLS ONLY) FGC ANKA (BOYS & GIRLS)
Imo	12	FGC OKIGWE (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC OWERRI (GIRLS ONLY)	OYO	25	FGC OGBOMOSO (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC OYO (GIRLS ONLY)			
Jigawa	13	FGC KIYAWA (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC KAZAURE (GIRLS ONLY)	PLATEAU	26	FGC JOS (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC LANGTANG (GIRLS ONLY)			

(5) **CLOSING DATE FOR REGISTRATION:**

Registration closes on Friday, **21<sup>st</sup> May, 2010.** Be informed that on that date, the web-site will be closed at **12:00 mid-night**, with no further access to it.

Signed:  
 Promise N. Okpala  
 Registrar/Chief Executive Signed: Promise N. Okpala  
 Registrar/Chief Executive



## CYBERSPACE LIMITED CONSUMER CODE OF PRACTICE

### INTRODUCTION

This is the consumer code of practice as presented by Cyberspace Limited. The code was prepared in accordance with section 106 Nigerian Communications Act 2003 and consumer code of practice Regulation, 2007.

The Consumer Code of Practice as presented covers areas such as provision of information to consumers, consumer billing, charging, and collection and credit practices. The code also covers consumer information protection consumer obligations, warranties, complaint handling, advertising and representation of service.

Schedule 1 is Cyberspace Standard Supply Terms and Conditions of Service detailing the consumer code of practice.

### PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO CONSUMERS

CYBERSPACE will provide Consumers with information on our services that is complete, accurate, and up-to-date and in simple, clear language.

CYBERSPACE will endeavour to respond in a timely manner to Customers requests for information on our services and such information shall be provided free of charge and shall include at least the following:

- Current service arrangements, including rates and terms and conditions for all services offered to the public, shall be readily available in print and electronic format. This information will also be provided in CYBERSPACE web site. Service contracts are usually provided in a plain and clear language in the subscriber's Service Application Form. This form is the first document intending customers usually go through and complete before subscribing for our services. The form specifies subscribers' warranties and obligations, conditions for termination and service suspension.
- We will also provide Help Desk for any information regarding our services or complaints on a 24/7, including the provision of Directories and leaflets. Calls for emergency services shall be free of charge.
- Since our service is for all users, there is no special measure designed for consumers with disabilities.
- Fault repairs are carried out at an affordable price usually communicated to the consumer. Details of the repair condition and service interruption are explained in schedule 1 containing subscriber's agreement.
- The services description, and contract terms are provided in the attached subscribers' agreement form which specified the nature of service available, the type of service, coverage, and suspension of service, termination and warranties. Information regarding any compensation, refund or other arrangements which may apply if contracted quality service levels are not met, along with the procedures and methods for resolving disputes are contained in Schedule 2.
- Pricing information regarding rates or charges, what the stand for, the frequency of the charges and whether the charges are subject to changes from time to time are usually made available in leaflets. It is also made available through TV, Newspapers and Radio.

### ADVERTISING AND REPRESENTATION OF SERVICES:

All Advertisements and Promotion of products and services are always in compliance with Nigeria Code of Advertising Standards as established by the Advertising Practitioners Council of Nigeria (APCON). The advert and promotions materials are usually in simplified non ambiguous language. CYBERSPACE will not be involved in any unsolicited telemarketing.

### CONSUMER BILLING, CHARGING, COLLECTION AND CREDIT PRACTICES.

There is a Pre and Post-Paid billing system in place to capture revenue due from subscribers correctly. The system ensures that the bills and charges are:

- Accurate and timely (real time)
- Verifiable to ascertain the integrity of the bill
- Sufficient with the subscriber information
- Readily accessible
- Retains bills and related charges for more than twelve months

Basically, the billing systems adopted are both post-paid and prepaid billing system, whereby most subscribers are invoiced in advance of usage of the Network. Such usages are billed monthly, Quarterly or Yearly and the tariff for each charge plan varies. The invoice will contain the following details:

- The customers billing name and address
- Our company name and address
- Subscriber ID and the telephone number
- The billing period
- The date of which the bill is issued
- Due date for payment
- Method of payment
- Method of contact for complaints and billing inquiries
- A description of the service for which the subscriber is billed
- The total amount billed, applicable credits, Taxes (if any) or discounts and the net amount payable

Electronic copies of such itemized bills are sent to subscriber on request via e-mail followed by a printed copy for processing payments.

In an event where subscriber has not paid all or part of a bill, the post-paid right for such subscriber will be revoked after an appropriate warning is given.

### CONSUMER OBLIGATIONS

Consumer obligations are contained in our Standard Terms and Conditions of Service Agreement (Schedule 1).

### PROTECTION OF CONSUMER INFORMATION

Consumer information are stored in Cyberspace consumer information data base. The information are supplied by the consumer at the subscription of the service and they are kept confidential.

The information to be supplied includes:

- Name of the subscriber
- Address where service is required
- Residential address
- Contact telephone number
- E-mail address
- Passport photograph
- Identity card (Photocopy)
- Nature of business

### COMPLAINTS HANDLING

The process of complaints handling is simplified such that consumers can easily comprehend it. Fault complaint forms are made available in the office for the consumers to put down their complaints. For those who cannot come to the office, they can call our Help Desk (24 hours of service) and make their complaints which will be logged in and treated promptly. Those that can be resolved instantly are resolved while those that require some time, a date is given but within the commission's Quality of service regulation time frame. The process of handling consumer complaints are illustrated in the attached flowchart "Billing And Equipment Failure Complaint Flow Chart".

### CODE COMPLIANCE

CYBERSPACE will develop appropriate policies and procedures for ensuring full compliance with this Consumer Code as approved by the NCC. The steps to be taken include:

- to ensure that the compliance policy, procedures and applicable code provisions are publicized to employees and other representatives of the company.
  - to develop appropriate procedures or programs to educate employees regarding code compliance issues;
  - to implement appropriate management structures and practices to monitor compliance with the policies, procedures and code provisions; and
  - to provide information to the Commission, as provided for in this Consumer Code or as otherwise requested by the Commission, relevant to the consumer code obligations and ongoing compliance efforts.
- The Commission will monitor compliance with applicable code provisions on a regular basis to ensure the overall effectiveness of consumer codes in achieving their objectives, which include -
- complaints monitoring;
  - routine verification of code compliance by Cyberspace; and
  - identification of other consumer code issues.

The Commission will publish quarterly progress reports to assist it in its ongoing monitoring and review of consumer codes and related issues.

The progress reports will include -

- identified breaches of applicable code provisions, and any remedial actions taken;
- recurring complaints and actions taken to address these;
- statistics on complaints and their resolution; and
- steps taken by Cyberspace in the development of in-house compliance systems.

### Management

Cyberspace Limited, #33, Saka Tinubu Street, Victoria Island, P.O.Box 75484, Lagos, Nigeria  
Tel:(234)-01-4542852, 4542849,4546994  
info@cyberspace.net.ng, http://www.cyberspace.net.ng

## Inside Politics

# INEC wants special fund for female candidates

By Abbas Jimoh

THE Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has called for a special trust fund to finance female candidates vying for elective positions at all levels for the 2011 elections.

INEC chairman Prof. Maurice Iwu, who made the advocacy yesterday in Abuja, said the much awaited electoral reforms will require corresponding atti-

tudinal change and re-orientation from the political class.

He was speaking at a one-day INEC/political parties roundtable on gender, organised by the Civil Society and Gender Desk of The Electoral Institute.

Iwu said to address some of the major factors inhibiting gender equality in politics, stakeholders should help to float a special trust fund for female candidates irrespective of the party platform

they stand on.

He said gender advocates could ask parties to adopt "gender-twinning", where every male flag bearer must be matched with a female running mate and vice versa.

"We desire to see more women as political party flag bearers or running mates in elections at all levels. We desire to see more women participate actively in the electoral process. This will

empower our women and make our democracy more viable, sustainable, healthy and pro-development," Iwu said.

Minister of women affairs Josephine Anenih, who spoke at the event, lamented that of the required 35 percent women representation and participation in governance, only two percent has been achieved.

She said statistics show that women have representation of 3.2

per cent in state houses of assembly, 8.2 per cent in the Senate, 7.78 per cent in the House of Representatives, 20 ministerial appointments, no governors, 16.67 per cent of deputy governors and 4.24 per cent of state commissioners.

"The above statistics call for sober reflection, urgent attention and drastic review if any meaningful progress is to be achieved by women in the 2011 election," she said.



FORMER deputy speaker Austine Opara and former Senate President Aldophus Wabara at the PDP Reform Forum meeting in Abuja, yesterday.

## AC asks Lamido to resign

• Gov hits back: You're hypocritical

By Muideen Olaniyi

THE Action Congress (AC) yesterday asked Alhaji Sule Lamido to resign as Jigawa State governor for saying that all political office holders should vacate their seats if electoral commission chairman Maurice Iwu is pressurised to relinquish his position.

But Lamido yesterday replied AC, saying through his spokesman that it was hypocritical of the party to praise the electoral commission when it won election and criticise the commission when it lost.

Lamido was quoted to have said earlier in the week that "all elected persons across the country, including the entire 36 governors, should be ready to relinquish their respective seats" should Iwu be asked to leave office.

Spokesman for AC Lai Mohammed said in a statement yesterday that not all governors or elected officials were rigged into office. He said governors of Lagos, Edo and Ondo states among others not elected on the platform of the PDP were not rigged into office.

"What Gov. Lamido wanted to say was that all elected PDP officials should step down since Iwu rigged them into office. We appreciate the governor's candour but he should lead the way by first giv-

ing up his own mandate, since he belongs to the same PDP," Mohammed said.

But Lamido, through his spokesman Adagbo Onoja, accused AC of hypocrisy.

"For Lamido, it is, enough of abstracting and hounding one individual for electoral manifestations of the very deep social crisis in Nigeria. Even a Lai Mohammed will agree with Lamido's point about the moral hypocrisy in denouncing Iwu while being a beneficiary of his supposed electoral corruption," Onoja said in a text message yesterday.

