

# DAILY TRUST



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TRUST IS A BURDEN

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## Jos crisis 2008:

# Ajibola panel indicts Hausa community

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

THE commission of inquiry led by former Attorney General of the Federation Prince Bola Ajibola which was set up by the Plateau State Government to investigate the Jos crisis of November 2008 has blamed elements of the Hausa Fulani Muslim community for initiating acts of violence that led to the crisis. The commission's report, submitted to Governor David Jonah Jang four months ago, was obtained by *Daily Trust* at the weekend.

## • Exonerates Jang

The Ajibola panel said in its 339-page report that "despite the coincidence of time, the local government election of 2008 was not the immediate cause of the unrest but the feeling that the Hausa Fulani had lost the election and had by that token lost access to one of the major opportunities for economic domination and advance-

ment amongst their people, which pushed them to violence."

The commission recommended that major Hausa Fulani settlements in Jos should be acquired by the Plateau State government. The settlements which the commission suggested should be acquired by the state government include Gang-

ere, Yan Tinka, Rikkos cattle market (Yan Shanu), Angwan Rogo, Angwan Rimi, Angwan Dalyop, Katako, parts of Ali Kazure and Dilimi. The panel advised the state government to create a modern city out of the settlements after the acquisition by constructing urban access roads through these settlements and opening up the slums with the provision of roads, housing estates, clinics and modern schools.

The Ajibola Commission also recommended that the police be made to investigate the police. **Continued on page 5**

## Invoke Section 144, SNG insists

By Muiddeen Olaniyi

THE Save Nigeria Group (SNG) led by Nobel Laureate Professor Wole Soyinka yesterday kicked against the extra-constitutional invocation of the 'doctrine of necessity' by the National Assembly which made Dr Goodluck Jonathan the

Acting President.

It said after a meeting held to review the resolution passed by the National Assembly that the lawmakers' decision was a dangerous precedent that could one day come in handy to execute an unpopular agenda against the people.

**Continued on page 5**



STUDENTS of Al-Manar International College at a public lecture to mark St. Valentine's Day celebration organised by Al-Manar Women Association in Kaduna yesterday.

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# Two killed in Okene clash

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

AT least two people were said to have been killed on Friday in a renewed communal clash between the two clans of Obihira/Okengwe community of the Okene Local Government Area of Kogi State.

The crisis which was said to have resurfaced in the area on

Thursday evening, also led to the destruction of valuable property.

A witness, Abdullahi Muktar, told our correspondent that only two persons died in the incident, saying, "It is unfortunate that our people have not learnt any lesson from the past crises".

Another witness said the crisis was caused by people who felt slighted by the recent disarmament,

during which the governor appointed two youths as Special Assistants.

When contacted yesterday, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) of the state police command, Mr Abubakar Nasir Muhammed, could not confirm the incident, saying the command had not received any information on the crisis.

Efforts to speak to the Commissioner for Information, Mr. Tom Ohaikere, a native of Okene were unsuccessful as he could not be reached at the time of filing this report.

It would be recalled that after 15 persons were reportedly killed late last year in the area, the state government promised to set up a white paper committee to review

the report of the seven-man committee earlier inaugurated to carry out an investigation into the civil disturbance.

Meanwhile, a fortnight ago, about 50 restive youths, under the umbrella of the Ebira Youth Initiative Movement, surrendered a total of 66 guns including three AK 47 rifles in their possession to the state government.

## Northern governors remember Gen Mohammed 34 years after

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

THIRTY four years after the death of General Murtala Ramat Mohammed, the Northern Governors Forum (NGF) at the weekend remembered him as one of the foremost African leaders the continent ever produced. The Governor of Niger State and Chairman of the NGF Babangida Aliyu said late General Mohammed was an upright, patriotic and responsible leader.

Aliyu's remark was contained in a statement signed by his Direc-

tor Media and Publicity, Alhaji Bala Abdulkadir. Mohammed was killed in a botched coup on February 13, 1976 which was led by late Colonel Buka Suka Dimka.

Dr. Aliyu said the late Nigerian leader who ruled the country for only six months made his impact as a leader, not only within the country, but in Africa and the world at large. He called on Nigerians, especially the political elite to emulate the leadership qualities of the former Nigerian leader as he maintained that his government brought positive changes to Nigeria.

## 'Jang has no hand in Jos crises'

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

PLATEAU State Governor Jonah Jang has no hand in the recurrent crises in Jos and environs. Plateau State Commissioner for Information and Communications Mr Gregory Yenlong said this while speaking to newsmen yesterday in Jos. He said no serving governor would want to use the money allocated to his state to feed victims of a crisis or on security, instead of working to uplift the living standard of his people.

He said Governor Jang had always maintained that perpetrators of Jos crises must be punished and none of the people that claimed that the governor had a hand in the crises came out with any concrete evidence to link him to it. "The people behind the crises are from Abuja, they know themselves. We arrested 26 persons well armed inside a bus during the last November 2008 crisis, but they were released. Even the

people arrested during the recent Jos crisis were arraigned in Abuja, instead of Jos where they committed the offence. The charge mentioned in the court, terrorism, is outside the offence they committed, does that mean we have terrorists in Nigeria? To us, their offence is unlawful assembly, burning of houses, shops and killing", he added. The commissioner said he did not accuse the Bauchi State government of being responsible for Jos crises, but the statements from top government officials in the state were worrisome and up till this moment, the state government and the state House of Assembly have not said anything to the Plateau State government about its position on the allegations.

He said Plateau government was committed to restoring law and order and appealed to the public to cooperate with the government in its efforts to finding a lasting solution to crises in the state.

## Army pledges to defend democracy

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

THE Nigerian army has pledged to defend the country's democracy. The Commander, Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) of the Nigerian Army, Major General A Ogunedo, who spoke in Minna at the Nigerian Army Social Activities (NASA) at the weekend said the Army would not do anything to jeopardise the peace in the country.

He maintained that the Army would stick to its mandate as defenders of lives and property, adding that it would continue to operate within the ambits of

the law. "The Nigerian Army is unequivocally committed to respecting our constitution and defending Nigeria's hard earned democracy. We shall confine ourselves to those roles spelt out for us in the constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria", he said.

Major General Ogunedo said NASA was aimed at blending the military and the civil populace.

He urged the Niger State government to continue playing its role as host, adding that the relationship between it and his men had been cordial as they had received immense support from the state in many ways.



CHILDREN from Queen Esther International School, Gaduwa Estate, Abuja bringing gifts to be donated to orphanage homes during the Daar Tender Rad Party in Abuja yesterday.

## Bauchi govt dissociates self from Sayawa coronation

From Muhammad Abubakar, Bauchi

THE Bauchi State government has disassociated itself from the election and coronation of the paramount ruler of Sayawa community in Tafawa Balewa area of the state, saying the community did not follow due process. A statement signed by the Secretary to the Bauchi State Government, Ibrahim Dandija, said the state government was disturbed by efforts by the Sayawa community to create a chiefdom for themselves, without following laid down rules.

"Government would not fold its arms and watch some self centered individuals disrupt the existing peace in the state under the guise of creating a chiefdom. Government will not condone demands being pursued through the disregard for established procedures, rule of law and order. We are mindful of the existence of

the report of the Babalakin Commission of Inquiry into the 1991 civil disturbances, which recommended among other things, the creation of a chiefdom for Sayawa, but failed to specify the boundaries and headquarters of the proposed chiefdom", he added.

The statement added that government had observed that the violent and confrontational approach adopted by the group in the agitation for the creation of the chiefdom violated the principles of the creation of a genuine and legitimate chiefdom, noting that the Sayawas' were not the only community in Bauchi State agitating for a chiefdom or district.

The statement added that for the avoidance of any doubt, the government had not created any new chiefdom or endorsed any attempt by any group or tribe to create one, noting that the alleged attempt by some people or group

of persons from Sayawa extraction to appoint/elect a chief and even coronate him was in contrast with the law which empowered only the state governor on the recommendation of the state House of Assembly to establish such a chiefdom after due process would have been followed.

The Sayawa community had a couple of weeks ago elected a ruler, an action they claimed was in line with the recommendations of the report of the Babalakin Commission of Inquiry into the 1991 civil disturbances in the area.

That government had observed that the violence and confrontational approach adopted by the group in the agitation for the creation.

# Reps to bar FG from prosecuting human rights offences

By Nasidi A. Yahaya

HOUSE of Representatives is considering a law which would stop the presidency from prosecuting all cases relating to the violation of human rights offences in Nigeria.

The bill for an Act to Amend the National Human Rights Commission Act of 2004 seeks to empower the Nigerian Human

Rights Commission to publish a weekly account of detainees in Nigerian prisons and handle the prosecution of human rights abuses in the Country.

When passed into law, the bill would stop Office of the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice from the trial of cases of human rights violation.

The Minister of Justice under

section 174 of the 1999 Constitution retains the sole authority to prosecute all cases, including human rights breaches by the state.

The Bill sponsored by Rep Emmanuel Jime (PDP, Benue State) reads: "These amendments intend to most importantly introduce transparency and accountability in the arrest, detention of

suspects in Police cells and other detention centres by security forces in Nigeria by beaming a searchlight on this exercise as it is being carried out by our security forces in order to bring to lime-light what happens there daily.

"The amendments also purport to create accessibility to suspects and detainees arrested and detained in police cells or other

detention centres in the Country hence record of these suspects and detainees will be kept and published weekly by the commission to enable Nigerians know why and when a suspect or detainee was arrested and detained".

It also seeks to expand the coverage of the Commission to reach states and local governments in Nigeria.

## Yar'adua: House receives Reps' report tomorrow

By Nasidi A. Yahaya

THE five member House delegation that went to Saudi Arabia to see President Umaru Musa Yar'adua but returned without seeing the ailing Nigerian leader will present their report to the House of Representatives tomorrow.

The House delegation included Rep Baba Shehu Agaie (PDP, Niger State) Rep Mohammed Ali Ndume (ANPP, Borno State), Rep Patrick Ikhariale (PDP, Edo State), Rep Moruf Fatai (AC, Lagos State), Rep Jibril Adamu (PDP, Kaduna State) and Rep Nnenna Ukeje (PDP, Abia State).

But Rep Nnenna was dropped shortly before their take off.

Daily Trust learnt last night that although the MPs were not allowed to see the President, they would submit their 'report' before the House, details of which would include their experience there.

Our reporter also learnt that the members don't want to preempt the contents of their report, hence their unwillingness to speak to press.

According to a source, the delegation, which at first expressed high optimism about meeting the President to enable it deliver the House message, eventually got frustrated when days after it arrived in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in spite of the assurances given by the Nigerian Embassy, it could not see him.

It was that basis that members of the delegation resolved to deliver the said message to wife of the president, Hajia Turai, who has been in Jeddah.

According to a source, wife of the president was said to have received the delegation and expressed appreciation for the kind gesture on the part of the House.



AKWA Ibom women praying against the activities of kidnapers in the state at the weekend.

## Senate moves to establish assets mgt coy

By Turaki A. Hassan

PLANS have gone far in the Senate to establish the Nigeria Asset Management Company being canvassed by the Central bank of Nigeria (CBN) which will take care of toxic assets in banks and other financial institutions in the country.

This is part of the proposed amendments to the Banking and other Financial Institutions Act which will among other things provide separate rules and guidelines for the regulation and monitoring of development banks in the country.

Chairman Senate committee

on Banking Insurance and other Financial Institution Senator Nkechi Nwaogu, who made this known in Abuja at the weekend, said the effort is part of the overall deliberate strategy to check toxic assets and ensure liquidity in the sector.

She was speaking when she received officials of development banks including the Nigeria Export and Import Bank (NEXIM), ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) and West Africa Export Import bank at the National Assembly said that, bill seeking to establish the company is already in the Senate and await-

ing legislative actions.

Senator Nwogu maintained that, her committee is in consultations with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) on the bills and said the Senate will give the bills accelerated hearing.

She said the establishment of the asset management company has become imperative as it will help free banks from the burden of toxic assets and non-operating loans and ensure greater liquidity and productivity in the system.

"We have concluded discussions with the CBN on the Asset Management Company and the bill is here with us. We will accel-

erate the passage in the Senate to ensure that the company is established. We need such company to remove toxic assets from banks and ensure greater liquidity in the financial sector," she said.

Speaking earlier, Mr. Robert Orya, Managing Director of NEXIM said the delegation was at the Senate to intimate the lawmakers of the activities of the sub sector in the overall economic agenda of the country and the ECOWAS sub region.

He urged the legislature to accelerate the establishment of the asset management company and the review of all laws, that hamper growth in the sector.

## 'Railway tract rehabilitation' ll be completed on schedule'

THE contractor handling the rehabilitation of the Nigeria Railway Corporation tracts across the country has promised to complete the project on schedule.

The Federal Government had in October 2009 awarded the contract to China Civil Engineering Construction Company

(CCECC) with a 10-month completion deadline.

Mr Xia Xia, the Project's Deputy Manager, said on Sunday in Lagos that more machines would be imported before the end of the month and assembled for the laying and realigning of the tracks.

"All necessary strategies

would be employed to make sure that the work progresses as fast as possible.

"We are assembling the machines being imported from China, here in Nigeria to save time and cost. It will also make the job faster," he said.

Xia promised that the job would be speeded up before

the rainy season as soon as all the equipment arrived in Nigeria.

He said that the project had been divided into four segments - Lagos/Abeokuta, Abeokuta/Ibadan, Ibadan/Ilorin and Ilorin/Jebba, to facilitate quick delivery.

(NAN)

# Boko Haram: Muslim leaders tasks FG on police killings

By Abbas Jimoh

THE Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA) yesterday in Abuja called on the federal government to immediately make public steps taken to bring men of Nigerian police involved in the extra-judicial killings in the Boko Haram crisis to book.

Secretary-General of the council and Baba Adini of Egba-land, Dr. Abdul-Lateef Adegbite, said that it is disheartening that elements of Nigerian Police can still be involved such brutality against the same citizens they are meant to protect.

"A few days ago, Al-Jazeera Satellite Television aired a report

on Nigeria Police brutality while suppressing the Boko Haram rebellion in the North-Eastern part of Nigeria last year. Unarmed Nigerians, some of them cripples, were lined up ordered to lie down and were shot dead in cold blood by members of the Nigeria Police. This savage and inhuman act is contrary to Nigeria Law, since no

one is authorized in this country to carry out summary killing.

"Nigerian Muslims regard this extra judicial killing by the Nigeria Police as an affront to Nigerians which has seriously brought Nigeria image into disrepute. We therefore call on the Federal Government to make public what steps have been taken

to bring the perpetrators of this act of shame to book. In other Society not only would arrests have been immediately made, heads would have rolled from the highest Command of the Nigeria Police down to the Command of the Units assigned to the suppression of the unrest in the affected area," Adegbite said.

## Minister tasks PHCN on gas agreement with NNPC

By Fidelis Mac-Leva

MINISTER of Power Lanre Babalola has directed the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) to hasten its negotiation with the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) to guarantee supply of gas to thermal power stations in the country.

Babalola directed the PHCN to accelerate and conclude discussions on the Gas Supply and Purchase Agreement (GSPA) and Gas Transportation Agreement (GTA) entered into with the NNPC.

The minister who summoned the top management of PHCN led by the Managing Director PHCN Engr Hussein Labo to a meeting in his office to address the thorny gas issue said PHCN should be concerned about the declining power generation as a result of gas challenges.

He urged them to come up with a workable solution adding that the country currently has over 5,000MW generation capacity but lacks enough gas to drive the machines.

Babalola also directed the PHCN to come up with a plan that could be implemented immediately on the alternative source of fuel such as Low Pour Fuel Oil (LPFO and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) to drive the power stations that are currently idle.

He said concluding and signing of gas purchase agreement with the NNPC will help to secure commitment to its delivery, adding that such a pact will help all parties to keep to terms and conditions of sale and purchase agreement while penalty clause in such circumstances will allow all the parties to be aware of their obligations to the pact.



ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Niger Republic Mrs. Aichatou Mind-aoudou, during her visit to Aguda House, Abuja yesterday.

## CPC tells Jonathan to sack Aondoakaa

By Abbas Jimoh

THE Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) yesterday in Abuja demanded the immediate sack of former Attorney General and Minister of Justice Michael Aondoakaa.

Aondoakaa was redeployed to the Ministry of Special Duties in a minor cabinet reshuffle by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan.

National Publicity Secretary of the party Aghanya Dennis told Daily Trust that Aondoakaa's redeployment shows that "so much dirty and muddy water had passed under the bridge within

the 77 days of leadership vacuum, since President Umaru Yar'adua has been away.

"The former Attorney General should not only be sacked, along with his cohorts, but also be prosecuted for all the illegalities they perpetuated against Nigerians. Acting President Goodluck Jonathan should also investigate all the contracts awarded within the same time frame and ensure that all those found guilty of manipulating the system are prosecuted.

"The leadership of the PDP should also bury their faces in shame for not living up to their responsibilities. Since our inde-

pendent in Nigeria no regime has toyed with the future, integrity and the cooperate existence of our beloved country like the PDP's misrule leadership," Aghanya said.

He also charged Jonathan to convince Nigerians that he meant well for them by being bold enough to investigate and inform Nigerians how President Yar'adua managed to sign the 2010 supplementary Budget, granted the BBC interview, but could not write a simple letter to inform the National Assembly of his medical trip and a request that his VP should act on his behalf.

## Senator alleges threat to life

By Turaki A. Hassan

SENATOR Bala Mohammed (ANPP, Bauchi Central) has alleged death threats against his life. Senator Bala is Secretary of Northern Senators Forum and Chairman of the National Interest Group, consisting of 80 Senators that signed the motion which resulted in the resolution empowering Goodluck Jonathan as Acting President.

Vice chairman Senate Committee on Information and Media Senator Anthony Manzo, who is also a member of the NIG, condemned the reported threats saying that violent threats against people with differing opinion have no place in Nigeria's democracy.

News of the death threat first emerged on Wednesday a day after the Senate resolution scaled through the Senate following persistent campaign by the NIG for President Umaru Yar'adua to transmit a letter of his medical vacation to the National Assembly.

## W. African cocaine use rises along smuggling routes

WEST Africans are consuming more of the drugs trafficked between South America and Europe, raising the spectre of rising crime and health problems in already unstable states, experts said.

The region, an established transit point for Latin American cocaine to big Western markets, has also become a drug processing site amid rising addiction rates, and drug-related violence will follow, they told a drug summit over the weekend.

"A flourishing illicit trade in the hands of organised crime is obviously a threat to the rule of law, governance and, as a result, human rights," said Alexandre Schmidt, West African head for the U.N. Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

"But we must no longer hide the indirect consequences with regard to the increase in problems linked to drug abuse."

Reuters

.PHOTO: AFOLABI SOTUNDE



MASTER Ahmed with a NYSC cap watches the parade of another set of corps members pass out in Abuja, recently.

## Invoke Section 144, Soyinka insists

Continued from page 1

SNG's statement signed by Mr. Yinka Odumakin, Pastor Tunde Bakare, Mr. Solomon Asemota (SAN), Lt. Gen. Alani Akinrinade (rtd), Uche Onyeogocha and Malam Salihu Lukman said only the invocation of Section 144 of the Constitution would resolve the current logjam.

The group said failure by the Federal Executive Council (FEC) to invoke Section 144 by February 21, 2010 would lead to the organization of a fresh rally in Abuja, adding that the FEC's session where the resolution would be taken must be beamed live on national television.

SNG said, "The review meeting, which had the convener of the Democratic Front for Peoples Federation (DFPF), Prof. Wole Soyinka and other critical leaders in attendance resolved as follows: 1. That the SNG's protest marches in Abuja, Lagos, London, and New York were motivated by the need to restore the dignity of Nigeria and its people through a constitutional resolution of the power hijack by a cabal which kidnapped a sick man who is incapable of knowing what is going on and acting in his name to subvert the will of the people and orderliness in our country, and not just an anyhow pronouncement of Dr. Jonathan as an 'Acting President'.

"That the pronouncement by the National Assembly making Dr. Jonathan 'Acting President' by a strange interpretation of a questionable BBC interview as a substitute for the written declaration the President ought to have made before leaving the country amounts to rigging and a manipulation of Section 145 of the Constitution.

Only the unwary will not see through the booby trap in having an 'Acting President' who is not sworn in by those who got an outgoing Chief Justice of Nigeria to swear in his successor.

"That while we want Dr Jonathan to assume full Presidential powers, his natural right by the constitution, we reject the extra constitutional invocation of the 'doctrine of necessity' which is a dangerous precedent that could become handy to execute an unpopular agenda against the people in the future.

"That apart from placing one man and his kidnapers above the Nation, Nigeria has once again been presented with a Shonekan who was kicked out unceremoniously by General Sani Abacha after a court declared the contraption he headed illegal in 1993. We are not ready to go that route anymore," SNG further said.

It added, "That it has become imperative that a logical and constitutional process of installing Dr. Jonathan as President with a Vice President must commence immediately with the Executive Council of the Federation passing a resolution declaring Yar'Adua incapacitated in compliance with section 144 of the constitution. We insist that the session where the resolution would be taken must be beamed live on National Television.

"That failure by the Executive Council of the Federation to carry out this demand by its next two sittings (February 17 and 24, 2010) will attract the wrath of Nigerians and SNG and its allies will storm Abuja in a big way to insist on doing the right thing to save our country from the snare of the cabal programming Nigeria for avoidable disaster."

## Ajibola panel indicts Hausa community

Continued from page 1

gate the activities of some prominent persons in the state, including former Deputy Senate President Ibrahim Mantu, Alhaji Saleh Hassan, Sheik Yahaya Jengre, as well as former Minister of State for Information and Communications Alhaji Dasuki Ibrahim Nakande.

The commission recommended that Nakande and House of Representatives member representing Jos North/Bassa Federal Constituency Malam Samaila Mohammed, among others, be thoroughly investigated by the police, saying their utterances before and after the crisis were capable of igniting more crises in the future.

The Ajibola commission also said it was not satisfied by the explanations of former President Ibrahim Babangida that he did not create Jos North local government to favour a particular group. The commission said it found out that

the former President created Jos North local government in 1991 to favour the Hausa Fulani of Jos North as it was the Hausa Fulani community that demanded for the local government in the form in which it was created.

The Prince Bola Ajibola commission however absolved Plateau State governor Jonah Jang of any complicity in the 2008 crisis. It said "there was no evidence to substantiate the allegation that the governor in a statement gave a shoot-on-sight order" during the crisis, after which security agents were alleged to have killed so many residents.

However, the report advised the state government to readily take on security advice "as in the recent instance, when the scheduling of the elections for Thursday was advised against because it would mean that the results would be announced on a Friday, a Muslim worship day, with possible religion-inflamed consequences." The commission in its

final report also recommended that the state government reacquires the University of Jos land and hand over same to the university authority to fence and develop for its use. It said "over time some persons have acquired some parcels or portions of the University of Jos land by tribal sentiments, wrong issuance of Right of Occupancy and other titles including numerous illegal sales and purchases with the active cooperation of the Federal Government."

The commission also recommended that the Plateau State government should, after investigating individual culprits, set up a reconciliation commission for the purpose of allowing adversaries meet and to reconcile their differences. It said "those among them that come out and embrace the peace process should be granted amnesty from criminal prosecution" while the state government should investigate those who do not embrace the reconciliation commission.

The commission also recommended that the present Jos North Local Government be re-delineated into three sustainable local governments with an equitable representative number of wards within each local government, while "the state government should give due consideration to all ethnic groupings in appointments, nominations and promotions within the state."

In addition, it recommended that the state government should promote inclusion and participation through a 'State Character' principle similar to the Federal Character policy of the federal government, "as this would take into consideration citizen's right in any part of Nigeria that they may find themselves.

"This means that all persons who are bona fide citizens should have equal rights, opportunities and access and not to deny those designated as non indigenes of an area the access to some of the most important avenues of socio

economic mobility be it government jobs, academic scholarships, university admission or fees."

The commission said it received claims of property destroyed totalling more than N43 billion while 4,815 structures as well as 167 cars were claimed to have been damaged during the unrest. It also said the actual number of persons who lost their lives in the 2008 Jos unrest stands at 312 as it could not verify claims by Human Rights Watch that the Muslim community recorded 632 deaths. The commission however agreed that the Muslim community "suffered massive casualties."

It would be recalled that the Hausa Fulani Muslim community had boycotted the activities of the Prince Bola Ajibola commission of inquiry into the November 2008 Jos crisis. It said Governor Jonah Jang, who set up the commission, was an interested party in the crisis and cannot be expected to set up an impartial commission of inquiry.

## Lagos to impound right handed vehicles

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

LAGOS State Commissioner for Transportation Professor Bamidele Badejo has warned that all right handed vehicles in the state would be impounded after six months. Prof. Badejo gave the warn at weekend while briefing newsmen on the forthcoming 1st Lagos Traffic Management Conference scheduled for next month.

The commissioner said it was regrettable that there was little, the state could do to remove the vehicles from Lagos roads, but warned that such would be impounded if after six months, the owner failed to convert it to what was obtained on the nation's roads. He said the state government would direct the Vehicle Inspection Officers (VIO) to impound any right handed vehicle seen on Lagos roads.

## NUJ urges Jonathan to be cautious

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan should be careful in taking decisions so that people would not misrepresent him, President of the Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ) Garba Mohammed said yesterday in Kaduna.

"The Acting President needs to be careful in taking decisions so that people will not misrepresent him and he should always remember that he is on an acting capacity, pending the arrival of the president," he said.

The NUJ president said this at the weekend while addressing newsmen in Kaduna.

He said the Acting President Jonathan displayed a high sense of maturity during the calls by Nigerians to take a decision to empower him.

He said the NUJ was in full support of the resolution by the National Assembly on the issue.

"We have been vindicated because during the uproar we appealed that the constitution should be respected in finding a solution to the issue. We have been vindicated by the pronouncement of the National Assembly and the Federal Executive Council, because we made our stand on the issue public on January 6 of this year," he said.

The union urged the Acting President to find a lasting solution to crises in Jos, adding that Nigerians must be enlightened to accommodate each other, irrespective of religion or ethnic differences.

"The Acting President should also take the issue of security very seriously because the level of insecurity in the country is alarming and the problem of unemployment must also be addressed for crime to be reduced in the country," he said.



FROM left: Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Ministry of Transportation, Mr. Seyi Coker, Commissioner for Transportation, Prof. Bamidele Badejo and Special Adviser to the Governor on Transportation, Mr. Kayode Opeifa, at a news conference on the forthcoming 1st Lagos Traffic Management Conference in Lagos yesterday.

# Communal clash: Death toll rises

From Aliyu M. Hamagam, Gombe

THE death toll in the Dadia and Tangale communal clash in Gombe State has risen to six, with about ten others seriously injured. The state Red Cross Disaster Management Coordinator, Mr. Umar Buba Ahmad, disclosed this yesterday at the Ture Balam Primary School camp, where his team was taking care of displaced persons.

He said other victims of the clash, about 15, that sustained various degrees of injuries had been treated and discharged from the hospital while the remains of the six people killed had been deposited at the Kaltungo Gen-

eral Hospital's mortuary.

Ahmed added that the refugees' camp at Ture Balam was at present accommodating over 300 displaced people, whose houses were burnt to ashes. Giving the statistics of displaced persons, the Red Cross official pointed out that he had at the camp, over 200 women and children and appealed for assistance from well meaning individuals.

"Though, we have received some assistance from Kaltungo Local Government Council and some concerned individuals, we still need more to buy food items, drugs, blankets, mats, buckets and water to take care of them," he added.

Our correspondent gathered that following the escalation of the crisis, more attacks were carried out on both communities, leaving several dead, with their bodies yet to be recovered from the bush.

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer Mr. Abdullahi Usman Kamba said at least 30 suspects had been arrested and that investigation was on-going. Meanwhile, relief materials have started reaching the victims as elders of the area have supplied food stuff and clothing worth N1 million.

Handing over the materials to Mai Kaltungo and Polo Dadia on behalf of the donors, Alhaji

Adamu Ajuji Waziri said the fund for the relief materials was raised at an emergency meeting in Abuja by the sons and daughters of Tangale/Waja.

He therefore appealed to the two communities to bury the hatchet as communal crisis was primitive and barbaric, reminding them that they were both indigenes of the same state and must learn to live together.

According to him, more relief materials will be sent to the people, saying not all the stake holders were at the first fund raising and that he was optimistic that they would make their contributions.

## Adamawa govt to review deductions from LG accounts

From Ibrahim Muhammad, Yola

PLANS are on by the Adamawa State government to review downward the statutory deductions from the local government account with a view to allowing local government councils to concentrate on human development projects.

The state Commissioner for Local Government Affairs Alh. Abubakar Madawaki who spoke to newsmen yesterday in Yola said the state government and the Minis-

tries of Local Government Affairs and Justice have commenced talks on the possibility of slashing the deductions from 65 per cent to a reasonable percentage to enable local governments in the state deliver the dividends of democracy to the electorates.

It would be recalled that health workers and local government employees in Adamawa State had earlier appealed to the state House of Assembly to as a matter of urgency review the statutory deductions from local government allocations, say-

ing such would ease the lingering problem of salaries delays at the local government areas.

The workers lamented over the situation where a local government was allocated N90 million from the federation account only to end up with N8million. While denying that the deductions were frivolous, the commissioner challenged any council chairman whose allocation was unnecessarily deducted to officially present the case before the ministry to seek redress.

## One more victim of high tension wire dies

ONE more victim of the high tension wire disaster in Port Harcourt was confirmed dead yesterday by medical personnel at the Braithwaite Memorial Hospital in Port Harcourt.

It would be recalled that at 9 a.m. on Feb. 13, a PHCN high tension wire was pulled down by rain-storm at Trans Amadi area of Port

Harcourt, killing 10 people, and injuring 12 others. The latest victim brings to 11 the number of those who died as a result of the incident.

The Rivers State Commissioner for Information, Mrs Ibim Semenitari, told newsmen in Port Harcourt that the latest victim died at midnight on Feb. 13 at the Rivers State Government-owned hospital.

Semenitari said the remaining 11 victims who sustained injuries were in stable condition.

She said that the government had repeatedly asked the people to stay away from areas with sensitive installations.

"We have repeatedly asked our people to stay away from high tension wires and areas with oil and gas

pipelines.

But we continue to have our people doing business or building houses under high tension wires," she lamented.

Semenitari said that the incident at Trans Amadi should serve as a deterrent to people still reluctant to obey government order to relocate from such sensitive areas.

# Kaduna health workers to begin strike today

## ...Govt. threatens no-work-no-pay

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

HEALTH workers in Kaduna State have concluded arrangements to commence an indefinite strike action today, following the failure of the state government to implement the November 17, 2009, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) it entered with the union, Chairman of the association, Dr. William Ayet, has said.

Addressing newsmen at the weekend in Kaduna, he said the state government had failed to fulfil its part of the agreement in the MOU, which made the union

members call off the strike they embarked upon last November.

"We are going to begin an indefinite strike action on Monday and none of our members will go to work, because we have kept our part of the MOU as a law abiding association, but government failed us. In fact, they deceived us. Last November when we embarked on a warning strike, they agreed in the MOU to meet our demand, but since then, the government has not said anything," he said.

He said the state government in the MOU pledged to include all their financial demands in this

year's budget, but that they failed to do so.

"We wrote letters to remind them of the MOU, but they did not reply us. It is very unfortunate that the state government behaved this way. That is not the best way of doing things," he said.

According to him, Kaduna State health workers are the least paid in the country, saying their demand for improve welfare was to enable them compete favourably with their colleagues in other states of the federation.

"If the NLC is not ready to fight for workers in the state, we are ready

to fight for the people. Go and check it, you will appreciate what we are saying," he added.

In the MOU signed by the state Head Of Service, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, the chairman of the workers union among others, all parties agreed to keep their part of the agreement.

Meanwhile, the Kaduna State government has warned health workers in the state to ignore directives by their association to participate in today's strike, threatening to invoke the no-work-no-pay rule on any worker

who participates in the strike.

The state Head of Service Alhaji Habib B. Yakubu at a joint news conference with the state supervising Commissioner of Health and other top officials of the state government said the state would consider any strike by the association as insubordination and improper behaviour.

"The recent threat of strike action by health workers in the state, planned to commence on Monday 15th February, 2010, is completely off course, and sheer sabotage against the 11 point agenda of the state government."



PIC: KENNEDY EGBONODJE

BULGARIAN Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr Miroslav Kumarov, inspecting a guard of honour before presenting his letters of credence to Vice President Goodluck Jonathan in Abuja yesterday

## Hospital workers want director suspended

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

THE staff of the Kogi State Specialist Hospital, Lokoja, at the weekend took to the streets, calling for the immediate suspension of the Chief Medical Director (CMD) of the hospital Professor John Eneke Onuminya.

The Chairman of the staff union, Dr Attah Ahmed, noted that the crisis had been looming in the hospital for the past one year, saying the protest was necessitated by the CMD's refusal to step aside while the investigation into allegations against him lasted.

Ahmed said the staff union had accused Onuminya of gross misconduct, ranging from financial misconduct, inflation of contracts,

high-handedness and maltreatment of staff.

Ahmed, who recalled that Governor Ibrahim Idris had intervened in the crisis by setting up a committee to investigate the allegations against the CMD, said the director was expected to step aside while the investigation lasted.

"Our meeting with the governor on December 23, 2009 led to the inauguration of a six-man committee headed by the Head of Service Alhaji Isah Ichaba," he said.

Speaking with our correspondent on telephone, the CMD described the call for his suspension as ill-motivated, saying those behind it only wanted to distract the hospital management from doing its job.

## Aliyu tasks political appointees on education

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

NIGER State Governor Babangida Aliyu has charged all political appointees in the state to check the state of education in their wards.

The governor who gave the charge in reaction to the mass failure of students in the WAEC and NECO exams, said the lackadaisical attitude of parents was partly responsible.

The Commissioner for Education Hajiya Asmau Usman who spoke at the weekend said the governor gave the charge to ensure that all necessary learning facilities including physical structures and

teachers were made available.

"All political appointees including commissioners have been ordered to go to their local governments to supervise and report on the state of schools so that the state government can assist where necessary. The exercise is to be performed by all political appointees every month," she said.

She said the state government had met principals and emirs in the state on the matter.

Hajiya Asmau added that the era where students cheated to pass examinations were over, saying all avenues would be exploited to check the trend.

## Tinubu faults absence of traditional rulers at Dina's burial

From Kehinde Akinyemi, Abeokuta

FORMER Lagos State Governor Bola Tinubu has faulted the absence of Ogun State traditional rulers from the burial of the 2007 Ogun State Action Congress (AC) governorship candidate, Dipo Dina in Ijebu ode, Ogun State, last Friday. Mr. Dina was killed on January 25 at Ota, Ogun State.