"Why is it that every other head of the national electoral management body leaves the job a wreck? What is the social milieu which makes every angel appointed to that job to turn out to be a devil? Michael Ani left heartbroken as head of FEDECO. So also Justice Ovie Whiskey, Adadogo Jack, Abel Guobadia and every other one of them anyone can remember. Is the trouble in the nature of each of these gentlemen or in our stars?" he asked.

Onoja said election rigging was a manifestation of social crisis and its solution should begin by looking at the society itself and the desperation of politicians to debase the electoral system.

## Jimoh visits PDP over guber ambition

By Muideen Olaniyi

BUSINESS mogul and former governorship candidate of All Nigeria Peoples' Party (ANPP) in Ondo State, Mr. Jimoh Ibrahim, yesterday visited the headquarters of the ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP) over his plans to stand for governor in 2011.

Ibrahim, who is chairman of NICON Group, met with the PDP chairman Prince Vincent Ogbulafor to brief him on his

recent decampment to PDP and his governorship ambition on the platform of the party.

Speaking with Journalists after a close-door meeting with Ogbulafor, Ibrahim said he left ANPP to join the PDP in order to assist the party to achieve its goals.

"I have come to join PDP to help develop the nation that is the top most priority, help build the party where democratic attributes can be established and then keep off from there to the larger society.

"We are already okay at the ward and the state and there will be ceremony, there will be one coming up in my ward, my local government and my state capital where the state will be well decorated," he said.

He said his movement from ANPP to PDP was a change, adding: "We are not dumping, we are changing and what is constant in life is change, my political leader is General Buhari, he just changed his party."

## Group flays Rep over IBB

By Abbas Jimoh

THE August Coalition (TAC) has replied Rep Deno Melaye, who criticised former military president Ibrahim Babangida for reportedly saying that the younger generation has failed

in leadership. The group said Melaye's statement was unfortunate, mischievous and misguided.

TAC's national coordinator Ahmed Gana told journalists yesterday in Abuja that IBB is the Father of 'New-breed politics' in Nigeria and no amount of attacks

can intimidate him or his supporters.

"Every culture and religion has provisions for respect of elders and Melaye's outburst might as well be confirming IBB's comment that the youths of Nigeria need a fresh start, tutelage and

support from experienced and tested hands.

"The beauty of democracy lies in its diversities, freedom of choice and speech and not in intimidation and use of foul languages and disrespect. We can say that Gen. Babangida was quoted

out of context deliberately," Gana said.

He said all Nigerians were free to offer themselves to serve the nation in whatever position they so wish to without being abused and IBB's case should not be an exception.

## Inside Politics

# How to achieve credible elections, by Murtala Aliyu

By Suleiman M. Bisalla

**WHAT do you think of the coming 2011 elections in the light of the political currents across the country?**

The truth is that we've gone through some experiments in the last few years since we took over power from the military. There may have been lapses but we expect that over a period of time, such problems will be corrected. Actually, the election of 2007 dampened the hope of Nigerians. I am a member of the PDP and everybody knows that internal democracy even within the party was weak. Everybody knows that the convention where Umaru Yar'adua emerged as candidate and Goodluck Jonathan emerged as running mate was premeditated. That laid a weak foundation for the political system. So what we require now is to have a credible system where the people's vote will count.

The way I look at 2011 is that the political structure is weak and may even get weaker because all the opposition parties have either collapsed or are on their way to collapsing. Again, the ruling party has so much internal tension that at the end of the day we might face some factionalisation. We do not hope so, but if any unfairness raises its ugly head again like it did in 2007, people might leave to where they will go and contest election.

But my hope is that a credible system will be put in place to ensure the emergence of credible candidates. On the other hand, our institutions have become weak, therefore we need some strong personalities to come in and strengthen them in order to give governance some meaning. So we need candidates with a certain level of focus, experience and patriotism to put up for the election in 2011.

**The PDP earlier said its presidential ticket will remain in the north in 2011 but there are certain groups even from the north that are urging Acting President Jonathan to contest the election. Do you see the presidency as a major threat to the PDP in the next election?**

Honestly it is. In the first place the issue of rotation is just an arrangement that was introduced to calm some nerves at a certain time in the political history of the country. I personally don't believe in rotation. As a country, we should be bold enough to elect a candidate that has the capacity and enjoys the confidence of Nigerians. It is apolitical to localise certain political offices to some locations in the country. I think everyone should be given the opportunity to contest for any office of his choice provided that he meets the constitutional requirement. Even the vice president can contest if he wishes, if at the end of the day he is

MALAM Murtala Aliyu, former minister of state for power, is out to contest for governor of Gombe State in 2011. He sought for the PDP's governorship ticket in 2003 but lost to the present governor. What are his plans to avoid failure this time? What should Gombe people expect if he makes it to the government house? How does he see the national political scene as 2011 approaches? Malam Murtala speaks on these and other issues in this interview in Abuja.

able to reach out to all corners of the country and win the support of delegates without coercion or anything, that's fine. But I think there should be no specific arrangement to make him continue or give advantage to any specific candidate. Like I said, the issue of zoning to the north or south was a transitional arrangement and should not be something that will be made permanent in our national politics.

**There is this feeling in Gombe State that you want to contest the governorship election. How correct is that?**

It is quite correct. In 2003, I attempted and went up to the level of party primaries but as it were, I didn't emerge as candidate. However, I remained a loyal member of the party and contributed immensely to its development as well as to the emergence of the PDP government in the state. Again some people will say I have been quiet. Of course I am not in the opposition and when my party is in government, there is no need for me to start causing disaffection just because I lost the primaries. People may also ask why I am not participating in government, but I tell them that it is the person who is in government that invites you if he needs your input. If he doesn't, you wish him well. So as you have heard, I am interested. In fact I am not just interested, I am planning to run. In fact, I am planning to put all ingredients that will throw up a candidate for an election.

**But people have been looking at Governor Danjuma Goje as someone who would ultimately decide on his successor. Is the political space in Gombe comfortable for you to run?**

Not just Goje, I don't need anybody's approval to vie for an office. For instance, if Goje says he has a candidate for the governorship election, I will call that very unwise because he wasn't the candidate of the previous governor. I believe that God in his wisdom will throw up the person that will be governor in Gombe State. I have no problem with somebody indicating interest. I also have no problem with the governor inclining towards a particular candidate, but I think that should not affect the aspiration of others. I don't intend to go and lobby the governor to be his candidate but I intend to go and meet him to express my interest

like I will meet any other influential person in Gombe State. I know that there are talks about certain people being the governor's candidates, but that will not deter me at all. And as a partially experienced politician, I know how to get my way through.

**If some people are already being touted as the governor's candidates, do you think you will get a level playing field to pursue your aspiration?**

The political space has to adjust now because the whole world is looking at Nigeria and they are not just going to look at the presidential election alone but all levels in view of the kind of thing the governors do at all levels. From the local government level to all levels there is interference by the governors, and this cuts across all the political parties, not just my party. However, they are not all the same; there are some that are more reasonable. In any case I don't see any problem now because by the time we get to the election I believe the situation will not be the same as it is now.

But a word for the governors: We all know from experience that some governors threw up certain candidates who eventually made it as governors but that did not stop problems. I know at least one governor in the South East where the governor influenced the emergence of his bother-in-law as governor but he can't go to the state now. I know of a state in the North West where the governor forced his friend as candidate and they are now at daggers drawn. I know another state in the North central where somebody forced in a candidate who became governor and they are now at daggers drawn. I know another state in the South West...in fact one can give countless examples where people pushed for certain candidates and at the end of the day there are problems.

Actually in my state, former Vice President Atiku was hundred per cent behind Goje in 2003 but in 2007 he could not even go to Gombe to campaign because the political calculations had changed. So I will advise that a level playing field be allowed to throw up our leaders in 2011. You know what happened in Ghana, Rawlings vehemently opposed Kufour but when Kufour became president, Rawlings was moving freely in Ghana and campaigning for the opposition, and now the opposition has won the election. So you never know whether



MALAM Murtala Aliyu

it is the man you are opposing that will give you enough space and not to see you as a threat.

**What are you going to do that is different from what Goje and previous governors have done in Gombe?**

I must admit that the current governor has laid the ground for infrastructural development. Quite a number of roads have been constructed and there is a functional airport now. What we need is to expand this but more importantly we are going to tackle the area of education and job creation. No society can advance without giving due recognition to education. Goje has set up a university which is certainly very good, in fact when compared to other state universities, it is certainly a good university. But the problem is that primary and secondary education is still at very low ebb. And with a low human development index, education should be the target of any serious government. So quality education will be the strong point of my entry. Our next major agenda will be the issue of job creation. You know Gombe has notoriety for the Yankalare group. Quite a number of youths are unemployed so we have to expand the job space and make effort to empower people, especially the masses in our society. By these we will expand small and medium scale industry in the state that will engage our youths. If every state in the country will look inward to develop its tax system and revenue generation capacity, and so on, it will probably be better than some small countries in Africa. So my think-

ing is that Gombe is a small state of only 11 local governments therefore we should be able to push the frontiers across to make the people participate actively in activities that will make them self sustaining.

**Former military president Ibrahim Babangida's declaration for the presidential race has elicited protests in some quarters. As someone who is close to him, how do you look at his project?**

That is a sign of a good project. Any project that does not have opposition at the take off is not worth its objectives. IBB has been a personality that has been under attack all through his public life. So if he expects that he comes out to contest the presidency and there will be no such attacks, he might be underestimating the political environment. I have had some personal discussions with him and I think he has a lot to offer. So I think he himself should be more interested in throwing up what he has to offer and not his sins of the past, if there are any. But all the criticisms that are coming up are things that he should expect. I will not speak on his behalf but he personally told me that Nigerian institutions have to be strengthened. He has the feeling that because of the collapse of our institutions, quite a number of things are going wrong. But when the state is strong and effective, you will be able to carry out policies, and you will find out that people will go about their activities without hindrances. In any case from my discussion with him, the least of his problems is all these attacks.