The former governor however added that the absence of the traditional rulers may be due to fear of higher authorities.

"We would have had Obas and traditional rulers here, but they are afraid that they will be persecuted," he said.

Tinubu also announced a financial reward of N15million for anyone who could offer useful information that would lead to the arrest and prosecution of those behind Dina's murder. He charged the police to live up to its responsibilities, and bring the culprits to book. Tinubu said Dina while alive fought tyranny in his state.

"He was simple and honest. He was a philanthropist. Dina was always confident that he would triumph" he added.

Those present at the burial included, Lagos State Governor Babatunde Raji Fashola, former Governors of Ogun, Aremo Olusegun Osoba, Oyo, Lam Adeshina and Ekiti State, Niyi Adebayo.

Also present were Senators Iyabo Obasanjo-Bello, Lekan Mustapha and Olorunimbe Mamora.

# 'Sub-Saharan Africa loses \$4.5b to Trypanosomiasis annually'

By Yunus Abdulhamid

SUB-SAHARAN Africa loses an estimated \$4.5 billion to Trypanosomiasis caused by tsetse flies, the Director General of the Nigerian Institute for Trypanosomiasis Research, Prof Muhammad Mamman has said.

More than 66 million men, women and children in 36 countries of sub-Saharan Africa suf-

fer from African trypanosomiasis, also known as sleeping sickness, which affects both humans and animals. It is caused by infestation with a microscopic organism that lives as a parasite in the blood.

Prof. Muhammad spoke at the inauguration of an 8-member National Steering Committee on the Pan-African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication

Campaign (PATTEC).

He said over three million cattle and 50,000 persons die from the disease annually, adding that Africa must implement concerted and coordinated approaches uniformly among the tsetse-infested sub-Saharan countries towards a successful elimination of tsetse flies from the region.

Minister of Science and Tech-

nology Dr Alhasan Bako Zaku while inaugurating the committee said the nation's quest for poverty alleviation and food security were hampered by its inability to fully exploit the potentials of the agricultural sector, especially the continent's enormous livestock resources, whose productivity is severely limited by tsetse and Trypanosomiasis.

The 8 member Committee is chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Science and Technology Prof. Nicholas Damachi. The committee is charged with the responsibility of approving work plan for the implementation of PATTEC in Nigeria and also approve administrative procedures and financial regulations, among others.



MR. Emeka Ndubuisi Sibeudu, Deputy Governor-elect of Anambra State who represented Governor Peter Obi speaking at a seminar on Anambra State at the weekend.

## BPSR inaugurates severance team in MDAs, parastatals

By Nasir Imam

ACTING Head of the Bureau of Public Service Reform (BPSR) Mrs. Modupe Sosanya has inaugurated an inter-ministerial monitoring team on severance in Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and parastatals.

This follows the directive of the Head of Service of the Federation Mr. Stephen Oronsaye that the committee be set up to wind up issues of severance which have generated controversies.

The aim of the committee is to identify federal MDAs and parastatals that had concluded the aspect of staff severance under the public service reform and determine those that are yet to implement the severance exercise.

The committee is also to organize and hold interactive meetings with the MDAs and Parastatals with a view to determining the level they have attained in implementing the agencies guidelines issued out for the reforms. As well as address any other issues arising from the implementation of the severance exercise

The inter ministerial monitoring team is chaired by Mr. Bello Mahmoud Babura, a Director in the Professional Officers Department (POD) in the office of the Head of Service of the Federation, and has since commenced work.

The deliberations centred on all aspects of the Public Service Reforms particularly the implementation of the staff severance exercise which started in 2006.

As part of the preliminary

arrangements for the interactive meetings, MDAs and parastatals are required to prepare and present updated progress made in the implementation of the key stages of the reform programme as provided in the generic guideline.

The team has representatives from the Federal Civil Service Commission, Bureau of Public Service Reforms, office of the Accountant General of the Federation, Federal Character Commission, office of the Auditor General of the Federation and the Pension Commission.

As part of its itinerary, the team is scheduled to interact with federal parastatals and MDAs located in all the zones of the country within the month of February, 2010 after which its report will be submitted to government.

## Muslim group condemns arrest of Nigerians in Malaysia

By Abbas Jimoh

THE Nigerian Muslims Network (NMN) yesterday in Abuja condemned the arrest of two Nigerians undergoing their PhD programme by Malaysian security agents.

A statement jointly signed by Ibrahim Taiwo Abdulkadir and Muhammad Salihu, chairman and secretary of NMN Publicity and Current Affairs Committee, called on the Malaysian government to follow the rule of law in releasing the two detainees and other seven Muslims arrested.

"The Malaysian Police has denied the Nigerian High Commission in Malaysia the access to the two students despite many attempts. The Assistant Commissioner of Police in charge of the case rather visited the office of the Nigerian High Commission in Malaysia to brief the mission about the matter. Interestingly, some Malaysian human right groups/NGOs have been allowed access to have discussion with all the detainees," it said.

The group said that the arrests which were major news headline

worldwide came on the heels of agitation by human rights activists and lawyers within Malaysia and beyond to abolish the draconian law called the Internal Security Act (ISA).

It said, "We in the NMN believe in peace and rule of law. The authorities in Malaysia have fed the whole world with false information regarding the activities of those arrested. The media, on its part, has continuously assumed the position of a launching pad of Islamophobia. The detainees should be released without further delay."

## US assures Nigeria of support

By Aisha Umar

THE United States government said the principles of democracy have been served well in Nigeria by stakeholders to solve the crisis caused by the absence of ailing President Umaru Musa Yar'adua.

While congratulating Acting President Goodluck Jonathan, the US commended the leadership shown by the National Assembly, governors, several ministers and the courts in finding a way out of the political impasse.

A statement from the US embassy said the commitment of all elements of Nigerian society to constitutional process and the rule of law is commendable, adding that the best interests of the country and the future of Nigeria have been well served by this action.

US Ambassador to Nigeria

also offered assurances "that the United States stands ready to support the Government and the people of Nigeria in achieving many important goals in its immediate future, including free and fair national elections in 2011. For example, providing for an accurate, credible and transparent national voter registry would be a good first step."

She said "The successful visit of Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Ambassador Johnnie Carson, clearly demonstrates the strong relationship between the U.S. and Nigeria and the hopes that we share for Nigeria's democratic, peaceful and prosperous future."

The envoy emphasized that, "The U.S. Government looks forward to working with the Government and people of this great nation."

## CNPP insists on cabinet reshuffle, slams Obj's visit to villa

By Abbas Jimoh & Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

THE Conference of Nigeria Political Parties (CNPP) yesterday renewed its call on Acting President Goodluck Jonathan to reconstitute the Federal Executive Council (FEC).

CNPP Secretary General Willy Ezugwu said in Abuja that some FEC members lost their credibility.

"The Acting President himself technically noted that the constitutional crisis had posed a threat to the nation. These ministers who fooled Nigerians for a while have serious credibility issues with Nigerians and they can no longer be trusted to deliver on governance."

"The only way out now is for Acting President Goodluck Jonathan to dissolve the cabinet and get credible Nigerians on board to work with him now that he has the full powers of the President," Ezugwu said.

In a related development, the CNPP yesterday slammed former President Olusegun Obasanjo over his secret visit to Acting President Goodluck Jonathan, describing it as an extension of third term and an intrusion into the affairs of the Acting President.

CNPP's National Publicity Secretary Osita Okechukwu said Obasanjo's visit barely 48 hours after the controversial resolution by the National Assembly which declared Goodluck Jonathan as acting president, "is neither in the interest of the nation nor in the interest of the Acting President"

Okechukwu blamed Obasanjo for denying Nigerians the opportunity to elect a president of their choice in 2007 and warned the former Nigerian leaders against interfering in the Jonathan presidency, because "he might halt genuine Electoral Reform, Niger Delta post-amnesty programme and revamping of infrastructure."

# Kebbi Assembly passes 2010 budget

From Ismail Adebayo, Birnin Kebbi

THE Kebbi State House of Assembly has passed the 2010 Appropriation Bill into law.

The Acting Speaker of the state House of Assembly Mohammad Garba Bena expressed satisfaction over the report of

the House Committee on Finance and Appropriation, adding that the exercise was very challenging, but successful. Bena said after the amendment of the budget by the committee, the total figure now stood at N75.6 billion, saying as a result of the transfer of funds, the estimate for the recurrent

expenditure is now N23.3 billion as against N23.5 billion earlier presented while the capital expenditure is N52.2 billion as against the N52 billion presented in the bill.

While presenting the report, the Chairman of the House Committee on Finance and Appropriation Bala Ubandawaki Bako

said the total figure of the 2010 budget did not change because it was just a title transfer amendment that was made, and called on the Kebbi State revenue generating ministries and departments to redouble their efforts so that they could generate enough revenue for the 2010 fiscal year.

## ...Kwara Assembly too

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

THE Kwara State House of Assembly has passed into law the 2010 Appropriation Bill presented to the House by Kwara State Governor Bukola Saraki.

The Speaker of the House Alhaji AbdulAzeez Babatunde Muhammed said though, there was a slight increase over what was presented by the governor, it remained a balanced budget, approved in the overall interest of the people.

Giving the breakdown, the Speaker said the total revenue was N36.9 billion, recurrent expenditure N31.1 billion while the

recurrent surplus was put at N5.8 billion.

The Speaker added that the capital expenditure for the 2010 fiscal year was N38.3 while the Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) was N8.9 billion. He said the total budget was N69.4 billion as against the N67.8 billion presented to the House by the governor, indicating an increase of N1.6 billion. While commending the legislators for their cooperation towards ensuring the passage of the bill, the Speaker urged the state government to judiciously implement the 2010 budget to consolidate on the achievements of the present administration.

## Kwara spends N1bn on electricity

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

THE Kwara State government has spent over N1 billion on the electrification of 105 communities in the three senatorial districts of the state.

The state Commissioner for Energy Alhaji Zakari Mohammed who disclosed while speaking with newsmen yesterday in Ilorin, said the government had procured transformers worth over N600 million to stabilize electricity supply in the state.

He said, since the inception of the present administration in 2003, it had procured about 625 transformers, stressing that in the next one month, an additional 49 would be procured.

The commissioner said of the 105 communities slated for electrification, work had been concluded in 85 communities.

He said contractors handling the remaining projects had been ordered to complete the work by the end of this month or have their contracts terminated.

Alhaji Zakari added that the second phase of the rural electrification pro-

gramme would commence soon, saying the present administration was determined to ensure that most communities had electricity before 2011.

The commissioner added that the erratic power supply being experienced in the state, particularly in Ilorin was a national problem.

He said supply of electricity dropped due to the non-production of gas by multinational companies, such as Shell.



GOV. Bukola Saraki

## Kogi courts are dilapidated

— CJ

From Isiaka Wakili & Sam Egwu, Lokoja

THE Chief Judge of Kogi State Justice Nasir Ajanah has said that the structures of most of the courts in the state are dilapidated and due for renovation. Justice Ajanah, who said this at the weekend while addressing judicial officers at the Ankpa and Dekina High Courts, said court structures in the rural areas of the state were unbecoming, stressing that they needed to be phased out.

Ajanah assured that five new modern structures would henceforth be built yearly to replace dilapidated structures accommodating courts in the state, saying a proposal to that effect had already been sent to the state government. He said there was a need for judges to be decently accommodated to facilitate a credible administration of justice, adding that the state judiciary was not ready to compromise the welfare of its staff.

The Chief Judge however regretted that he had received so many negative reports about corrupt practices of some judicial officers, particularly among magistrates and Area Court judges.

He urged judicial officers to shun corruption, saying, "A good name is better than all the riches in this world. If you want to work and gain respect, this is the right place. Anyone coming to your courts should know that he/she is coming to obtain justice, not to buy it. If we are giving justice to the people, we should not deny ourselves justice."

In their separate remarks, the judges of the Dekina Resident High Court and the Ankpa Resident High Court, Justices Abdul Awulu and Esther Haruna respectively advised judges and lawyers to work together to stamp out corruption from the system, warning that recalcitrant officers would be shown the way out.



LAGOS State Governor Babatunde Fashola (left) being welcomed by the Chairman of the Apostolic Church in Lagos, Western and Northern Areas (LAWNA), Pastor Gabriel Olutola (right) and the General Secretary, Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria, Bishop George Amu (middle) to the interdenominational divine service 2010 of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) Lagos State Chapter at the International Convention Grounds of the Apostolic Church, Olorunda-Ketu, Lagos at the weekend.

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## Pharmacists want FG to address salaries' difference in health sector

From Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria (PSN) has called on the Federal Government to look into the difference in the salaries of health workers to avoid industrial disharmony.

Speaking in Lagos at the weekend, the new President of PSN, Pharm. Azubike Okwor, said government should implement the recommendations of the Job Evaluation Report which prescribed a ratio 10:8.8 in the wages for doctors and pharmacists based on the one year difference in their training duration. According to Pharm. Okwor, the shortage of manpower in the health sector is due to brain drain and discriminatory wages.

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# 2011 elections will be worse than 2007 if... - Kwande

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

A former Nigerian Ambassador to Switzerland Ambassador Yahaya Kwande has said that without electoral reform, the 2011 elections will be worse than the 2007 elections.

Ambassador Kwande who spoke to newsmen at the weekend in Jos said, "Nigeria is in a dilemma politically, I don't know where we are going. Unless the reform of our electoral system is debated and implemented, there will be no need for elections in 2011, because someone will

sit somewhere, and appoint anyone he wants to rule and it will be worse than the 2007 elections".

He said government should look into the economic situation of the country in order to prevent changes and socio-economic development to the people by giving people money.

"With 50,000, you can buy a whole village, by giving a little of it to each person. This is because people are hungry and are in dire need of money", he added.

Ambassador Kwande who is a chieftain of the Action Congress (AC)

lamented that instead of improving the living conditions of the people, politicians distributed motor-cycles to them in the name of empowerment. He said representative of the people were elected to bring changes and socio-economic development to the people, by helping them to organize their farms and secure loans to start small

scale businesses. He maintained that it was time for opposition parties to unite and fight for a transparent and credible election in Nigeria.

"We are not saying the PDP should not win elections, but they should win clearly and you cannot win election clearly, unless there is a strong opposition on ground," he added.

**“With 50,000, you can buy a whole village, by giving a little of it to each person. This is because people are hungry and are in dire need of money”**

## Jos crisis: Yorubas demand fair representation in Lar committee

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

THE Yoruba community in Plateau State says it feels marginalized by their exclusion from the 15 man committee set up by the Federal Government to find a lasting solution to crises in the state, saying having been in Plateau for over 200 years, they deserved to be fully represented.

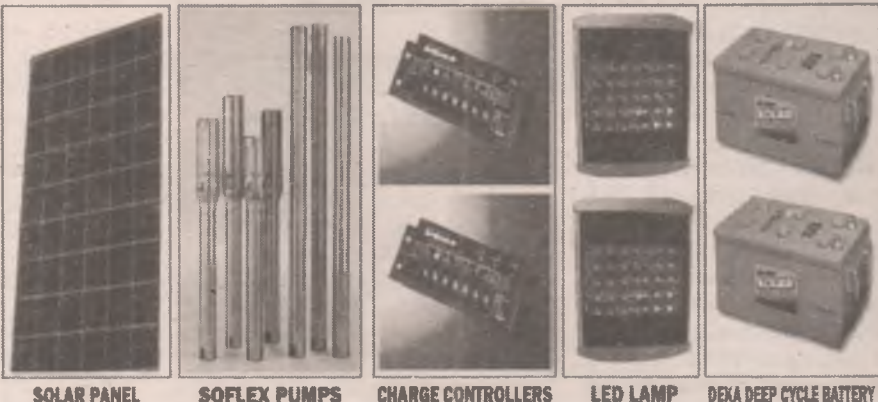
The community said this in a communiqué signed by the Oba of Yoruba in the state, Chief Solomon Olugbodi and the President General of the Plateau State chapter of Yoruba communities, northern states, Chief Toye Ogunshuyi and issued yesterday in Jos.

The statement commended Acting President Goodluck Jonathan for inaugurating the committee, but added that the interests of the Yorubas, Igbos, and other communities in the state should be considered in finding a permanent solution to crises in the state. They also commended Plateau State Governor Jonah Jang and the National and states Assemblies for their prompt intervention in the recent crisis in Jos.

The community demanded that its members be adequately compensated over what they described as undeserved and untold hardship they were experiencing due to the recent crisis.

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## NUPENG urges FG on refineries

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

THE National Union of Petroleum and Natural Workers (NUPENG) has called on the Federal Government to put in place necessary regulatory machineries to ensure improved domestic production, storage and distribution of petroleum products, including repair of vital pipelines.

Rising from its Central Working Committee meeting at the weekend in Abuja, the oil workers said the call became imperative in view of the prostrate state of the nation's refineries which had led to the importation of petroleum

products.

In a communiqué signed by Comrade Igwe Achese, the National President and Elijah Okougbo, the National General Secretary of NUPENG, the union lauded the new initiative by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) aimed at finding a lasting solution to fuel supply and distribution challenges in the country.

"The CWC in session commended the new approach adopted by the NNPC to end scarcity of petroleum products through the introduction of a fool proof distribution network for petroleum products in the nation. We therefore insist that efforts

should be made to sustain this new initiative," the union said.

The union passed what it termed a vote of confidence on Acting President Jonathan, pledging their support. The union also commended the National Assembly for empowering Jonathan, noting that this had helped to redeem the country's image in the comity of nations.

They further urged the Acting President to address the post-amnesty challenges while ensuring the speedy enactment of the Electoral Reform Bill, the Petroleum Industry Bill and an accelerated review of the constitution.

# Customs, others partner on security at Abuja airport

By Shehu Abubakar

THE new FCT Comptroller of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) Usman Kankara Bello said there is need for cooperation among all the security agencies at the Nnamdi Azikwe International Airport, Abuja to ensure adequate security at the airport.

Bello made the call when he

visited the Military Commander of the airport Group Captain Haruna Umar Mohammed and the Regional Manager of the Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) Mr Chris Bature in their various offices at the airport.

He said it is only when the security agencies cooperate in the area of exchanging information and complementing each

other's job that the airport will be properly secured.

At the FAAN Regional Manager's office, Bello requested for the allocation of land at the cargo section of the airport to enable the Custom service mount its communication mast for clearance of goods at the airport.

Bello who had recently assumed duties as Customs

Comptroller of FCT command told Bature that the issue of security at the airport cannot be compromised and urged the FAAN Manager to mobilize all other security outfits at the airport to ensure that security is provided.

Earlier, Group Captain Mohammed assured the Customs Comptroller of the maximum cooperation of the airport

security agencies towards the smooth and accurate collection of all revenue due to government.

The FAAN Manager's, Mr Bature assured the Comptroller that space will be provided to the service to mount its mast as requested for effective service delivery to passengers at the airport.



FROM left: Reverend Father Sabastine Ukoh, Chaplain, Kuje Prison, Mrs. Rosemary Ukwu, Vice-President, Robert Foundation (an NGO) and Mr. Lawrence Ukwu, the President, during a visit by the foundation to the prison in Abuja on Saturday.

## Youth training centre gulps N450m

By Romoke W. Ahmad

THE Federal Ministry of Youth Development has spent about four hundred and fifty million naira on one of the seven youth training centres in the country in a bid to tackle youth unemployment.

Minister of Youth Development, Senator Akinlabi Olasunkanmi disclosed this at the weekend during the monitoring visit to the youth training centre at Owode egba in Ogun state to ascertain the progress of work at the centre.

The minister expressed satisfaction with the level of work at the place saying he was eager to see that the place put to use in no distance time.

He added that the centre will accommodate between three hundred and sixty to four hundred youths on take off pointing out that different vocations would be available for youths depending on what they choose to learn. "Vocations like information technology, tailoring, mechanic, welder, catering, hairdressing, poultry and fish farming as well as agricultural production and processing would be taught at the centre when it takes off" he said.

The minister also said that the centre would be used as demonstration farm for other centres saying that the ministry will go into private partnership agreement to generate income that will be able to sustain the centre because the youth that will be coming to the centre will be at government expenses adding that the ministry intend to expand the centre in future.

Mr. Momoh Idris Olugbenga, the chief youth development officer and the principal of the centre while conducting the minister and his entourage round the centre promised that the centre would be ready in the next two months.

The centre which is about fifty six hectares of land has workshops for various vocations, multipurpose hall, male and female hostel, administrative block, bore hole, football pitch while the roads leading to all parts of the centre is fully asphalted.

## Youths council denies suing Minister, IGP

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar & Romoke W. Ahmad

THE National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCS) said it did not file any court case against the Minister of Youth and Development Senator Akinlabi Olasunkanmi, Inspector General of Police Onovo Ogbonna and Attorney General of the Federation.

Dickson Akoh, claiming to be the president of the NYCN, reportedly dragged the minister IGP among others before Abuja High Court challenging his arrest and detention by the Police over alleged impersonation.

Acting President of NYCN Mr. Deola S. George said in a communiqué issued at the end of the association's stakeholders meeting in Abuja said the

council has no any case before the court.

He accused some faceless people of trying to abuse the use of court process to perpetrate illegality in the name of the council.

He said some expelled members of the association seized the opportunity presented by the power vacuum caused by the exit of the former President of the asso-

ciation, Mr Ben, now a political appointee with Kwara State government, to destabilize the association.

Meanwhile, former Deputy National President of the NYCN Richard Uboh-Ekan has told Daily Trust that they would work hard to restore sanity and install "purposeful leadership that will champion and protect the interest of Nigerian youths."

## NGO receives N6.7m for reproductive health campaign

By Maureen Onochie

A Non-governmental Organization, Center for the Right to Health (CRH) has received about N6.7m from the Australian Government to enable it effectively carry out the campaign on sexual and reproductive health rights in Nigeria. The Australian High Commissioner to Nigeria, Jeff Hart made this presentation during the official unveiling of building the capacities of members of civil society groups and

media organizations on issues relating to sexual and reproductive health rights in Nigeria held in Abuja.

Mr. Hart said the fund is to support the organization on the project adding that there are machineries already on ground to supervise and ensure accountability while the project is in progress.

While appreciating the Australian Government, Project Director of the Organization, Mr. Bede Eziefule said the organization will make proper use

of the fund to ensure that the objective will be successfully achieved.

He noted that "the Center was fortunate to be among 36 organizations to receive funding support globally," pointing out that "the Center and Human Assistance Initiative were the only two organizations in Nigeria that received funding under this program."

He added that the project will be implemented over a period of two years in four centres; Abuja, Lagos, Owerri and Bauchi.

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# CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA

## CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA HELP DESK FOR COMPLAINTS ON ATM TRANSACTIONS

Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has noted with serious concern the growing complaints by the customers and the general public on ATM transactions and the inability of banks to resolve them within a reasonable time frame. In order to sustain public confidence in the Nigerian Payments System, the CBN has directed that henceforth all complaints on card transactions should be treated and responded to within 72 hours of receipt of the complaints by banks.

Furthermore, CBN has mandated all banks to set up help desks for handling ATM and other card-related complaints. The banks are to publish names, telephone numbers, and email addresses of the help desk staff to be contacted by the affected customers when the need arises.

The CBN has equally set up a help desk for receiving public complaints on electronic card transactions with a view to fast-tracking resolutions by the affected banks. The CBN contact persons, telephone numbers and email addresses are given below:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone Number</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
A. R. Alebiosu	08070516649	aralebiosu@cenbank.org
H. Abdullahi	08057008200	habdullahi@cenbank.org
M. A. Adahman	08057101365	amadahman@cenbank.org
Z. Mohammed	08057008273	zmohammed@cenbank.org

The customers are therefore encouraged to make use of these channels in resolving complaints on electronic card transactions. CBN will continue to monitor developments and ensure continuous improvement of the electronic channels in line with the programme of the Payments System Vision 2020.

**IT SHOULD BE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT NO CBN OFFICIAL WILL ASK ANY CUSTOMER TO GIVE HIS/HER PIN OR CARD NUMBER IN THE DISCHARGE OF THESE RESPONSIBILITIES. CUSTOMERS SHOULD THEREFORE NOT DISCLOSE THEIR PIN OR CARD NUMBER TO ANYBODY UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE.**



By Ola O. Olatawura

## Kutigi as bona fide statesman

Recently elderly statesmen, including former Chief Justices of Nigeria, requested that Vice President Goodluck Jonathan be sworn as Acting President due to President Yar'adua's serious health problems and long absence from the country. Ordinarily, on account of age and attainment they qualify as eminent statesmen. In an article titled "Idris Kutigi is no Eminent Elder", in two major national newspapers, *Daily Trust*, February 5, 2010, and *This Day*, February 10, 2010, Mr. Adinoyi Ojo Onukaba queried the inclusion of former Chief Justice of Nigeria Kutigi GCON in that list. His main argument was that on account of the Supreme Court's *Buhari v Yar'adua* 2008 decision, which confirmed the Court of Appeal's earlier verdict that President Yar'adua was legitimately elected. Kutigi chaired the panel and was part of the 4-3 majority favouring President Yar'adua. There is a right, even promoted, to criticise justices' judgments: "The judgments of a Court should not be treated with sacred sanctity once it gets to the right critical forum," per Eso JSC in *Adigun v A.G Oyo State*, (No.1) (1983). Dr. Akinola Aguda made the same point: "The right to criticize judges and their judgments is an integral part of a good system of



Election petition cases have proven to be the albatross of the judiciary

administration of justice as we understand it." (1983) *The right to criticize judgments is unlimited, but the right to criticize justices is curtailed and liable to counter censure where it obviously and unjustifiably crosses the border line of professional disrespect, hurtful and personal diminution, and implies moral misdemeanours. Because justices are inhibited from responding to personal public rebuke, irreverent critics embrace serious moral and legal risks. Critics who rely on wrong facts are most liable to citation, particularly, if it is evident that they do it on account of political or other agenda, or recklessly.*

The administration of justice principle rejects actions that demean the institution of justice by private individuals or government. Carefully examined, wrong facts and careless logic have been deployed against the former CJN to put him to public ridicule. Generally, there is no relationship between the election judgment and the President's health or capacity to stay in office. Early 2009, I delivered an Uwais lecture in Enugu arguing why the minority judgment was to be preferred. Indeed, I discussed the lecture's position a month later with the incumbent CJN. He listened with close attention. This does not mean that his majority decision was not legally justifiable. Not being a legal practitioner, Mr. Adinoyi, may not be able to understand why the closely-fought legal decision was reached. I volunteer to explain from my own vantage

point. First is the state of the electoral law. As many people know, the Uwais Committee on Electoral Reforms suggested serious changes which will have an impact desired by most. To paraphrase Shakespeare, the problem, is not with the judges, but is that of the law itself. Second, the loyalty to precedent obliges the court to be faithful to decisions and reasoning of the past, particularly if no direct, strong, or weighty arguments are made for a new approach or theory of law. Third, political partisanship of the counsel generates innate suspicion by judges that they colour the law to reach partisan results. Because of the partisan adversarial litigation model, justices would normally be swayed by the present arguments before them, embellishing it with their own knowledge of the law, supported by in-house research. Invariably, the legal uprightness of a decision may on the state of the law even be unfounded.

One can confidently state that many right decisions have been based on wrong reasons. My view is that in election petition and other sensitive constitutional cases, independent counsel, *amicus curiae*, should be invited, and if necessarily heavily paid to assist the court. Nobody, thought of calling independent counsel to argue knotty issues of law or facts to assist the justices, and thereby the country. Election petition cases have proven to be the albatross of the judiciary. As Ogundare JCA stated: "The cases that really stretched the Courts to the limit and evoked public opprobrium and sarcasm in some cases are the election petition cases of 1983. Much as we believed we did well in those turbulent days, the fact must still be admitted that the spate of public criticisms of some of the decisions of the time did not augur well for the image of the judiciary. Even we ourselves felt it was time we were relieved of these cases" (1988). Fifthly, the Chief Justice has no power to compel his learned brothers to take a position according to their own conscience or understanding of the law.

At the private level, the personal integrity of Kutigi CJN as a judge cannot be doubted. That he is a strict disciplinarian and morally conscionable person is legendary. A notable dissenter in his appellate career, he has always been his own man. My father always fondly recalled his statement in several justices' conferences. Kutigi JCA (or as a JSC) would tell his brother colleagues that "since they have the majority, what does it matter to them if he chooses to write a dissenting judgment? They should just let him be." It was Justice Kutigi who turned back General Abacha at his gate because he did not know him and could not understand what he was looking for in his house. If an opportunist, he would have opened wide his gate for the nation's no 1 coup plotter and most powerful soldier in Government. One is disturbed when he is associated in any sense with the greed, inordinate ambition, and reckless abuse of power of Mr. Aondoakaa and other self serving power mongers. Justice Kutigi's other qualifications as an elder statesman is confirmed by his part in government in Niger State.

Dr. Olatawura, a legal practitioner, wrote from *Jabi, Abuja*.



By Mohammed Haruna

## The West, media and Islamophobia (I)

I'll like to define the key words in today's lecture. These are Terrorism, The Media, and Islamophobia. To start with Terrorism, no two persons agree on the meaning of the word "terror" because the word, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder; to say that one man's terrorist is another's hero has since become almost like a cliché.

In the early 80's the American State Department defined terrorism as "pre-meditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against non-combatant targets, by sub-national groups or clandestine agents usually intended to influence an audience".

The Oxford English Dictionary defines it simply as "The use of violence and intimidation to achieve political aims".

Yet another definition of the word is that it is "the deliberate use or threat of violence, politically motivated and directed against non-military personnel".

The discerning observer would have noticed a major difference between the American definition of the word and the other two, namely the American narrow definition of its agents as "sub-national groups or clandestine agents". This is a highly significant difference as we shall see presently.

The difficulty in arriving at a universal definition of terrorism was underscored by the fact that in 2005, the 60th



A combination of the words Islam and phobia, it simply means an extreme or irrational fear of Islam

United Nations summit tried but failed to decide on a universal legal definition of the word. I should also point out that two years later a commission set up by the government of the United Kingdom concluded that "there is no single definition of terrorism that commands full international support".

Even then, there is a common denominator in all the innumerable definitions of the word. This is that it is the use of violence or intimidation or their threat for political objectives. Opinions differ mainly on the scale of violence and who uses it.

As we have seen from the US State Department's definition, the Americans regard only non-state actors as agents of terror. Obviously this is a highly problematic and subjective definition, to say the least, because States too can be, and have been, agents of terror, as the history of America itself in its many wars abroad testifies.

States have not merely sponsored terrorism. They have themselves perpetrated it and in so doing the harm they cause as a result of the weapons of violence and the organization at their disposal dwarfs any that non-state actors can inflict as we shall see in due course.

The Oxford English dictionary defines it as "Television, radio and newspapers as the means of mass communication". Useful as this is, it is obviously a highly restricted definition because it leaves out many other means of mass communication.

These include traditional means like the gong, the talking drum, the town crier, etc. The definition also leaves out the more modern means of mass communication. These include books, magazines, cinema, CDs, DVDs, cassettes and, not least of all, the internet, perhaps the most revolutionary of them all.

In defining media, it is important to talk not only about what they are. We should also talk about what they do, which, universally are acknowledged as informing, educating and entertaining the public and also shaping public opinion. As it is often said, perception is as important as reality, sometimes even more so. As the famous American president, Abraham Lincoln, once put it, "Public sentiment is everything ... he who moulds public sentiments goes deeper than he who executes statutes or pronounces decisions. He makes statutes or decisions possible or impossible to execute."

The contemporary American historian Prof. Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. was even more sweeping in his opinion of the importance of the media. "Karl Marx", he once said "held that history is shaped by control of the means of production. In our times history is shaped by control of the means of communication."

The late Malcolm X, the famous Muslim black American, was somewhat more cynical in his opinion of the importance of the media but his insight was useful nonetheless. "If you are not careful," he once said, "the media will have you hating those who are oppressed and loving those who are doing the oppression."

Finally, the definition of *Islamophobia*. The word itself seems a post 9/11 creation even though the sentiments it seeks to capture have existed for centuries going back to the Crusades in the 15th century. A combination of the words Islam and phobia, it simply means an extreme or irrational fear of Islam.

Although this extreme or irrational fear of Islam has existed especially in the West for centuries, 9/11 seems to have raised it to higher level than at any time in the history of relation of the two.

The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1989 as the greatest obstacle to the spread of Western values seemed to have led to the replacement of Communism, the Soviet creed, with Islam as the West's main bogeyman. In his 1994 book, *Out of Control*, for example, the American statesman, Zbigniew Brzezinski, raised an alarm about what he said was Islam's march northwards in to Europe from its Middle Eastern core through Central Asia with the collapse of the Soviet Union.

To be cont'd.

Being excerpts of a lecture given under the auspices of Gombe State branch of National Council of Muslim Youths Organizations (NACOMYO)



## Your Letters

### How honourable are our "honourables"?

After ten years of democratic governance, it is important to appreciate the fact that our nascent democracy is fast taking its root. The vibrancy and dynamism being exhibited by the Federal House of Representatives as an institution are worthy of note and commendation.

The revolutionary live coverage of plenary proceedings in the National Assembly is a welcome development as it avails Nigerians and indeed the world to watch issues, the mode of presentations and discussions, contributions and consensus reached on issues of national concerns and most importantly the conduct of members.

This is what participatory democracy is all about; so it affords

members of the public the ample opportunity to make observations, comments and suggestions.

The conferment of honourable status on any person places the burden of high expectations from the people they represent and the public at large. So it thus suggests that such a person or persons with that status must conduct themselves in a manner befitting the status as role model to the extent that their conduct can be emulated.

Of concern is the conduct of some members in the House especially during plenary sessions. It is known that the House is governed by set of rules, ethnics and privileges that regulate the conduct of members such as attending plenary, introducing issues and making contributions. Important too is the manner with which they conduct themselves, etc. However, the demeanour of some members of the House calls to question the degree of their honourable status. For instance, during plenary ses-

sions, members are seen either just strolling in or simply gallivanting within thus making plenary sessions boisterous not any better than a market place or a play class.

Worse still, during plenary sessions, some members are either not participating or holding side talks and in some cases, unconsciously put on their microphones thereby disrupting and distorting proceedings on the floor of the House.

Another issue of solemn concern is that while some few members are seen to be always actively participating, some others are simply docile and are never seen nor heard throughout their term in the House so one is compelled to question not only the credibility of their representation but importantly their individual capacity to represent their people or better still contribute to deepening democracy and nation building.

Peter Ayim, Abuja  
(peterayim@gmail.com)

## Text us on 08 131 8000 30

### PDP's zoning conundrum

THE leadership of PDP is famous for indecision, hence the failure of almost everything in the country. The present leadership of the party is a collection of opportunists who lack vision, idea and focus to deal with issues concerning the party and the nation.  
ALIYU Abdu, Malumfashi, 08086966667.