## COMMENTS ON THE RECENT MEETING BETWEEN IJAW AND ACF LEADERS

BY TANKO YAKASAI, OFR

I wish to convey my pleasure at the report published in the media that ACF has played host to some Ijaw leaders from the South-South who were on a mission to rob minds with the leaders of the organization. I welcome this development; I believe through such meetings mutual understanding and respect can be promoted. Moreover, since we all belong to the same nation, the more we engage in dialogue with one another to exchange views and ideas the more we promote better understanding among our people and enhance their unity.

When I resigned from the ACF, I made it clear that that decision would not affect my commitment to promoting the interest of my people at all times. At the time I was an active member of the Northern Union, I served as co-chairman of the Joint Committee set up by the Northern Union and South-South Elders Forum to work out modalities for the promotion of better understanding and cementing of unity between our two peoples.

Also, during the last presidential electioneering campaign, the two groups advocated for the Presidency to be zoned to their respective geo-political areas, and after the PDP Convention nominated Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'adua as its presidential candidate, who, in turn, nominated Dr Goodluck Jonathan as his running mate, members of the two organizations jointly celebrated the outcome with commitment to work together for the success of the new administration in the overall interest of the people of Nigeria.

However, the events that have been taking place since President Yar'adua became ill have created crisis of confidence in the minds of a considerable number of people in the North in particular and Nigeria at large on the intention of the Vice President and people around him on the relationship between him and his boss, President Umaru Musa Yar'adua. There is a feeling that instead of people close to the Vice President showing sympathy and compassion for the condition of the President, they are engaged in illegal and unconstitutional maneuverings aimed at using the temporary absence of Umaru Yar'adua from office to liquidate his Presidency by using methods that clearly not legal or constitutional so as to install Dr. Goodluck Jonathan as the substantive President for the country for the rest of the remaining period of the Yar'adua administration and probably beyond.

Unfortunately, the Vice President himself did not help matters by keeping mute on the face of those obvious manifestations of what looked like betrayal and attempted treachery. Decency dictates that when some mischievous people ostensibly sympathetic to the Vice President started the campaign to undermine the authority of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua under the pretext that the President did not handover power of running the affairs of the country to the Vice President, Dr Goodluck Jonathan, fully aware that that was not the case, did not come out in the open to dispel those allegations and sanction their perpetrators. Undoubtedly, that situation has created a lot of bad blood and concern among many patriotic Nigerians who viewed the development as a manifestation of betrayal of the trust of the President and open disloyalty to him.

Be that as it may, I decided to comment on the visit of the Ijaw leaders to their counterparts of the ACF in order to correct an erroneous impression created by some passages in the statement credited to the leader of the Ijaw delegation, particularly where he claimed that the alliance between the Niger Delta Congress and the NPC after 1959 Federal Elections was responsible for the latter to have a national character, which it was lacking, and that it was that Alliance which paved the way for the NPC to form the federal government at that time and, consequently, made it possible for the British to agree to grant independence to Nigeria, in 1960. This assertion is definitely not correct and needed to be refuted.

First, I would like to point that I had never been a member of the Northern Peoples' Congress NPC. In fact I was a leading member of its principal opposition party at that time, the Northern Elements Progressive Union NEPU, and I was in that party for 15 out of its 16 years of existence and remained in the party up to the time when the military took over power in the country following 1966 coup d'état. I was, nevertheless, an active player in the political life of the country at that particular time, being the National Publicity Secretary of the opposition party to the NPC, the NEPU. It is clear that in making this explanation therefore, I am not guided by any ulterior motive since I was never a member of the NPC and have no cause to depend the party. My reaction is purely guided by the desire to tell the truth in order to put the record straight in the interest of the younger generations, including, probably, the leader of the Ijaw National Congress who from all indications was himself not an active player in the events leading to the alliance between the Niger Delta Congress and the NPC. If what is happening in the country today can be brought to the attention of Chief Dappa Biriye, I believe his mind will be bleeding for what the people he left behind are doing to destroy what he spent almost his entire life time to bring about, the unity and understanding between the minorities in the South-south and the people of the North.

The decision to grant Nigeria independence by Britain was reached between Nigerian leaders and the British Government during the 1957/58 Nigerian Constitutional Conference. The 1959 federal election was part of the programme of events lined up to precede the granting of the independence. Appointment of the Willink Commission to look into the fears expressed by the minorities during that Conference was also one of such issues the British wanted to be sorted out before the attainment of independence for the country.

The 1959 election to the House of Representatives was

intended not only to produce a political party that will form the pre-independence government at the Federal level to which the British will entrust the running of the affairs of independent Nigeria, it was also intended to ensure that Nigerian electorate have demonstrated their approval of and support for the attainment of Nigerian independence. Accordingly, 1959 election to the House of Representatives was held in the latter part of the year. The membership of the House of Representatives was made up of 312 seats. The result of the election gave the following state of the parties:

1. Northern People Congress NPC got 134 seats
2. NCNC/NEPU Alliance got 89 seats
3. Action Group/UMBC Alliance got 73 seats
4. Others got 16 seats

Out of the 16 seats won by other parties, NEPU won 8 and the Niger Delta Congress NDC won only 1 seat and the rest went to the others such as Dynamic Party led by Prof. Chika Obi and another faction of the Niger Delta Congress led by Chief James Otobo which was allied to the Action Group.

When the result of the election was finally announced, no single party was able to secure an overall majority of more than 50 percent of the total membership of the House to be able to form the Federal Government on its own. Party leaders, therefore, embarked on negotiations for the formation of a coalition government. After series of discussions, NPC and NCNC agreed to enter into alliance and form the government together. The result of that agreement was that the two parties were able to come out with a total of 223 seats out of the total of 312 seats, thus giving the Alliance a majority of 67 seats.

It is therefore not true for anybody to say that the Niger Delta Congress which had won only one seat from the east in the election could give the NPC the number of seats it needed to form the government on its own much less to give the party a national character as claimed by the leader of the Ijaw National Congress.

It is instructive to note that although the Niger Delta Congress won only one seat in the 1959 federal election, its only Member of Parliament late Melford Okilo was made a Parliamentary Secretary by Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, which, in my opinion, was an act of benevolence on the part of the NPC. It was, therefore, the Niger Delta Congress that benefitted more, not the NPC, in that relationship as it could be seen that with the alliance concluded between the NPC and the NCNC, NPC did not need the single seat of the Niger Delta Congress to form the Federal Government at that time. In the federal government formed by the NPC and NCNC, indigenes from Niger Delta received more than their due share of patronage. Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh was made the Chancellor of the Exchequer and a virtual deputy Prime Minister, while Dr. Clement Isong another indigene of Niger Delta became the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN. In addition, Dr. Eyo Esua also from former Calabar Province now Akwa Ibom State was appointed the first indigenous Chairman of the Federal Electoral Commission in 1964.

While it is true that during the 1979 presidential election, three Southern minority states namely Cross River, Rivers and Bendel gave Alhaji Shehu Shagari the NPN Presidential candidate the mandatory required percentage of votes which have contributed to his success in the election, the people of the area were well compensated for that support when the party formed the Federal Government. After Shagari was sworn in as the first Executive President of Nigeria, he appointed indigenes of the Niger Delta to run key government ministries. For example, Victor Masi from Rivers State was appointed minister of finance, while Professor Sunday Esang from Cross River was made minister of works; Professor Emmanuel Osamor was appointed minister of police affairs and Chief Patrick Boloko was made junior minister in the ministry of Foreign Affairs, the two were from the then Bendel state in the Niger Delta. In addition, Chief Horatio Ogedah from Rivers State of the Niger Delta area was made chairman of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC). This is apart from the third highest ranking position in the country (the Senate Presidency) which was occupied at that time by an indigene of Cross Rivers State also from Niger Delta area.

That was not all; the friendly relation that existed between the people of the South-South and the North was largely responsible for the southern minorities to achieve self determination through the creation of many states in their area before and during the military era. The states created include Midwest (now Edo) from the Niger Delta area created by the government of Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa; Cross River and Rivers states also from the same Niger Delta area created by the administration of General Yakubu Gowon; Akwa Ibom and Delta states created by the government of General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida and Bayelsa state by the administration of General Sani Abacha all of them in the southern minority area.

Indigenes of the Niger Delta played prominent roles in many aspects of public life of our nation in governments headed by Northerners. The role played by people from Niger Delta in the field of diplomacy was significant. One recalls prominent people like Ambassador Joe Iyala from Rivers State who raised the banner of our nation aloft when he was the Permanent Representative in the United Nation. His high profile role in the United Nations was repeated by Ambassador... Clark and Ambassador Leslie Harriman both from the present day Delta State.

Ambassador Dob Edwin also an indigene of the Niger Delta area was one of the leading figures who left their mark in our foreign service. In the field of bureaucracy people from the Niger Delta area were not left out. The first Nigerian to hold the office of the Chief Secretary to the Federal Government after British handed over power to Nigeria was Mr. Way himself

an indigene of the Niger Delta. The second Nigerian to hold that exalted office was Chief... Ijewere who became the Secretary to the Federal government and Head of Service during the administration of General Gowon. Leading figures in the civil service who were given the unofficial title of Super Permanent Secretaries and who were very influential during Gowon administration were indigenes of the Niger Delta. They include Alison Ayida who held the position of the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Finance and later on became Secretary to the Government of the Federation and Head of Service also during General Gowon administration, Chief Philip Asiodu from Delta State and... Obong from old Cross River state. Other indigenes of the Niger Delta who served as Secretaries to the Government of the Federation in administrations headed by Northerners were Chief Ijewuche and Chief Gray Longe.

In the field of military service indigenes of the Niger Delta area also played prominent roles in the affairs of the country. Such officers include people like Admiral Akinwale Way, the first Chief of Staff Supreme Headquarters and Brigadier General Ekpo who stepped into the shoes of Admiral Way; General David Ejoor who served as the first Military Governor of the defunct Midwest before the region was overrun by the Biafran soldiers and who later became the Chief of Staff Nigerian Army. Others are General John Obada, Admiral Aikhomo, Brigadier General Jacob Esuene, General George Innih, Brigadier General George Kurubo, Brigadier General Samuel Ogbumudia and Admiral Mike Akhibe.

According to some figures recently published in a number of newspapers of an article written by Alhaji Adamu Wazirin Fika, relationship between the North and the Niger Delta area dated back to the colonial era when the North was over forty years was subsidising the budgets of Eastern Region where most southern minorities are located.

The important lesson people from the South-South geo-political zone can learn is that good and cordial relation between them and the people of the North is the only assurance for them to receive their fair share in the scheme of things in Nigeria. Any crises of confidence between them will never be in their best interest. We do not need a political scientist to tell us what the situation will look like whenever the North is made to team up with the South-west or South-east. It will be foolish of anybody from that Niger Delta area to embark on any action that will damage the confidence and the special relationship that were built over the years on account of a temporary advantage.

It is disheartening to those of us who watch with admiration and contributed to the steady development of cordial relationship between the people of the North and their compatriots from Niger Delta area over the years to find that that achievement is being undermined by a shortsighted Neo-Cabal that is holding Vice President Goodluck Jonathan hostage. The legacy of the achievements resulting from the team work and cooperation which started with Tafawa Balewa and Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh and which was maintained and developed by successive leaders from the North as it happened between General Yakubu Gowon and Admiral Akinwale Way as well as Brigadier Ekpo; General Ibrahim Babangida and Admiral Aikhomo; and General Abdussalami Abubakar and Admiral Mike Akhibe is being destroyed in the last few months since Yar'adua's indisposition due, mainly, to the inordinate ambitions of few individuals from the Niger Delta area.

When Chief Dappa Biriye thought of allying his people with Northerners he did so with the clear vision in his mind that it is only through such a relationship that southern minority could occupy the highest position in Nigeria in a democratic dispensation. His vision came closer to becoming a reality when an Ijawman from among the southern minority elements was chosen as Vice President which opens the vista that soon such a person could be elected as President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on his own merit. But from the way some people around the Vice President are behaving today, that goodwill generated over the years seems to be on the way to destruction overnight, if care is not taken. There cannot be a possibility of an Ijawman becoming either the President or vice President in a democratic Nigeria with an Iboman as his mate. Similarly, there cannot be an Ijawman becoming President or vice President of Nigeria with a Yorubaman as his mate. All sensible people are aware of this fact. No amount of maneuvering by Tony Blair or George Walker Bush and Condoleezza Rice can change this fundamental reality of this situation in a democratic Nigeria. The only way of achieving that is through building mutual trust and confidence between the North and the people of the South-south. Betrayal and treachery can only succeed for a while, but not for all times. Luckily, there are multitudes of patriotic people with foresight in the South-south who are alive to this reality and who are still working hard to restore confidence and cultivate much needed goodwill. The misguided ones among them are a tiny minority. With people like Dr. J. S. Wayas, John Oyegun, Gen. John Obada, Timpiri Sylva, Rotimi Ameachi, Dr. Afobuche, Dr. M. T. Akobo, Dr. Peter Odili, Chief Lulu Briggs, Bassey Ekpo Bassey, Clement Ebri, Anthony Ani, Adam Ashinmole, John Udoh, Uffot Ekaete, James Ibori, Tony Aniense and a host of others still alive, all is not lost.

I therefore hope that the visit of the Ijaw leaders to the leadership of the Arewa Consultative Forum, ACF, was motivated by sincere and genuine desire to regenerate goodwill and better understanding; and not for deceit and deception.

Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

S. A. Tanko Yakasai, OFR



The Chairman and Members Board of Trustees of the Cargo Defence Fund invite Stakeholders in the Shipping Industry to the

**LAUNCH OF ITS CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP TO HOLD ON  
WEDNESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2010**

The Cargo Defence Fund is a Public- Private Synergy for assistance to Importers and Exporters in the pursuit of their Claims Recoveries and Legal Remedies.

**Chairman of the Occasion:**

**Alhaji Bashir M. Borodo MFR**

President, Manufacturers Association of Nigeria

**Presentations:**

- **WHAT NIGERIA IS LOSING DUE TO ABANDONMENT OF LEGITIMATE CARGO CLAIMS**

**Dr. K.E. Usho, Former Managing Director, Nigerian Shippers' Council**

**Discussants**

**Mr. Romeo V. Barberopoulous MFR,**

- Chairman M.A.N Export Promotion Group: Economic View

**Mr. Chidi Ilogu**

- Principal Counsel, Foundation Chambers: Legal View

- **BENEFITS OF THE CARGO DEFENCE FUND**

**Ms A.N.Ogo, Secretary, Cargo Defence Fund**

**Date:** Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2010

**Venue:** Sheraton Hotel (The Club), Ikeja, Lagos

**Time:** 10.00 am

**For more information:**

**Mr. Philip Eduwa**  
0803 313 6466

**Mrs. Ala Dublin-Green**  
0803 718 2037

# TRUST CLASSIFIED

## GADAWUR DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

The General Public is hereby notified that the above named Association has applied to Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under the companies and allied matter Act No 1 of 1990 part C of the company and allied matters act 1990 (as amended) cap C20 LFN 2004

**The Trustees are:**

1. Alhaji Barta Salihu Dutse	2. Alhaji Jamilu Basiru Sanusi (Turakin Dutse)
3. Alhaji Kabiru Ali (Kachafan Dutse)	
4. Rev. Umar Garba Dutse	
5. Alhaji Ali Madobi	6. Alhaji Sebo Abdullahi (Eka)
7. Alhaji Danlami S Naimu	8. Alhaji Wada Mohammed Tukur
9. Alhaji Mustapha Yakubu Madobi	10. Alhaji Garba K Adamu

**Aims and Objectives**

1. Initiate poverty alleviation programmes in order to control unemployment and enhance self reliance.
2. To encourage community participation and improve the standard of educational awareness of entire populace
3. To initiate and promote community base oriented programme

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission Plot 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama Abuja, within 28 days of this publication.

Signed  
Alhaji Barta Salihu Dutse  
Chairman

## CENTRE FOR THE ADVOCACY OF JUSTICE AND RIGHTS

This is to notify the general public that the above named organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission to be registered under Part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

**THE TRUSTEES ARE:**

1. Prof. Dakas C.J. Dakas	2. Prof. Etanibi Alemika
3. Dr. Tor Lorapuu	4. Dr. Rahila P. Gowon
5. Mrs. Sarah R. Ochekepe	6. Hajja Hadiza Musa
7. Sani Ibn Salihu	8. Esther Noro Peter
9. Imran Abdulrahman	

**AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

1. To advocate for the respect, protection and promotion of human rights of all Nigerian.
2. To advocate for an improved justice system in Nigeria.
3. To educate Nigerians on their fundamental human rights
4. To carry out civic education for the promotion of democracy, rule of law, accountability and good governance.
5. To carry out empowerment programmes for youth and women.

Any objection to the registration should be directed to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:  
Akin Omoware Esq

## WOMEN INITIATIVE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEMOCRACY

The general public is hereby notified that the above named organization 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. Onyekwelu Joseph
2. Ugozo Anthony
3. Florence Adaoma Dedibe Nwoyeocha
4. Ike Edith
5. Ikechukwu Ibeafu
6. Abdullahi Yomi Tokoya
7. John Ahetor

**AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:**

1. To foster a greater participation of women in Nigerian politics.
2. To organize forum where ideas are submitted towards sustainable democracy in Nigeria.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420 Tigris Crescent Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama Abuja, within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:  
Secretary

## INITIATIVE FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

The general public is hereby notified that the above named foundation has applied to Corporate Affairs Commission Abuja for registration under part c of the company and allied Matters Act 1990.

**Trustees are:**

1. Mr Olusesi Mark Dumber
2. Mr. Olusesi Wakilu Gbenga
3. Mrs Sofia Sagay
4. Mrs Olusesi Adewale Rahman
5. Miss Olusesi Adebimbe Ramat
6. Mr Bello Opeyemi Mensah Felix

**AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

1. Alleviation of poverty though sensitizing the youth of their available opportunities
2. To cater for the welfare of youths women and needy in relation to their educational development
3. To do all such other lawful things as may be considered to be incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects or any of them.

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the registrar general corporate affairs commission plot 420 Tigris Crescent off Aguiyi Ironsi Street PMB 198 Maitama Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed  
Wale Olusesi Esq

## LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public that the original C OF O of one MR DANIEL BAKO ZUYA "M" of central bank of nigeria ( CBN) Abuja, said his certificate of occupancy of his land in bauchi is missing, please efforts to trace the C OF O proved abortive.

## LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to notify the general public the loss of certificate of occupancy in respect of plot No. BO/8701 located at Damboa Road, Maiduguri. Belonging to Alhaji Alkali Kolo 'M' of kasuwan Shanu ward Maiduguri is declared missing. All effort made to trace the missing document prove abortive if found return to the nearest police station or called the under signed.

08033873433

Alhaji Alkali Kolo  
For the family

## BELIEVERS LIBERATION ASSEMBLY

This is to inform the general public that the above named Association has applied for registration under part c of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

**The Trustees are.**

1. Prophet Prince Andrew Obongha	-	Chairman
2. Pastor Mrs. Ann Obonga	-	Member
3. Sister Pauline Nkechi Ubosi	-	Member
4. Brother Joseph Obasi	-	Member
5. Mary Sarki	-	Secretary

### AIM AND OBJECTIVE

1. To Teach and preach the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to all nations.
2. To help in the promotion of quality education through the establishment of schools / institution.
3. To help in the prevention and cure of sickness and Diseases e.t.c

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the registrar General Corporate Affairs Commission, Maitama, Abuja, within 28 days from this Publication.

Signed  
Prophet Prince Andrew Obongha.

## GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOL DAMATURU OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION

Notice is hereby given that, the above named association has applied to the corporate affair commission, Abuja for registration under part "c" of the companies and allied matters act (cama) no 1 of 1990.