### What's love got to do with it?

MY bank sent me love message on Valentine's Day. Do they think their customers are fools after what their executives did to us customers and their investors? All what I need is good service, not Val wishes.  
8054480314.

### Price of loyalty

ABRAHAM Lincoln once said "in every selfish politician there is always a dedicated one". Michael Aondoaka, if he is indeed a politician, qualifies to a Dedicated

One: I am proud of him.  
SALEM Kuja, Abuja, 08055354436.

### I concur

TEXT Daily Trust February 8 on our traditional rulers issue refers. Our lawmakers should empower EFCC to beam its searchlight on our traditional rulers.  
ABUBAKAR Aliyu, Yaoundé Street, Wuse Zone 6, Abuja, 08065496288.

### Dead and forgotten?

IT is a shame that nothing in the news on NTA to remind us of General Murtala Mohammed, although its "Weekend File" programme of February the 13, the anniversary of Murtala's assassination, dwelt on Abuja. It has probably been forgotten so soon that he was the reason Abuja is a reality today.  
08133397939.

### Now that he's in charge

MY poser to Acting President

Goodluck Jonathan is what's going to happen to the 7-point agenda?  
YUSUF Sani Yarsanta, Funtua, Katsina State, 08063150435.

### How about this too?

ACTING president should please free Almustapha; Goodluck Jonathan should not disappoint us like Yar'adua and other Northern leaders have done on this matter.  
B S. Zaria, 07039755566.

AS acting president, Jonathan, is lucky to be the first to hold the post in the history of Nigeria. Here's hoping he would be the first to establish an independent commission responsible for investigation and prosecution of all those who sponsored or were involved in any form of crises in Nigeria, whether political, ethnic, religious or economic. I wish you.  
AMINU Dange, Sokoto, 08063290264.



By Adamu M. Fika

## Dantata was right: The wealth of colonial-era North developed Nigeria (V)

Cont'd from last week Friday.

Native Administrations in the Southern Provinces provided 5.11 per cent. Also in the Northern provinces, the Native Administration organisations served both the Government and the Native Administrations purposes. While Public Works Department provided the supervisory staff, the Department is relieved of direct responsibility in respect of stores, accounts, recruitment of labour etc.

The duties of policing, prison services and institutions as well as administration of justice in the Northern Provinces, which were supposed to have been funded by the Government pool, were all financed from the Native Administration funds.

Even though they contributed more to the common pool, Northern Provinces were almost all but neglected in the provision of socio economic services. In the field of education, for instance, the central Government had, by 1946 built 23 primary schools in the South compared with only two in the Northern Provinces—in Jos and Kaduna; and even these were built to cater mainly for the children of Nigerians from Southern Provinces in the service of the Government and British mercantile houses.

Indeed, the Igbo language was the lingua franca in the two schools outside of classroom because of the preponderance of Igbo children. Alhaji Sale Jambo, one of the few Northern children who attended the Jos school, speaks Igbo language fluently. Furthermore, the concentration of grant aided voluntary agency schools in the South made the situation for the North much worse. It is not therefore surprising that by 1952 when Ministerial and representative government was introduced in Nigeria only 20 Northerners out of more than 610 senior and intermediate Nigerian officers listed in the Government Staff List of that year.

As can be seen from the foregoing, except for just two years, the North virtually bankrupted every year of the first 40 years of Nigeria's existence. Therefore to call the North a parasite is the height of ingratitude; and, in the circumstance, worse than a mere case of blaming the victim. It betrays a clear case of the perfect ignorance of the situation. It is indeed ironic that the resident of



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when Ministerial and representative government was introduced in Nigeria only 20

Northerners out of more than 610 senior and

intermediate Nigerian officers were listed in

the Government Staff List of that year

the former Eastern Region—particularly the South East zone, who for the first 40 years had been subsidized by the North, should now lead the attack against the North, describing Northerners as parasites.

Possession of a press that goes to town with its stories and views without investigation, a press that is more a megaphone for the prejudice of its elites, should be no licence for its owners to engage in unfounded insinuations and incessant insults to certain sections of the country. This attitude is irresponsible and very unhelpful; and so long as it continues, so long will sections of the country be hopelessly divided, and the nation itself remains undeveloped for the same reason.

Concluded.

Malam Adamu, the Waziri of Fika, is a former Head of Service of the Federation.

## DAILY TRUST

## EDITORIAL

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## As Jonathan exercises executive powers

Last week, the almost palpable umbra of uncertainty that enveloped Nigeria since November 23, 2009, when President Umaru Musa Yar'adua unexpectedly left the shores of this country on medical trip, lifted with vice president, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, taking advantage of resolutions passed by both chambers of the National Assembly in an unprecedented volte-face, to assume duties as Acting President.

The jury is still out on the legality of that parliamentary resolutions, but not a few Nigerians must have heaved a sigh of great relief to see the two months-long political constitutional crisis caused by the leadership vacuum finally resolved. This in itself is a salute to the resilience of the Nigerian spirit. Before this obviously unsatisfactory resolution, a Federal High Court had ruled that the Vice President could assume the position of acting President only if the president transmitted a letter of medical vacation. This did not come until the parliament adopted the transcript of the translation of a BBC Hausa Service interview aired on January 12 and profusely quoted by local media, in lieu of official notice.

While the impasse lasted, the Governors Forum met with the Vice President and the leadership of the National Assembly for a consensus to end the logjam. The legal status of this resolution aside, it would seem that Nigeria has emerged from that period of high political drama with the potential of turning things round and perhaps earn the confidence of its citizenry, the respect of its friends and the acceptance of cynics.

Even though a man of circumstance and history, Dr. Jonathan is not a stranger to governance, being an active player in the system that produced him. This is the reason Nigerians and indeed the entire world would be watching and analysing every move and action he now takes. He has described the circumstances leading to his ascension of office as "uncommon, sober and reflective". Indeed they are, but they should not also constitute excuses. Rather, they are impetus for him to rise to the challenges of his oath of office as a prime member of the Yar'adua presidency, one who swore to an oath of office which foresaw greater challenges than his official title of substantive Vice President.

The tasks thrust on him are indeed weighty and enormous; they are however not insurmountable. By vocation and qualification, Dr. Jonathan is as capable as any to carry the heavy burden of leading Africa's most populous nation. He also has behind him an array of expertise and experience, which have prepared him for his new position. He does not need a lecture on priorities as he himself can feel the pulse of Nigerians on what is expected of his leadership.

There are challenges that crave his early attention, including the festering crisis in the Niger-Delta, rising sectarian strife in several parts of the country, the inertia in dealing with corruption among government officials; the general decay in social life among citizens because of dwindling opportunities, etc. We are not sure how much power he can exercise in reinvigorating the Federal Executive Council to make it responsive and relevant to the daily needs of Nigerians. With the general elections fast approaching, the time may be now to effect meaningful changes to the board of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) as a measure of inspiring the confidence of all stakeholders. Nigerians expect him to be frank, firm but fair in his judgements and would tackle him doggedly but squarely where he is found to have fallen short.

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ABDULKADIR ALIYU: Head, Advert

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## Blessed is the sick

Blessed is the sick, President Umaru Musa Yar Adua, for he shall not be suspected again (at least for now!) of being the bane of the socio-economic as well as political crisis of the nation. He shall not be suspected of power failure, post amnesty challenges in Niger Delta, unimplemented annual budgets, official targets set but not met, or under-performing Ministers, fuel scarcity, "religious" crises and all that make up Nigeria's crisis of governance in general. For the past 80 days or so, the searchlight had been on the voice or no voice of a bed ridden President. Somebody from the outer space, watching the concluded political drama, must have had the false impression that the current national challenges were caused by the failing health of a serving President. Once the President was back from sick vacation, the impression was that Nigeria was on the match to being part of the leading 20 economies in less than a decade. We forget so soon that since 1985 Nigeria had been governed by not less than hale and hearty four Presidents and Commanders in Chief. Yet the country had been on a free fall into the abyss of underdevelopment.

It was a healthy former President Olusegun who unexplainably presented the dubious US intelligence report in 2005 to the national assembly according to which Nigeria's was destined to fail in fifteen years as if he was excited by the prospects of a failed Nigeria's project as favoured by United States' dubious intelligence. The last decade was lost to perennial power failure, electoral perfidy, schools collapse at all levels not because Nigeria lacked a fit President or scores of healthy governors. On the contrary the country went under in spite of the fitness of its President, and leaders at all levels. Certainly we can do better with healthy leaders. You don't, from a sick bed direct the affairs of 150 million people, some also on sick beds. The point cannot be overstated: the burden today is squarely on the shoulders of the hale and hearty Vice, now elevated the acting President Goodluck Jonathan. It is the acting President and him alone not his sick boss who must urgently account for the drop in power generation to the miserable low level of 2,500 megawatts despite the 2009 end year target of 6000 megawatts. Factories still close

Issa Aremu, mni  
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down at an alarming rate. Some with eyes on Nigeria's oil revenue fuelled domestic demand are relocating to Ghana to produce and create jobs there and earn the money in Nigeria. Petroleum supply proves ever intractable as refineries are grounded. NNPC cannot even import as such talk less of ensuring products supply at stations. Our students have become hunters and gatherers of higher knowledge from Accra to Cape town, Atlanta to Vancouver, (with all their vulnerability to drugs and terrorism) no thanks to near collapse of education at home. More Nigerians die on the "roads" annually than they did during the 5 year unfortu-

rent regimes. Apartheid colonial regime had since been shattered into smithereens. The truth is that a revolutionary spectre hunts Nigeria today more than any part of African continent. A situation in which both the rich and poor groan under the crushing weight of mis governance and sheer indifference tasks imagination of whoever runs Nigeria today. Nowhere in the impoverished continent, where power outages are the norm are leaders not held accountable like Nigeria. Already mass frustration manifests in dysfunctional false consciousness such as religious or ethnic identity crises. Acting President Jonathan must read the mood of the nation and ebb the tide of revolutionary pressures by initiating far reaching reforms measures in the next six months failing which

From the view point of the challenge of nation-building, I have not spotted any element of luck at all in Goodluck's power ascendancy.

nate civil war. Nigerian workers are grappling with crisis of compensation that might manifest in mass strikes soonest, as home pay hardly takes any worker home. A year to elections at state and Federal levels, electoral reform proposals as contained in Uwais report still gather dust. From the view point of the challenge of nation-building, I have not spotted any element of luck at all in Goodluck's power ascendancy. Assuming it is all about another addition to the personal C.V of the acting President (who had always excelled anyway) but in terms of national challenges, the acting President definitely deserves our pity and sympathy given the enormous challenges before him.

Interestingly old received wisdom has it that "lucky men need no counsel". The late Claude Ake, (who must have been Goodluck Jonathan's teacher in the 80s at University of Port Harcourt) once, wrote his classic treatise: *Revolutionary Pressures in Africa*. Since that compelling reading (and well before Ake's death), revolutionary pressures had swept away non-service delivery regimes on the continent including Ghana's inept and cur-

mass self helps become inevitable. He needs not reinvent the wheel. The acting President should rather dust his history book to appreciate the strategy of successful Nigeria's leaders in recent past rather than holding palace courts taking endless advises and ideas, of vested interests that are often mutually exclusive. Let him look at the promises of this administration since 2007 and wake up to work the promises. Time is of essence to him and indeed Nigeria. The truth is that Nigeria once worked and it must again. Almost by divine intervention, Goodluck's ascendancy coincides with the 34th anniversary of tragic assassination of General Murtala Muhammed.

Murtala too took over power in "uncommon" circumstances which called for time consciousness and prompt service delivery. Murtala showed that it is not how long but effective. It took record time for the national assembly to pass controversial resolution that confers him acting President. In no record time the national assembly must be encouraged to pass bills dealing with development. Acting President Jonathan must go ahead and consolidate the 7-point agenda and ensure improvement in power supply, security, electoral reform and re-industrialisation of the country and job creation simultaneously. More agenda only keep Ministers positively busy while it unbundles the economy for more business opportunities and jobs. We need cabinet's creative memos on development not weekly awards and re-awarding of contracts.

Certainly we can do better with healthy leaders. You don't, from a sick bed direct the affairs of 150 million people, some also on sick beds



... At Wits End With  
**AUDIT MATTERS**

**THEME:**  
Increasing the Effectiveness of  
Audit Committees of  
**QUOTED COMPANIES**

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**OBJECTIVES:**

- To foster greater involvement of Audit Committee Members in the audit of companies
- Assist members understand new issues emerging from challenges posed by the current operating environment
- Assist in setting proper agenda and priorities for Audit Committee members
- Introduce members to regulatory and statutory framework
- Improve Audit Committee focus and efficiency
- Assist members in understanding Audit Committee members liability

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER, Ms. ARUNMA OTEH,  
DG SECURITIES & EXCHANGE COMMISSION (SEC)**

Importance of Adhering to Statements of Accounting Standards in Quoted Companies in Nigeria  
By: Mr. Godson Nnadi, CEO Nigerian Accounting Standards Board, Ikeja, Lagos

Laying the Appropriate Environment for improving the Focus, Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Audit Committees  
By: Mrs. Sade Ogundare, (Managing Partner) Legal Partnership, Ikoyi.

Responsibilities, Roles and Liabilities of Audit Committee Members  
By: Mr. Kenneth Odusanya, (Managing Partner) Eminent Consulting, Lagos

Current Trends and Developments in Financial Reporting Systems of Banks and Non Bank Financial Institutions  
By: Mr. Gabriel Ukpe, (Partner) Price Waterhouse Coopers, V.I, Lagos.

Understanding Risk Management Challenges in the Current Environment  
By: Mrs. Sade Odunaiya, (Partner) Alliance Consulting, Marina, Lagos.

**DATE:** FEBRUARY 24, 2010 **TIME:** 9.00 A.M. **VENUE:** PROTEA WESTWOOD, AWOLOWO ROAD, IKOYI

For registration and sponsorship enquiries please call  
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# APPRECIATION

On behalf of His Royal Highness Alhaji (Dr.) Shehu Idris CFR, the Emir of Zazzau and our entire Families, We wish to express our profound gratitude to all those who, despite their tight schedule created time to attend the wedding of our children Prince Nasiru Shehu Idris and Hadiza Muhammed Muhammed personally and through representations.

The wedding ceremony was concluded on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2010 when the bride was taken to the groom. The ceremony which started with the religious rites on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2009 was stalled due to bereavement of HRH the Emir of Zazzau Alhaji Dr. Shehu Idris CFR when his eldest living son then who was the Madaki of Zazzau and district head of Zaria and Environs died on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2009. May His Soul Rest in Peace.

We are also appreciative of all those who, either through personal calls, telephone calls, writing and personal donations contributed to the success of the events which took place at my residences at Dambam and Kaduna, as well as the Emirs Palace Zaria where Hawan Angwanci (Mini Durbar) was held.

May Allah reward you abundantly. Ameen.  
**SENATOR MUHAMMED A. MUHAMMED, OFR.**

# INTERNATIONAL

## 15,000 flee deadly Burundi drought

AT least two people have died of starvation and more than 15,000 have fled their homes in northeast Burundi, in the grip of a drought for two months, the Kirundo province governor said. "The inhabitants of Kirundo have been

confronted by famine for the past two months because of a severe drought," Juvenal Muvunyi told AFP. "In Bugabira district two people died of hunger on Nyabihe hill and 11,566 other have fled their homes, some towards

neighbouring countries (Rwanda and Tanzania) or into other provinces," he said. "In Busoni a further 800 families, that is about 4,000 people, have also fled their homes and we estimate that some 100,000 people are significantly

affected by hunger," he added.

"The situation is alarming because a lot of people don't have anything left to eat ... We are appealing to all our partners to quickly come to the aid of these people in need," the governor said.

Kirundo, which lies some 230 kilometres (143 miles) north east of the capital Bujumbura, used to be known as the bread basket of Burundi but for the past 10 years it has been subject to cyclical food shortages caused by droughts.

## Sudan's leader on uncertain footing ahead of polls

HIS 21-year reign has withstood civil wars and an international arrest warrant, but Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir may face more than he bargained for as the opposition musters for elections.

Bashir launched his re-election bid with great fanfare at the weekend, extolling the developmental benefits of his leadership and pledging to the unity of Africa's biggest nation.

"When we came to power, everything was lacking and people spent long hours waiting for bread and petrol, but now it's the bread that awaits the people," Beshir told thousands of supporters in Khartoum's twin-city Omdurman.

But Bashir faces his first real electoral test in April, when he is being challenged by 11 opposition candidates, among them former prime minister Sadiq al-Mahdi and former rebel leader Yasser Arman.

Mahdi, who heads the largest opposition party, Umma, enjoys support in the north, and sees himself as the rightful leader after he was ousted by Beshir in a 1989 military coup.

Arman, a northern secular Muslim and candidate for the southern former rebel group the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, commands votes in the mostly Christian south, which fought a 22-year civil war with the Muslim north.

Bashir, firmly ensconced despite being sought by the International Criminal Court for alleged war crimes in Sudan's strife-torn Darfur region, has several advantages going into the elections.

The feared security services are loyal to him, and if they intervene, his victory would be secured, opposition officials say.

His National Congress Party (NCP) robustly registered voters in November and December, while the bloc probably most hostile to him, the residents of Darfur's refugee camps, boycotted the process.

Still, and in the absence of opinion polls that could suggest an outcome before voters cast their ballots between April 11 and 13, Beshir is on uncertain ground.

The country is rife with conflict and poverty. About 300,000 people have died in Darfur since rebels took up arms against Khartoum in 2003, the United Nations says.

Emerging from the devastating war that pitted the dominant Muslim and Arab northern Sudanese against the largely non-Muslim, non-Arab southerners, even the most basic services are lacking in much of the remote and underdeveloped regions of the country of about 40 million people.

Simply getting voting material out across the vast region is a major logistical challenge, and will require the use of UN helicopters.

During a visit to Sudan last week, former US president and veteran elections observer Jimmy Carter predicted Bashir would probably be forced into a runoff after the first round.

Uncertainty has crept into a public that had grown accustomed to Beshir as the unshakable ruler.

"The NCP counts on the state apparatus and government money (and) the question is whether the state will be neutral" to allow for fair elections, said presidential candidate Mubarak al-Fadil, who may pull out of the contest after announcing his dissident faction reunited with Umma.



IVORY Coast's President Laurent Gbagbo holds a national flag in Abidjan, during the opening ceremony to mark 50 years since independence from France in 1960.

## Ivory Coast president's supporters call for calm

A main supporter of Ivory Coast President Laurent Gbagbo appealed yesterday for calm after the opposition called for protests against his sacking the government and the electoral commission.

"We ask all patriots and Ivorians in general who have suffered so much from this war and who want to go towards peace to stay calm," Charles Ble Goude, who heads the pro-Gbagbo "patriots", told AFP.

The divided country's main opposition on Saturday urged

massive protests after Gbagbo's shock "undemocratic and unconstitutional" announcements on Friday which looks set to further postpone long-delayed elections.

Ble Goude criticised what he called "a farce by the opposition, which only yesterday was calling for supporters to take to the streets, (but) they did not answer en masse," Ble Goude said, referring to an anti-Gbagbo called last month.

"Dissolving the government and the CEI (electoral commission) was a normal constitutional

act (aimed at) advancing the peace process which had been taken hostage by these opponents," Ble Goude said.

Gbagbo has remained in power for 10 years without seeking a second mandate after five, deferring elections six times following a failed 2002 coup. While officially the vote is expected to take place before early March, the current political disarray casts doubt on this schedule. Ble Goude led pro-Gbagbo and anti-French demonstrations during the crisis following the failed 2002 coup.

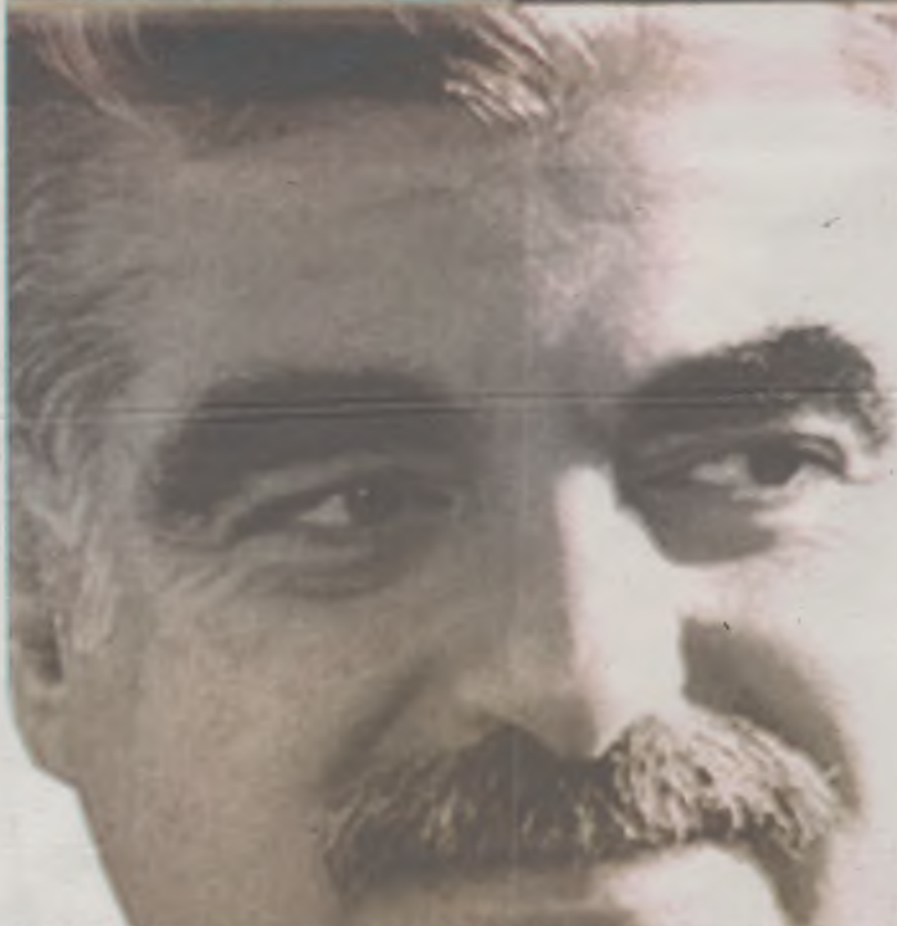
## Fire razes house of ex-Ghana president Rawlings

AN aide to former Ghanaian President Jerry Rawlings says a fire razed his home in the early hours of yesterday. Special aide Kofi Adams said Rawlings was not home at the time of the blaze yesterday, and his wife and one of his daughters escaped unharmed.

The cause of the fire, which began about 4am yesterday, was not immediately known. Adams said the fire destroyed all the personal effects of the former president and his family.

Rawlings, a former coup leader, went on to organize elections in the West African nation in the 1990s. He won two terms, then surprised the world in 2000 when his party lost and he voluntarily stepped down.

## International



LEBANESE Prime Minister Saad Hariri speaks during a rally marking the fifth anniversary of the assassination of his father former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri (below).

## Lebanese mark anniversary of Hariri assassination

TENS of thousands of people gathered in Beirut yesterday to mark the fifth anniversary of the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, whose death touched off Lebanon's "Cedar Revolution" and ushered in the end of Syria's 30-year military domination.

Although turnout was huge, it was estimated to be less than in previous years — perhaps a reflection of the rift within the pro-Western ruling coalition, now headed by the slain Hariri's son, the current prime minister.

"I am here to say Rafik Hariri did not die for nothing," said Zeina al-Sidani, who was carrying a red, white and green Lebanese flag in one hand and a red rose in the other. "We will continue to fight for our independence."

Hariri was killed in a massive truck bombing in Beirut on Valentine's Day 2005, a killing that sparked a cascade of political turmoil in the Middle East. An international tribunal set up to try his killers has yet to identify the perpetrators.

The five-time prime minister had close

ties with Western leaders as well as Syria and was credited with helping rebuild Lebanon's capital after the 1975-1990 civil war. In the last few months before his assassination, however, he had tried to limit Damascus' influence over Lebanon, and many accused Syria of involvement in his killing. Syria denies those accusations.

Hariri's death was followed by the rise of a US- and Saudi-backed alliance that became known as the March 14 coalition, named after a day of massive anti-Syrian protests dubbed the "Cedar Revolution." The demonstrations eventually led to the withdrawal of Syrian troops, ending almost three decades of Syrian domination that was established during Lebanon's civil war.

This year's anniversary comes after Prime Minister Saad Hariri reconciled with neighbouring Syria, whom he has openly accused of killing his father.

The 40-year-old Hariri now heads a unity government that includes Syrian-backed politicians who had been part of the political opposition.

## Israeli harem leader charged with rape, incest

AN Israeli man who kept a cult-like harem of women and fathered dozens of children with them was charged in a Tel Aviv court yesterday with enslavement, rape, incest and other sexual offenses.

The 25-page indictment accused 60-year-old Goel Ratzon of setting himself up as a "godlike" figure who preyed on troubled women while treating them like "chattel."

The case has captivated the Israeli public since Ratzon was arrested last month. Several of the women have come forward with details of their unconventional lives, describing their attraction to the man with

flowing, long white hair.

Ratzon, who remains behind bars, has denied any wrongdoing and said the women joined him voluntarily.

According to the indictment, Ratzon kept at least 21 women who bore him a total of 49 children. It said he kept the women in a state of near-total obedience in crowded apartments in the Tel Aviv area, taking their welfare checks and making them take bank loans

Ratzon created an "image of an omnipotent one who was blessed with supernatural powers and the ability to heal, destroy and cast curses," the indictment said.

## Clinton visits key allies in Persian Gulf

US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton launched a quick visit to two Persian Gulf allies yesterday as part of a broader Obama administration effort to shore up support for taking a tougher stance against Iran's nuclear program.

Her stops in Qatar and in Saudi Arabia coincide with a string of diplomatic and military contacts in the Middle East, including a visit to Egypt Sunday by Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Clinton's top three deputies — James

Steinberg, Jacob Lew and William Burns — will be in the region in coming days, and a Clinton aide said Gen. David Petraeus, chief of U.S. Central Command with responsibility for U.S. military operations across the Middle East, would also be in the region.

She also was holding a one-on-one meeting with Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who was attending the U.S.-Islamic World Forum, which is jointly organized by the Qatari foreign ministry and the U.S. Brookings Institution's Saban Center for Middle East Policy.

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## International

### NATO rockets miss target, kill 12 Afghan civilians

TWELVE Afghans died yesterday when two rockets fired at insurgents missed their target and struck a house during the second

day of NATO's most ambitious effort yet to break the militants' grip on the country's dangerous south.

Thousands of NATO and Afghan troops encountered pockets of resistance, fighting off sniper attacks, as they moved deeper into Marjah, a town of 80,000 people that is the linchpin of the militants' logistical and opium-smuggling network in Helmand province.

Marines and Afghan troops used metal detectors and sniffer dogs, searching compound to compound for explosives rigged to explode. Blasts from controlled detonations could be heard about every 10 minutes north of Marjah.

Afghan and international troops want to secure the area, set up a local government and rush in development aid in what is seen as the first test of the new US strategy for turning the tide of the 8-year-old war.

The civilian deaths were a blow to NATO and the Afghan government's attempts to win the allegiance of Afghans and get them to turn away from the insurgents.

NATO said two rockets from a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System were aimed at insurgents firing on Afghan and NATO forces, but stuck 1,000 feet (300

meters) off their intended target.

"We deeply regret this tragic loss of life," said Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the top commander

in Afghanistan. "The current operation in central Helmand is aimed at restoring security and stability to this vital area of Afghanistan. It's regrettable that in the course of our joint efforts, innocent lives were lost."

McChrystal said he had apologized to Afghan President Hamid Karzai for the accident and had suspended the use of the rocket system until the incident can be reviewed.

Karzai issued a statement minutes earlier saying 10 members of the same family died when the rocket hit a house in Marjah. He ordered an investigation into who fired the rocket. Before the offensive began on Saturday, Karzai pleaded with Afghan and foreign military leaders to be "seriously careful for the safety of civilians." On the first day of the offensive, NATO reported two troop casualties — an American and a Briton. Afghan officials said at least 27 insurgents have been killed in the operation.

The offensive, called "Mosh-tarak," or "Together," is the biggest joint operation since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan, with 15,000 troops involved, including some 7,500 in Marjah itself. Most of the NATO forces taking part are American or British.

### Freed Suu Kyi deputy calls for Myanmar talks

AUNG San Suu Kyi's deputy urged Myanmar's ruling junta yesterday to engage the opposition in dialogue before elections this year, as he took his first steps outside as a free man in seven years.

Tin Oo, 83, vice chairman of Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) party, made the appeal as he prayed at Yangon's famed Shwe Dagon pagoda following his release from house arrest late Saturday. "Because I am a Buddhist I came here to wish for peace for all Myanmar people," he told AFP as he toured the huge golden monument, accompanied by his wife and a dozen NLD officials who held umbrellas to protect him from the sun.

"My feeling now is that I wish to find a way through successful dialogue that the whole country can live unitedly and peacefully."

The veteran activist said however that his own release means nothing if Nobel Peace laureate Suu Kyi, 64, and around 2,100 other political prisoners are still detained when the elections take place. Tin Oo had been held since

2003, when he and Suu Kyi were arrested after a pro-regime mob attacked their motorcade during a political tour, killing 70 people.

He was a former army general and defence minister who was forced into retirement in the 1970s after falling foul of the country's military rulers. He was in trouble again in the 1990s because of his involvement with the NLD.

"How can I be glad (that I am free) when there are so many who have been sentenced to life imprisonment? It is not enough to release me alone," Tin Oo said. He spent around 15 minutes at the pagoda before leaving.

He said on Saturday that the government had warned him not to take actions which could "disturb the building of the state" but that he would continue his political activities and visit the offices of the NLD.

They will be the first polls since 1990, when Suu Kyi and Tin Oo led the NLD to a landslide victory that the junta refused to recognise.

## Chinese Lunar New Year off with a bang

WHEN it comes to putting on a show, China always takes the bull by the horns. But in this case, it's a monkey and a sheep.

The animals were performing as part of the country's Lunar New Year celebrations, marking the beginning of the Year Of The Tiger today.

They were featured in a spectacular show highlighting the skills of animals appearing in the Chinese zodiac which was held in a temple in Beijing.

Hour-long firework displays, glittering processions, traditional displays and historical dances formed just part of the celebrations for the most important event in the Chinese calendar.

Beijing and Shanghai reverberated with chaotic, ad hoc firework displays as midnight approached.

While countries across the world - including the UK, Spain and Malaysia - put on colourful celebrations to welcome the New Year, also known as Spring Festival.

Airports and transport networks overflowed as tens of millions of people headed home to China to be with their families for the start of the holiday.

An estimated 210 million people - more than the population of Russia - are expected to use the railways during the 40-day New Year travel season, up 10 per cent from last year.

The holiday officially lasts six days, but many workers take up to a month off.

Firecrackers are believed to scare off evil spirits and entice the god of wealth to people's doorsteps once New Year's Day arrives.

Police around the country tightened security for the holiday period.

A notice on the Ministry of Public Security website said police would increase checks on fireworks displays, lantern shows and temple fairs.

Last year, an illegal fireworks display at the headquarters of China's state broadcaster in Beijing caused a massive fire at a newly built 44-storey hotel.



ANIMALS performing at a temple in Beijing as part of the New Year celebrations.

## International

### Detained Americans seek distance from adviser

RELATIVES of a group of jailed US missionaries thought a man who volunteered legal assistance — but who may be wanted for human trafficking in El Salvador — was a good Samaritan, a family member said.

Jorge Puello was not known to the missionaries' church group before their arrest for trying to take 33 children out of Haiti, and members failed to check his background, Sean Lankford, the relative who dealt most closely with him, said Saturday.

Lawyers for the missionaries said Puello, who had been a high-profile advocate for the jailed Baptists, deceived their clients and that his legal predicament should have no bearing on whether the missionaries are released provisionally, as a judge has recommended.

"The Puello case has no relation to this one," said Aviol Fleurant, who was hired last week to represent nine of the 10 Americans. "If Puello is wanted in El Salvador, that's another case."

Lankford, whose wife and daughter are among the detained, told The Associated Press that Puello first contacted relatives of the Americans by calling their church, Central Valley Baptist in Meridian, Idaho, after they were arrested on January 29.

They thought Puello, who is Jewish and from the Dominican Republic, was a good Samaritan and had no reason to doubt his intentions, said Lankford.

"He helped us find the lawyer we have now. He helped us gather evidence. Before him, we really were having a hard time finding anyone at all" to represent the missionaries in neighboring Haiti, said Lankford.

Puello never asked for money for himself but "was going to help us to pay the other attorneys. He was the guy who was going to hand money to lawyers," Lankford added in a phone interview Saturday.

"He even took a small plane into Haiti at one point and he didn't want to be reimbursed at all," Lankford said.



JORGE Puello, left, a Dominican legal advisor who was hired by the relatives of the 10 Americans that were arrested while trying to bus children out of Haiti without proper documents or government permission, arrives to the court building in Port-au-Prince.

## act:onaid

### VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT - FINANCE OFFICER, ABUJA

ActionAid Nigeria (AAN) is one of ActionAid Country Programmes around the world. ActionAid is an International Non-Governmental organisation registered in The Netherlands with headquarters in Johannesburg South Africa. ActionAid International works in 50 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas. 22 of these country programmes, affiliates or associates are in Africa and are led by Africans. We have been doing development work on the continent since 1972 and in Nigeria since 1999. ActionAid works with the poor and excluded in Africa, promoting values and commitment in civil society, institutions and governments with the aim of achieving structural changes in order to eradicate injustices and poverty in the world.

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- **Experience**  
At least five (5) years post NYSC experience, three (3) of which should have been spent in a finance position **with** Sound Practical Knowledge of SUN accounting software and Spreadsheets (MS Office in general) **are essential**.  
Experience in working with international development agencies is **desirable**.
- **Skill/Abilities**  
Attention to details; fluency in spoken and written English language; ability to work independently and in a team & highly numerate skills **are essential**.  
Excellent planning and prioritisation skills & strong analytical/problem solving skills **are desirable**.
- **Personal Qualities**  
A well developed and proven interpersonal & organisational management skills; ability to work effectively in a diverse team environment; creative and able to take initiative; ready to work additional hours at crucial times and a high sense of integrity **are essential**.

All interested candidates should fill in the application form as accessed from the application pack on [www.actionaid-nigeria.org](http://www.actionaid-nigeria.org) or <http://www.actionaid.org/pages.aspx?PageID=12&ItemID=187>. The application pack contains the Vacancy announcement, Job Description and Application form.

ActionAid offers competitive terms of employment. **Applications from women are particularly welcome**. Applications are also particularly welcome from candidates living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs).