**THE TRUSTEES ARE**

1. Mr Wutama B. Samba	Chairman
2. Professor Musa Alabe	Member
3. Dr. Abubakar G. Iliya	
4. Aih Abdulkadir Ayuba	
5. Ibrahim Muhammed Lawolom	
6. Jibrin Haruna Jakusko	
7. Ahmad Kangadi Mustapha	
8. Mrs Hauwa A. Geji	
9. Aih. Bukar Kime	Secretary

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To bring together members of the association with a view to fostering unity amongst them.
2. To cater for the needs of members in any lawful manner
3. To awaken members to observe their civic rights in the development of the association.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed: Aih. Bukar Kime (Apollo)  
Secretary 08036129995

## INITIATIVE FOR THE RECONCILIATION OF NIGER DELTA YOUTHS

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Initiative has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

**TRUSTEES ARE:**

1. Evang. Living Stone Chukwumesili	2. Rev. Dr. Terex Chuka Okera
3. Rev. Joshua Ukonu Emea	4. Mrs. Christiana Ebbell
5. Mr. Kenneth Ogun Meju	6. Mr. Stanley Okebata
7. Mr. Wnosa Henry	8. Barr. Umar Bello Magaji

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. To create a forum through which members can organize themselves and speak out with one voice.
2. To augment the efforts of the government towards enhancing everlasting peace, unity and progress in the Niger Delta and by extension in Nigeria.
3. To create an access to justice in the Niger Delta as a means for promotion and protecting the rights of citizens within the Niger Delta region.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission Plot 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama Abuja, within 28 days of this publication.

SHEHU UTHMAN ABDULLAHI, ESQ  
08032912610

## ADAMAWA AWARENESS FOUNDATION

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for replacement and/or appointment of additional trustees under part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

**OLD TRUSTEES:**

1. Alhaji Njidda Ngella (deceased)
2. Alhaji Buba Yerima (resign)

### NEW TRUSTEES:

1. Alhaji (Dr.) Muhammadu Barkindo Aliyu Musdafa
2. Alhaji Musa Bubakar Kamale
3. Chief Lawrence Nbate
4. Alhaji Tijjani Maksha

Any objection to the registration of the above replacement and /or appointment of additional trustees should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, plot 420, Tigris crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi street, Abuja, within 28 days of this publication.

SIGNED:  
ALKAKI & GURIN  
LEGAL PRACTITIONERS

## CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly known as MUSA ABDULKARIM now to be called MUSA ABDULKARIM HARUNA. All former documents remain valid. DE LARFEL SECONDARY SCHOOL KANO and general public note.

I formerly HAFSAT IBRAHIM ZUBAIRU now wish to be called MRS. HAFSAT IBRAHIM ZUBAIRU. All former documents remain valid NYSC and general public to note.

I formerly called BABAYO ALIYU now wish to be called BABAYO ALIYU SHANGO. All documents remained valid. FCE (Technical) Potiskum and the public to note.

I formerly called MISS GLADYS IFEOMA ONWUASOANYA now wish to be called MRS GLADYS IFEOMA OKOYE. All documents remained valid. University of Maiduguri, NYSC and the public to note.

I, formerly MISS. ADEWALE TEMILADE LYDIA, Now wish to be known as MRS. IDOWU TEMILADE LYDIA. All formal documents remain valid. ICT Unit, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria and general public note.

I, formerly known and addressed as MISS ONOVO BENEDETH CHINENYE, now wish to be called as MRS ARUM CHINENYE BENEDETH FORTUNE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as MISS FAIMO NYITAMEN, now wish to be addressed as MRS FAIMO MOSES ABE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly MISS JENNIFER EJEOMA NNAJI now wish to be known as MRS. JENNIFER EJEOMA SYLVESTER. Former documents remain valid. WAEC, NVRI Vom and the general public to take note

I, formerly known as KAZEEM ADEKUNLE FATTAH, now QASSIM ABDULFATTAH and general public take note.

I, formerly MISS SHAFATU LAWAL, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS SHAFATU SURAJUDEEN SALAWU. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public take note.

I, formerly RUKAYYA ABUBAKAR now MRS RUKAYYA ABUBAKAR MUKHTAR. Former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public to note.

Formerly MISS BETTY CHARLES UBA now wish to be called MRS BETTY HYLASINI. All former documents remain valid, general public should take notice.

I formerly known as UMAR AHMED ASKIRA, now wish to addressed as MUSA AHMED ASKIRA. All former documents remain valid, Askira/uba Local Government, Audit department and general public take note.

Formerly known as MISS VERONICA S. HANYA, now changed to MRS VERONICA PTIL KAYAM. All former documents remain valid, NYSC and general public take note.

I former known as MUSA ABUBAKAR now wish to be known as ALI ABUBAKAR. All former documents remain valid, general public to take note.

I formerly known as HADIZA BUKAR KADAI now wish to be addressed as HADIZA MOHAMMED. All former documents remain valid, LEA, MMC and general public to note.

I HALIMA ISA now wish to be known as HALIMA ABUBAKAR BABAYO. Former documents remain valid. Yobe State Sc and Tech Board and Public note.

I formerly known as HALIMATU MAMUDA now wish to be called Mrs HALIMATU MAHMUD. All former documents remain valid, NYSC take note.

I formerly known as ZAINAB JINJIRI DUTSE now wish to be called as Mrs ZAINAB JINJIRI DUTSE All former documents remain valid, NYSC and general public to take note.

I formerly known as LUKA ISHAYA, now wish to be called as ABUBAKAR YAKUBU, All former documents remain valid CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION BAUCHI, and public should take note.

I, formerly known as GEORGINA ALOYSIUS ODENIGBO, now wish to be known as GEORGINA ONYIGBUO. All former documents remain valid. General public to note.

I formerly JONATHAN AMADI now wish to be known as TIMOTHY AMADI. Former documents remain valid. General public take note.

Formerly PHARM (MISS) OCHIGBO ELIZABETH AMINA now to be known as PHARM (MRS) ONMONYA ELIZABETH OCHANYA. Former documents remain valid. General public take note.

# TRUST CLASSIFIED

## NEHEMIA GLOBAL OUTREACH MINISTRY

The general public is hereby informed that the above named society has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under PART C of the companies and allied matters act 1990.

The trustees are:

1. EVANG (DR.) ERIC OTCHERE	CHAIRMAN
2. PASTOR IFUKOR DANIEL OSAHEN	SECRETARY
3. APOSTLE (DR.) JOHNSON MATTAHEH WILLIAMS	MEMBER
4. DEACONESS VICTORIA OTCHERE	MEMBER
5. REV. (MRS) GLADYS BENITIE	MEMBER
6. HAKEEMAFOLABI AKTYODE	MEMBER
7. APOSTLE JOSHUA MAKANJUOL ASIMEON	MEMBER

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVE ARE:

1. To preach the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ all over the world.
2. To establish branches, fellowship and training centres to empower men and women to evangelize the word of God.
3. To worship the Lord in the beauty of His holiness and demonstrate His power by prophecy, healing and salvation.

Any objection to the above registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, plot 420 Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Irons Street, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of the publication.

Signed:  
EVANG (DR.) ERIC OTCHERE  
CHAIRMAN

## PROSPECT HIGH SCHOOL ABANLA IBADAN OLD STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

The general public is hereby informed that PROSPECT HIGH SCHOOL ABANLA IBADAN OLD STUDENTS ASSOCIATION has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission Abuja for registration under Part "C" of Companies and Allied Matters Act No. 1 laws of the Federation 1990.

### The Trustees are:

1. Sunday Babatunde Ogunba
2. Toyin Olufade
3. Isiaka Olayide Popoola

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVE

1. To foster love, unity and understanding among all old students of the school irrespective of age or creed.
2. To serve jointly and severally as a source of inspiration for the pupils in attendance at the school.
3. To continuously improve the academic social and cultural status of our alma mater.
4. To do any other thing that may be incidental to any of the above objectives.

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Irons St., Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:  
H. O. Akintola Esq. Solicitor

## AL-AMRU BIL-MA'ARUF ISLAMIC GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING CENTRE

The general public is hereby notifying 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 1990.

### The Trustees are:

1. Dr. Sheikh Othman Anagha - Chairman
2. Mallam Abubakar Egbe - Secretary
3. Hajjya Saidah C. Okoro
4. Mallam Suhail Sheikh Othman

### Aims and Objectives:

1. To propagate Islam with wisdom
2. To inculcate the spirit of unity and peace among Nigerian Citizens
3. To enlighten Nigerian Muslim the need for education
4. To protect and preserve the right and property of Muslim Orphans and widows

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, plot 420, Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Irons Street, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:  
Izharul-haq Chambers  
Legal Practitioners

## WEEF AFRICAN FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN AND YOUTH

The general public is hereby informed that the above named society has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under PART C of the companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

### The trustees are:

1. LADY CHIZOBA TCHIEBONAM NWANA
2. CHIEF MRS OBY IHYEMBE
3. CHIEF MRS PAT AJEKWU
4. MRS GLORIA OGBUAGU
5. MRS NGOZI OJI
6. MISS CASSANDRA NWANA
7. MRS AMAKA OZUMBA
8. MRS CHIENEL O OKAFOR

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVE ARE:

1. To provide relief and succor, eradicate poverty, alleviate pains and agonies and thus upgrade the standard of living of our members.
2. To create the necessary and sufficient conditions to facilitate the economic and social liberation of our women and children.

Any objection to the above registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, plot 420 Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Irons Street, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of the publication.

Signed:  
Vivian Bosah  
Green Field Solicitors  
728 Alexandria Crescent, Wuse II, Abuja

## LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of Original Certificate of Occupancy with No. NC 2994, Plot No. 3, Road 'F' on TPO 463 Barnawa Residential Layout, Kaduna South, Kaduna State. All efforts made to trace the missing document proved abortive. If found, return to the nearest Police Station or contact 08033143911.

## LOSS OF DOCUMENT

The C of O of a landed property at KM 34 Lokoja-Okeke express way with registration No. KG1758 dated 1991 belonging to Engr. Joseph O. Makoju is declared missing on 20th January 2010. A court affidavit and police extract have been obtained while a certified true copy has also been collected from land registration Lokoja thus rendering the original invalidated. Town Planning Board Lokoja, Land Registration and the general public take note.