Closing date for receipt of application forms is **25<sup>th</sup> February 2010**. Only short listed candidates will be contacted. Only electronically completed application forms will be entertained and should be mailed to [vacancy.nigeria@actionaid.org](mailto:vacancy.nigeria@actionaid.org). Applications will **ONLY** be considered if submitted on AAN's Standard Application forms.

## Accused Alabama prof shot, killed brother in 1986

MORE than 23 years before a college professor was accused of shooting six of her colleagues, her teenage brother died from the blast of a shotgun she held in the kitchen of her family's home in Massachusetts.

The 1986 shooting was ruled accidental and no charges were filed against Amy Bishop. The case could get a closer look as authorities try to explain why they believe the Harvard-educated neurobiologist opened fire Friday, killing three.

Bishop, a rare woman suspected of a workplace shooting, had just months left teaching at the University of Alabama in Huntsville because she was denied tenure.

Some, including the husband of one victim and one of her students, have said she was upset after being denied the job-for-life security afforded tenured academics. Authorities have refused to discuss a motive, and school spokesman Ray Garner said the faculty meeting wasn't called to discuss tenure.

It appeared the violent episode in Bishop's past wasn't known to her colleagues in Huntsville.

Bishop shot her brother, Seth, an 18-year-old accomplished violinist, in the chest in 1986, said Paul Frazier, the police chief in Braintree, Mass., where the shooting occurred.

Both William Setzer, chairman of chemistry department at UAH, and university police Chief Chuck Gales said they had not heard about the Massachusetts incident until being asked by reporters Saturday.

The Norfolk County District Attor-

ney's office released a 1987 report with details of their investigation, based on interviews with Amy Bishop and her parents conducted by a state trooper after the shooting. The report concluded Seth Bishop was killed by an "accidental discharge of a firearm."

Amy Bishop told investigators she was trying to learn how to use a shotgun that her father had purchased for protection in the home after a break-in. She said she did not know how to use the weapon and brought it downstairs to the kitchen for help unloading it.

She said she was raising it when "someone said something to her and she turned and the gun went off" while her brother was walking across the kitchen, according to the report.

She then ran out of the house with the weapon. When she talked to investigators 11 days after the shooting, she told them she could only remember hearing her mother scream and she didn't know the gunshot struck her brother until later.

The report by Trooper Brian Howe said Bishop's "highly emotional state" immediately after the shooting made it impossible to question her. The report said she was 19 at the time. Police say she is 42 now, though the university's Web site lists her as 44.

The handling of the case prompted back-and-forth claims from the current Braintree police chief, Frazier, and the former chief, John Polio. Frazier said Polio instructed officers to release Amy Bishop to her mother, who had once served on a police personnel board.

## International

# Stabbing sparks fresh anti-immigration calls in Italy

THE stabbing to death of an Egyptian youth in Milan sparked fresh anti-immigration calls yesterday that were immediately slammed by the left-wing opposition ahead of regional elections in Italy.

Roberto Calderoli, a minister of the anti-immigration Northern League, said the incident "confirmed that we are paying for a mistaken ideology of the past... the policy of open doors for all."

Calderoli, calling for "zero tolerance" towards illegal immigrants, warned of a situation similar to unrest that has plagued French suburbs for years.

Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi shot back to power for a third time in 2008 in coalition with the Northern League, campaigning heavily on an anti-immigration platform that frequently linked immigrants to crime.

The killing blamed on Peruvian and Ecuadorian youths, reportedly after an altercation on a bus, sparked a rampage by around 100 north Africans in a poor suburb of the northern city late Saturday.

The rioters damaged 17 cars including nine that were overturned, and they vandalised five shops, most of them owned by South Americans, the ANSA news agency reported.

The unrest took place in a northeastern section of Milan that is home to many immigrants, most from Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia but also from other South American countries.

Milan's deputy mayor, Riccardo De Corato, from Berlusconi's centre-right People of Freedom party, called the area a "Far West between north African and South American gangs." News reports said four Egyptians suspected of taking part in the rampage were in police custody.

In Cairo, the Egyptian foreign ministry identified the slain youth

as Hamed Mahmoud Abdel Aziz Essayed Abdou.

Defence Minister Ignazio La Russa of the right-wing National Alliance called for "maximum rigour" against illegal immigration. "We will fight it without exaggerating, but without ceding a millimetre," he said on the sidelines of a campaign rally in southern Naples.

La Russa said the unrest in Milan should "make Italians see that the government wants to address this issue but there are some who stubbornly want to put a spanner in the works."

Those who obstruct the government's hard-line immigration policies "by definition favour illegal immigration and evasion of the law," he said.

The opposition Democratic Party's Senate leader Anna Finocchiaro slammed the remarks by Calderoli and La Russa, saying: "You can't resolve issues like immigration with mere propaganda... Milan shows that the right's immigration policies are totally lacking."

Northern League members will run for key governor posts in the neighbouring Piedmont region as well as the northeastern Veneto region in the elections set for the end of March.

Saturday's unrest followed a wave of violence against migrant farm workers in the southern town of Rosarno last month that prompted two UN human rights experts to raise concerns over "growing xenophobia" in Italy.

At a press conference Sunday, police sought to play down the unrest, saying a description of the neighbourhood as a "powderkeg" was inaccurate.

Berlusconi's government "has succeeded in preventing illegal immigrants from entering or leaving for our country," Calderoli said.



POLICEMEN stand guard in Milan.

## Ukraine's Yanukovich pronounced official winner

UKRAINE'S election commission yesterday proclaimed pro-Russian Victor Yanukovich the official winner of the presidential poll, even as his rival Yulia Tymoshenko vowed to contest the results in court.

"The central election commission declares Victor Yanukovich elected as the president of Ukraine," chairman Volodymyr Shapoval announced to applause

in the commission's meeting hall.

The final results do not differ from preliminary figures announced on Wednesday.

Yanukovich had 48.95 percent of the vote, compared to Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's 45.47 percent, and 4.36 percent of ballots were cast "against all" in a sign of disillusionment five years after the Orange Revolution.

According to Ukrainian law

the inauguration of a new president must be held within 30 days of the official announcement of results.

Meanwhile Tymoshenko insists she has not been defeated and hopes to contest the final results in the supreme administrative court.

"We are certainly going to contest. The statement of claim will be given.

## UK lawmaker fired for anti-Israel comments

A British lawmaker was fired from her job as her party's health spokeswoman after she said that there should be a probe into claims that Israeli relief workers were harvesting organs in Haiti.

Liberal Democrat leader Nick Clegg said Jenny Tonge was dismissed from the role for her "unacceptable" comments. Tonge told the Jewish Chronicle earlier this week that the Israeli Defense Force should set up an inquiry into claims made in The Palestinian Telegraph, a news Web site, that members of the team were harvesting body parts in the aftermath of the Haiti earthquake. Clegg said that Tonge's comments were "wrong, distasteful and provocative" and that the allegations against the Israeli humanitarian operation in Haiti were "highly offensive."

"While I do not believe that Jenny Tonge is anti-Semitic or racist, I regard her comments as wholly unacceptable," he said. He said Tonge apologized unreservedly for the offense she caused.



FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION, ABUJA.  
Office of the Minister, FCT.



**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Federal Executive Council has approved the revised guidelines for the Mass Housing Programme of the FCTA. Interested Stakeholders are hereby invited to avail themselves of the following detailed Guidelines for their information and strict compliance please.

**FORWARD**

The Federal Capital Territory Administration through the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) desires to ensure provision of adequate and functional housing for the benefit of the teeming citizens residing within the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

This aspiration though enormous, is achievable if the intention to partner with the Private Sector who are the prime movers and government (i.e. FCT Administration) acting as driving force is appreciated by all as the best way to achieving the housing needs of our citizens.

The FCT Administration in providing avenues for the realisation of the stated housing development objectives is making available to prospective housing developers from both Public and Private Sectors land areas within the FCC and the Satellite towns for construction of housing units. The developers are in turn required to develop the housing units along with secondary/tertiary infrastructure in their areas of allocation and for such development to conform to the general standard/specifications as set down by the FCDA. The primary infrastructure remains the responsibility of the FCDA. The houses, when fully developed are to be sold to interested citizens by the developers who would forward the names of successful buyers to be registered and issued with the appropriate land titles by the FCT Administration.

The resolve is for all to partner with the FCTA directly or indirectly in helping to accomplish the Federal Government desire as in the 7-Point agenda of the provision of adequate housing to citizens towards realising the housing sector requirements in the year 2015. Ours is however to be done with the knowledge that conformity with the Abuja Master Plan will not only make housing development achievable but would also ensure that they are indeed functional and safe.

Engr. M. S. Alhassan, MFR, FNSE  
Executive Secretary, FCDA.

**SECTION ONE**  
**AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The Mass Housing Scheme in the FCT was initiated in year 2000 to provide adequate and affordable housing accommodation for the growing population in the Territory.

The Scheme is to be realised through the Public Private Partnership Policy of the Federal Government. Under the policy, the FCT will provide the land and the required primary infrastructure to the housing development sites while the developers provide the houses and tertiary infrastructure according to the approved specifications of the FCT Authority.

The developer, at the end of the development, will sell the houses to individuals and forward their names to the FCT Authority for registration and issuance of title documents including Certificate of Occupancy (C-of-O). The Lease Agreement between such developer and the FCDA at this stage is deemed to have expired.

**SECTION TWO**  
**PREAMBLES TO GUIDELINES**

These guidelines are designed to provide a standard procedure for access to land for Housing Development (land for Mass Housing or Comprehensive Housing development) within the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

The Guidelines are to be used in conjunction with other manuals and standards applicable in the Federal Capital Territory which include:

- i. Abuja Development Control Manual.
- ii. Guidelines for Final Engineering Design of Infrastructure for the Federal Capital City (FCC)
- iii. Guidelines for Final Design of Engineering Infrastructure for Satellite Towns in the FCT.

**SECTION THREE**  
**PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

The conditions which a prospective Housing Developer is expected to satisfy before the FCT Authority can consider an application for Housing development in the FCT include:-

**3.1 Assessment Fee**

The Applicant shall pay an assessment fee of ₦250,000.00 (Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira) and will be issued with the following manuals:-

- i. Guidelines for Housing Development in Federal Capital Territory;
- ii. Abuja Development Control Manual;
- iii. Guidelines for Final Design of Engineering Infrastructure for Federal Capital City and Satellite Towns.

**3.2 Legal Requirements**

- i. Applicant shall be a corporate body duly registered in Nigeria or corporate bodies established by Law;
- ii. Applicant shall be free from all legal impediments;
- iii. Applicant shall submit application on FCT specified forms for the purpose;
- iv. Applicant shall submit certified True Copies of the following documents:-
  - a. Certificate of Incorporation;
  - b. Memorandum and Articles of Association, Form C07 and C02;
  - c. Three year Tax Clearance Certificate;
  - d. Three Years Company Audited Accounts.
- v. Corporate bodies established by law shall, instead of (iv) above, submit copies of the statute creating them.
- vi. Applicant shall also produce a sworn affidavit on commitment to develop, in accordance with the laid down guidelines and within stipulated time limit.

**3.3 Technical Staff Requirements**

An applicant shall submit the names and credentials of his key staff especially the Technical staff to be deployed on the site. Such key Technical staff who must be registered members of their professional bodies with not less than six (6) years cognate experience each on similar projects shall include:-

- i. An Architect
- ii. A Builder
- iii. A Civil/Structural Engineer

Continued on next page...

Page 1...

Continued from the previous page...

- iv. An Electrical Engineer
- v. A Planner
- vi. A Quantity Surveyor
- vii. A Land Surveyor

**3.4 Financial Requirements**

These are to provide insight into the financial viability of the applicant at the on set of application, and hence his capability to perform and deliver the project on time. The applicant shall submit the following:-

- i. Project Feasibility study report.
- ii. Project financial forecast and cash flow projections.
- iii. Evidence of source(s) of project finance:-
  - a. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Developer and Project Financiers, or
  - b. Evidence of self-financing ability.

**3.5 Development Proposals**

The Preliminary concepts for the proposed project based on the developers hypothetical layout to be submitted are as follows:-

- i. Conceptual Layout plan of proposed development;
- ii. Preliminary Architectural Drawings;
- iii. Preliminary Engineering Drawings.

**SECTION FOUR**

**LAND APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND OTHER PROCESSES.**

After fulfilling the legal and financial requirements to qualify for consideration as a prospective Housing Developer, an applicant may be recommended for approval to participate in any of the Housing Schemes. The applicant will then proceed with land application procedure, by fulfilling the following requirements.

**4.1 Land Application Fee**

Applicant shall pay a non refundable processing fee for the required land size as stipulated hereunder or as may, from time to time be stipulated by the Authority:-

- i. Estate/Comprehensive Housing Development (FCC)
  - a. Large Scale Development (6 - 10) Ha = ₦10, 000,000.00
  - b. Medium Scale Development (3 - 5) Ha = ₦5, 000,000.00
  - c. Small Scale Development (1 - 2) Ha = ₦3, 000,000.00
- ii. Mass Housing Development ( Satellite Towns)
  - a. Large Scale Development (11 - 20) Ha = ₦5, 000,000.00
  - b. Medium Scale Development (6 -10) Ha = ₦3, 000,000.00
  - c. Small Scale Development (2 - 5) Ha = ₦2, 000,000.00

**4.2 Technical Requirements**

Housing Developer to whom land is allocated shall satisfy the following technical requirements before a Leasehold Agreement is signed between the FCDA and the developer.

**4.2.1 Planning Requirements**

A developer shall submit to FCDA the following planning documents in appropriate scales and conforming with FCT standards as outlined by the Development Control Manual. These would be scrutinized for consideration and approval by the Department of Mass Housing.

- i. Site appraisal.
- ii. Topographical maps of the plot
- iii. Proposed land use plan.
- iv. Density distribution plan.
- v. Detailed site development plan.
- vi. Building coverage / block layout plan.
- vii. Planning report/ environmental impact assessment/ analysis.

**4.2.2 Architectural Requirements**

The following architectural drawings are to be submitted to FCDA (in appropriate scales) to conform with Development Control Manual for FCT standards for consideration and approval.

- i. Building plans of house types.
- ii. Elevations and Sections.
- iii. Structural designs of building types.
- iv. Services (Mechanical and Electrical) design for building types.
- v. Blocks models (where applicable).

**4.2.3 Engineering Requirements**

A developer shall submit engineering infrastructural design in accordance with the Guidelines issued by the FCDA for consideration and approval.

- i. Design of roads networks, culverts and bridges shall conform with the Federal Capital City (FCC) /Satellite Towns standards of road with right of way as shown below.

Road Type	Right of Way	
	Federal Capital City (m)	Satellite Towns (m)
Arterial Roads type 1 (6 Lanes)	55	-
Arterial Roads type 2 (4 Lanes)	48	45
Collector Roads	42	30
Special Important Local Streets	30	20
Important Local Streets	25	-
Local Streets	21	17
Minor Access Road	15	12

- ii. The infrastructure design should include the following:-
  - a. Water supply network;
  - b. Wastewater (foul sewer) network;
  - c. Storm water drainage network;
  - d. Electrical power supply/distribution network;
  - e. Telecommunication duct and network.

**4.3 Project Cost Estimates**

The developer shall submit the following documents for the approval of the Authority:-

- i. Cost of Building.
- ii. Cost of Secondary and Tertiary Engineering Infrastructure.
- iii. Based on (i) & (ii) above, proposed selling prices of the housing units.
- iv. Completion period not exceeding 36 months from date of handing over site.
- v. Performance bond in the sum of 2.5% of project cost from a reputable bank in Nigeria.

**SECTION FIVE**

**PROCEDURE FOR STAGE APPROVALS OF ALL WORKS**

A participant for the FCT Housing Development Schemes shall abide by the following procedures to commence and/or proceed with the required stage implementation. Failure to comply would attract appropriate sanctions applicable in these Guidelines and other FCT rules and regulations guiding the operation of Housing Development Schemes.

Continued from the previous page...

The stage implementation procedures are:-

- (i) Submission, for approval, by every developer to the appropriate FCT authority of a Preliminary Land Use Plan for the allocated land area that should conform to the general Land use by the Abuja Master Plan;
- (ii) Submission, for approval, the Preliminary Engineering Infrastructure design for all engineering services within the allocated area namely - Roads, Water supply network; Sewage network; drainage network, electricity supply network, etc;
- (iii) Submission, for approval, the final Engineering Design and work plan for realisation of all works leading to achievement of at least all road works up to sub-grade level;
- (iv) Obtaining approval for setting out for road works that allow for roads to attain at least sub-grade level before commencing any building works. This is to ensure that all buildings are done to take care of levels requirements;
- (v) Obtaining approval for commencement of buildings in line with approved hierarchy, setting out/construction works, to follow the Development Control subsequent stage approvals for all building works;
- (vi) Ensuring that engineering services achieve completion levels concurrently with the building works.

#### **SECTION SIX IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE**

This is aimed at ensuring that houses and engineering infrastructure are constructed according to the approved designs and drawings.

- i. Developers shall submit detailed programme of work along with fund projections for each stage of the development for consideration and approval before commencement of site activities.
- ii. Developers shall mobilize on site within six (6) months of signing the Leasehold Agreement. Leasehold is for three (3) year duration.
- iii. Development shall be completed within the three (3) year period of the Leasehold.
- iv. Thirty percent (30%) completion of the project should be achieved by the developer within the first year of the leasehold.
- v. Developers shall substantially have completed not less than 40% of the approved secondary and tertiary infrastructure within their respective estates before commencement of building construction.
- vi. The developer shall plant trees in the estate in accordance with the requirements of Department of Parks and Recreation.

#### **SECTION SEVEN SUPERVISION OF WORKS**

Developers shall be fully responsible for the supervision of construction activities at their sites. In this respect, the developer and his Technical Team shall be held responsible for the quality of the houses and infrastructure being provided.

The Technical Team's key members as specified in Section 3.3 shall be registered with their respective regulatory and professional bodies. The Heads of the various professions who shall each have not less than 6 years cognate experience on similar projects include:-

- i. An Architect

- ii. A Builder
- iii. A Civil/Structural Engineer
- iv. An Electrical Engineer
- v. A Planner
- vi. A Quantity Surveyor
- vii. A Land Surveyor

#### **SECTION EIGHT FCDA RESPONSIBILITY**

This section deals with the FCDA responsibility to the Estate/Mass Housing Scheme:-

- i. FCDA shall provide primary infrastructures to the Estate/Mass Housing sites;
- ii. FCDA reserve the right to allocate land within the Estate/Mass Housing sites for development of public facilities such as Hospitals, Schools, Police Stations, Fire Stations, Shopping Centres, Cemeteries, Places of Worship etc;
- iii. FCDA officials are to be fully responsible for oversight supervision and monitoring of the activities at Estate/Mass Housing sites so that approved standards are strictly adhered to by the developers.

#### **SECTION NINE SANCTIONS**

A Developer shall be sanctioned for either non-performance or non-compliance with approved standards rules, regulations and conditions. Similarly, sanctions shall be brought to bear on FCDA Officials who compromise their position in this regard.

- i. Sanction against a developer shall be:-
  - a. Stop work order for non conformity with approved standards and master plan provisions.
  - b. Removal of structures not in accordance with approved designs and payment for the cost of removal using the Performance Bond.
  - c. Revocation of leasehold for non-performance and or non-compliance with the approved standards.
  - d. Reporting the Heads of Technical Teams to their respective professional bodies for further disciplinary action.
  - e. Insistence upon removal/replacement of developers staff that are deemed unqualified as per specifications by the guidelines.
- ii. Sanctions against FCDA Officials shall be in accordance with public service rules and regulations.

#### **SECTION TEN MANAGEMENT OF ESTATE AFTER COMPLETION**

A Developer shall maintain the infrastructure in his estate until completion of development and complete sell-out of the houses.

At this stage, the Lease Agreement would have expired and the ownership of the land reverts to the FCDA.

FCDA shall maintain the services through its Agencies such as the FCT Water Board, AEPB, Department of Facility Management etc. as is now the case in the developed districts.

Signed:

**Department of Mass Housing  
Federal Capital Development Authority, Abuja.**



## FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & WATER RESOURCES

Area 11, P. M. B. 135 Garki - Abuja

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### SUPPLY OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE TO NATIONAL FOOD RESERVE AGENCY AMENDMENT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF 2009/2010 GUARANTEED MINIMUM PRICE

##### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Federal Government started the implementation of the Guaranteed Minimum Price (GMP) scheme in the 2008/2009 farming season to improve the farmers' income and boost Agricultural production, thereby ensuring Food Security. The GMP scheme replaced the erstwhile Buyer of Last Resort as prices are announced early, usually before the planting season and funds are made available to mop up the excess produce.

##### 2. OBJECTIVE OF GMP

The GMP is a price support mechanism that will ensure farmers obtain fair prices for their produce. It is a pre-determined remunerative price the farmer will get for a given unit measure of his produce. An effective GMP keeps the farmer in business, guarantee them an improve income and increases their productivity in a manner that will ensure food security and guaranteed market for his produce.

##### 3. IMPLEMENTATION

For the 2009/2010 Agricultural season contracts have already been awarded to 23 Licensed Buying Agents to procure produce from farmers. The government is desirous that the benefit of the GMP reach as many farmers as possible and have therefore enlarged the scope to give opportunity to the following:

- Any farmer, farmers' group, or organization with stock of any of the following agricultural produce (Maize, sorghum, millet, paddy rice, soybeans, cassava flour and gari) should contact The Director, Food Reserve and Storage (FR&S), 3rd Floor NAIC House, Plot 590 Zone AO, Central Area Abuja.
- The stock will be inspected/verified for type, quantity and quality by officials of the National Food Reserve Agency;
- After inspection/verification, approved suppliers will be given authority/permit to supply specified quantity to a designated storage facility;
- The supplied commodity will be subjected to another screening at the storage facility and Store Receive Voucher (SR V) will be issued before payment is effected.

##### 4. The approved Guaranteed Minimum Price (GMP) for the various food commodities are as follows:

Maize	-	₦45,000/mt
Sorghum	-	₦41,000/mt
Millet	-	₦41,000/mt
Soybeans	-	₦56,000/mt
Paddy rice	-	₦60,000/mt
Gari	-	₦75,000/mt

While the approved silo locations of deliveries are: **Minna, Ilorin, Ibadan, Akure, Makurdi, Irrua and Ogoja.**

##### 5. For more information, please contact the following numbers:

09-4804709  
080-33118777

Signed:  
Permanent Secretary  
Federal Ministry of Agriculture  
And Water Resources

**DIRECTORATE OF NAVAL EDUCATION**  
**1-3 MOLONEY STREET, LAGOS**  
[www.nnedu.org](http://www.nnedu.org)



**ADMISSION! ADMISSION!! ADMISSION!!!**

**ENTRANCE EXAMINATION INTO  
 BASIC7 (JSS1) FOR THE YEAR  
 2010/2011 ACADEMIC SESSION**

**ENTRANCE EXAM DATE: SAT 24, APRIL 2010.**

**TIME: 11:00AM**

**VENUE: ALL DESIGNATED CENTRES**

Registration forms to all Nigerian Navy Secondary School Basic 7(JSS1) 2010/2011 academic session can be purchased for ₦1,000.00 only in all Nigeria Navy Secondary & Primary Schools, Anns Barracks, Yaba Lagos, Naval Unit, Abuja and at Naval Wing NDA.

Forms are also available at the State Government Offices across the Country.

Past Entrance Exam Question Papers are also available in limited quantities for interested candidates at ₦250.00 only.

Completed Forms must get to the Directorate of Naval Education latest 1<sup>ST</sup> April 2010

The list of designated Exam Centres are available on the Form & our website [www.nnedu.org](http://www.nnedu.org).

**KADUNA STATE FADAMA COORDINATION OFFICE,  
 OF KADUNA STATE AGRICULTURAL  
 DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**



**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST ON ADVISORY SERVICES,  
 INPUT SUPPLY AND CAPACITY BUILDING**

Country : Nigeria  
 State/Beneficiary : Kaduna State  
 Name of Project : National Fadama III Project (NFDP)  
 Credit No : 04494-UNI  
 Project No : P096572

The Federal Republic of Nigeria has received credit from IDA-WB towards the cost of implementation of the 3rd National Fadama Development Project (NFDP-III) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for Advisory Services, Capacity Building and Asset Acquisition. The goal is to enable Fadama User Groups participating in the Project to adopt productivity enhancing techniques and appropriate marketing practices in order to overcome major constraints on increased productivity of their Fadama enterprises and increased income. This will be achieved through demand responsive advisory services to be provided by a wide range of private and public service providers.

The following are envisaged under the Project:

- 1 A. Advisory Services Activities
- B. Input and Asset Provision
- C. Small Owned Rural Infrastructure

A. The Advisory Services requirements in Fadama communities shall include (but not limited to) the following fields:

**Crops**  
 Horticultural and fruit trees production  
 Food and commercial crop-production  
 Commercial seeds production  
 Crop protection /integrated pests management (IPM)

**Livestock/Vets**  
 Animal Health and Husbandry  
 Feeds and Feeding  
 Fish production  
 Fingerlings production  
 Fish feeds production  
 Poultry/Poultry feeds production  
 Poultry Health Management  
 Bee-keeping

**Water/Soil Management**  
 Soil and water conservation  
 Erosion/Erosion control  
 Soil fertility management  
 Irrigation/irrigation agronomy  
 Fertilizers and fertilizer application

**Crop-Processing and Marketing**  
 Crop-processing  
 Crop-storage  
 Agricultural marketing  
 Procurement services  
 Savings and credits  
 Business management, record keeping/simple accounting

**Others**  
 Management and leadership for groups and associations  
 Building and construction works

B. **Input and Asset Provision such as:**  
**Crop Production**  
 i. Seed and seedlings  
 ii. Fertilizer and manual  
 iii. Agro-chemicals (Crop protection and animal health)

**Livestock Production**  
 i. Foundation stock (day old chicks, winners and calves etc)  
 ii. Feeds  
 iii. Drugs

**Pastoralist**  
 i. Pastors seeds  
 ii. Fertilizer and manual

**Fisher folks**  
 i. Fingerlings  
 ii. Feeds  
 iii. Fertilizer including lime  
 iv. Drugs

**Forestry (e.g bee-keeping, snaring etc)**  
 i. Parent stock  
 ii. Feed and Drugs

C. **Productive/Pilot Asset Acquisition such as:**  
 i. Water lifting and distribution equipment  
 ii. Agro-processing equipment/machinery  
 iii. Equipment for small holder fishing, livestock, diary production, bee-keeping and mixed farming.  
 iv. Irrigation and drainage infrastructure (e.g well, small dams, pond, surface water management systems)  
 v. Improved storage, preservation and conservation infrastructure(e.g handling, storage, preservation/conservation facilities, collection centers (etc).  
 vi. Other non-farm income generation activities.

D. **Small Owned Productive Infrastructure Investment:**  
 i. Low-cost rehabilitation and/or construction of feeder and for Fadama access roads culverts and small rural markets.  
 ii. Infrastructure for sustainable natural resources management, including improved conservation of soils and agronomic practice, and water harvesting techniques.

**Service Providers for Capacity Building on:-**  
 i. Business management, Record keeping in accounting  
 ii. Management and leadership for groups and associations  
 iii. Saving and credit  
 iv. Nutritional health  
 v. Participatory M&E  
 vi. Conflict management  
 vii. Others

The selection of Advisory Service Providers (ASPs) for the Project will be carried out by the Kaduna State Fadama Coordination Office and only selected ASPs may bid for Advisory Services Activities contracts, under the Project in the Fadama Communities.

The Kaduna State Fadama Coordination Office now invites sealed 'Expression of Interest' from interest firms, Persons, NGOs or Public Agencies. The **Expression of Interest** is required to state clearly the field of interest and the qualification for such role(s) attaching photocopies of documentary evidences. Prospective ASPs may be required to show original copies of submitted documents in the selection process.

Interested firms, Persons, NGOs or Public Agencies should submit their Expression of Interest in sealed envelop marked Expression of Interest for any of the following areas:

- A. Advisory Services
- B. Input & Asset Provision
- C. Small owned Rural Infrastructure
- D. Capacity Building

To the Project Coordinator, at the address below:  
**Kaduna State Fadama Coordination Office,**  
 C/o Kaduna State Agricultural Development Project,  
 11 Race Course Road Opp. Murtala Mohammed Square,  
 Kaduna

# BUSINESS

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MANAGING Director and Chief Executive, NEXIM Bank, Mr. Orya Ungwaga Robert (L) and President, ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development, Christian Adovalande at a press briefing on Nigeria's Green Economy Through the Grow Your Energy Initiative, held in Abuja Friday.

PIC: KENNEDY EGBONODJE

**BRIEF**

## Customs intercepts contraband worth N2bn

By Sunday Williams & Yunus Abdulhamid

THE monitoring and quick response team of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) has recorded spectacular seizures worth N2.04 billion in one month of heightened anti-smuggling operations.

Speaking on the success of his team, Patrol leader, Assistant Comptroller Hassan Shallangwa said that the feat was made possible by the continuous support and determination of the Comptroller-General of Customs, Alhaji Abdullahi Dikko Inde to ensure compliance with all import and export regulations.

A statement issued by the Customs Spokesman Joseph Attah quoted Shallangwa to have expressed disappointment over the attitude of some border dwellers that support smugglers against Customs officers.

He called on border dwellers to see Customs officers as friends as they work to secure the economic and security well-being of the Nation.

Items seized include 2 X 40ft container loaded with second hand clothes, 1 X 40ft container with new motor parts, furniture, perfume and garments concealed with used motor cycles.

Others were 1 X 40ft container new mini truck tyres concealed with used vehicles, eight cars loaded with assorted textile materials, four units of second hand cars, 4 X 40ft container fully loaded with high quality furniture, four LT busses and two cars loaded with frozen poultry.

Attah said the frozen foods were destroyed in the presence of other Statutory Agencies like NAFDAC, Police and State Security Service (SSS).

# FG, States, LGs share N330bn

By Idris Ahmed

FEDERAL, state and local governments at the weekend shared N329.706 billion from the Federation Account for the month of January as against N370.312 billion distributed in December 2009.

The amount was made up of statutory revenue of N283.532 billion and Value Added Tax of N46.173 billion.

There was no augmentation for the month because the 2010 budget is yet to be approved, the Accountant General of the Federation Ibrahim Hassan Dankwambo said in a communiqué issued after the Federation Account Allocation Committee (FAAC) meeting in Abuja.

Out of the statutory allocation of N283.532 billion, federal government received N134.649 billion, states

N68.296 billion and local government councils N52.653 billion.

The remaining N27.9 billion was reserved for the mineral producing states as 13 percent derivation.

From the N46.174 billion VAT for the month, federal government got N6.926 billion, states N23 billion and local government councils N16.1 billion.

Last week, Acting President Jonathan Goodluck approved \$2 billion from the Excess Crude Account to be shared by the three tiers of government. This was not captured in the January sharing. When shared, the account will have a balance of \$4.2 billion.

Minister of State for Finance Remi Babalola said at the FAAC meeting that all levels of government should look beyond revenue from the Federation Account and

generate revenue from other sources.

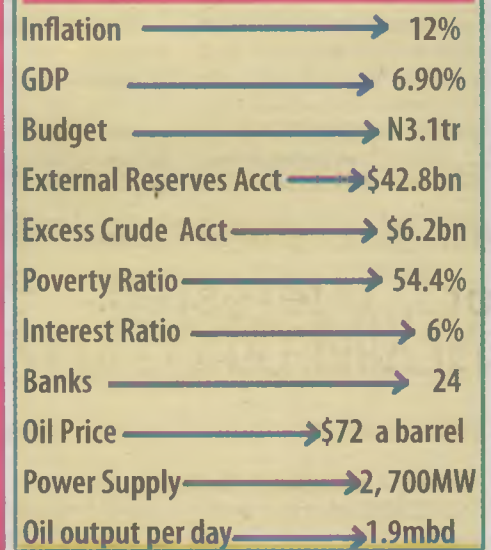
"As economic managers and leaders we must relentlessly – but not recklessly – pursue opportunities. We must strive to look beyond the resources currently available from the Federation Account and endeavour to harness other resources available in our various sub-economies", he said.

He said the current economic challenges cannot be fixed by spending more money on projects that do not have direct economic bearing on wealth creation.

He acknowledged that despite slight growth in the economy, "more than half of our populace are living below poverty level by any internationally acceptable standards."

He said reducing this level of poverty remains government challenge.

## Trust Index



CBN EXCHANGE RATES			
	Buying(NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)
CFA	0.2897	0.2997	0.3097
DANISH KRONER	26.8799	26.971	27.062
EURO	200.1899	200.8681	201.5462
POUNDS STERLING	230.5512	231.3322	232.1132
RIYAL	39.36	39.4934	39.6267
SDR	226.2265	226.9929	227.7592
SWISS FRANC	136.5655	137.0281	137.4907
US DOLLAR	147.6	148.1	148.6
WAUA	226.801	227.5693	228.3376
YEN	1.6378	1.6434	1.6489

BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES	
BUYING	
DOLLAR.....	N151
EURO.....	N208
POUNDS.....	N243
SELLING	
DOLLAR.....	N153
EURO.....	N210
POUNDS.....	N246

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

Stock Market Index	
Date:	Friday, February 12, 2010
Index:	22,967.26
Deals:	6,927
Volume:	296,985,714
Value:	N 2,262,699,124.29
Cap.:	N 5,531,722,283,118.26

## Business

# Experts call for Nuclear Academy

By Fidelis Mac-Leva

IN order to successfully achieve the set objectives of the National Nuclear Power Programme (NNPP) of the federal government, atomic energy experts have called for the setting up of a Nuclear Academy in the country.

The proposed Nuclear Academy, according to the experts who rose from a recent national workshop organized by the Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission (NAERC), the project should be funded by the government in collaboration with industries and tertiary institutions.

When established, the Nuclear Academy would undertake the training of scientists in Nuclear Science and Engineering. The scientists would form the nucleus that would drive the National Nuclear Power Programme, the experts stated in a communiqué.

Experts at the four day workshop included leading professionals, senior academics, researchers and core

stakeholder institutions across the country.

Participants were also drawn from the Sheda Science and Technology Complex (SHESTCO), Nigeria Nuclear Regulatory Authority (NNRA), Energy Commission of Nigeria (ECN) as well as the National Environmental Standards Regulation and Enforcement Agency (NES-REA).

The workshop commended the endorsement of the national nuclear roadmap for the development of nuclear plants for electricity generation in the country.

NERC was enjoined to map out and analyse the existing manpower in the industry thereby setting up modalities for the involvement of scientists and engineers in the Diaspora.

As part of the strategic plan for the implementation of the National Nuclear Programme, the NAEC recently recruited forty young scientists who are currently undergoing a three-month intensive training program in nuclear science and engineering at the Obafemi Awolowo University [OAU] Ile-Ife.

## European Bank partners Nigeria on power supply

By Fidelis Mac-Leva

THE European Investment Bank (EIB) has expressed its willingness to collaborate with the federal government on ways of improving power supply in the country.

EIB Vice President Mr. Plutarchos Sakellaris made this known when he led a seven-man delegation on a courtesy visit to the Power Minister Lanre Babalola, last week in Abuja.

He pledged to help finance power projects in Nigeria on public private partnership basis.

He said: "EIB is a big investment Bank in Europe with a lot of expertise and experience and we are interested in co-financing projects in Nigeria."

Minister of Power Babalola, who received the delegation, stressed the need for private sector financing

of bankable public sector power projects in generation, transmission and distribution.

"There has to be a substantial build up of power supply to about 30,000MW in the long term in order for Nigeria to achieve Vision 2020", he said.

Speaking on Nigeria's Power Reforms the Minister said measures aimed at addressing the challenges of the sector were articulated in the Electric Sector Power Reform Act-ESPR Act 2005, pointing out that the regulatory framework is flexible and lends itself to review.

He said federal government was committed to ensuring commercial viability of the 18 Successor Companies of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN).

"Efforts are also being intensified to create a



RILWANU Olarewaju Babalola, Minister of Power

conducive atmosphere for investors in Nigeria," the Minister said, adding that "Our goal in the medium term is to complete the National Integrated Power Projects (NIPP)." Minister of State

for Power Nuhu Way enjoined the EIB to consider investing in renewable energy sources such as solar and wind, especially for off grid generation in rural communities.

## NEXIM, others to work on renewable energy

By Idris Ahmed

NIGERIAN Export - Import Bank (NEXIM) said at the weekend it will partner with other interest groups to develop renewable energy in the country.

Its Managing Director Orya Roberts told newsmen in Abuja that the bank will partner with ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) and African Export Import Bank (AFREXIM) to reduce Nigeria's carbon footprint.

He said NEXIM would also engage with African Biofuels and Renewable

Energy Fund (ABREF) and Global Biofuels Limited to create Nigeria's first clean and renewable energy project tagged "grow your energy."

Roberts said the need for the development of renewable energy is to reduce the effects of climate change induced by global warming. He said, "the devastating effects of climate change in Nigeria are at present unquantifiable."

He said desert encroachment in the northern part of the country has displaced over 15 million people. He also said that about 500 communities in the South Eastern Nigeria may be

displaced by gully erosion if urgent action is not taken.

He said that NEXIM and its partners would support hydro power energy generation, solar energy generation, thermal energy generation, biofuels and biomass energy production, wind power energy, energy efficiency and geothermal energy production.

The intervention by NEXIM and its partners, Roberts said will bring about diversification of the economy, savings on fuel subsidy and commercialization of agriculture, among others.

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE



#### Arik Air

PH-Abuja: 08.45, 1212.50, 17.00 (Mon-Fri), 08.45, 17.30 (Sat), 14.40, 17.30 (Sun);  
 Abuja-PH: 07.15, 11.20, 15.30 (Mon-Fri), 07.15, 16.00 (Sat) 14.40, 17.30 (Sun);  
 Lagos-Kano: 12.20pm (Mon-Fri/Sun); Kano-Lagos: 02.35pm (Mon-Fri/Sun);  
 Abuja-Kano: 03:35pm (Mon-Fri/Sun); Kano-Abuja: 05:20pm (Mon-Fri/Sun);  
 Abuja-Gombe: 11:10am (Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun); Gombe-Abuja: 12.30pm (Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun); Lagos-Yola:  
 Lag-Abj 04:50pm, via Abj-Yola 06:45pm (Mon-Fri/Sun); Yola-Lagos:  
 Yola-Abj 08:40am, Abj-Lagos 10:20am (Mon-Fri/Sat); Lagos-Maid:  
 Lag-Abj 03:50pm, via Abj-Maid 06:00pm (Mon-Fri/Sun); Maid-Lagos:  
 Miud-Abj 07:30am, via Abj-Lag 09:15am (Mon/Fri/Sat); Abuja-Sokoto:  
 11:10am (Mon-Fri); Sokoto-Abuja: 12:50pm (Mon-Fri)  
 Abuja-Akure 02:10pm (Mon, Wed and Fri); Akure-Abuja: 08:50am (Mon, Wed and Fri); Lagos-Kwara: 07:30am, (Mon-Fri) 07.30, 03:50pm Sat 08:00am, 11:45am Sun; Kwara-Lagos: 4:10pm (Mon-Fri), 01:10pm, 05:30pm Sat 09:45am, 05:00pm Sun  
 Abuja-Kwara: 03:25pm (Mon-Fri); Kwara-Abuja 01.30pm (Mon-Fri);  
 Lagos-Jos: 09:05am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); Jos-Lagos: 11.00am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)  
 ABV-QOW 02:30pm (Mon-Fri), 11:30am Sat 03:20pm Sun; Lagos-Kaduna: 10:20am, 04:10pm (Mon-Fri), 10.20 (Sat/Sun); Kaduna-Lagos: 12:10pm, 06:00pm (Mon-Fri), 12.10 (Sat/Sun); Lagos-Warr: 07:30am (Mon-Fri) 07:30am, 03:50pm (Sat), 08:00am, and 11:45am (Sun)

#### Aero Contractors

Lagos-Kad: 08.00am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)  
 Kad-Lagos: 09.40am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)  
 Lagos-Jos: 11.15am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)  
 Jos-Lagos: 13.15pm (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)  
 Lagos-Abj: 06.50; 13.30; 16.30; 19.45 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); 12.30 (Sun) 16.45 (Sat). Abj-Lagos: 07.30; 13.30; 19.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat); 10.30, 14.30; 19.30 (Sun) 18.30 (Sat); Lagos-Ben: 07:45; 11:00; 15.30; (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun) 12.30; (Sun); 15.30 (Sat).  
 Ben-Lagos: 09.15; 12.30; 17.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); 17.00 (Sat); 14.00 (Sun); Lagos-Cala: 13.15; (Mon-Fri/Sat); 08.30; 19.00 (Sun); Cala-Lagos: 14.45; (Mon-Fri/Sat); 10.30 (Sun); Lagos-Enu: 09.30; (Mon-Fri/Sat); 15.00 (Sun); Enu-Lagos: 09.30; (Mon-Fri/Sat) 16.45 (Sun)

#### Chanchangi Airlines

Lagos-Abj: 07.15, 10.00, 13.10, 15.30, 17.30  
 Abj-Lagos: 08.00, 11.45, 13.40, 15.30, 17.00  
 Lagos-Kad: 10.45, (on Fri), 17.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)  
 Kad-Lagos: 07.30 (Mon-Fri), 08.00 (Sat/Sun)  
 Nigerian Eagles Airlines (Virgin Nigeria)  
 Abj-Kano: 18.40 (Mon-Fri)/Sun  
 Kano-Abj: 08.35 (Mon-Fri) /Sat  
 Abj-Soko: 09:35, (Mon), 10:10 (Fri), 11:20 (Wed/Sun)  
 Soko-Abj: 11.35 (Mon), 12.00 (Fri), 13:20 (Wed/Sun)  
 Lagos-Abj: 07.15, 11.40, 14.00, 16.30, 17.00, 17.20; 18.30 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun), 8.00; 12.40; 13.10; 20:00 (Fri)  
 Abj-Lagos: 07.00, 09.30, 10.30, 11.15, 16.15; 19.15, 19.25, 19.35 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); 14:55; 15:15; 20:45 (Fri); 19:45 (Sun); 11:25, 13:35, 16:25 (Mon)  
 Lagos-PHC: 07.40, 09.30, 10.00, 12.20, 13.30, 14.00, 16.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); PHC-Lagos: 10.50, 11.20, 12.45, 15.30, 16.15, 17.15 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); Lagos-Owr: 12:15; (Tue-Fri/Sun); 12:40 (Mon/Sat)  
 Owr-Lagos: 14:25 (Tue-Fri/Sun) 14:50 (Mon/Sat)  
 Lagos-Cal: 08:00 (Fri), 09:10 (Wed-Thu), 12:40 (Tue/Sat/Sun), 13:10 (Mon)  
 Cal-Lagos: 10.05 (Fri); 11.15 (Wed/Thu); 14.55 (Tue/Sat-Sun), 15.15 (Mon)

#### IRS Airlines

Lagos-Abj: 09.45, 11.45, 12.45, (Mon-Fri) 09.30, 12.45 (Sat&Sun)  
 Lagos-Kano: 06.15 (Mon-Fri), 16.30 (Sat/Sun)  
 Kano-Lagos: 07.30 (Mon-Fri), 10.30 (Sat/Sun)  
 Abuja-Kano: 10.30am (Mon-Fri/Sun)  
 Kano-Abuja: 11.45, 5.00 Fri, 12.15 Sun

#### DANA Airlines:

Lagos-Abj: 07.20; 08.19, 09.00, 12.15, 15.30, 17.10 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)  
 Abj-Lagos: 07.20, 09.45, 11.25, 13.05, 14.40, 17.40 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)  
 Lag-Kano via Abj: 08.19, Abuja: 10.00  
 Kano-Lag via Abj: 11.25, Abuja: 11.25  
 Lagos-Enu: 14.40,  
 Enu-Lagos: 16.20  
 Lagos-PH: 09.27  
 PH-Lagos: 12.15

#### Overland Airways

Lagos-Ilorin: 07.15 (Mon-Fri), Ilorin-Lagos: 16.15 (Mon-Fri)  
 Abuja-Ilorin: 15.00 (Mo-Fri), Ilorin-Abuja: 08.15 (Mon-Fri)  
 Lagos-Ibadan: 07.15 (Mon-Fri), Lagos-Ibadan: 16.15 (Mon-Fri)  
 Ibadan-Abuja: 08.00 (Mon-Fri), Abuja-Ibadan: 5.00 (Mon-Fri)  
 Kats-Abuja: 07.30 (Mon-Fri) Abuja-Kats: 15.30 (Mon-Fri)  
 Minna-Lagos: 09.40 Lagos-Minna: 13.00 (Mon-Fri)  
 Abuja-Minna: 09.00 (Mon-Fri) Minna-Abuja: 14.30  
 Jos-Kano: 10.15 (Mon-Fri), Kano-Jos: 11.30 (Mon-Fri)  
 Abuja-Jos: 09.30 (Mon-Fri), Jos-Abuja: 12.30

## Business/Finance



HASSAN Imam Abuja Regional Manager of Fidelity Bank presenting a generator set to Martha Bello, one of winners in the bank's save and smile promo in Abuja at the weekend

# CBN warns BDC operators against market infractions

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

THE Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has warned Bureau de Change (BDC) operators against recurring cases of market infractions as they constitute challenges to the CBN in monitoring and regulating the sector.

CBN Deputy Governor on Economic Policy Mrs Sarah Alade gave the warning at the commissioning of the Association of Bureaus de Change Operators of Nigeria (ABCON) building at the weekend in Lagos.

She said such infractions include persistent cash sales above the CBN established threshold for small holders/users, non documentations and inadequate documentations as required by the CBN before sales.

She said the infractions also include the activities of non-registered operators in the market whereby registered BDCs sub-sell to non-registered marketers.

Others infractions are inadequate self regulating roles by ABCON as recommended by the CBN, inadequate compliance to the CBN request for rendition of returns through eFASS as well as allowing customers without documents to buy PTA/BTA.

She said these infractions made CBN to suspend sales of foreign exchange to BDCs in 2009 which was later reviewed.

She said: "However, because of these infractions, the CBN will be stricter in its monitoring of the sector. It may interest you to know that under the current dispensation, the CBN has finalized the

way to bring sanity to the foreign exchange market, especially to the BDCs segment.

"This is to ensure that the gains that had been recorded so far is not reversed. It is important therefore, to emphasize again that the CBN frowns at any distortion from the BDCs, because they translate into larger macroeconomic misalignment."

She said the infractions notwithstanding, the admission of the BDCs to the official window has helped to narrow the wide margin between the rates which had hitherto existed in the foreign exchange market.

"Besides, all genuine end-users of foreign exchange have greater access to the funds", she said.

# Ecobank targets three major business lines

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

ECOBANK at the weekend announced a new group-wide organization, designed to consolidate and optimize its pan-African operations.

The bank said in statement that its activities would now be organized along three business lines.

These include a portfolio of domestic banking businesses serving consumers, governments, small and medium scale enterprises and local companies; a pan-African corporate banking unit focusing on serving multinationals, regional companies, international and multilateral organizations and public corporate; and a treasury, investment banking and asset manage-

ment unit with a focus on financial markets and investors. "These three business lines will be supported by independent risk management and finance functions and an upgraded operations and technology infrastructure. By aligning its structure with key customer groups, the group expects to be able to deliver superior value-added services that address the local, continent-wide, and international banking needs of its customers", the statement said.

Ecobank Chief Executive Arnold Ekpe said: "With our geographical expansion coming to an end we think it is appropriate to focus on consolidating, re-tooling and re-engineering the group for long-term profitability."

"Along with the re-organization,

we are also in the final stages of a re-branding programme, and are taking advantage of current market conditions to attract new talent to refresh and strengthen our middle and senior management."

Over the last 5 years, Ecobank has built an unparalleled network of over 750 branches and offices across 32 African countries and selected international markets. The group is now present in more countries in Africa than any other bank in the world.

In addition to its unrivalled African footprint, Ecobank has strategic alliances with Nedbank of South Africa and the Bank of China to address the business and capital flows between their respective countries.

# Babalola wants Investment and Securities Act reviewed

By Idris Ahmed

MINISTER of State for Finance Remi Babalola has called for the review of the Investment and Securities Act (ISA) 2007 to safeguard the integrity of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

He said this in a response to the query from the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Capital Market Senator Ganiyu Solomon on whether the Chairman of SEC Udo Udoma can also chair a quoted company on the floor of the Nigerian Stock Exchange.

Senator Solomon wrote the Minister on February 4, and demanded an explanation over the perceived conflict of interest arising from the appointment of the SEC chairman by UAC of Nigeria and Linkage Assurance Plc as Chairman and Vice Chairman, respectively.

The Minister replied the Senate Committee Chairman on Feb-

ruary 9, with a promise to review the situation.

He said: "Undoubtedly, the issues are quite critical and call for quick action especially on the need to review the existing Investment and Securities Act (ISA) 2007 to safeguard the integrity of SEC as a regulatory institution. Be rest assured that the matter is being looked into and we will revert to you in due course."

A statement from the Minister's spokesman Oluyinka Akin-tunde said that he was committed to higher regulatory and supervisory standards in all segments of the financial services industry.

"All the regulators of the financial market are collaborating with a common code of corporate governance most especially at this junction of the nation when we are inculcating attitudinal change and character re-orientation for a better Nigeria", he said.

# 44 customers win in Fidelity promo

By Idris Ahmed

FORTY four customers at the weekend in Abuja emerged winner and went home with various items including two million naira cash in the on-going Fidelity Bank's Save and Smile promo.

Twenty two winners emerged in the bank's December draw while the remaining twenty two won different items in the January draw.

Two customers won N1 mil-

lion each from the two draws.

Twenty eight customers went home with generator sets each. Eight customers were rewarded with eight refrigerators, while four customers were given television sets each. Two customers also went home with two motorcycles.

The Abuja Regional Manager of the bank Hassan Imam said the grand draw of the promo comes up in March where customers will win a brand new car.

# XDS credit bureau subscribers hit 203

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

XDS credit bureau said at the weekend that its subscribers' base hit 203 and recorded over 2.3 million transactions less than one year of its operations in the country.

The Chief Accountability Officer of the bureau Ubong Awah said the subscribers comprise five universal banks, 193 microfinance banks, four primary mortgage institutions and one finance company.

He said by the end of the first quarter of the year, the company should have grown its subscribers' base to 400. It also hopes to be present in every state of the federation against the current 30 states.

Awah said with credit bureau in the country many Nigerians would have access to credit facility against the old practice whereby loans are granted to a few individuals based on self recognition.

He said XDS has been working assiduously to enhance credit bureau infrastructure in the country. He said part of this include

deployment of a robust ICT infrastructure with a huge data storage capacity of 30 million records and adequate redundancies.

"We have also established fast reliable and secure connectivity through simple and user friendly web portal, use of specially customized credit bureau software that is biometric with capacity to process 5 million updates per day", Awah said.

On capacity building, Awah explained that over 30 professionals with expertise in data processing, operations/systems and project management has been employed.

He said: "XDS market development initiatives have been aimed at providing a robust and inclusive financial services infrastructure for the country. Towards this, the company has since commencement of business in August 2009, accelerated its business development efforts all over the country.

"This has resulted in a strong and growing market presence in 30 states of the federation with 20 financial institutions subscriber

## Travelogue

# UAE: An Arab nation turns 38

Recently, the government of the United Arab Emirates invited about 80 journalists from all over the world to witness her 38th independence anniversary, and to reflect on the country's achievements and prospects.

By Aisha Umar who was in UAE

**T**HE United Arab Emirates is a liberal country in terms of trade and tourism. It is open to the world, and people are attracted to UAE because of the speed of development and the booming economy of the country,

which is driven by its tax-free business environment.

What will surprise most people is that more than half of the people living in UAE are not of Arab origin. The country has become a magical land of leisure and business, expanding and establishing flashy projects like the YAS Island city, projected to cost over 40 billion dollars and open to every-

body in the world who can afford to buy a house there. Then there is the UAE Louvre de Museum which is underway, and bigger than the Paris Louvre de Museum. There is also the Burj Tower, the tallest building in the world launched only just recently and other special projects.

Remarking on the country's economy, the vice president, Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rahid Al-Maktoum, said that UAE's vibrant free economy has continually witnessed significant annual trade surpluses. Successful efforts have been made to diversify away from dependency on oil and gas exports, and a solid industrial base has been created alongside a very strong service sector. The establishment of free zones has been an important feature of this diversification policy, and reform of property laws has given a major boost to real estate and the tourism sectors.

He claimed that the global financial crisis was a rather a blessing to the country, citing the example of a Dubai-based airline, Dubai Fly, which started operations in UAE in January 2009, but now has about 50 aeroplanes due to the fall in prices of airplanes. Due to the crisis, he said, Dubai is looking forward to see her economy grow and expand in the future in even more significant ways.

In the first ten months of 2009, Dubai witnessed an increase by seven million of passengers who had arrived at the Dubai international airport, with the number of arrivals at 44 million people. That beat the record of 2008 when the airport recorded 37 million arrivals

Dubai's new portfolio is promoting trade, UAE minister of trade, Sheikha Lubna al-Qasimi, says the UAE is considered the number one trading partner of GCC countries, and if oil exports are excluded, the UAE tops the entire western countries in terms of bilateral trade relations. The UAE business principle - diversifying the economy - was developed only a few years ago, and now, the country is one of the largest export centres of the world. In 2008, the GDP of the country stood at 63.2% with the exemption of the oil sector.

The diversification policy has seen the country move from oil and gas - products for which it currently sits on the top list of countries with huge reserves - to other sectors such as manufacturing and investments in renewable energy. Recently, the aviation sector launched a new project: the manufacturing of airplane parts. This decision was informed largely by the fact that the UAE has the highest air traffic in the region, and this means a huge market potential for air-



CULTURAL display by UAE children.



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Palace: The most expensive hotel in Abu Dhabi.



UAE heritage village showcasing original houses of Abu Dhabi.

enance and parts production.

structure of the country's financial sector was explained by the UAE Central Bank Governor, Sultan Nasser Al Suwaidi.

The Central Bank itself performs three main functions which include monitoring policy and management, Bank supervision and Banking

there are 53 banks operating in UAE. Out of this number, 24 are banks, 7 are Islamic banks while 25 are foreign banks. The UAE does not

te against foreign banks, and all functions carried out by the national be equally executed by the foreign banks

the fact that the UAE allows Islamic banking is not the reason why the

as not affected by the global financial crisis. No banking system can be

from crisis, he explained.

Speaker of the House, Abdul Aziz Al Ghurair told journalists that 2005 UAE had witnessed its third phase of democracy, where 50% parliament was elected by electoral colleges. 23 % of the Members of are women.

60% of previous law articles have been changed and passed by the par- that since independence in 1971, the constitution had been changed

international front, he disclosed that the UAE was still seeking for with Iran, which took one of UAE's islands on the same day they were dependence, sending away thousands of their nationals. He disclosed Iran was not yet cooperating, and has refused to appear before the al Court of Justice to whom the UAE had now forwarded the dispute.

They still hope though that one day Iran will be ready to come to the negotiating table.

**Environment**

**A**bu Dhabi Secretary General of its Environmental Agency, Majid Al Mansouri said Abu Dhabi is one of the highest per capita producers of waste in the world, with a 75kg of domestic waste per household, and it also has one of the highest per capita consumption of water, 550 litres per person. Abu Dhabi's major source of pollution is transport, power, oil and gas industries. Currently, money spent on addressing the three environment issues of desertification, energy and water is 3 billion dirham.

To reduce the propensity of individuals to deliberately expel waste indiscriminately, there is a 500 dirham penalty for violation of waste expulsion.

Presently, close to 60,000 people travel by public transport in a week. It is hoped that by 2020 metro and other means of transport, will be made available to reduce gas emissions.

He said UAE will put measurement strategies in place, on the use of water and energy to avoid careless use of resources.

The Chief Executive officer of Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company (Masdar), Dr. Sultan Al Jaber says Masdar is looking forward to the Third World Future Energy Summit (WFES) taking place in Abu Dhabi in the first quarter of 2010. This year's summit has promised to be the largest and most diverse gathering so far bringing together leaders,

investors, policy makers, researchers, financial institutions and industry experts from across the globe.

He said Masdar is extremely proud of the role it played in delivering the UAE's renewable energy commitment in September 2009. The Masdar Institute of Science and Technology opened its doors to 93 students from across the globe, marking another milestone in the company's journey in developing Abu Dhabi's renewable energy sector.

**UAE - Nigeria trade**

**T**rade between both countries has continued to blossom. Nigeria's ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bashir Yuguda quoted that the volume of trade between Nigeria and UAE as at 2009 stood at \$1.2 billion. Etisalat's recent entry into the Nigerian telecommunication market, with a \$2 billion investment, as well as the now lucrative Emirates Airline Lagos - Dubai route, are significant examples of how closely knit the trade relations between the two countries have become.

He added that a Bilateral Air Service (BAS) has been signed between the two countries on Emirates, Etihad and Sharjha Airlines, as well as Air Arabia.

**Human trafficking and prostitution**

**H**owever, not all the stories about UAE/Nigeria relations are good ones. Ambassador Bashir Yuguda tells of the growing influx of Nigerian women to the UAE as commercial sex workers, and put the blame on easy access to UAE visa by Nigerian women. "The Embassy has reported the case to NAPTIP back in Nigeria, who in conjunction with a similar agency here in the UAE, have already started working to confront the challenge", he said.

The greater challenge, of course, will be to identify and dismantle the cartels that are actively engaged in the illegal business. So far, the Embassy's involvement has been limited to assisting trafficked persons who desire help in returning home, and handing over arrested persons to NAPTIP.

*The trip to UAE was sponsored by the government of the United Arab Emirates.*

He claimed that the global financial crisis was a rather a blessing to the country, citing the example of a Dubai-based airline, Dubai Fly, which started operations in UAE in January 2009, but now has about 50 aeroplanes due to the fall in prices of airplanes.

# Business

## Abuja Customs generates N297m in Jan

By Sunday Williams

THE Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Command of Nigeria Customs Service generated N296, 993,587 in January, a statement from the Command said.

The statement signed by Chukwuma Eke said the figure comprises of Import duty and other charges.

He said the revenue was higher than the N13, 291, 639.40 realised in January 2009.

"With this impressive performance by the command, it is evidently clear that the FCT Command is set to meet the target of N5 billion for 2010", he said.

The Customs said the new Comptroller of the Command, Comptroller Usman Kankara Bello is highly elated and impressed with the revenue collection effort of the Com-



FCT Customs Comptroller Usman K Bello

mand within the short period of assumption of duty in the Area Command.

He urged all officers and men of the Area command to re-dedicate their effort in collection of duty for the government and to ensure that the 2010 target is achieved and surpassed.

He urged Importers and Agents operating in the Area command to make maximum use of the newly installed Asycuda ++ System at the cargo shed of the Nnamdi Azikwe International Airport which makes clearance and delivery of imported goods much faster and easy.

He told the Importers and Agents to ensure that their documents are always complete before processing for release, as the new Asycuda ++ System do not accept improper documentation. The most important documents, he emphasized are form 'M' and Risk Assessment Report (RAR).

## BPE says community can't collect royalties

By Yunus Abdulhamid

COMMUNITIES where mineral resources are deposited cannot collect royalties but government can do so, the Director General of the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) Dr Christopher Anyanwu has said.

He told a delegation from the Okaba community in Kogi State where coal is being explored that the present land tenure law provides that only government has the power to collect royalties.

"The delegation was led by the Onu Ojoko of Odagbo, Alhaji Mohammed Alfa Idris to visit the DG last week in Abuja.

The BPE boss was reacting to requests made by the delegation that the BPE should make the core investor, Denca Services Limited to pay royalties to the community.

He said there is now respite for host communities in the law as the amended 2007 Solid Minerals Act makes it mandatory for the investor to enter into agreements with the host communities but that in case of royalties, "it is the Ministry of Mines and Steel Development that collects the royalty."

The Director-General of NIGCOMSAT Engineer Ahmed Rufai who was invited to the meeting, appealed to the host community to allow the investor to operate "because it is when the investor comes in that the community can discuss its needs and wants. Understandably, the investor is bringing in goodies for the community in terms of job creation and others."

Earlier, Spokesman for the community Prince Musa Oruma had called on the BPE to prevail on the investor to discharge its social responsibility in terms of water, schools, hospitals, light and employment opportunities at all levels as well as the payment of royalties.

The BPE Director General assured them of his support to ensure they were not short changed by the core investor.

## 'Why Oando shares still on demand'

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

DESPITE the ongoing Rights Issue, Oando Plc shares are still on demand (Bid) in the secondary market. Development stockbrokers said this is a reflection of investors' confidence in the company.

According to brokers, "If a company is selling a Rights Issue at a discount and investors are still buying the shares in the secondary market at a higher price it means that the company has a very promising future that the investors are buying into with the expectation of reaping higher dividend."

Specifically, Oando share is being traded on the Nigerian Stock Exchange at N93.99 per share since it was placed on technical suspension.

The ongoing Rights Issue is

sold at N70.00 per share to existing shareholders, representing a discount of about 25.5 percent from the price the share is sold at the secondary market.

It is a normal practice by the Exchange to place shares on technical suspension when a company informs it of plans to float any offer.

The positive demand of the shares of the company implies that the existing shareholders are unwilling to sell their shares to willing buyers. Ordinarily, this would have fuelled a jump in the share price of Oando as demand for the shares are greater than supply, but for the technical suspension, the price still remains at N93.99 per share at the stock market.

At the end of transactions in the secondary market on Tuesday, investors exchanged 1.746 million

shares worth N164.136 million in just 13 deals.

It was gathered that most of the shareholders are not willing to sell theirs at N93.99 per share since they believe that the price is undervalued given the rapid growth in virtually all the performance indicators of the company in recent times.

Stockbrokers said: "They are also confident with the management of the company as gains from its massive investments have started manifesting."

The company paid a total dividend of N6.00 per share to its shareholders in the last Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, having earlier received N3.00 per share as interim dividend.

"They are hoping that the company will surpass the current dividend next year."

Oando Rights Issue opened on Monday, January 25 to close on Friday, February 19.

The Rights Issue is meant for existing shareholders of the company and is to be distributed in the proportion of one for three, meaning one new ordinary share will be distributed to a shareholder who has three ordinary shares of 50 Kobo each at a price of N70 per share.

Speaking to newsmen recently, the Group Chief Executive Officer of Oando Plc Mr. Wale Tinubu said: "The Rights Issue is very important for the company as it will help refinance the acquisition of upstream asset, provide additional capital to fund the operation of the upstream business and also short and medium term investments in its gas and power business segment."

## Improved maize to boost production

By Tina A. Hassan

THE International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) says its new improved maize variety would boost maize production and incomes of farmers in West and Central Africa.

The improved variety was released by the Nigerian National Variety Releases Committee after it had been developed by IITA in collaboration with the Ahmadu Bello University Institute of Agricultural Research (IAR), Zaria and the Obafemi Awolowo University Institute of Research and Training

(IAR&T) in Ile Ife. The new variety according to IITA is better suited to the West and Central African region because it is able to overcome major constraints to maize production in the region, especially challenges of disease and parasitic plants, low soil fertility, drought and pests.

Researchers developed the varieties through conventional plant breeding by exploiting traits that are naturally available.

The improved maize include 13 open-pollinated varieties of extra-early, early, intermediate, and late-maturity with resistance to Striga hermonthica and stem borers, tol-

erance to drought and good adaptation to sub-optimal soil nitrogen.

According to IITA maize breeder Menkir Abebe, the released hybrids are stress resistant and would encourage farmers to adopt improved maize cultivars especially in Nigeria.

He said: "These varieties have the potential to provide farmers with opportunities to overcome the challenges to maize production in the West and central Africa. Yield losses due to Striga and prolonged droughts could render a farmer's field unproductive with nothing to harvest."

## CIBN commences full on-line registration

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

HENCEFORTH, students of the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN) would be required to complete registration process online.

A statement from the Corporate Affairs Department of CIBN said this is to ensure speedy processing of the registration of all persons employed in the banking and finance industry.

Section 1(7) of CIBN Act states that "no person shall be entitled

to be employed or appointed or engaged to head any of technical department of a bank unless he is duly registered as a member of the Institute".

Consequently it said, the registration for the April 2010 diet examinations for both Certificates in Banking and Associateship programmes which commenced on January 22 would close on March 8 online. The Examinations are expected to take place on April 7 and 8 in the twenty six centre of the Institute across Nigeria.