## OGSSIAN 70 - 74 SET EDUCATION EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION IN NIGERIA

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. Godwin Odunze
2. Wereuche Morgan Amadi
3. Akowundu Nwachukwu
4. Nnadozie Ekeocha
5. Amanze Williams
6. Prof. Stanley Anyanwu
7. Arc. Ezigbo Okoro
8. Robinson Uche Akujobi
9. Geoffrey Onuoha

### Aims and objectives:

1. To unite old student of 70 - 74 set.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Irons Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed:  
Secretary

## PRESBYTERIAN SUCCOUR 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. Rev. Ini Ukpuho          | 2. Elder Ndiyo Asiya      |
| 3. Elder Etang ibiang Etang | 4. Mrs. Isidoma Ukwu      |
| 5. Elder Ukagha Amogu       | 6. Elder Dr. Eniang Nkang |
| 7. Mr. Okwara Uche Kalu     | 8. Mrs. Mary Esuabanga    |
| 9. Mr. Okoy Okpani Oji      |                           |

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To open up a window for engaging in ministering relief to people afflicted by natural disaster, or rendered homeless and displaced due to social unrest.
2. To create opportunities for members of the church to engage in various ministries outside the four walls of the church which affirms humanity in its fullness - such as prison ministries, food banks, disaster relief and rehabilitation of the destitute.
3. To initiate the advocacy for gender justice that includes establishing window trust fund and minimizing domestic violence.
4. To create a forum through which the church can be involved in conflict prevention and resolution in the country.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Irons Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

SIGNED:  
Secretary

## ANNAS WORLD OUTREACH

The general public is hereby informed that the above named organization has applied for registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matter Act, 1990

### THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. MRS. JEMIMAH O. CHLIOKE  
NO. 26 RUMUOGBA STREET  
C.I.W.A. ARTILLARY  
PORT HARCOURT
2. EMMA RONNY ALQZIE  
NO. 80ABA PORT HARCOURT EXPRESS ROAD  
PORT HARCOURT
3. MRS. KATE CHLIOKE  
NO. 26 RUMUOGBA STREET  
C.I.W.A. ARTILLARY  
PORT HARCOURT
4. AGUA GIDEON O.  
NO. 7AWKA ETITI STREET  
ABA
5. MRS. NDIDI CHLIOKE  
F.H.A. PHASE II  
LUGBE, ABUJA

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, plot 420, Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Irons street, P.M.B. 198, Maitama, Abuja. Within 28 days of this publication.

## MISBAHUL - ISLAM 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. Col. Hamid Ali (Rtd) - Chairman
2. Malam Abdur-rahman Umar
3. Alhaji Abba Musa Rimi
4. Engr. Abubakar Fari
5. Alhaji Umaru Baba (OFR)
6. Dr. Maccodo Ibrahim (OON)
7. Arc. Nuhu Mawada
8. Alhaji Ahmed Abdu Zaria - Secretary

### Aims and objectives:

1. To build schools for Western and Islamic Education.
2. To promote peace, unity and progress among Muslims and non Muslims alike
3. To provide a forum for the promotion of Science and Technology.
4. To build Mosques and promote the training of Islamic Missionaries.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Irons Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed:  
Bar. Aliyu A. Abdullahi  
Zusab Chambers  
738 Off Aminu Kano Crescent, Wuse, Abuja.

## CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known and called **SULMAN TAYE ATOTI**, now wish to be called **SULYMAN TAWO HASSAN**. All former documents remain valid. Public should take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS WOSU CHIKARU GRACE** now wish to be known as **MRS OLORUNTOBI CHIKARU GRACE**. All former documents remain valid. Diocese of Eyo Anglican Communion and general public take note.

I, formerly **SALAMATU ABUBAKAR IBRAHIM**, now wish to be known as **SALAMATU I.M. DANJUMA**. Former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public to note.

I, formerly called **GARBA MOH'D** now called **ABUBAKAR TANKO MOHAMMAD**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note please.

I, formerly **GODIYA G. SHARK** wish to be **GODIYA GLADYS LANSH**. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities to please note.

I, formerly known as **HELEN MALAME AUDU** now to be known as **MRS HELEN VICTOR I. EFUNA**. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and the general Public should note.

I, formerly known as **UDEOZOR NGOZI MERCY**, now wish to be known as **MRS ANOSIKE NGOZI MERCY**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly **ANGELA AZIBA AWUNA** now wish to be known as **MRS. ANGELA AZIBA OKEJEPHA**. All former documents remain valid. General public note.

I, formerly **MISS REBECCA ALFRED**, now wish to be known as **MRS REBECCA A. ADAJI**. All former documents remain valid.

I, formerly known as **MISS OKPE MARIA** now wish to be called **MARIA SULEIMAN**. All former documents remain valid. General public please note.

I, formerly **ANDEM EKPENYONG ESUK (MIS)** now **NMAKWE ANDEM BLESSING (MRS)**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly **DR. SIKIRATU KAILANI** now wish to be called **DR. SIKIRATU KAILANI- AHMADU**. All former documents remain valid. The general public take note.

I, formerly known as **MIS HAUWA BABA GUNDE** now wish to be called **MRS PHILIP AWAJE TANKO**. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS ABIOLA BUKOYE ADEWOYE** now wish to be known as **MRS ABIOLA TIM-OLADOSU**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly **MISS OGHENEKARO OKPOKURU** now wish to be known as **MRS EHMHEN OGHENEKARO**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly **SULEMAN TANKO** now **SULEMAN TANKO IDRIS**. All former documents remain valid. PHCN, General public takes note.

I, formerly known and called **ZAINAB TANI ZAKARI** now wish to be called **ZAINAB ZAKARI-AWAMI**. All former documents remain valid, public note please.

I, formerly **AISHETU GARBA HASSAN** now wish to be addressed as **AISHETU KABIRU LABARAN**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly **NAFISATU SANI TAMBULWA** now wish to be addressed as **NAFISATU SANI MOHAMMED**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly **VICTORIA MUSA NAMAN** now wish to be addressed as **MRS VICTORIA CHIOMA AMOS**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly **MISS SARAH M LABARAN** now wish to be addressed as **MRS SARAH SYLVESTER**. All former documents remain valid. Federal Polytechnic Nasarawa, NYSC and general public take note.

I, formerly **MISS BLESSING TEMITOPE MEDAYESE** now wish to be addressed as **MRS BLESSING TEMITOPE OTARO**. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **DAVIS OLOTU ADAJI** wish to be known as **DAVIS FREEMAN ADAJI**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **EKENE CAROL UDEOZOR** wish to be known and addressed as **MRS EKENE CAROL MAXWELL AJANA**. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and General public take note.

I, formerly **IBEUM NGOUKA AGAPE** wish to be called **NDUKANMA AGAPE NGOUKA**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## SPORT

Beckham leads  
Forbes list of  
highest earners  
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# Don't expect miracles in South Africa — Erico

By Ibraheem A. Fatai

ERSTWHILE Super Eagles assistant coach and ex-international, Joe Erico, has advised Nigerians not to expect any miracle from the Super Eagles in South Africa, saying Eagles lack what it takes to fly high in the Mundial.

Speaking yesterday in an interview with Trustsports, Erico said the fact that Lars Lagerback is still battling with a 44-man list less than 60 days to the commencement of the football fiesta, means all may not be well for the team in South Africa.

Erico maintained that it is going to be near impossible for Lagerback to raise a team that will be strong enough to challenge Argentina and other qualifiers that are more than battle ready for the World Cup.

"While the Argentina Coach, Diego Maradona, has already named the squad that will face Nigeria in June, our own coach is still sweating with how to get a 23-man squad, which might not be ready until just few days before the World Cup.

"Also, while most of the participating countries are putting finishing touches to their strategies by playing quality friendly matches to remain in competition mood, Lagerback has not even assembled his 44-man team, let alone know who among them will make it to

South Africa.

"The truth is that we are not just ready for the game. Under the new coach, we have not played any friendly match. How then do we expect the players to understand one another and form a compact team that can look any team in the eyes when the game starts?

"There is no miracle in football. Those who receive some elements of luck in football are those to be those that have worked very hard, not those that have not done any serious work to deserve luck. In our own case, we should not expect any miracle from the Super Eagles in South Africa. To expect a World Cup ticket from the Eagles that we have on the list and our lack of preparation, I am afraid, it is going to be difficult" Erico reasoned.

However, he said Nigeria should be patient with Lagerback as he is trying to build a strong team for the country, saying it took the former Eagles' handler, Clemence Westerhof, some years to record most of the achievements that Nigerians are still talking about till date.

"It took Westerhof up to five years to win the African Nations Cup and four years to qualify Nigeria for the World Cup in the USA. To expect that Lagerback will achieve all that in less than five months, is unfair to the Swede," Erico concluded.



SUPER Eagles striker Ojaze Odemwingie has his eyes on the ball and attention towards South Africa 2010 World Cup, but veteran coach Joe Erico says Nigerians should not expect miracles from the national team.

## Home based Eagles: NFF give excuse for missed visas

IT is no longer news that the six home based stars expected to assemble with the Super Eagles in London will miss next week's camp, due to visa hitches, but NFF assistant general secretary, technical, James Peter has hurriedly excused the Glass House from any blame.

Jay Pee said in an interview

with brilafm.net that the players' passports were used to register them for the recent WAFU tournament and could not be released until after last weekend's final.

"That we could not acquire visas for the league players was not a mistake. They were involved in a competition and the passports were submitted for

checks.

"Since they needed to play in the competition, we could not apply for their visas," the former under-23 national team gaffer and ex-Super Eagles interim coach explained.

Meanwhile, Red Bull Salzburg have asked the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) to leave out

defender Rabiou Afolabi from a national team get-together planned from Tuesday in London ahead of the World Cup because they have crucial league games about this time.

Salzburg lead the Austrian Bundesliga with 69 points from 31 matches, six points clear of closest rivals Rapid Vienna, who

they will tackle on Friday and a week later, they host fifth-placed SC Wiener Neustadt as they aim to retain the league crown.

Afolabi, 30, has been recalled by Nigeria two years after he was last involved with the team at the 2008 Africa Cup of Nations in Ghana.