Business/Finance



Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Friday, February 12, 2010

COMPANY Name	No of Deals	Quot. (N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
<b>2ND-TIER SECURITIES</b>				
CAPRI OIL PLC	2	0.56	86,087	48,208.72
SECTORTOTALS	2		86,087	48,208.72
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>				
FTN COCOA PROCESSORS PLC	72	1.06	6,603,043	6,969,482.51
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	13	0.80	939,100	784,042.00
PRESCO PLC	14	5.01	263,276	1,318,012.76
SECTORTOTALS	99		7,805,419	9,071,537.27
<b>AIR SERVICES</b>				
AIRLINE SERV & LOGISTICS PLC	3	3.04	8,840	26,873.60
NIG AVIATION HAND. COMY PLC	286	8.50	961,285	8,163,292.54
SECTORTOTALS	289		970,125	8,190,166.14
<b>AUTOMOBILE &amp; TYRE</b>				
DNTYRE & RUBBER PLC	15	0.50	2,110,100	1,055,050.00
R.T. BRISCOE (NIGERIA) PLC	15	5.98	248,835	1,486,345.80
SECTORTOTALS	30		2,358,935	2,541,395.80
<b>BANKING</b>				
ACCESS BANK PLC	225	9.30	12,704,583	118,004,688.61
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	399	3.00	11,457,488	34,661,622.41
DIAMOND BANK PLC	90	9.00	2,985,297	27,249,710.42
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	24	5.23	316,324	1,654,374.52
F/CITY MONUMENT BANK PLC	77	9.26	2,964,112	27,946,477.95
FIDELITY BANK PLC	160	2.65	6,336,349	16,838,782.19
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	816	14.80	26,290,604	390,300,612.56
FINBANK PLC	108	0.80	7,945,405	6,398,708.92
GT BANK PLC	402	18.40	22,786,989	407,230,930.24
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	70	8.25	3,801,054	31,890,252.10
INTERCONTINENTAL BANK PLC	116	2.16	4,843,643	10,546,926.63
OCEANIC BANK INTER. PLC	116	2.30	4,260,889	9,738,449.84
BANK PHB PLC	107	1.98	1,589,296	3,185,287.20
SKYE BANK PLC	127	7.35	5,762,823	42,906,286.52
SPRING BANK PLC	10	1.18	122,232	144,242.78
STERLING BANK PLC	72	1.84	14,851,667	27,324,567.28
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC	226	12.70	6,264,665	78,633,061.40
UNION BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	180	6.15	2,369,128	14,291,805.71
UNITY BANK PLC	40	1.00	3,718,328	3,751,665.20
WEMA BANK PLC	66	1.33	5,830,707	7,830,149.49
ZENITH BANK PLC	290	15.59	14,454,154	222,632,114.79
SECTORTOTALS	3,721		161,655,737	1,483,160,716.76
<b>BUILDING MATERIALS</b>				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	70	16.00	1,313,070	21,071,983.81
BENUE CEMENT COY PLC	55	50.00	558,996	27,979,934.43
CEMENT CO. OF NORTHERN NIG. PLC	48	15.60	958,613	14,902,753.21
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	58	34.50	880,379	30,483,030.44
SECTORTOTALS	231		3,711,058	94,437,701.89
<b>CHEMICAL &amp; PAINTS</b>				
BERGER PAINTS NIGERIA PLC	5	3.36	19,758	69,548.16
CHEMICAL & ALLIED PROD. PLC	1	25.27	100,000	2,527,000.00
DN MEYER PLC	2	4.41	524	2,195.56
L.P.W.A. PLC	1	1.38	100	132.00
SECTORTOTALS	9		120,382	2,599,675.72
<b>COMMERCIAL SERVICES</b>				
AFROMEDIA PLC	2	0.57	2,200	1,254.00
COURTVILLE INVESTMENTS PLC	5	0.50	25,327,000	12,663,500.00
RED STAR EXPRESS PLC	18	2.44	651,500	1,613,295.00
SECTORTOTALS	25		25,980,700	14,278,049.00
<b>COMP. &amp; OFFICE EQUIPMENT</b>				
OMATEK VENTURES PLC	2	0.60	78,800	47,280.00
THOMAS WYATT PLC	1	1.84	125	218.75
SECTORTOTALS	3		78,925	47,498.75
<b>CONGLOMERATES</b>				
A.G. LEVENTIS (NIGERIA) PLC	10	3.00	76,420	228,058.06
PZ CUSSONS NIGERIA PLC	58	26.00	676,433	17,408,940.04
TRANSNATIONAL CORP. OF NIG. PLC	19	0.50	788,800	394,400.00
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	30	40.51	192,115	7,772,128.90
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	81	25.00	1,133,656	28,338,381.17
SECTORTOTALS	198		2,867,424	54,141,908.17
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>				
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	60	5.29	3,618,092	18,381,891.89
JULIUS BERGER NIGERIA PLC	18	28.00	40,900	1,093,455.07
MULTIVERSE RESOURCES PLC	6	0.50	205,900	102,950.00
SECTORTOTALS	84		3,864,892	19,578,296.96
<b>ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY</b>				
CUTIX PLC	3	2.97	104,500	310,365.00
NIGERIAN WIRE & CABLE PLC	3	0.88	200,000	176,000.00
SECTORTOTALS	6		304,500	486,365.00
<b>F/BEVERAGES &amp; TOBACCO</b>				
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	7	30.60	3,817	122,640.21
BIG TREAT PLC	29	0.88	1,809,934	1,568,548.58
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	77	14.85	865,481	12,868,327.75
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	169	12.99	2,110,555	26,885,610.34
DANGOTE SUGAR REFINERY PLC	104	15.20	12,075,667	184,385,208.99
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	125	42.00	1,629,737	68,514,216.67
HONEYWELL FLOUR MILL PLC	13	6.12	88,150	547,027.00
NATIONAL SALT COY NIG. PLC	46	6.36	944,470	6,104,233.91

NIGERIAN BOTTLING COY PLC	29	27.10	292,443	
8,109,185.44				
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	31	268.00	23,138	
6,115,439.35				
<b>HEALTHCARE</b>				
EVANS MEDICAL PLC	12	1.12	1,335,025	1,508,328.00
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	19	2.17	592,800	1,244,202.00
GLAXOSMITHKLINE CONS. NIG. PLC	22	26.41	246,971	6,522,819.11
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC	14	5.23	109,038	559,364.31
NEIMETH INTER. PHARM. PLC	5	1.49	7,800	11,076.00
U/DIAGNOSTIC & CLINICAL SERV. PLC	10	0.62	501,000	313,350.00
SECTORTOTALS	82		2,792,634	10,159,139.42
<b>HOTEL &amp; TOURISM</b>				
IKEJA HOTEL PLC	17	1.35	946,617	1,277,932.95
SECTORTOTALS	17		946,617	1,277,932.95
<b>IND/DOMESTIC PRODUCTS</b>				
B.O.C. GASES NIGERIA PLC	11	11.85	126,780	1,482,968.34
NIGERIAN ENAMELWARE PLC	2	52.85	59,836	3,004,365.56
VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC	40	4.80	719,524	3,462,882.09
VONO PRODUCTS PLC	4	0.63	53,778	33,766.80
SECTORTOTALS	57		959,918	7,983,982.79
<b>INF. &amp; COMM. TECHNOLOGY</b>				
CHAMS PLC	26	0.73	2,654,500	1,918,555.00
IHS NIGERIA PLC	1	4.03	5,000	19,150.00
STARCOMMS PLC	18	2.07	462,853	937,524.62
SECTORTOTALS	45		3,122,353	2,875,229.62
<b>INSURANCE</b>				
AFRICAN ALLIANCE INSUR. PLC	4	0.64	700,000	448,000.00
AICO INSURANCE PLC	208	1.10	8,037,678	8,864,756.58
CONTINENTAL REINS. PLC	7	1.00	567,500	555,625.00
CORNERSTONE INS. CO. PLC	18	0.52	976,600	520,565.00
CUSTODIAN & ALLIED INS. PLC	26	2.99	3,672,750	11,004,255.00
EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC	5	0.50	27,600	13,800.00
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	18	0.57	582,000	333,010.00
GUARANTY TRUST ASSUR. PLC	25	2.25	1,588,100	3,608,817.08
CONS. HALLMARK INSUR. PLC	2	0.50	19,600	9,800.00
INTER ENERGY INSUR. COY. PLC	35	0.58	3,178,844	1,825,695.82
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC	53	0.52	7,448,661	3,842,801.11
LAW UNION & ROCK INSUR. PLC	7	0.55	556,500	306,640.00
LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	1	0.50	18,880	9,440.00
MUTUAL BENEFITS ASSUR. PLC	5	0.64	733,000	469,120.00
N.E.M. INSUR. CO. (NIG.) PLC	32	0.55	789,304	430,058.76
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC	16	0.76	1,415,000	1,083,050.00
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC	2	3.61	12,700	43,561.00
SOVEREIGN TRUST INSUR. PLC	1	0.50	2,000	1,000.00
STACO INSURANCE PLC	2	0.83	4,776	3,773.04
STANDARD ALLIANCE INSUR. PLC	26	0.57	8,978,097	5,120,015.29
UNIC INSURANCE PLC	7	0.83	599,960	494,368.40
UNIVERSAL INSURANCE COY PLC	4	0.50	129,000	64,500.00
INTERCONTINENTAL WAPCO INSUR. PLC	6	0.94	20,381	19,087.00
SECTORTOTALS	510		40,058,933	39,071,739.08
<b>MEDIA</b>				
DAAR COMMUNICATIONS PLC	36	0.81	327,770	264,583.70
SECTORTOTALS	36		327,770	264,583.70
<b>MORTGAGE COMPANIES</b>				
ASO SAVINGS AND LOAN PLC	9	0.67	100,420	65,392.64
RESORT SAVINGS AND LOANS PLC	6	0.50	299,278	149,639.00
UNION HOMES SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	41	0.91	3,655,777	3,348,657.84
SECTORTOTALS	56		4,055,475	3,563,689.48
<b>OTHER FINANCIAL INST.</b>				
CRUSADER NIGERIA PLC	10	0.95	689,228	668,001.16
ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC	21	0.60	1,398,768	856,228.07
SECTORTOTALS	31		2,087,996	1,524,229.23
<b>PACKAGING</b>				
NIG. BAG MANUFACT. COY. PLC	136	2.16	3,480,172	7,270,064.37
SECTORTOTALS	136		3,480,172	7,270,064.37
<b>PETROLEUM (MARKETING)</b>				
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC	47	38.00	438,900	16,709,327.38
BECO PETROLEUM PRODUCT PLC	33	2.25	1,020,916	2,194,901.84
MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC	7	69.79	2,647	186,842.15
CONOIL PLC	21	31.00	36,024	1,143,525.93
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC	38	6.05	437,369	2,695,069.88
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC	2	97.51	107	9,912.48
OANDO PLC	20	93.99	119,419	11,224,191.81
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	11	142.50	22,841	3,121,384.00
SECTORTOTALS	179		2,078,223	37,285,155.47
<b>PRINTING &amp; PUBLISHING</b>				
UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC	8	5.05	131,000	658,700.00
SECTORTOTALS	8		131,000	658,700.00
<b>REAL ESTATE</b>				
UACHN PROPERTY DEVE. CO. PLC	16	20.00	199,100	4,008,767.50
SECTORTOTALS	16		199,100	4,008,767.50
<b>THE FOREIGN LISTINGS</b>				
ECOBANKTRANS. INCORPORATED	13	15.31	150,977	2,374,314.53
SECTORTOTALS	13		150,977	2,374,314.53
OVERALL TOTALS	6,927		28,985,714	225,699,126.28

Averaging Down  
Buying more of a security at a price that is lower than the price paid for the initial investment. The aim of averaging down is to reduce the average cost per unit of the investment.

Google

GAINERS	
PZ FLOURMILL	0.99
DANG FLOUR	0.80
GUARANTY	0.59
	0.40

LOSERS	
GLAXOSMITH	1.39
CAP	1.33
UAC-PROP	0.50
WAPCO	0.50

# IT WORLD Hotline:08027649677

## DBI graduates 110 on ICT

By Yunus Abdulhamid

THE Digital Bridge Institute (DBI), Abuja has graduated 110 senior lecturers and non-academic staff of universities and other tertiary institutions in the North Central zone of the country.

Participants from government owned tertiary institutions received certificates on Information Communication Technology

from the institute's President and Chief Executive Officer, Prof Raymond Akwule at the weekend after receiving a five-day training.

DBI is the training arm of the Nigeria Communications Commission (NCC).

Speaking shortly after the closing ceremony, Prof Raymond Akwule told Daily Trust that the effort was part of the Advanced Digital Appreciation Programme

for Tertiary Institutions (ADAPT) developed by the institute to help lecturers improve on their delivery. He said: "The ADAPT programme is meant to bring our practitioners at the universities and other tertiary institutions to a more professional level. We started at a very small level to teach them how to use digital tools.

"It is to bridge the digital gap of Nigerian teachers at the higher

institutions. We know that the use of ICT to communicate effectively would go a long way to transforming the Nigeria educational landscape." He said the next phase of the training commences soon. "Doing same in other zones is going to be happening very quickly. In about two weeks, we will start training. We have three campuses including Lagos, Kano and Abuja," he said.

The Digital Bridge Institute

(DBI) is an international centre of excellence for ICT training and education; established in May 2004.

The ADAPT project arose out of serious concern for the relatively poor state of ICT skills of senior staff of tertiary institutions, Daily Trust learnt as it relates to ability to access and utilizes modern teaching modes and the concomitant effect on the quality of products.

### Etisalat connects more villages

From Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

ETISALAT has connected more villages and satellite towns in its expansion drive.

Some of the connected towns are Okene-Eba, Inioziomi Layout and Idogi in Okene; Little Obokum and Okuku in Calabar; Igoli, Ogboja, Ukpah, Odajie, Aragban, and Ekumtak in Ogoja; Alaoji motor spare parts market on the outskirts of Aba; Oke Aregba, Ilugun, Idi Aba, Sokenu, Oke Mosan, and Ojusango in Abeokuta.

Others are Alafara, Idi Iroko, Adegbite, Idioro & Yidi (Agodi) in Ibadan; Bayeku in Ikorodu town; Rumuemene and Mile 4 areas of Port Harcourt city; Trans-Nkisi GRA in Onitsha; Uke in Nasarawa and Mubi town in Adamawa.

A statement issued by the company said the latest coverage expansion on Etisalat network, was in line with the company's ongoing expansion of its services to every corner of the country.

Commenting on the additional connection, Etisalat Nigeria Chief Marketing Officer, Wael Ammar, said: "Our core commitment is to extend our customers' reach without limit and our presence in all these locations in under a year and a half of commercial operations is proof that our customers are at the heart of all we do."

### Nigerian pharmacists launch drug dispensing software

From Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria (PSN) says it has concluded arrangement to launch national dispensing software that will assist both pharmacists and patients to fulfil appropriate dispensing and adherence in drugs taking.

Speaking at a press conference in Lagos at the weekend, the new president of PSN, Pharm., Azubike Okwor, said the software would stem the menace of illegal drug administration in the country.

According to him, supply distribution and availability of drugs in the country are one of the worst in the world. He said the PSN's software would help Nigerians make best use of medication and guarantee outcomes for drug therapy. "We have also concluded arrangement to launch National Dispensing Software that will assist pharmacist in both the Hospital and Community to fulfil one of the key requirements of appropriate dispensing and help promote adherence in taking medicines," he said.

### Mimiko lauds MTN, Ericsson for empowering rural dwellers

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

ONDO State Governor, Dr. Olusegun Mimiko has commended telecommunications giant, MTN and telecoms solutions provider, Ericsson for collaborating to economically empower a cluster of rural communities in the state.

Speaking during a courtesy call on him by top officials of MTN, UNDP and Ericsson, Governor Mimiko thanked all the parties that collaborated for the success of the project. "I note with satisfaction that MTN has provided the facility to enhance delivery of health services in addition to improving communication network in the cluster. On behalf of the good people of Ondo State, I sincerely say thank you for this wonderful support," the governor said. Both companies are partnering on the project using cutting edge telecommunications of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) tagged the Millennium Villages Project (MVP).



PRESIDENT of Digital Bridge Institute Prof Raymond Akwule (left), giving a certificate of participation to Badmos Kareem Salam of the Federal College of Education, Okene at the weekend.

### Nigerian telecoms: Towards a consumer friendly regime

By Yunus Abdulhamid

RECENTLY, the Nigerian Communications Commission held its 54th edition of the Telecoms Consumer Parliament in Abuja. The theme was; "Internet Service Delivery in Nigeria: The Prospects and Challenges."

Speaking at the event, Executive Vice Chairman of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), Engr. Ernest Ndukwe said recent statistics indicates that only eight percent of Africa population were connected to internet.

He said "operators maximise profit at the detriment of users. Often, they buy bandwidths that can serve may be 100 users but they end up selling it to more than 500, thereby reducing the quality of service."

He said about 10% (14 million) of Nigeria population were said to be connected to the internet, describing it as unimpressive as the internet platform has become the biggest library in the world today.

The NCC boss said the parliament has over the years changed the behaviours of Nigeria con-

sumers who seldom complain about the quality of services rendered by companies, to a vibrant and enlightened audience of consumers.

Telecoms consumers including students, café operators who were present variously accused operators of short changing customers to maximise profits. They also accused the NCC of not doing enough to safeguard the consumers from operators' exploits.

Mr Ugochukwu Elekwa, a cyber café owner said he had exhausted patronising all the major Internet Service Providers (ISP) but that they were virtually all the same-poor services. He said "operators maximise profit at the detriment of users. Often, they buy bandwidths that can serve may be 100 users but they end up selling it to more than 500, thereby reducing the quality of service."

Nigerian major telecoms operators and Internet Service Providers were in attendance. They included MTN, Globacom, Zain, Multilink, Etisalat, and Suburban, Startek among others.

Aside poor quality of services, high cost of internet connectiv-

ity and reach was another area of worry expressed by users.

Cordel Okafor of the Consumer Rights Protection Council lamented that "consumers have been left behind for too long. Tariff has been too high and 10% of Nigerian population is about 14 million who have access to the internet." The telecoms operators admitted some of the shortcomings and outlined their efforts at improving their services.

The Technical manager of Etisalat, Mr Muyideen Haruna told the audience that the major constraint of internet providers in the country was poor infrastructure especially in the area of low bandwidth.

He called for localisation of international internet domains with local content which would promote inter network interaction to be monitored by the NCC.

Regional Technical Manager of Globacom, Mr Dayo Ogburede said by March end, the Glo-1 submarine cable would have commenced commercial services which would help reduce cost of internet access as well as at higher speed.

## IT World

## Glo offers BID2WIN promo

From Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

NATIONAL Telecommunications Operator, Globacom, has introduced another promotion to reward subscribers on its network.

A statement by the company said the new package tagged, 'BID2WIN' is designed by the telecoms giant for its subscribers to win prizes by competing with other subscribers in a specially designed bid process. The Glo BID2WIN promo, the first of its kind in Nigeria, is different from conventional bidding. While the highest bid wins in a regular auction, the lowest unique bid will win the daily prizes in the new Glo promo. Subscribers with the lowest unique bids for various categories of prizes will emerge winners everyday with prizes worth over N1 million. Every 18 days, the prizes will be changed to make the promotion exciting, the statement said.

Globacom said the first set of prizes to be won are 18 brand new Kia Rio cars, adding that it will keep the remaining four categories of prizes to be won under wraps for now in order to heighten the excitement.



FROM right: Richard Edet, General Manager Cisco Nigeria with the representative of the Minister of Health, Dr. Muhammed Lecky, Director Health Planning, Research and Statistics, Federal Ministry of Health, while Debra Sloane, Manager Healthcare Business Development Public Sector, Emerging Markets, and Valentine Nwabueze, Public Sector Manager, Cisco Nigeria listen at the recently concluded Cisco Connected Health Workshop in Abuja

## Kano ICT Park is on course – Galadanchi

*Dr Bashir Shehu Galadanchi is Kano state commissioner for science and technology; he recently visited Media Trust Kano regional office and talked on the achievements of the newly created ministry, the challenges, among other issues.*

From Hisham Habib, Kano

**T**O what extent would you say, the purpose for which the new ministry of science and technology was established has been achieved in Kano state?

The purpose of establishing the ministry was for the state to make use of science and technology as a catalyst for the socio-economic development of the state. This is an objective that we need to be constantly working towards achieving. It is not something that after just a year, we start to say we have achieved it completely. In fact, if you look at the specific objectives or functions the state government handed over to us, it is related to the sensitization of the populace on the importance of science and technology and the promotion of research and development so that it will be used for the benefit of our people, promoting ICT which is a critical aspect today in science and technology, being able to collaborate with other ministries and agencies in Kano, other parts of the country in the world as a whole.

What we have done in this first year of operation was to use a lot of time in brainstorming on these objectives, and in particular coming up with work plan and action plans that will guide the ministry in the near and far future.

**One basic tool for the development of ICT is the inculcation of science education at primary and secondary school level. Kano state used to have two centres of excellence in Dawakin Kudu and Dawakin Tofa. How far have you gone in reviving science and technical education in the state?**

Even before the ministry was established, the state government had made very serious effort in strengthening the teaching of science in all our schools and in particular in reviving our science schools. We are lucky our governor is an educationist and for that matter a mathematics teacher and

had been from day one committed himself towards improving the teaching of science by establishing new laboratories, recruiting more teachers, in the ministry of science and technology. We are now collaborating with the ministry of education here in Kano which is still in charge of the schools so that we can succeed in this task.

Recently about a month ago, we organized a special seminar for teachers of science from the state and we discussed issues on how we can improve the learning and teaching of science and technology because as you said without the strong foundation in our schools, there is no way we can achieve the lofty ambitions of developing science and technology for the development of the state.

**What are the challenges you are facing?**

Yes, we do have a couple of challenges. One is that our society tends not to be interested in science and technology. Whether it is cultural or religious are questions we should ask ourselves. It certainly cannot be religious because Islam contributed to the development of science. Historically, many theories of science were postulated by Muslims, so there is no reason for Muslims to be backward in science and technology. Even if we look at it from a cultural perspective, looking back historically, we know that our people here have been strong in local technologies- dyeing, blacksmith work, carpentry and even pottery. So, for us to have a society that tends to look at science and technology as a foreign endeavour is a major challenge we are facing and this is why we are doing a lot on sensitization.

A second challenge is the lack of qualified personnel that will drive the activities of this ministry. All over the north, there is the dearth of qualified scientist and other professionals of science and technology. Some of the few that are available have fled the country. So we are now struggling to get people in place so that they can drive the



DR Bashir S. Galadanchi

vision of making science and technology relevant for economic development.

**How would you describe the funding of your ministry by the government here in Kano?**

Funding is never enough especially for a state like Kano which has the highest population in the country. There are a lot of competing demands from various sectors and we know that the state government have been doing a lot in improving its internal revenue generation so that it will complement what we are getting from the federal government. Now until we get to that situation where our internally generated revenue is much more than what it is, all the sectors will have to suffer. But within the constraints I should state that government has given us a fair share, with which we hope we can operate. Our budget for the year is over a billion naira and for a ministry that have just started, and given the circumstances it will take us along way insha' Allah.

**One of the supposed landmarks is the ICT Park which has suffered postponements. What is responsible for that?**

There are a couple of constraints that have brought about delays in the successful start of the Information Communica-

tion Technology (ICT) park project. One of them is that the governor insisted that the project has to be of world class, and at certain time we had to go back to re-examine the level of the facilities and asked ourselves if they are up to world class.

Often times going to the drawing board in ensuring the upgrade of such facilities, there have also been financial constraints. Last year has not been a good year globally because of the financial meltdown which affected the progress of the park. At the same time, we had problems attracting tenants into the park because of the same problem. There was the enthusiasm in establishing new businesses. We are however doing all we can to make sure that the park takes off around the middle of this year and all hands are on deck to make sure it happens.

**How much have you invested in the project?**

Lots of components exist as far as this investment is concerned. There is the building itself which is near N4 billion, and that is the major investment. Then there is the investment of the IT infrastructure of the park which is in the making which also is to be done through public private partnership where to a large extent, it will be shouldered by the private sector. That investment would be to the tune of N2 billion and then other components are there like training, consulting and other associated costs.

**You must have some collaboration with other organizations here and outside the country? What are the results of such collaborations?**

In ICT particularly, there has been a lot of collaboration. We have been talking with national and international organizations and many of them have shown interest in our park, especially that this project is the first in Nigeria as no other state has this type of project; it has been used by developing countries like India and Malaysia to spur their economic development. Many organizations have shown interest. In particular NITDA which oversees IT in the country have shown interest in partnering with Microsoft Corporation to establish a software development laboratory in our ICT Park. There also has been indication of interest from development partners like the World Bank and DFID. Other private companies and agencies include the National Centre for Technology Management, etc.

# MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, BORNO STATE



## INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION TO TENDER

The Ministry of Education, Borno State invites applications from qualified and reputable Companies and Contractors for pre-qualification for the following projects:-

- Lot. A** - Procurement of assorted textbooks in various Subjects for post primary institutions in the state for 2010 session
- Lot. B** - Procurement Of assorted Technical and Science Equipment for Post Primary Institutions in the State.
- Lot. C** - Rehabilitation & Construction of educational buildings in post Primary Institutions across the three Senatorial Districts i.e. Borno North, Borno Central & Borno South).
- Lot. D** - Procurement of Students Beds and mattresses for Post Primary Institutions
- Lot. E** - Procurement of School Furniture for Post Primary Institutions.
- Lot. F** - Rehabilitation of Education Resources Centre, Maiduguri, Inspectorate Services and Zonal Office, Gwoza.

### 2. PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

*To qualify for consideration, interested Companies or Firms are required to submit the following veritable documents:*

- i. Incorporation/Registration with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC)
  - ii. Evidence of Registration with Borno State Government as Contractor on Category 'F' and with the Borno State Ministry of Education, Maiduguri.
  - iii. Current Tax Clearance Certificate in the last three (3) years.
  - iv. Company VAT Registration Certificate for the last three (3) years
  - v. Company Profile and Qualification of some key officers of the organization.
  - vi. A letter of ability to perform from your Banker(s)
  - vii. Evidence of experience on similar jobs.
  - viii. Evidence of three (3) years Audited Account.
3. Pre-qualified contractors would obtain details of the job specifications from the Director, Planning, Research and Statistics, Borno State Ministry of Education, Maiduguri after the presentation of receipts of payment of non-refundable Tender Fee of Twenty-five (N25, 000.00).

### 4. SUBMISSION OF BIDS DOCUMENTS:

The completed Tender documents are to be submitted to the Director, Planning, Research and Statistics, Borno State Ministry of Education, Maiduguri two (2) weeks from the time of publication.

For further inquiries, please contact the office of the Secretary, Ministerial Tenders Board, Ministry of Education, Maiduguri.

- NB:** The Ministry reserves the right to reject part or the entire submission which does not comply with the above provision and will not enter into any correspondence with any intending contractor, please.

(Signed)

Secretary Ministerial Tenders Board  
For: **HONOURABLE COMMISSIONER**



## NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Plot 421, Constitution Avenue, Central Business District, Abuja, FCT

### **INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR TOTAL FACILITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES AND PROVISION OF SECURITY SERVICES TO THE COMMISSION**

The National Planning Commission wishes to invite reputable and competent firms to express interest in the following Lots:-

- (i) LOT A Total Facility Management Services of NPC Corporate Headquarters
- (ii) LOT B Provision of Security Services

Interested bidders must show evidence of the following:-

- (i) Evidence of Incorporation with Corporate Affairs Commission
- (ii) Tax Clearance Certificate (2008-2010) and VAT Registration
- (iii) Verifiable evidence of previous job done with any Federal Agency and Detailed Track record in the industry
- (iv) Detailed Company Profile (Personnel)
- (v) Evidence of financial capability from the Company's Bankers

Interested and eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Procurement Planning Committee, National Planning Commission, Secretary, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Plot 421 Constitution Avenue, Central Business District, Abuja, 9.00am 5.00pm on working days only.

A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained by interested bidders on the submission of a written application, and upon payment of a Non-refundable fee of N10,000.00 (ten thousand naira) only.

Bids must be delivered to the National Planning Commission, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Plot 421 Constitution Avenue, Central Business District, Abuja on or before 12: noon, 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2010. Late bids will be rejected; Bids will be opened immediately after in the presence of the bidders' representatives who may wish to attend in person at the following address: National Planning Commission, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Plot 421, Constitution Avenue, Central Business District, Abuja.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of 2% of bid price.

Signed  
Secretary,  
Procurement Planning Committee  
National Planning Commission  
Plot 421 Constitution Avenue  
Central Area  
Abuja



## COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION NIGERIAN LAW SCHOOL

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

#### **REGISTRATION FOR RESIT EXAMINATION**

THIS IS TO INFORM ALL ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES THAT THE BAR FINAL RESIT EXAMINATIONS WOULD HOLD FROM SATURDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> TO SATURDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2010 IN THE HEADQUARTERS (ABUJA CAMPUS) ONLY.

REGISTRATION FOR THE EXAMINATIONS WOULD COMMENCE IN THE HEADQUARTERS ON FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup> AND CLOSE MARCH 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2010. THERE WILL BE NO LATE REGISTRATION.

THE EXAMINATION WOULD BE CONDUCTED BASED ON THE OLD CURRICULUM FOR THOSE ELIGIBLE ONLY. THUS CANDIDATES IN THE 2008/2009 SESSION ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO REGISTER FOR THIS EXAMINATION. CANDIDATES IN 2008/2009 WILL WRITE THEIR RESIT IN AUGUST WITH CURRENT REGULAR STUDENTS.

#### **REGISTRATION FEE:-**

ALL PAPERS	-	₦30,000.00
ONE PAPER	-	₦10,000.00,

#### **THE REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION ARE:-**

- ONE PASSPORT PHOTOGRAPH
- LAW SCHOOL IDENTITY CARD AND COPY THEREOF
- EVIDENCE OF PAYMENT OF REGISTRATION FEE INTO LAW SCHOOL ACCOUNT IN ANY BRANCH OF ZENITH BANK
- COMPLETION AND RETURN OF REGISTRATION FORM TO THE EXAMINATION AND RECORDS OFFICE
- ALL RESIT CANDIDATES MUST FILL A FRESH BENCHERS FORM AND SUBMIT BEFORE APRIL 9, 2010. CANDIDATES WHO FAIL TO SUBMIT THE BENCHERS FORM WOULD NOT BE ALLOTTED EXAMINATION NUMBERS.

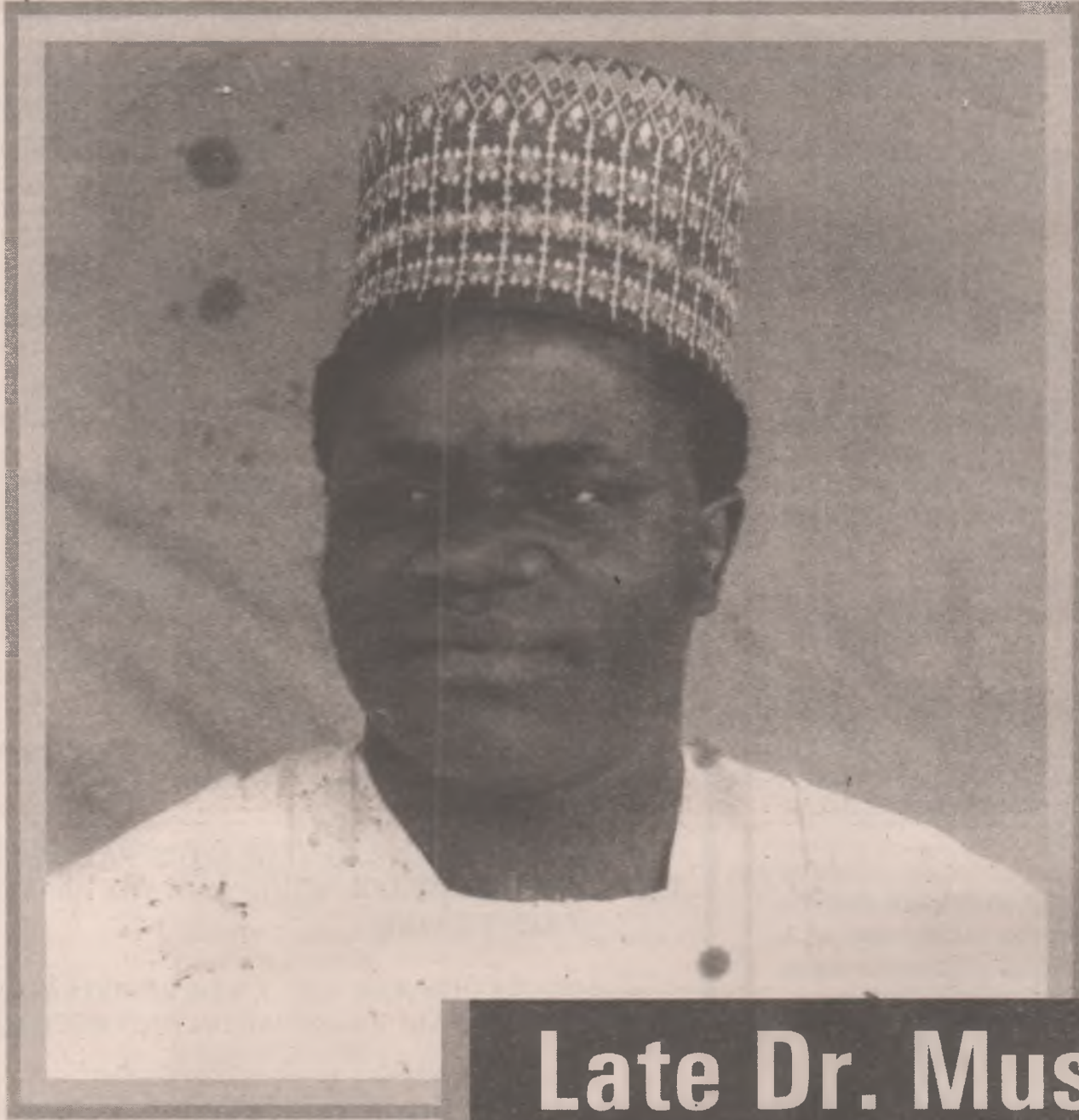
RESIT LECTURES WILL HOLD IN THE HEADQUARTERS (ABUJA) FROM 6<sup>TH</sup>- 9<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2010.  
FEES: N7,000.00

ACCOMMODATION WILL BE PROVIDED TO INTERESTED STUDENTS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.

Signed  
SECRETARY TO THE COUNCIL AND  
DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

**PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDERATION OF NIGERIA****Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilaihi Rajiun**

*W*ith very heavy hearts and deep sense of loss, we members of the Board of Trustees, volunteers, management and staff of the Planned Parenthood Federation of Nigeria (PPFN) regret to announce the passing away to eternity of the member of our Board of Trustees:

**Late Dr. Musa Inuwa**

Who died on Sunday, January 17, 2010 and was buried on Monday, January 18, 2010 according to Islamic rites.

May his gentle soul rest in perfect peace

**Management**

Planned Parenthood Federation of Nigeria

# DIGEST

## Average person suffers 6,284 common ailments in a lifetime

WE suffer from 80 ailments including common colds, cramp and back pain every year. For anyone coping with the sniffles today, or nursing a headache, here's a cheerful thought.

It's just one of at least 6,284 times you'll feel a bit rough during your lifetime.

A survey claims that the average Briton experiences up to 80 minor ailments such as headaches, cramps, back pain and common colds every year.

We spend 21 days a year on pain relief medication, or 1,649 in total given the average age we live to of 78.5.

And we seek medical attention for these ailments at least three times a year.

The poll of 3,000 adults found the most common complaint is frequent bouts of cramp. Cramp affects us up to 19 times a year, or 1,492 times over a lifetime.

You can also expect to have at least 16 headaches a year, or 1,256 in total. The third most reported ailment is back pain - endured by the average Briton 14 times a year and 1,099 times in total.

The poll was conducted by [www.activequote.com](http://www.activequote.com), an independent comparison site on private health insurance.

The company's director Richard Theo said: 'While the ailments may seem minor, this survey shows just how disruptive they can be and this figure doesn't take into account the more serious illnesses.'

The poll found the fourth most common minor ailment was pulled muscles, at nine times a year or 707 over a lifetime.

This was just ahead of a cricked neck, tummy upsets, nose bleeds and strained or sprained wrists and ankles.

Interestingly, more than half of those polled believe they are fit and healthy - even though they suffered on average two colds, two cuts, an eye infection, earache, a dose of flu and heartburn over the past 12 months alone.



WE suffer from 80 ailments including common colds, cramp and back pain every year



SWITCHING from British-bred beef and lamb to imported meat substitutes such as tofu increases the need for cultivated land

## How being vegetarian does more harm to the environment than eating meat

By Fiona Macrae

SWITCHING from British-bred beef and lamb to imported meat substitutes such as tofu increases the need for cultivated land.

It is a claim that could put a dent in the green credentials of vegetarians: Meat-free diets can be bad for the planet.

Environmental activists and vegetarians have long taken pleasure in telling those who enjoy a steak that livestock farming is a major source of harmful greenhouse gases.

But research has shown that giving up meat may not be as green as it seems.

The Cranfield University study found that switching from British-

bred beef and lamb to meat substitutes imported from abroad such as tofu and Quorn would increase the amount of land cultivated, raising the risk of forests being destroyed.

Production methods for meat substitutes can be energy intensive and the final products tend to be highly processed, the report, which was commissioned by the environmental group WWF, found.

The researchers concluded: 'A switch from beef and milk to highly refined livestock product analogues such as tofu could actually increase the quantity of arable land needed to supply the UK.'

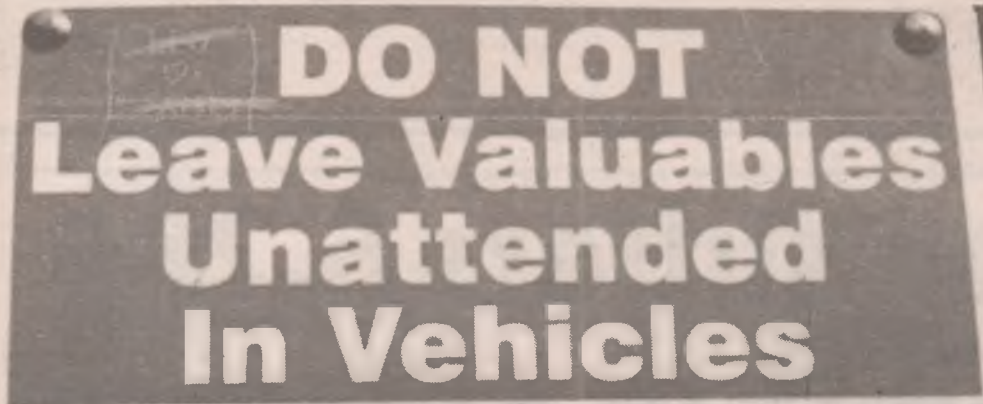
Donal Murphy-Bokern, one of the report's authors and a former

co-ordinator at the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs told the Times: 'For some people, tofu and other meat substitutes symbolise environmental friendliness but they are not necessarily the badge of merit that people claim.'

But Liz O'Neill, of the Vegetarian Society, said: 'If you're aiming to reduce your environmental impact by going vegetarian then it's obviously not a great idea to rely on highly-processed products.'

A spokesman for the WWF said it was important to remember that livestock produce large amounts of methane, a much more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide

Sign Language



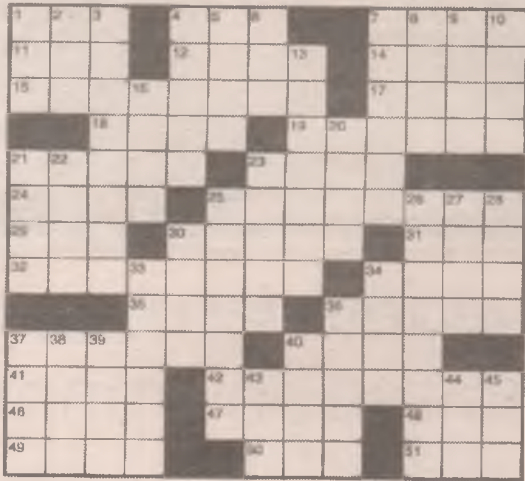
COMMON THIEVES VISIT THIS AREA TOO

What about the "uncommon ones?"  
 Photo location: West Virginia, by Randy Lorenzen  
 Culled from www.signspotting.com

EASY CROSSWORDS

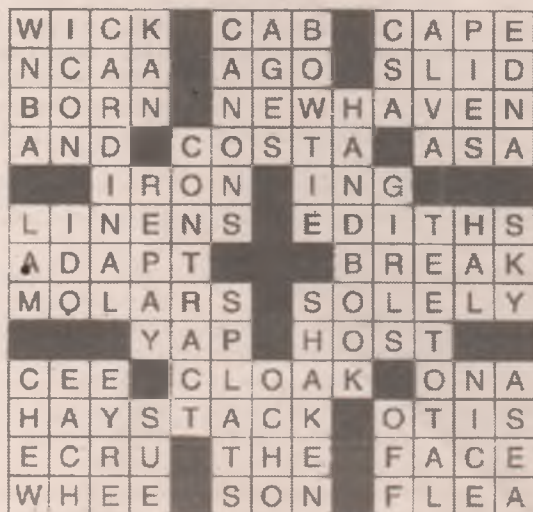
- ACROSS**
- 1. Marx's "\_\_\_ Kapital"
  - 4. The chance \_\_\_ lifetime (2 wds.)
  - 7. NBA star Steve
  - 11. GI's hangout
  - 12. Shredded
  - 14. Cave's feedback
  - 15. Tulsa's state
  - 17. Obama's title (abbr.)
  - 18. "Oh, sure!" (2 wds.)
  - 19. Prepare leftovers
  - 21. Take in or let out
  - 23. Captain Hook's pirate
  - 24. Drummer's responsibility
  - 25. Resolute
  - 29. Middle (abbr.)
  - 30. Imitative ones
  - 31. Fourth letter
  - 32. Sunrise
  - 34. Enemies
  - 35. Slanted type (abbr.)
  - 36. Brightens (up)
  - 37. More like snow
  - 40. Claim against property
- DOWN**
- 1. Batman and Robin, e.g.
  - 2. Invite
  - 3. Alone
  - 4. Alternate
  - 5. Extremity
  - 6. Sleeve locale
  - 7. William, to Andrew
  - 8. Unit of land
  - 9. Mets' home until 2009
  - 10. TV emcee
  - 13. Designate
  - 16. Sanction
  - 20. Snaky swimmers
  - 21. Start of a tot's song
  - 22. "\_\_\_ Woman in Your Life" (2 wds.)
  - 23. Purloin
  - 25. Harpooned
  - 26. Decorating
  - 27. Smell
  - 28. Actress Harper
  - 30. Comic Johnson
  - 33. Stung
  - 34. Spots for corns
  - 36. Gathers, as berries
  - 37. TV's "\_\_\_ in Cincinnati"
  - 38. Recover
  - 39. Ancient Peruvian
  - 40. Comic Jay
  - 43. Chap
  - 44. Previously named
  - 45. Guy's companion

74



Solution to Easy Crosswords

73



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.

86

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

Solution to Sudoku 85

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

# SECURITY GUARDS

Able-bodied?  
Smart-looking?  
Ambitious for greater height?

A reputable private security outfit with national network requires your services urgently in  
**ABUJA, KANO, LAGOS AND PORTHARCOURT**

## PREREQUISITE

**Ages:** 25-40 years  
**Height:** 5'7" (Male), 5'6" (Female)  
**Minimum Qualification:** GCE O' Level/SSCE

Ex-Service Experience would be an added advantage.

## METHOD OF APPLICATION

Apply in person with your relevant academic certificates to any of the following centres:

- ◆ **ABUJA:**  
Plot 698, Zone B3, Off Gidado Idris, Wuye District,  
P.O. Box 2032 Abuja.  
Tel: 09-6702521, 5232843, 07028202702
- ◆ **KANO:**  
88, Tafawa Balewa Road,  
Off Muritala Mohammed Way, Kano.  
Tel: 07028202679
- ◆ **LAGOS:**  
Kings Guards House, Km10, Lekki-Epe Expressway,  
Near Chevron Round-About, Lekki, Lagos.  
Tel: 01-4611601, 07028151126, 07028202679
- ◆ **PORT HARCOURT:**  
10, Eligbam Road, Off Rumuola Road, Port Harcourt.  
Tel: 07028202837

Within two weeks of this publication, between 9.00am - 3.00pm (Monday-Friday)



## MINISTRY OF BUDGET AND ECONOMIC PLANNING

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Unit  
Sokoto State  
PMB 2016

Ref No. MBEP/MDG/CGS/253  
Date: 11 February, 2010

### INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION FROM REPUTABLE CONTRACTORS WITH RELEVANT EXPERIENCE AND REQUISITE EXPERTISE TO UNDERTAKE EXECUTION OF MDG/CGS PROJECTS IN SOKOTO STATE

#### A. INTRODUCTION

As part of its commitment and mandate to the attainment of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Sokoto State Government in partnership with Federal Government of Nigeria (OSSAP - MDG) will be utilizing conditional grant for implementation of project and programmes for the attainment of MDGs. The State in collaboration with OSSAP-MDG has made provision for the execution of 2009 MDG/CGS projects in the following areas:

1. Construction of Solar Powered Boreholes
2. Child Development and Growth Monitoring
3. Construction of one Block of 4 compartment VIP Latrine
4. Strengthening of free medical care for pregnant mothers, children and vulnerable groups.

The office of the Chairman State programme implementation unit hereby invites suitably qualified and reputable contracting firm to pre-qualify for the works under the approval.

#### B. PRE-QUALIFICATION

1. Evidence of incorporation with CAC
2. VAT registration
3. Tax clearance certificate (2004, 2005 and 2006)
4. Company audited account for at least 3 years
5. Evidence of financial capability and clean bill of healthy financial position in the form of referee from the bank.
6. Evidence of experience/technical qualification including key personnel
7. Equipment and technology capability

#### SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

Two (2) Hard copies and one (1) soft copy (CD or DVD) of the completed pre-qualification documents should be submitted in sealed envelope which shall bear words, PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR MDG/CGS 2009 indicating specific project applied for Pre-qualification of contract for 1, 2, 3, or all. The envelopes should not bear any mark indicating the identity of the submitter. All documents shall be submitted at the following address not later than **Two weeks** of this publication to the Office of the Chairman MDGs Programme implementation committee, MDGs Unit, Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning, Usman Faruk Secretariat Sokoto, Sokoto State.

#### NOTE

Only short listed contractors will be invited to tender. The office of the Chairman MDGs will not make any form of payment or refund whatsoever for expenses incurred in response to this invitation.

Signed  
Sokoto State MDGs Focal Person  
For: Chairman Millennium Development Goals  
State Programme Implementation Committee



## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTANT SERVICES)

NIGERIA

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (CSDP)  
CONSULTING SERVICES, 4496-UN1, P090644

1. The Federal Government of Nigeria FGN has received a credit from the international Development Agency IDA financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Community and Social Development Project CSDP, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consultant services. The services include Carrying out a baseline Survey of Sample Communities in 20 LGA's in Bauchi State to be concluded in Eight Weeks

### 2. OBJECTIVE OF THE SURVEY

The overall objective of the survey is to collate baseline information on sampled communities in the twenty LGAs to be considered for the exercise. This baseline is to assist in providing opportunities for intervention by the project and also to provide a basis for impact based comparison of pre and post project situation in the CSDP communities. Bauchi State community and Social Development Project will recruit a consultant to undertake the baseline survey of the sampled communities in the twenty (20) Local Government Areas.

### 3. SCOPE OF WORK:

The consultant is expected to visit the 20 Local Government Areas and obtain the following general information in respect of all the LGAs and the Communities: -

- i. Name of LGA and Communities.
- ii. Distance of community to the L.G.A. HQ and the State capital.
- iii. Population of Community disaggregated into gender/ adult/ children/ ethnicity/religion.
- iv. Natural resources features such as land, water and forests.
- v. Occupation (cropping pattern, crops, yields, domestic animals such as sheep, goats, cattle and others).
- vi. Available infrastructure (schools, health centres, water supply, etc).
- vii. Average household size (family) disaggregated into gender: adult/children.
- viii. Average household income distribution.
- ix. Sources of household income/economic activities.
- x. Socio-cultural features that influence community economic development such as market days and frequency, local festivals and historic events.
- xi. Existing village organizations such as CDAs, CBOs etc.

The following specific information is to be provided:

- i. The economic environment of the communities in the LGAs. This should include but not limited to the economic activities, the social and cultural factors that influence economic development and sharing of common property resources, sources of livelihood of families and their income per capita. Specific attention should be placed on gender and vulnerable groups (men, women, youths, disabled, minorities, etc).
- ii. Soil and water quality and changes in parameter within the local government. Water and soil samples must be collected from different sources where communities fetch water e.g. streams, wells, boreholes etc and must be tested both at the field and in the laboratory.
- iii. Structure of formal and informal institutions and their current roles in community development activities.
- iv. Agricultural production systems, cropping pattern, yields, household income and constraints to agricultural productivity.
- v. Identify and assess status of resources (land, forest, water etc) within the LGAs and identify indicators that could be used to monitor changes.
- vi. Availability and quality/condition of infrastructural facilities in all sectors such as Education, Health, Water, Environment/Natural Resources, Rural Electrification, Socio-economic & Transport/Roads. All project types should be covered including those executed by Government, NGOs, the communities or other developmental agencies
- vii. Environmental problems of concern to the community and mitigation measures being adopted.
- viii. Ranking of communities within an LGA on the basis of the availability and functionality of infrastructural facilities.
- ix. Provide information on how to develop measurable indicators to be use in impact evaluation for each sector.
- x. Prepare a comprehensive report on each of the communities by LGA based on the above.

### 4. SKILLS REQUIREMENT

The study is expected to be conducted by a consultancy firm with personnel possessing requisite qualification and experience in conducting rural baseline surveys. Each member of the team should have at least a minimum of five years post qualification experience. The team should include the following expertise:

- (a) A Socio-economist/Rural Economist/Rural Sociologist
- (b) A Natural resources expert/Environmentalist and
- (c) A hydro-geologist.

In addition, the consultancy firm should work with the M&E Manager and staff in designing the questionnaire and also in reviewing the collected information for quality and consistency

5. The Bauchi State Agency for Community and Social Development Project (BSACSDP) now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

6. A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers (current edition). Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours 10.00 to 16.00 hours

7. Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by 12 noon, not later than 2 weeks from the date of this advert.

Bauchi State Agency for Community and Social Development Project (BSACSDP)

Attn: Abubakar Sadiq Mohammed

General Manager,  
Bauchi State Agency for Community and Social  
Development Project (BSACSDP)  
No.4b Yandoka Road, PMB 098, Bauchi,  
Bauchi State Nigeria  
Tel: (+234) 08030934797  
Fax: 077-541615

E-mail: abubakarsadecq@yahoo.com



# NIGERIA

## marches forward

“

It is now time for us to move on in a more

determined manner to tackle the various challenges which we face as a nation. Our march towards Vision 20-2020 is irreversible. Therefore, we see a need to prioritise on a few of the most critical areas which continue to plague our effort at engendering meaningful economic growth and development. Some of these critical sectors include power, infrastructure, security, generation of employment and business opportunities for our teeming young men and women.

One of the cardinal commitments of this administration is our commitment to Good Governance, Accountability and Transparency. We shall continue to pursue these policy objectives with all the seriousness they deserve. In particular, the war against corruption will be prosecuted more robustly. We will therefore strengthen the capacity of the anti-corruption agencies and give them a free hand to prosecute the anti corruption war.

Let me once again commend the people of Anambra State, for the successful conduct of the recent gubernatorial election. This has shown that Nigerians can conduct free, fair and credible elections. The Anambra Election has however exposed some weaknesses in our electoral system, and government is determined to plug these loop holes as we approach the next General Elections in 2011. I want to reassure all Nigerians and our friends around the world, that our determination to ensure that the sanctity of the electoral rights of our people shall not be compromised.

”

## Save Democracy Group

We salute senior citizens, opinion leaders, civil societies, the Press, the Senate President, the Majority Leader of the House of Representatives, Honourable members of the House of Representatives, organised labour (Nigeria Labour Congress), professional bodies, and all those who contributed towards the sustenance of democracy in our nation especially during the turbulent period which culminated in the emergence of the Acting President in Nigeria.

We salute you all. Our group is concerned and committed towards the sustenance of democracy. That we shall continue to do.

**Signed: Chief Solomon Adeoye, Garki, Abuja**



*Love is in the air*

**RICE AT ITS BEST**



AVAILABLE NATIONWIDE



## News Extra

**F**or most couples, the 'big day' ensures that the beginning of their matrimonial life together starts on a high.

However, a ceremony in Thailand has taken things to another level.

Suspended from a cliff by sling wires, brides and grooms are saying, 'I do' in a 'flying wedding' ceremony to celebrate Valentine's Day.

Nitiphong Jittahong and Rattanaporn Supha were one of four Thai couples to take part in the annual event in Prachinburi province in Thailand.

Dressed casually with the brides in white and wearing harnesses, the couples grasp traditional bouquets of flowers as they manage to smile for their wedding day photos.

At least there were no fears that either party would bolt at the altar.

They sealed the deal with a kiss – having to remove the regulators from their mouths first – while wearing traditional Thai flowers as well as Sawasdee wearing a white veil

As with all marriages, though, there are always highs and lows – and four other couples proved this by taking the marriage ceremony to new depths.

Parinyatit Kantarak and Piyaratwadee Sawasdee tied the knot while scuba diving in the Andaman Sea, in Trang, south Thailand.

They sealed the deal with a kiss – having to remove the regulators from their mouths first – while wearing traditional Thai flowers as well as Sawasdee wearing a white veil.

Narongchon Chomsa and Somyin Chomsa, both from Thailand, were wed in azure waters off Pak-Men beach in an event which marked the 14th anniversary of the underwater wedding ceremony.

While Thai couple Manop Wongkam and his bride Parida Ruksutnirundorn said, 'I do' at 10 metres, wearing traditional Chinese costumes at Chiang Mai Zoo Aquarium in Chiang Mai, northern Thailand.

It marked what is said to be the most romantic day of the year, which coincides with the Chinese New Year today.



BRIDE Rattanaporn Supha and Nitiphong Jittahong say, 'I do' in a flying wedding ceremony in Thailand

# Couples tie the knot in 'flying wedding' ceremony



ANOTHER couple are suspended on wires from a cliff as part of the Valentine's Day celebrations in Prachinburi



MANOP Wongkam and his bride Parida Ruksutnirundorn during their underwater ceremony in the Andaman Sea



FOUR couples take part in the ceremony

## News Extra

# Where Power Lies: Prime Ministers versus The Media

A Downing Street insider argues that PMs who court the media too assiduously usually come a cropper—a book by *Lance Price*

**W**inston Churchill threatened to close down the Daily Mirror. An utterly paranoid Harold Wilson punched a reporter in the stomach. Stanley Baldwin denounced the press barons as harlots. John Major drove himself demented by reading the first editions of the papers before he went to bed and once called the editor of the *Sun* to Number 10 in order to whinge about a story alleging that he was using hair dye. Tony Blair was eulogised by most of the media when he arrived in Downing Street and departed denouncing it as “a feral beast”. Gordon Brown is a journalist who now seems to hate most members of his former profession.

The relationship between prime ministers and the media is a complex and combustible mix in which mutual fascination exists alongside reciprocated fear and loathing. It was ever thus. Bill Deedes, information minister under Harold Macmillan and later editor of the *Daily Telegraph*, observed: “There is a great invisible struggle going on as to who really has the most power – the government or the newspapers.”

**L**ance Price, having been both a BBC reporter and Downing Street spin doctor, has manned the trenches at both ends of the battlefield. He has combined that experience with original interviews and some serious research to fashion a compelling account of how politicians and the media struggle for mastery of public opinion. His book – rich with historical detail, penetrating in its analysis and entertaining in its anecdotes – is the sharpest contemporary account I have read.

The seedy side of the relationship is always conducted illicitly. The voters are kept in the dark about the deals struck between those who wield power and those who are supposed to invigilate it. There were reporters, editors and proprietors who pawned their independence to help Lloyd George topple Asquith. Others hid the truth about Churchill's declining health. Worst of all, there were journalists who encouraged the appeasement of Hitler at the behest of Neville Chamberlain.

The cheerleading of Rupert Murdoch's newspapers helped to sustain Margaret Thatcher during her long period in power. Yet you will not find a single reference to him in the 1,500 pages of



GORDON Brown at his monthly Downing Street press conference, 25 January 2010.



TONY Blair



JOHN Major

her memoirs. It is an interesting speculation whether Tony Blair's autobiography will be any more frank about his dealings with the media mogul.

Some clear themes emerge. It is the prime ministers who start off on a swooning honeymoon with the media who tend to end up suing most bitterly for divorce. Harold Wilson, who fancied himself a great manipulator of journalists when he first arrived at Number 10, went from being the darling of the media to believing they were dedicated to destroying him.

A similar trajectory was followed by Tony Blair and Gordon Brown, both of whom became bewildered and angry that the newspapers could be at their feet and then at their throats. The dif-

ference between them is that Blair took about six years to complete this arc while it happened to Brown in just three months.

**T**he struggle for supremacy reached a new intensity during the New Labour period and it is about this that Price makes his sharpest observations. Blair and Brown responded to the explosion of media outlets and the hyper-aggression of much of the press by turning government into a 24-hour newsroom pumping out often confected stories which were supposed to sate and sedate the beast. The ultimate result has been counterproductive. Much of our political discourse is now trapped in a vicious circle. The public is ever more suspicious

of both manipulative politicians and cynical journalists and they are ever more distrustful of each other. Politicians demean themselves when they seize on every passing media frenzy for fear of appearing remote. Someone at Number 10 thought it a good idea to spin that Gordon Brown had inquired after the health of the Britain's Got Talent contestant Susan Boyle. Tony Blair took this trivialisation of his position to a satirical height when he called for the release from prison of Deirdre Rachid, someone who didn't actually exist because she was a character in Coronation Street.

I agree with Price's conclusion: “By indulging the whims of popular journalism, Downing Street has squandered its greatest asset – the authority of the office

of prime minister. Where once the prime minister's words had scarcity value and were listened to with care, they are now devalued to such an extent that they jostle for attention alongside those of anybody else with access to the media.” Take note, David Cameron.

**P**rice contends that politicians undermine themselves when they over-pander to the media because it makes journalists feel more powerful than they truly are or should be. He commends the example of Clem Attlee, who didn't bother to read the press. And yet he also shows that no modern leader can afford to ignore the media. Ted Heath held himself aloof from a press that he regarded as frivolous. In his first three months as prime minister in the 1970s, he didn't make a single appearance on television to explain his policies, an unthinkable idea today when we are accustomed to leaders who are ever-available as round-the-clock advocates for themselves. The result of Heath's disdain was to leave him friendless when he needed press allies for his battle with the miners. Gordon Brown, whose leaden communication skills and grumpy relations with journalists are reminiscent of Heath, has lost any constituency in the media. He suffers as a result.

Prime ministers can't live with the media, but they can't live without them either.

*Culled from guardian.co.uk*

## News Extra

# More than a million remain with no shelter in Haiti as rains loom

**W**e will not be able to provide enough tents in time, says aid agency one month after earthquake

It was a flash flood, and a portent of the rains and devastation to come. The day after, Bernard Seraphin was collecting clothes for her three children from 30. the remains of her house on Port-au-Prince's Route -de Delmas

A month after the earthquake wrecked her neighbourhood along with large parts of Port-au-Prince and -surrounding towns, she is living in an emergency camp next to K-Dis supermarket, under a stretched cloth roof.

"The rain came in last night. We put a bed cover on four poles. We were completely drenched. The rainy season will be coming soon. We need some -possibility to be dry."

**T**he storm was brief and furious. But for the hundreds of thousands still -living on the streets after the catastrophe, fears are now turning to what the next few months of torrential downpours will bring. There is a fear of disease.

But in the Haitian capital, and still more in the countryside, there is the simple imperative of viable shelter. Around the corner from where Seraphin lives, a road was blocked. Neighbours said the street had been made impassable to cars because people still living



HUNDREDS of people congregate in public square after their homes were destroyed

there were sleeping in the open. "We need shelters," an elderly man shouted angrily. "Tell them we need cover from the rain."

The issues confronting those without shelter - estimated by USAid at between 1.1 and 1.5 million people - were underlined last week by Care, a Christian -charity, which warned that the international community will not be able to -supply enough family tents before the rainy season begins in late-March.

Instead, the charity said, the -rescue effort should concentrate on -providing tarpaulins that can be used to -construct waterproof shelters. "Shipping in enough family tents for all the people in need would take months," Care said in a statement. "Most people crammed into overcrowded camps are huddled under bed sheets strung between poles or sticks - hardly enough to block out the sun, but useless against the torrential downpours of Hai-

ti's rainy season."

At the beginning of the month, only 272,000 out of those displaced had been provided with emergency shelters. While the relatively lucky ones have been given proper tents, the majority have been left to improvise.

The consequences in the countryside and the city have been different. In -Port-au-Prince, the cloth covered -shantytowns in places like Champ de Mars - with its statues and ruined presidential palace - are visibly being hardened. By the day, new wooden shacks are being constructed in the city's main urban space, creating a more permanent encampment. In the countryside, thousands are essentially living in the wild.

**I**n areas like Léogâne, an hour and a half's drive from the capital, the challenge for most is to find protection from the -elements. Many are refugees from the city, with raw foods more easily available in the countryside.

The camps strung along the coastal road are often pathetic affairs, with walls made from -netting, bed sheets and thin -pieces of fabric - often so thin that those living inside are visible through the -material.

Orelie Joseph, who sold alcohol in Port-au-Prince before the earthquake, lives in one camp in a sugar cane field close to the road. "What all the people want - what we all need - is proper shelter. -People don't care about food, we can find that here - what we really care is about is being -protected from the weather. This

area has only poor people who fled from the city. Everybody here lost where they were living. I am living here with my wife and four children. What we need is a proper tent.

One of the luckier ones is Pierre Andre Janvier, 38, who lives in Léogâne. A maternity supervisor at the hospital, he has managed to build a one-room hut not far from the ruins of his home.

"You know, I've never asked the -government for anything. I work for the government, and I didn't ask. They do very little for me. They took my name for a food distribution. But I haven't heard anything since. That was two weeks ago." Janvier's shelter contains some of the few things he managed to rescue from his home, a sideboard with the glass still intact, and bedding. The floor has been made from breeze blocks salvaged from the house. Janvier is wearing the only shoes he could recover - one brown, the other black.

"[After a month] I'm angry now. I can't force the government to help. But all that I ask is for a tent and a piece of carpet. But the problem is that I don't know where to go and ask."

**B**ack in Port-au-Prince, Seraphin is hopeful that she might be helped to find somewhere dry to sleep. "My home is not safe to sleep in. The foreigners said they would help us. That was a week ago. All we ask is somewhere where we can sleep. Somewhere we can be dry when the rains come."

Culled from theobserver.co.uk



A Haitian man collects usable bricks from a quake-destroyed home to reuse in rebuilding at the weekend

# PROPERTY

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## Infinity House Abuja commissioned

By Nasir Imam

THE multi-storey, multi-billion naira Infinity House, located in the central area of Abuja, was last Thursday commissioned.

At the commissioning, MD/CEO Infinity Homes, Mr. Banjo Obaleye, said successive efforts in Nigeria's drive towards "housing for all" target have failed as housing deficit now stands at over 17 million units in Nigeria.

Mr. Obaleye said that estimates show that Nigeria needs

an average of one million housing units per year not only to replenish decaying housing stock, but also to meet rising demand.

The Infinity Homes boss said that assuming N5 million cost of each building unit, over N85 trillion would be needed to fund the housing gap, that is N4.25 trillion needed yearly for the next 20 years.

Mr. Banjo Obaleye said that with a population estimated at 140 million and rising, it will be practically impossible to provide affordable housing for middle and low income

Nigerians without a viable long-term mortgage lending scheme.

He said the advent of secondary mortgage market will usher in a new regime that will enhance capacity of mortgage originators to originate more mortgages.

In her speech, Minister of State in the Federal Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Mrs. Grace Ekphwere, who was represented, said that while housing contribute 30-40% of Nigeria's GDP, it only contributes 0.3% to the economy.

PIC JIBRIN ABUBAKAR

## Anambra inaugurates N300m motor park

THE Anambra State Government has inaugurated a N300 million motor park on the outskirts of Onitsha, to decongest the Onitsha-Owerri Road.

Governor Peter Obi said in Onitsha while inaugurating the park, that it was the biggest park in the South-East geo-political zone of the country.

Obi said that the project was embarked upon by the government to alleviate the hardships faced by travellers, due to incessant traffic hold-up at the beginning of the Onitsha-Owerri Road in Onitsha.

"Buses travelling to Owerri and other parts of Imo State, Aba, Umuahia and Port Harcourt will begin to load and terminate here. This will help decongest Onitsha-Owerri Road. It will also create employment opportunities as well as bring sanity in the mode buses load and terminate within this road."

"The park gulped over N300 million, which included the cost of land, construction of the park itself and auxiliary support facilities for the park, such as public conveniences and eateries," he said. Igwe, Josiah Nwakobi, the Traditional Ruler of Obosi, thanked the government for locating the project in the community.



A taxi is seen on a flooded road in Festac town, Lagos after a heavy down pour on Saturday.

## Hotel owners decry multiple taxes

HOTEL owners in Abuja on Sunday identified multiple and high taxes as the bane of the hospitality industry.

Chief Tomi Akinbogun, the President of the Hotel Owners Forum (HOFA), said that such taxes and charges had continued to kill businesses in the country rather than help them grow.

He advised the government to review its tax policy and administration if it was serious about attracting investment into the economy.

Akinbogun also called for the

education of workers in the public sector, especially ministry officials, on how to handle and treat businessmen appropriately.

"So if government is serious about investment, it really has to educate ministry workers, they are civil servants and they are supposed to serve us.

"What we are saying is that there should not be any competition; we are private sector, we are the ones that can drive the economy efficiently," he said.

According to him, the major problem of the hospitality indus-

try has been multiple and high taxes.

"For this year, we have noticed almost a 100 per cent to 120 per cent increase in tenement rates and we wonder why, because in the last two years we had meetings with the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) and we resolved that tenement rates be based yearly on the value of the property.

"But what we find out is that AMAC employed the services of a consultant, so the consultant just goes round the hotels and gives a

rough estimate of the hotels.

"With this, they also make an estimate that AMAC should generate, say about N1 trillion or N3 trillion, and the hotels are now being charged based on these estimates," the HOFA president said.

He said AMAC valued hotels as banks, a situation he described as unhealthy for the development of the industry, and called on the AMAC consultant to work with those engaged by the forum, Intercontinental Properties, to resolve the issue of high charges. (NAN)

## Lagos Megacity project: 'What FG should focus on'

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

WHILE Lagos state government is working to effectively manage its emerging status as a megacity in 2015, a regional planning expert has tasked the government to build institutional framework, strong financing capability and effective management policy.

Lagos state has done a lot "but more still has to be done. The area of financing cannot be overemphasized. No matter how good a plan is, without adequate institutional

framework, financing and management, it cannot be successful" Mrs. Kehinde C. George Director /Head Of Planning Division, Spectroplan Konsult Ltd said.

Delivering a paper titled "Challenges of Urbanisation in Nigerian Urban Centres: The Lagos Mega-City Situation a Town Planner's Perspective" at the 10th Anniversary Lecture of the Department of Urban & Regional Planning University of Lagos, she also noted that, Legal empowerment exists for Town Planners to protect Nigerian cities

from developing into slums and shanties.

She said, there are a lot of environmental pressures on Lagos and the challenges of managing it because of its rapid urbanisation.

Lagos State is the smallest in Nigeria, with an area of 356,861 hectares of which 75,755 hectares are wetlands, yet it has the highest population of 18million out of a national estimate of 150 million persons. The UN estimates that by 2015, Lagos will be third largest city in the world with over

24.6 million people.

The Lagos Megacity ranks No. 6 of Global Megacities. The Lagos Megacity area incorporates 17 of the State's 20 LGAs (excluding Epe, Ibeju-Lekki & Badagry)

The Global Status of Lagos Megacity is the fastest growing Megacity in the world, expanding at more than 5 percent a year' (UN-Habitat, 2006) whereas the African Status is number one of the seven New Partnership for Africa Development (NEPAD) Cities.



# Taraba repairs roads linking Cameroun

RESPITE may soon come for travellers to the Republic of Cameroun through the Mambilla Plateau in Sardauna council of Taraba State, as construction works have commenced on the major roads leading to the country.

A visit to the area revealed that work was going on at Kara, Warawa and Mbamnga roads.

The deplorable condition of

the entire roads in the area, some of which are international roads, has crippled business activities in the past.

The traditional ruler of Mbamnga, Jauro Saleh Abubakar, said that the roads have been left unattended to "for the past two decades."

He lauded the efforts of both the state government and the

member representing the constituency, Abel Peter Diah, who he said, "has been working tirelessly round the clock to ensure the dividends of democracy get to our people."

He added that; "the ongoing construction work on the roads will go a long way in reducing our suffering."

"Thank God you have decided

to come and see things for yourself. My people can now travel with ease. Before now, plying these roads use to be very difficult, especially during the raining seasons.

"The bridge issue, I think, is more than the power of Abel Diah. Both the state government and Federal Government, I suppose, are the ones to take responsibility for that."

Also speaking, the village head of Kara, Kachalla Ahmadu Nison, said that if all elected politicians would toe the path of the member representing the constituency, "the masses would not be suffering."

Investigations show that work on the roads was embarked on by Diah, in collaboration with the state government.



FCT Secretary, Health and Human Services, Dr. Precious K. Gbeneol, (left) distributing insecticide treated nets to beneficiaries in Bwari area council, recently.

## Seoul launches 'floating island'

A giant steel float that will be part of a "floating island" in Seoul boasting off-shore entertainment facilities began a snails-paced trip towards the city's Han River Saturday.

The football-field-sized structure, resembling the hull of a cargo ship, moved at a barely noticeable speed over rows of giant rubber airbags from a riverside assembly site to the water just 60 metres (198 feet) away.

Linked by huge iron chains to giant winches, the buoy weighing 2,000 tonnes was not due to reach the water until Sunday.

The three-metre high float, 85 metres long and 49 metres wide, will be part of Viva, one of three artificial islets to be built near the southern end of Banpo Bridge.

Along with two other artificial islets, Vista and Tera, to be launched by the end of April, the cluster of man-made floating islets will be used for conventions, water sports, restaurants, performances and exhibitions.

The project will be completed and open to the public in August.

"We hope that the floating island will serve as Seoul's new landmark," a Seoul city government spokeswoman said.

## Collapsed Lafia highway shoulders get rehab

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

THE eroded shoulders along Akwanga-Lafia highway at the gateway into Lafia, has attracted the men of the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency in Nasarawa State who are currently working on them through direct labour.

Erosion had completely washed off the shoulders, leaving kilometers of ditches on both sides of the road. This has compounded traffic situation at the NNPC Mega Station at that

point, as motorists are compelled to form queues on the carriageway instead, often causing series of unavoidable accidents.

Work commenced on the reinstatement project last Friday, Daily Trust observed. FERMA's Chief Maintenance Engineer in the state, Engr. Useni Musa confirmed in a phone interview that "we commenced work on the eroded shoulders last Friday. My men are on the sight working to reinstate the shoulders and expand them."

"You know that the location

of the NNPC Mega Station at that point has worsened the situation along the road at that point because motorists now queue on the carriageway since there are no road shoulders. This has been causing accidents that could have been avoided. It is worrisome."

He said the project which will last for a week and more entails reinstatement and expansion to widen the shoulders for more comfortable queuing especially during fuel scarcity periods.

"We are increasing the width of the shoulders particu-

larly around the petrol station to make for comfortable queuing," he added.

Motorists spoken to say the initiative has brought relief to the chaotic nature of traffic at that point. "Often time, accidents occur here not because of any recklessness by drivers. Lack of shoulders along the road has been a major cause. We are happy now that the shoulders are being worked on, with an expansion," one Okeke told our correspondent at the petrol station.

## MultiChoice launches resource centres in Borno

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

MULTICHOICE, Nigeria's premium pay-TV providers, has launched 10 additional resource centres in Borno state.

The launch brings bring the total number of resource centres donated to public schools across Nigeria to 161.

The launch held weekend at the Government College,

Maiduguri. The MultiChoice Resource Centre is an audio-visual learning aid designed to help teachers and students in public secondary schools to teach effectively and learn with ease.

Speaking at the occasion, Mr Segun Fayose, Head of Corporate Communications, MultiChoice Nigeria, explained that MultiChoice's intervention is aimed at revamping the edu-

cational sector and to encourage teaching and learning using modern information and communication technologies (ICTs) in public schools. According to him, the centres would enable both the teachers and students to apply modern tools of learning, thereby enhancing their competitiveness.

Mr Fayose thanked the Borno State Government, SchoolNet

Nigeria, and principals of the 10 beneficiary schools, promising that MultiChoice will not relent in its effort to give back to the community.

He said plans are underway to commission additional 10 centres in Uyo, Akwa-Ibom State in the weeks ahead.

Dr Asabe Bashir, Borno State's Commissioner for Education, thanked Multi-

Choice Nigeria and School-Net, for the fulfilment of the promise made to the State. She observed that the project, which cost several millions of naira, will enhance and ease teaching and learning in the State, urging the beneficiaries of the resource centres to make good use of the facilities and impart meaningful knowledge to the students.