EDUARDO Schwank of Argentina plays a forehand to Lleyton Hewitt of Australia during their ATP 500 World Tour Barcelona Open match on Wednesday, in Barcelona, Spain. Schwank won the match 7-6, 6-4.

## 2010 WORLD CUP

# Cash demands hurt Nigeria's build-up

NIGERIA'S preparations for the World Cup may well suffer even more setbacks after it was learnt that the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) are demanding hefty cash payments from teams, who wish to engage the Super Eagles in warm-up matches prior to South Africa 2010.

According to MTNFootball.com investigations, the organisers for Nigeria's only confirmed World Cup warm-up match against Colombia on May 30 in London have asked the NFF to review the Eagles match fee of \$150,000.

They have also asked the Nigeria football authorities to dip into their pockets and come up with at least \$50,000 as part of their own contribution to the

London stadium hire of about \$150,000.

NFF officials are also asking organisers for the Colombia game to pay for their flight tickets to London even though Nigeria are due there before the match for their World Cup training camp in Essex.

The NFF have confirmed to MTNFootball.com that they are deep in negotiations with Iceland for a friendly on May 26, but this game may hit the rocks because while Iceland are disposed to foot the travel and boarding expenses of the Eagles, officials are believed to be demanding for an appearance fee of \$100,000.

"We're not an irresponsible organisation," insisted NFF official, Tunde Aderibigbe.

"We know how important it is to prepare well so as to do well at the World Cup and as such we cannot compromise on this.

"But we also have bills to pay. We have to pay for our training camp, bonuses and allowances of the players, among other costs."

For instance, MTNFootball.com gathered that the NFF splashed over 70 million naira for the participation of the home-based Eagles at the WAFU Nations Cup in Abeokuta as well as the FIFA Under-17 Female World Cup qualifying match against South Africa.

However, a perplexed football pundit told MTNFootball.com: "It is rather baffling that the NFF wish to commercialise these

World Cup friendlies even though FIFA have paid them a million US dollars to prepare for the competition.

"Rather than be asking to be paid, it should be Nigeria even paying these teams to play them because they are the ones who really need these matches to prepare for the World Cup. Colombia and Iceland did not qualify for the World Cup."

Proposed World Cup warm-ups against Paraguay, Ukraine and North Korea have all fallen through in the last few weeks and officials insist they will remain mum about other test games until they have been finalised.

Nigeria are pitched against Argentina, Greece and South Korea at the World Cup in June.

## Nigeria free to change World Cup base —Jordaan

NIGERIA are free to change their World Cup base if they are dissatisfied with the Ballito, Durban facility, Chief Executive Officer of FIFA 2010 Organising Committee, Dr Danny Jordaan has said.

Jordaan spoke with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Kimberley as the Northern Cape Province held a gala nite to mark the 50-day to the kick-off of the championship in South Africa.

He said that there were more than enough facilities for the World Cup teams, adding that if Nigeria wanted a change, they were free to do so.

"We have 46 base camps and Nigeria can choose whichever base camp they want.

"So if they want to change their base camp, there are many other possibilities but each country decides where they want to base themselves," he said.

Jordaan said he had yet to get any indication of Nigeria's intention to change but assured the NFF that there were many facilities they could opt for.

NFF President Sani Lulu had said last month during an inspection visit that there were still issues with the Super Eagles' Hampshire base camp in Durban.

Lulu said they would be back at the end of April before a final decision would be made.

The NFF delegation, which included the Eagles' coach Lars Lagerback, were assured that the facility would be ready in April.

The Super Eagles are expected to arrive in Richards Bay in May before moving to Ballito early in June to camp at the Hampshire Hotel, which is only a few minutes drive from the training pitch located at Ashton International College.

Lulu said after the visit: "The facilities are still being put right. The hotel is almost completed but we have one or two or three things that are outstanding."

The gala nite in Kimberley also saw Austin Okocha, Nigeria's soccer legend, honoured for his outstanding contribution to African soccer.

Okocha told the crowd he was proud to be an African and thanked all who supported him during his playing career.

He expressed confidence that African teams would excel at the World Cup.

Dr Sam Ramsamy, a leading member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), was also honoured for his contributions to South Africa's success in getting the hosting rights.

Ramsamy dedicated the award to all Africans for supporting the bid and decried the xenophobic attacks targeted at some foreigners in the country last year.

He said it was upsetting that those who supported the bid had been victims of the attack.

Two former stars of the South African national team, Lucas Radebe and Doctor Khumalo, were also honoured at the gala nite.

## Nnaji writes Bio on NFF tenure

By Orkula Shaagee

FORMER Commissioner of Sports in Enugu State Barrister Ray Nnaji yesterday launched a campaign to stop the Nigeria Football Federation from extending the tenure of state football associations.

Nnaji, a former board member of the Nigeria Premier League

(NPL), said in the petition to Sports Minister and Chairman National Sports Commission Alhaji Ibrahim Isa Bio that the tenure of the state football associations elapsed long ago but the NFF illegally extended it last December.

In the petition, dated April 8 and titled "Illegal Extension of tenure of State FAs by the Leader-

ship of NFA", Nnaji alleged that the action by the Sani Lulu-led board sometime last year was calculated to ensure the re-election of the board this August and the exclusion of other football stakeholders.

He also informed that it was the state football associations (FAs) which had long served their terms out that met and "illegally set up" the NFF electoral commit-

tee headed by A.U Mustapha.

On why he chose to petition the minister, Nnaji explained that by the provision of section 2 of Nigeria Football Association Act Cap N110 of 2004 of the laws of the federation, which is the only law governing football in the country, Bio is duty bound to give directive in the overall interest and development of football in Nigeria.

# Okocha sticks to his guns

## ■ Says no return from retirement

FORMER Super Eagles skipper, Austin Okocha has reiterated his decision not to return to football, saying he had no regret not playing in the first World Cup in Africa.

In an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on the sidelines of the 50-day countdown to the World Cup in Kimberley, South Africa, Okocha said he had been out of the game for two years.

"I've not played active football for two years now so that one is out of the question."

"In the midfield we just need to assess our players and know what their strengths are and encourage them and stop comparing them with past players," he said.

Okocha said Lagerback's decision to invite 44 players to camp was solely that of the coach and he would not like to be involved in it.

"It's his decision as that's what we paid him to do: to get the best players together and prepare them for the World Cup and he has lived up to his target."

"We can't get involved in who he picks and all that. It is his decision and hopefully he made the right decision," said the former midfielder.

He added that he did not think Lagerback would clinch the job but as he had done so he should be able to do well.

"We all believed we needed help and somebody to assist the

former coach, but to be honest I never thought it will be Lagerback, but I think he won at the interview on top of others."

"Maybe he might help us to be more organised because we need someone to make us more organised, but at the end of the day it's down to the players."

"Coaches can coach but they can't play so hopefully all the players will be in good form," he said.

Okocha said the Super Eagles like other African teams, could spring surprises in the tournament.

"Nigeria is a team that you can never predict. You can never guess what will happen with the Nigerian national team. But it's all about Africa working together to excel," he said.

"I think an African team might spring a surprise because we are realising it is our biggest opportunity to make history and the support we get here might be an advantage," he added.

"Quarter or semi final is achievable and I hope we even go all the way," he stressed.

Okocha urged soccer authorities to always give players their dues during soccer tournaments, while also charging players to have the passion for the game above monetary concerns.

He spoke on his desire to serve in the Nigerian Football Federation (NFF), saying he was moved by the desire to put the nation's football where it deserved to be.



OKOCHA said Super Eagles could spring surprises in the World Cup.

"My interest is to make sure that we are where we are supposed to be. To be honest, our football is really suffering now because we fail to put a structure in place and this is my concern," he said.

Okocha lauded South Africa for focusing on youth develop-

ment in soccer through the clinics, noting that the youths are the future of soccer.

He also praised the country for its preparation for the 2010 soccer fiesta, saying the atmosphere was already electric 50 days to kick off.

## Marseille closer to first French title since '92

MARSEILLE fans are counting down the weeks as coach Didier Deschamps's seemingly unstoppable charge toward a first French title in 18 years frenetically gathers momentum.

Having already ended a title drought going back to when Marseille won the Champions League in 1993, Deschamps is set to end his first season in charge by adding the title to his League Cup triumph.

Since losing to Benfica in the last 16 of the Europa League just over a month ago, Marseille has won the League Cup final against Bordeaux and six straight league games to move five points clear of second-place Auxerre.

"With five rounds remaining, there appears little chance Marseille will falter," and another win Saturday at home to Saint-Etienne will nudge Marseille closer to success.

"No one is untouchable. A few months ago, we were 12 points behind Bordeaux and today we are ahead," Marseille defender Stephane M'Bia said. "You don't know what can happen between now and the end of the season."

Marseille has 68 points from 33 games, while Auxerre has 63. Lyon is in third spot with 59 and leads fourth-place Montpellier on goal difference.

While last year it was Bordeaux's late run of 11 straight wins that saw it pip Marseille to the title on the final day, this time Marseille has timed its run perfectly while Bordeaux has slipped down to sixth spot, 11 points behind.

Marseille can match Bordeaux's feat if it wins its remaining five games, and Deschamps is having a hard time trying to quell the enthusiasm in the football-crazy southern city.

When Marseille won 2-1 away at Boulogne last week-end with an injury-time winner from Taye Ta



TAYE Taiwo

# Dramatic run-ins as Europe enters home straight

By Mitch Phillips (Reuters)

FOOTBALL championships, as any bar-room expert will attest, are a marathon not a sprint but as Europe's top leagues enter the home straight the stage is set for some breathless photo-finishes.

One point divides the top two in England, Spain and Italy while there are two points between Germany's leading contenders and five in France.

The Premier League is enjoying one of its most exciting seasons for years as the favourites' tag has winged this way and that throughout the campaign.

Chelsea's 2-1 win at Old Trafford followed by United's goalless draw with Blackburn Rovers earlier this month seemed to swing the race decisively the way of the Londoners as they led by four points with four games remaining.

However, Saturday's double drama as Paul Scholes snatched a stoppage-time 1-0 victory at Manchester City and then watched Tottenham Hotspur beat Chelsea 2-1 opened the door again.

With no Champions League involvement to divert attention for a change, all resources will be

centred on the remaining Premier League action.

United, seeking to move ahead of Liverpool with a record 19th title and thereby become the first club to win the top flight four years in a row, next host Spurs on Saturday.

The Old Trafford club then visit Sunderland before hosting Stoke City on the final day of the league season on May 9.

Chelsea, who have a better goal difference than United, entertain Stoke on Sunday and then face a tough trip to Liverpool before finishing up at home to Wigan Athletic.

Third-placed Arsenal now look title outsiders after Sunday's 3-2 defeat at Wigan left them six points off the pace.

Arsenal were involved in two dramatic finishes of their own in 1953 and 1989.

In 1953 they won the championship on goal average, which was replaced by goal difference in 1977, and in 1989 Michael Thomas's late goal at Anfield secured the 2-0 win they needed to take the title on goals scored at Liverpool's expense after the sides finished level on points with the same goal difference.

The league was also decided on

goal average in 1924, 1950 and 1965 when Manchester United pipped Leeds United.

Since the launch of the Premier League in 1992 there have been three one-point margins at the end of the season.

In 1999 Manchester United pipped Arsenal, reversing the finishing order of the previous season, while United were also on the receiving end in 1995 when Blackburn Rovers won it.

Inter Milan looked on course for a fourth successive Serie A title when they led by nine points in February but now trail AS Roma with four games left.

Roma's 2-1 win over Lazio on Sunday was the 24th unbeaten league game for Claudio Ranieri's side, who were in turmoil at the start of the season.

Inter fans would probably swap the scudetto for their first European Cup crown since 1965 and the distraction of their Champions League semi-final with Barcelona could play into the hands of Roma and Real Madrid.

Barcelona's lead over Real was cut to one point with five games left after the champions were held to a 0-0 draw at Espanyol at the week-

end and Real beat third-placed Valencia 2-0.

The big two have won the title 50 times between them and with Valencia 25 points off the pace and on-going TV revenues heavily favouring Barca and Real, there seems little prospect of anyone else gate-crashing the party in the near future.

In the Bundesliga, Bayern Munich go into the last three matches with a two-point lead over Schalke 04.

Bayern, chasing a league, cup and Champions League treble, have a relatively easy-looking run-in against Borussia Moenchengladbach, VfL Bochum and Hertha Berlin.

Schalke are seeking their first title in more than 50 years and a second successive upset success for coach Felix Magath, who steered VfL Wolfsburg to Bundesliga glory last season.

Ligue 1 was also close a few weeks ago but leaders Olympique Marseille have surged clear of Auxerre with five matches remaining.

Marseille have a first title since 1992 in their sights after recording six successive victories, though they still have to travel to Auxerre and fifth-placed Lille.

## GUEST COLUMNIST

By Abba Gana Shettima

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## Reflections on the family

Recently, an eleven-year child, Usman Bala of Kano allegedly stabbed his mother to death. Usman was reported to have wrested a knife from his late mother and stabbed her in several places. The mother had threatened to kill him with the knife for minor acts of misdemeanour. In the recent past, several similar cases of domestic violence have been reported in the media. For instance, in the same ancient city of Kano, a young man Mu'azzam, 22 years of age, was alleged to have brutally axed his father to death in October 2009. Consider, also, the bizarre case of Mr. John Effiong of Benin City, who was alleged to have poisoned his two-year-old child, Comfort Effiong in November 2009. In the 21st century, the age of cutting age science and technology, a 'prophet' of doom had prophesied to the family of Mr. John Effiong that Comfort was a 'child witch' who was attempting to harm his pregnant mother; and so the innocent child was murdered in cold blood by a father who ought to love and protect him.

These unfortunate incidents have compelled me to shelve an article I intended writing this week on IBB's declaration for 2011 and instead, reflect on the family institution; a subject I have discussed some few years ago on the pages of this newspaper. With a fundamental social crisis such as this at our hands, IBB's politics must assume a subordinate position.

Some four decades ago, the futurist Alvin Toffler in his inspiring book *Future Shock* (1970), described the family as "the giant shock absorber of society—the place to which the bruised and battered individual returns after doing battle with the world, the one stable point in an increasingly flux-filled environment" (p.219). That the family has always played an indispensable role in human society is hardly debatable but whether it will continue to play such a role in societies of the future has been opened to a diversity of view-points. As neatly woven together by Toffler, there are basically three divergent groups speculating about what will happen to the family.

The first group regarded by Toffler as "pessimists" contends that the family is doomed to extinction though they will not say with any degree of certainty what will take its place. A second group consists of "family optimists" who argue rather convincingly that the family will continue to exist as it has existed throughout human history. Rather than race towards oblivion, they predict that the family will enter a 'Golden Age'. A third group classified by Toffler as holding 'a more sophisticated view' is of the opinion that people will be driven deeper into their families by social turbulence. As human society faces the formidable storm of social change, this group tells us that it is only the family that can act as an anchor. Concluding this rather intricate debate, Toffler argues that "it may be that both sides in this debate are wrong—for the future is more open than it might appear. The family may—and this is far more likely—break up, shatter, only to come together again in weird and novel ways".

It may thus be surmised that there will be no society without the family. Indeed, one can argue that all creatures live in one form of family or the other. Yet, as universal and enduring in time and space as it is, the family appears to be under some intense stress and strain and one wonders whether it will ever survive to enter a 'Golden Age'. The very basis of human relationships is being directly undermined by the vicissitudes of modern society, the triumph of individualism and the meteoric pace of advances in science and technology. Modern man is a working machine and "work" has encroached into the secret chambers of his bedroom and

other personal spaces, such that he lives to work rather than works to live. Work is the end and no longer the means to an end. Other forces negatively impinging on the family institution include the birth of commercial parenting and in some cases, even the complete death of parenting as a social activity.

The family, which is the most basic of all human institutions, is thus obviously the front-line victim of a civilization which, despite, and some may argue, because of, its glaring material success unsurpassed in human history, is descending the slippery slope towards social abyss. Many people today spend more time with machines than with men; many see and talk with their work colleagues more than with their wives or husbands; and many parents spend more time talking with computers than with their children. This is particularly true of advanced industrial societies, but increasingly, not so advanced societies such as ours as well.

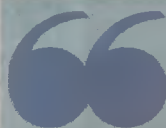
Thus the family is no longer 'the one stable point in an increasingly flux-filled environment', because contemporary evidence points to the family as perhaps one of the most

unstable of all social formations. Many of the instability and flux in the wider society may actually have their origins in the family. Consider, for example, the fact that in many societies, cases of domestic violence especially against women and children but also against men is daily witnessed in a tidal wave of endemic proportions. Contrary to its time-honoured, noble status as a safe haven for individuals bruised and battered by the outside world, statistics from many parts of the world overwhelmingly point to the family as

a modern dungeon where many people (especially women and children) are haunted, taunted and tormented.

In the past, individuals return to nurse their wounds 'after doing battle with the world'. In the contemporary period, individuals, especially women and children, seek an escape route from the family after being bruised and battered by dangerous enemies within. Unfortunately, as recent evidence as shown, it appears there are no safe havens to find any solace. Women and children are neither safe in the hands of husbands and fathers nor in those of the holy men (and women) of God—such as the 'holy' paedophiles and the 'prophets' of doom. They are neither safe in the family established by man for the procreation and orientation of children nor in the premises dedicated by man to the worship of God.

It is time to reclaim our cherished family values and check the various forms of violence being perpetrated within the domestic circle. Love, which is the foundation of security and comfort in all human relationships, must form the very soul of the family—cementing the social bonds and nursing the bruised and battered members of the family. If there is one factor which can make the critical difference between a socially and psychologically healthy and diseased development of children, than it is indeed the moral, behavioural and physical environment of the home. While parents have long realized that *sparing the rod may spoil the child*, it is completely out of place to threaten a young child with a knife in the name of scolding, especially a child of the globalised age who is inundated with all sorts of media hype including a culture of violence. There is too much violence around contemporary children and parents must realize that it is futile and counter-productive to correct children using extreme measures. Finally, the point must be made that parenting is not a leisure activity and the delicate task of correcting wayward children is an intricate activity which requires great tact.



In the past, individuals return to nurse their wounds 'after doing battle with the world'. In the contemporary period, individuals, especially women and children, seek an escape route from the family after being bruised and battered by dangerous enemies within

## SPORTS REPORT



JO-Wilfried Tsonga

## Barcelona Open: Tsonga rallies past Almagro

Third-seeded Jo-Wilfried Tsonga rallied to beat Nicolas Almagro of Spain 5-7, 6-1, 6-4 yesterday at the Barcelona Open.

Joining Tsonga in the quarterfinals was eighth-

seeded David Ferrer, who won all nine games before qualifier Simone Bolelli of Italy retired with a right wrist injury.

Fifth-seeded Fernando Verdasco rallied to beat Jurgen Melzer of Austria 3-6, 7-6 (1), 6-3.



DAVID Beckham

## Beckham leads Forbes list of highest earners

Forbes magazine said David Beckham still reigns supreme as soccer's top-earning player.

The 35-year-old midfielder earns \$40 million annually, with much of that coming from sponsors such as Adidas, Giorgio Armani and Motorola. But Beckham is expected to lose major sponsorship money this year because he will miss the World Cup in South Africa after tearing his Achilles' tendon in March while on loan from the Los Angeles Galaxy to AC Milan.

Portuguese midfielder Cristiano Ronaldo is second on the Forbes list, earning \$30 million a year. Ronaldo's major sponsors include Nike, Coca-Cola and, like Beckham, Giorgio Armani.

Brazilian playmaker Kaka, Ronaldo's teammate at Madrid, is third on the list, earning \$25 million annually.

The 28-year-old, who won the 2007 FIFA Player of the Year, was bought from AC Milan for \$91 million—the second-highest known transfer fee. Kaka's sponsors include Adidas and Giorgio Armani.

Ronaldinho is fourth on Forbes' list, also earning \$25 million a year. The 30-year-old Brazilian forward, who plays for AC Milan, was FIFA Player of the Year in 2004 and '05.