## Property



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## Akpabio flags off 16 projects in Ika

THE Akwa State Government Tuesday reassured on its commitment to good governance as several life-touching projects were inaugurated in Ika local government area.

A statement from Essien Ndueso, S/A to the state's Commissioner for Information, said inaugurating the projects, Governor Godswill Akpabio who was represented by the Commissioner for Housing and Urban Renewal, Barr. Emmanuel Enoidem, said his administration decided to provide the people with life touching programmes to make up of the years of deprivation and neglect.

Gov. Akpabio said students in government primary and secondary schools will be beneficiaries of the projects as they have been provided with conducive learning environments.

Among projects commissioned in various communities are: Mini water and Electrification in Ikot Akpan Offiong, Mini water in Ikot Esedem, Electrification in Ikot Otong, Construction of 4 classroom blocks and Mini water at Technical College, Ikot Oku, Rehabilitation of classroom blocks 1 and 11, primary school, ikot Edim, Building perimeter fence/gate house at the Health center, Nto Etukudo, Rehabilitation of block 1 at Ika Comprehensive High School, Ikot Akpan Anwa, Rehabilitation/construction of 4 classroom blocks at Four Towns Primary School in Ikot Akpan Anwa respectively, Mini water in Nto Mfang, Electrification in Itung Achan, Electrification and mini water in Ikot Idomo.

Responding at the reception in honour of Chief Godswill Akpabio, the Ika Local government Chairman, Mr. Saviour Ibanga expressed appreciation to the governor for keeping his promises in the area.



GOV Akpabio's representative and Commissioner for Housing Barr. Emman Enoidem cuts the tape to commission a project in Ika

## Enugu airport closes for renovation

THE Akanu Ibiam Airport, Enugu, will be closed to traffic as from February 10 to allow for the renovation and extension of its runway, its Manager, Mr Chigbo Nwobu, has said. The closure is to last for one year.

Nwobu told newsmen in Enugu, yesterday that the airport will be closed at 11.59 a.m. on that day.

He said the January 15, earlier announced by the Minister of Aviation, Mr Babatunde Omotoba, for the closure of the airport, during a recent visit to Enugu was tentative.

Nwobu stressed that at 11.59 a.m. on February 10, the airport will be closed to all inbound and outbound flights that use the runway, except helicopters.

He also said that stakeholders including major airlines and sister agencies had been informed.

However, officials of the car hire service and representatives of major airlines at the airport told newsmen that they were yet to be informed of the development.

The Public Relations Officer of the contracting firm, PW Nigeria Ltd., Mr Calistus Otakagu, confirmed that work had started on the runway extension.

"We have started work, but on a skeletal basis because the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) promised us that they would close the airport before we can commence work fully. What we are doing now is clearing of the site to avoid disturbing the takeoff and landing of aircraft," he said.

# Ijora Causeway: FERMA directs immediate reconstruction

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

THE Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA), has ordered the immediate reconstruction of the Ijora Causeway in Lagos.

The Managing Director of FERMA, Engr. Kabiru Abdullahi, gave this directive when he paid a working visit to Lagos State to inspect on-going maintenance works on federal roads in the state.

Abdullahi who said the major problem facing free

flow of vehicular movement on the route was the collapse of the driving course and drainage channels resulting from heavy flooding caused by the blockage of the drains.

He thus directed the agency's Zonal Director in the state to "team up with her Federal Road Maintenance Engineers (FRMEs) in the state to bring a comprehensive technical and financial proposal towards achieving the objective before the commencement

of the rainy season."

He identified the channelling of water off the road to free it for smooth passage of vehicular traffic as the major engineering work to be carried out while the restoration of the driving course itself can be meaningful after a successful turnoff of water from the road.

The FERMA boss also noted that the large number of industrial and commercial firms as well as traders operating in the area, work-

ers and residents that commute through the route, it is disheartening that the same people that depend on the road would engage in acts that cause the deterioration of the important route and its support facilities only to end up complaining of neglect.

The FERMA boss stated that being the major access road to and from the nation's premier port facilities, the Apapa and Tin Can Island ports, immediate steps need to be taken to reconstruct it.

## 'Poor technical education bane of infrastructural devt'

By Benjamin Auta

POOR technical education is the bane of the nation's infrastructural development, says the National President of Nigerian Association of Engineering Craftsmen (NAEC), Yahaya Yakubu.

Mr. Yakubu, who made the disclosure yesterday in an exclusive interview with Daily Trust, said that less than "30 schools in the country can be called tech-

nical colleges."

"you know that the challenges is that of personnel not just in the FCT but the whole country because today we have neglected technical education and in this country today with a population of over 140 million people we only have about 140 technical schools," he said.

While decrying the low enrolment level in technical school, which he blamed on the attitude of the people, Mr.

Yakubu added that funding is needed in the technical education sector for it to be revived.

On the issue of qualified craftsmen and artisans, Mr. Yakubu said that there number is improving as most artisans who learnt their trade are being restrained by the association for them to properly know the technical aspect of their jobs.

He added that average age of a quali-

fied craftsman in the country is 40 years which account for the shortage the nation is having in the sector as he praised the effort of the FG to revive the sector with their intervention through the NBTE in conjunction with UNESCO and the ETF.

On the influx of foreign craftsmen into the country using expatriates, the NAEC president said that "COREN is presently trying to regulate such influx and they have been doing it well."



# Yobe communities to get N988m projects

From Hamza Idris, Damaturu

THE European Union (EU) in collaboration with the federal and Yobe State governments will award contracts worth N988m for the construction of boreholes, toilets and sanitation facilities in some selected urban towns and communities of the state.

Mr Kabiru Abass, the Yobe State coordinator of the Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Reform Programme (WSSSRP) stated this in Damaturu yesterday during a meeting with officials of the EU, UNICEF and Ministry of National Planning.

He said the state and benefitting local governments had released N75m and N88m respectively as part of

their counterpart funding while the remaining N700m will be made available by the federal government and the EU.

Kabiru said places that would benefit from the N988m include urban towns of Damaturu, Gashua, Nguru, Dapchi and small towns of Azbak, Dagona, Dumbulwa, Fika, Bayamari and Bambori as well as 100 rural communities.

## N100bn Warri industrial park for unveiling Feb. 18

Delta state government in partnership with Arco Petrochemical is planning to set up a N100billion industrial park to be located in Warri.

The project which will be driven by Public Private Partnership will develop first class infrastructure in the park for private sector operators to take advantage of.

The project which is expected to be completed by 2014 will be financed through joint venture, concession and private equity participation.

Already the state government has initial 80 per cent stake in the project which it hopes to divest into lower equity as more private sector participation in the project is secured. Arco Petrochemical has 20 per cent stake in the project.

Giving details of the project in Lagos on Saturday the Chairman of the project coordinating Committee Mr. Alfred Okoigun, Managing Director, Arco Petrochemical Engineering Company Limited, said that the project was conceived by the state government as part of strategies to diversify Delta State economic base, attract new businesses into the oil city and stimulate return of businesses that left previously. He said that in pursuit of the noble objective the Delta State Government in August 2008, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Arco Petrochemical Company Limited, an indigenous oil servicing company, to set up an industrial park that would boost commercial and industrial activities in Warri.

Mr Okoigun said that the proposed park is to be named the Warri Industrial Business Park (WIBP) and that the Delta State Government believes the park would reshape the economic potentials of Warri and the state at large.

He told newsmen in Lagos that the proposed unveiling of the Warri Industrial Business Park master plan will be taking place at an investors' forum in Warri on February 18, 2010.

## FG to demarcate 600 hectares for livestock breeding

THE federal government will demarcate 600 hectares of land for breeding of animals in Katsina.

The director of livestock in the federal ministry of agriculture, Dr. Aminu Umar, revealed this during a tour to Runka village in Safana local government area over the weekend.

Dr. Umar was accompanied by Jakada Umar Kaoji, national chairman, Miyetti Allah and Alhaji Umar Bawar, secretary of the committee set up by Sultan to resolve crises between farmers and Fulani herdsmen.

He said so far about 400 hectares of land was demarcated last year.

He further said the federal government has commenced construction of earth dams for cattle rearers.

In his speech, Jakada Umar Kaoji said the demarcation of hectares will boost breeding of animals and stop migration of Fulani cattle rearers from Katsina to other parts of the country.

Kaoji commended the federal government for demarcation of the hectares and called on the Fulani to make good use of the provided hectares.

Our correspondent reports that the demarcation of the hectares in Katsina was part of the effort to address possible clash between farmers and Fulani herdsmen.



Federal Republic of Nigeria



Small & Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria

### Training in Enterprise Development Service for Business Development Service Providers (BDSPs), Representatives of Micro-Finance Institutions (MFIs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

#### Call for Applications

#### BACKGROUND

The Federal Government of Nigeria has expressed its determination to move the nation to the bracket of the world's twenty biggest economies by year 2020. This implies, among other things, a surge in annual economic growth rate in a consistent manner.

Consequently, the Agency has initiated and is implementing Enterprise Development Programmes (EDPs), which include information generation and dissemination, Business Development Service (embracing training, counseling, mentoring and general advisory services), enterprise networking and advocacy to accelerate the development of the sub-sector.

In order to broaden and deepen her reach across the country and accelerate MSME development, the Agency embarked on training Business Development Service Providers (BDSPs), Representatives of Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) and related Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) so that they can serve as effective and efficient Enterprise Developers and/or Service Delivery Agents (SDAs) for SMEDAN.

This programme commenced in 2008 with the training of over 270 representatives of MSME-Focused Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and BDSPs in Enterprise Development Services. This year, the Agency is targeting 100 representatives of such organizations, including Micro-Finance Institutions.

#### To Participate

A. All applicant-NGOs must show evidence of being legally registered with Corporate Affairs Commission and must currently be engaged in enterprise development activities. Applicants must submit verifiable evidence of

previous enterprise development works already done, with clear indication of locations. There must also be statements of new locations (if any) where they intend to work. Each application should also be supported by the NGO's corporate governance structure. Tutorial and Training materials will be delivered free

Date of training: 15th - 19th march, 2010

Venue: To be communicated to successful applicant-NGOs.

B. Business Development Service Providers (BDSPs) and Representatives of Micro-Finance Institutions (MFIs) wishing to participate in the training must show

- \* Evidence of registration with Corporate Affairs Commission
- \* Evidence of current enterprise development activities

Each application shall also be supported by the company's corporate governance structure.

Participation Fee is N50,000.00 (fifty thousand naira) Per person for BDSPs and MFIs.

This amount is for tutorial, training materials, tea break and lunch only.

Date of Training 8th - 12th march 2010

Venue: To be communicated later to successful BDSPs and MFIs.

#### Submission

All applications must be addressed to the Director-General, SMEDAN, 35 Port Harcourt Crescent, Area 11, Garki, (P.M.B. 5165 Wuse) Abuja, (email: [info@smedan.gov.ng](mailto:info@smedan.gov.ng)) and must get to the Agency not later than Monday February 22, 2010.

Please note that only successful applicants shall be contacted. All submissions shall be treated on "First come, first served" basis.

Note: 1) It is compulsory for all BDSPs currently working with the Agency to attend or send representative.  
2) Individuals who participated in the previous training are excluded from this exercise.

Please direct further enquiries to  
Yomi 0805-517-1647, Charles 0803-496-0154

Signed: Management

## CITY NEWS



HOTLINES: 0803-3493-462 & 0703-8927-513  
email: citynews@dailytrust.com

# Kapital FM reporter dies mysteriously at Mararaba

By Abubakar Yakubu

A senior reporter with Kapital FM, Mr Silas Utin, Saturday slumped and died inside his bathroom as he was preparing for work.

A neighbour told our reporter that before his death, Mr Utin had woken up early Saturday morning to escort his wife to the motor park to board a commercial vehicle back to the state where she works.

"We saw him when he came back from the motor park at 11 am and greeted the usual way before an alarm was raised by his nephew, who alerted us at about 1.30pm that his uncle went into the bathroom to bath for over one hour and has not come out," the neighbour said.

The neighbour said he advised Mr Utin's nephew to knock on the bathroom door and when no answer was forth coming, they had to climb through the wall of another bathroom to peep into it and saw Mr Utin lying face down on the floor.

"We opened the bathroom door, got a vehicle and rushed him down to Asokoro General

Hospital but when we got there, a doctor checked him, before asking us to get a police report," said the deceased person's relative.

The relative said that efforts were made to contact the police, who later came to observe the corpse before it was admitted into the hospital's mortuary.

A family source said his wife was immediately contacted as she was in a vehicle heading for her destination, while the family are rubbing minds with Kapital FM's management to plan for the burial.

Our reporter, who visited the deceased person's home, noticed some of his relations and church members crowded in front of his apartment offering prayers for the repose of his soul.

A Journalist, Mr Ahmed Agbo, described the deceased as a humble and hard working journalist.

"On January 1 this year, Mr Utin called me to invite me for a feast with his family where we had lively discussions and when I got to his place Saturday to see him again, I was shocked to learn of his death in the afternoon of that day," the journalist said.



MR. Silas Utin, before his death.



PIC: ABUBAKAR YAKUBU

CORPS members acting a drama at NYSC Orientation Camp, Kubwa recently.

## Man accused of threatening lady

By Choima Anoze & Foluke Ojumu

A middle-aged man was recently arraigned before an Abuja Area Court for allegedly threatening to kill one Mercy Edet.

The man, Friday Akpan, who resides in Mpape, Abuja, was accused of committing the offence on January 26, 2010.

Prosecutor Musa Abdullah told

the court that on January 26, 2010, Mercy Edet Dan reported to the police that at about 11 am, Friday Akpan threatened to kill her at Mpape.

The prosecutor argued that the offences committed by the accused are punishable under Section 79, 327 and 265 of the Penal Code Law.

When the charges were read

to the accused, he pleaded not guilty and sought for bail, which was not objected to by the prosecutor.

Presiding Judge, Lawal Manir, granted him bail in the sum of N10,000 with a surety in like sum, who must live within the court's jurisdiction with a fixed address.

The case was adjourned to February 22 for hearing

## Bizman in court over false information

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A 30-year-old businessman who accused the police of shooting his brother and dumping his corpse in a bush was last Wednesday arraigned before an Abuja magistrate court for giving false information.

The businessman, Stephen Veyrum of Karmajiji village, airport road, Abuja, was accused of reporting the brutal death of his brother, Terkinbi Samuel to the FCT Police Command's Criminal Investigation Department.

Prosecutor Umoh Inah had earlier told the court that on November 11, 2009, the accused alleged that some policemen attached to the Karmajiji Police Station shot his brother and threw his remains in a nearby bush.

The prosecutor said that after reporting the matter to the police, the accused went to a radio station, Kapital FM, and granted an interview there, where he alleged that his brother was killed by the police on January 18, 2010.

"Police investigations during that period revealed that the said Terkimbi Samuel ran naked into a church located at Karmajiji and the church's pastor with some church members took the boy to the police station," he disclosed.

Prosecutor Inah stated further that the boy eventually escaped from the police station to an unknown place because he was not detained by the police, adding that after some months, the boy was found by one Mrs. Lydia Aku at Keffi, Nasarawa State.

"The offence committed by the accused is punishable under Section 179 of the Penal Code Law," the prosecutor said.

When the one-count charge was read to the accused, he pleaded not guilty and asked for bail.

Magistrate Hadiza Shagari granted the accused bail in the sum of N100,000 with a reasonable surety in like sum, who must reside within the court's jurisdiction and swear to an affidavit to produce the accused in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to March 11 for hearing.



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**GOMBE STATE HEALTH SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT PROJECT II**

**PUBLICATION OF CONTRACTS AWARD**  
**THROUGH**  
**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (NCB) PROCESS.**

Country : Nigeria  
 Package Number: GMS/HSDPII/NCB/VH/02/09  
 Package description: procurement of vehicles  
 Date of publication: February 15<sup>th</sup> 2010  
 Name of project: Gombe State Health System Development project II  
 Credit No: 4522-UN1  
 Scope of contracts: As described per lot below  
 Contract signature Date: January 12<sup>th</sup> 2010

Award recommendation:  
 Lot 1: procurement of 4WD jeep Prado for the PIU unit.

Recommended bidder for award:

Name and Address of Bidder	Evaluated bid price	Proposed award price
O- Baytes Nigeria Ltd. House 9, B close, off 32 crescent, Gwarimpa Abuja	NGN 11,000,000.00	NGN 11,000,000.00

EVALUATED BIDDERS:

S/N	Name of Bidder	Read out Price (s)	Evaluate bid prices	Ranking
1	O- Baytes Nigeria Ltd. House 9, B close, off 32 crescent, Gwarimpa Abuja	NGN 11,000,000.00	NGN 11,000,000.00	1 <sup>st</sup>
2	AT & S Investment, Lagos	NGN 11,400,000.00	NGN 11,400,000.00	2 <sup>nd</sup>
3	Kaybel Investment Ltd Kaduna	NGN 12,454,500.00	NGN 11,831,775.00	3 <sup>rd</sup>

UNSUCCESSFUL BIDDERS:

S/N	Name of Bidder	Read out Bid Price (s)	Reason for unsuccessfulness
1	O- Baytes Nigeria Ltd, House 9, B close, off 32 crescent, Gwarimpa Abuja	NGN 11,000,000.00	High bid price
2	AT & S Investment, Lagos	NGN 11,400,000.00	High bid price

Lot 2: Procurement of 15 seater Toyota Buses for school of Health Technology Kaltungo and PIU OFFICE, Gombe

Recommended Bidder for award

Name and address	Evaluated Bid prices	Proposed award price
Kaybel investment ltd, No 4, rafi Road, Kaduna	NGN 10,472,158.75	NGN 10,472,158.75

EVALUATED BIDDERS

S/N	Name of bidder of Bidders	Read out bid prices	Evaluated bid prices	Ranking
1	Kaybel investment ltd, No 4, rafi Road, Kaduna	NGN 11,023,325.00	NGN 10,472,158.75	1 <sup>st</sup>
2	AT & S Investment, Lagos	NGN 10,740,000.00	NGN 10,740,000.00	2 <sup>nd</sup>
3	O- Baytes Nigeria Ltd, House 9, B close, off 32 crescent, Gwarimpa Abuja	NGN 11,400,000.00	NGN 11,400,000.00	3 <sup>rd</sup>
4	Gazzy Global links Ventures Ltd, Gombe	NGN 12,883,200.00	NGN 12,883,200.00	4 <sup>th</sup>

UNSUCCESSFUL BIDDERS

S/N	Name of bidder	Read out bid price (2)	Reason for unsuccessfulness
1	AT & S Investment, Lagos	NGN 10,740,000.00	High Price bid
2	O- Baytes Nigeria Ltd, House 9, B close, off 32, crescent, Gwarimpa Abuja	NGN 11,400,000.00	High Price bid
3	Gazzy Global links Ventures Ltd, Gombe	NGN 12,883,200.00	High Price bid

The bid securities of unsuccessful bidders will be discharged accordingly.

Signed  
**Alh. Mhammed Audi Waziri**  
 Project Manager

Gombe State Health System Development Project II  
 Opp. Office of the Accountant General, G.R.A Government House Road Gombe  
 Telephone : 08036867992

# Corps members praised for positive efforts

By Mustapha Suleiman

CORPS members were on Thursday commended for impacting positively on the socio-economic and political development of the country, especially in the rural communities where majority of them are serving their mandatory one year period.

The commendation was made by the FCT Minister of State, Chief Chuka Odom in an address delivered at the passing out ceremony of the 2009 'Batch A' Corps members at Old Parade Ground, Abuja.

The minister stated that the corps members have lived up to the dream of the founding fathers of the scheme, who conceived the NYSC as a means to foster national unity, national

integration, and socio-economic development across the nation.

He lamented that the on-going restricting of the NYSC is aimed at rendering it even more pivotal to the realization of our national transformation efforts, adding that the FCTA has directed the re-admission of graduates of Monotechnics and other specialized institutions into the scheme.

Earlier in his address, the FCT NYSC Coordinator, Obong Paul Ata, disclosed that 4,204 batch 'A' corps member completed the one-year service in the FCT.

He said the corps members distinguished themselves by making tremendous contributions in the area of community devel-

opment service as evidenced by various projects executed by them in many parts of the territory.

He mentioned some projects executed by corps members to include, the renovation of a dilapidated health centre in Garba II village in Bwari Area Council, repair of 4.5 kilometre of road at Ido-Sarki, construction of classrooms at LEA Primary School in Gosa I village, Installation of lighting system at the NYSC parade ground and provision of basic educational materials like uniforms, books and bags for 62 vulnerable children in Tungan-Maje community amongst several others.

He enjoined the corps members to be good ambassadors of the scheme as they go into the society.

# Top schools for Abuja exhibition

By Nasir Imam

LEADING secondary schools from Abuja and other parts of the country are set to meet with some parents at the Nigeria International Schools Exhibition.

According to Edumark, organisers of the exhibition, plans are on to ensure that the exhibition provides an opportunity for parents to have answers to issues on their children's education.

The General Manager of Edumark, Mrs Bimbo Obasuyi, said educa-

tion remains the bedrock through which any meaningful development can be achieved and should not be taken lightly by parents.

"A lot of parents simply choose schools at random without bothering to ensure that the vision and ethos of those schools chosen conforms to their family values and orientations," he reasoned.

He said planned exhibition tagged 'NISE 2010' will enable discerning parents to begin a quantitative research on schools, shortlist from them and do

a proper follow-up before the final decision is made.

The general manager also pointed out that there would be talks with parents on family finance issues, understanding the school's curriculum, etc.

Expected at the exhibition are Lekki British International High School, Regent Secondary School, Abuja, British-Nigerian Academy, Ladela High School, Day Waterman College, Maiyegun College, Greensprings School, PFL and other top institutions.

# Employers urged to conduct transparent recruitment exercises

By Abubakar Yakubu

EMPLOYERS of labour, especially those in the government sector have been advised to conduct transparent recruitment exercises in order to get intelligent applicants as staff.

The advice was given by a medical scientist, Dr Ezekiel Ahimola Akin-tunde, during the launching of the fifth edition of Cosmos Consul Magazine in Abuja Saturday.

Dr Akintunde condemned the practice where

top government officials give notes to their candidates for vacant positions in government establishments, adding that such practices are frustrating to other applicants and will not make the establishment achieve its objective of getting the best applicant for the job.

The medical scientist also advised jobless youths not to lose hope in the country but to find out area where they have talents and develop it to their advantage.

Also speaking at the event, Publisher / Editor-in Chief of the magazine, Yinka Esuola said he got the inspiration to set up the magazine in 2003 and the desire kept going stronger until he realized his dream in 2008.

"My advise to the youths is that they should not let their dreams die but pursue it until it is achieve," he added.

Highlights of the event were a review of the magazine by Soji, a journalist as well as cultural displays.

# I was not replaced, Bwari PDP flag bearer says

BY Nasir Imam

THE Peoples Democratic Party's (PDP) flag bearer for the chairmanship council elections in Bwari Area Council has denied news reports that he has been replaced by the party.

A statement from Peter Yohanna Ushafa Campaign Organisation and signed by its Director of Planning and Strategy, Mohammed A. Yunusa, stated

that Ushafa has fulfilled all electoral requirements and remains the true candidate of the PDP for the chairmanship elections coming up on April 10, 2010.

The organization disputed claims that Peter Yohanna Ushafa was a civil servant while he was holding appointment as a Supervisory Councillor in Bwari Area Council, a situation it stated negates public service rules and thus, fraudulent.

The statement reads further that Peter Yohanna Ushafa denies all the allegations levelled against him, saying his name is still with the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) as the standard flag bearer, adding that the statement from his opponents is a mere propaganda and are mere allegations which are false.

The statement traced the origin of the scheme by his opponent to a letter from his last employer, writ-

ten by one Mrs. Helen Dabup, a director in the National Assembly Service Commission, to the clerk, National Assembly asking for an investigation into the issue earlier raised in a petition against Ushafa.

The statement said the same day the letter was written another one was also written to the PDP FCT Chairman by Mrs. Dabup, stating that there was merit in the petition because the commission is unaware of Ushafa's withdrawal from service.

However, in a telephone interview yesterday, the out-going chairman of the council, Isa Dara Bwari, refuted the claim and said Peter Yohana remains the candidate for the council's election in Bwari.

He said the purported letter signed by the FCT PDP chairman has been overtaken by event and challenged people in doubt to find out from FCT INEC or even the FCT minister's office.

## Driver remanded over robbery charge

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

AN Abuja magistrate court recently remanded a 29-year-old driver, Ayodeji Fatoki, in prison custody for allegedly conspiring with another man, now at large, to rob a lady of her car.

The police prosecutor had earlier told the court that on December 15, 2009, one Femi Kareem petitioned the assistant inspector-general of police alleging that two armed men robbed her of a Toyota car.

"The accused connived with another man, now at large, to rob the victim of her Toyota Serena with registration GF280ABC, jewellery, Zenith Bank cheque book and other vital documents," the prosecutor added.

He further stated that the robbery took

place in front of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs office, Abuja, adding that after one week, the accused, who resides at No 28, Olusoga Street, Mushin, Lagos, was arrested in Lagos.

The prosecutor said the accused was apprehended in Zenith Bank's hall while trying to withdraw N200,000 with the stolen cheque book.

He said the offence committed by the accused is punishable under Section 298 of the Penal Code Law.

When the charge was read to the accused, he denied the allegation and requested for bail, which was vehemently objected to by the prosecutor.

In his ruling, Chief Magistrate David Ochimana ordered that the accused be remanded in prison custody till March 9 when the case will come up for hearing.

## Motorists engage in a brawl after accident

By Lami Sadiq

TWO motorists at the weekend engaged in fist-cuffs around City Park, Wuse 11, when one of them, supposedly drunk, ran into the other one's vehicle.

An eyewitness, who simply identified himself as John, said the fight

stated when a drunken driver hit and damaged the head lights of a stationary car.

He said as soon as the driver hit the car, an alarm sounded from the hit car which attracted its owner and other people.

"The stationary vehicle's owner got hold of

the drunk driver, asking him to repair his car but the drunk driver rather ignored and blamed him for not parking his car properly, which led to a fight that was separated by onlookers who pleaded with the car owner, asking them to resolve the matter amicably.

## Applicant jailed for attempting to steal handbag

By Usman A. Bello & Lami Sadiq

A 32-year-old applicant, Francis Paul, was on Thursday sentenced to one week imprisonment for attempting to steal a hand bag from one Sarah.

The police prosecutor, Abdullahi Adamu, had earlier told the court that the accused committed the offence at about 7 pm on February 3, 2010.

He said the accused of

no fixed address, grabbed the complainant's hand bag at Wuse Zone one in an attempt to snatch it, adding that the victim raised an alarm as well as struggled with the accused until a security guard arrested the accused.

When the charges were read to the accused, he pleaded guilty and begged the court to temper justice with mercy, saying he will not steal again.

After the confession, the prosecutor urged the court to try the accused summarily under Section 157 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC), adding that the one count charge is punishable under section 95 of the Penal Code Law.

Magistrate Ann Katsina-Alu sentenced him to one week imprisonment or an option of N2,000 fine in the alternative.



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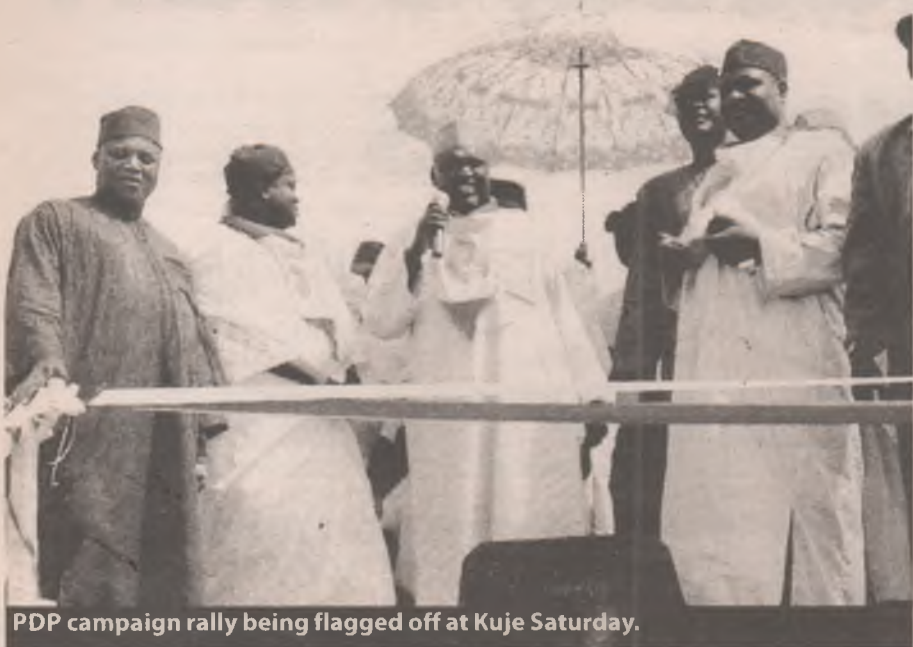
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PIC: ABUBAKAR SADIQ ISAH



PDP campaign rally being flagged off at Kuje Saturday.

## FCT minister promises transparent councils' polls

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

THE Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Alhaji Muhammad Adamu Aliero, over the weekend assured FCT residents of a hitch-free as well as transparent election during the April 10 councils' polls.

Aliero stated this to flag off the Peoples Democratic Party's (PDP) campaign at Kuje to present the incumbent chairman, Mr. Danladi Etsu Zhin, as the party's chairmanship flag bearer to residents of the area.

The minister, who was represented by his Special Adviser on political matters, Alhaji Aminu Kurfi advised party members and supporters to carry out thorough campaigns, so that the party will record success during the election.

He assured residents of the area that the party will not steal anybody's vote or want anybody to steal their votes, adding that the elections will be transparent.

The minister therefore promised that the issues of perennial water and electricity problems facing the residents of the council area will be tackled as a certain amount

of money has been earmarked in this year's budget.

He commended residents of the council for the support and confidence shown on their council boss, and prayed that he win the election.

In his speech, FCT PDP Chairman, Alhaji Alhassan Suleiman Gwagwa, while presenting the party's flag to Mr. Danladi Etsu, noted that the performance of the council boss in the last three years provided democratic dividends to his people as well as earned him the support for re-election.

He said the massive decamping of members of the All Nigeria Peoples Party and Action Congress will no doubt enhance the PDP's success in the forthcoming council election.

Reacting, Kuje's Council Chairman, Danladi Etsu Zhin, expressed delight for the support given to him by residents of the council.

He listed numerous projects embarked upon by the council since he assumed duty and promised to provide more dividends of democracy if voted for a second term in office.

## ...As thugs hijack PDP rally at Gwagwalada

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

A rally to flag off the campaign of Alhaji Saidu Garba Zuba as the Peoples Democratic Party's chairmanship flag bearer for Gwagwalada Area Council was last Friday disrupted by party's thugs in the area.

The thugs numbering about 23 were wearing the PDP's vests and displaying dangerous weapons such as knives, cutlasses, iron rods, axes and hand trowel.

The atmosphere in the campaign venue became more tensed when Senator Mohammed Adamu Sidi Ali, and a member of the House of Representative, Philip Tanimu Aduda, stormed the venue of the event and their supporters engaged each other in shouting matches.

Our reporter learnt that

some supporters of Senator Sidi Ali protested when they saw at the venue posters of House of Representative member, Philip Tanimu Aduda that showed he was vying for the FCT senate seat in 2011 election.

While the shouting matches existed between the supporters of the two National Assembly members, security personnel drafted to the area stood helpless, until party elders controlled the crowd.

A member representing Abuja South federal constituency, Alhaji Isa Egah Dobi, condemned the attitudes of the thugs, adding that he wouldn't have come if he knew such attitudes would be exhibited by the youths.

He however said measures will be taken to avoid such occurrence in any future political gathering of

such nature, saying the PDP is a family embraces peace.

FCT PDP Chairman, Alhaji Alhassan Gwagwa, while presenting the party's flag to the chairmanship candidate, Alhaji Saidu Garba Zuba, also expressed displeasure over the attitude of the thugs.

He advised the thugs to shun violence and devote their time in praying for the success of the party in the forth coming councils' elections.

When contacted, Gwagwalada Divisional Police Officer (DPO), Mr. Charles Mozie, yesterday said he has not received any report that thugs stormed the campaign venue with dangerous weapons.

He however assured that the police will carry out investigation and bring all those involved to book.

# PHCN staff electrocuted at Bwari

By Tina A. Hassan

A 42-year-old staff of Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN), Mr. Roma Abuza was at the weekend electrocuted at Kubwa while trying to work on an electricity fault.

According to eyewitnesses, the late Abuza was called upon by his boss to climb the pole close to Wilson Supermarket and rectify an electricity fault.

The witness alleged that the technician was told that electricity in the area had been turned off in the area before he climbed up and was electrocuted when he touched a high tension wire.

Another witness accused the deceased person's colleague of setting him up over a long standing feud.

"It is most unfortunate because gone are the days when a PHCN staff climbs a pole and gets electrocuted because before he climbs a pole, the electricity switch board keys will be given to him so that immediately he finishes work, he switches back the electricity," the witness reasoned.

He said the late Abuza's twin brother was in tears as he tried to battle with other PHCN staff, while the deceased wife and two children were in shock.

Our reporter learnt that the PHCN's office in Kubwa was in total chaos as relatives of the electrocuted staff and other colleagues were locked in verbal combat over the allegation.

An attempt to speak with management staff of PHCN was rebuffed severally but the only staff who spoke said she doesn't know what happened as she only reported to work to find the gates locked and heard the rumors of the incident.

She however confirmed that the late Abuza died of electrocution while on duty but declined further comments on the matter.



RC 9409

### NORTHERN NIGERIA FLOUR MILLS PLC UN-AUDITED RESULTS FOR NINE MONTHS ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 2009

	DEC, 2009	DEC, 2008
	N'000	N'000
Turnover	7,920,482	6,589,402
Profit before Tax	522,713	107,423
Tax (Estimated)	(104,406)	(8,018)
Profit/ after Tax	418,307	99,405

Turnover compared with the corresponding period last year increased by 20.20% from N6.589 billion to N7.920 billion while net profit after tax increased by 320.81% from N99.405 million to N418.307 million.

Whilst the results are encouraging, management will continue to step up efforts on measures adopted to minimize costs without sacrificing quality in order to improve performance and profitability.

**R.M. GWARZO, OON**  
MANAGING DIRECTOR/CEO

## Inside Politics

# 2011: Gov Sheriff remains PDP's nightmare in Borno – ANPP scribe

ALHAJI Yusuf Adamu is the State Secretary of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) in Borno State and is the spokesman of the party. In this interview, he reacts to the recent political threats from the main opposition PDP, ahead of the 2011 elections. Excerpts:

From Isa Umar Gusau, Maiduguri

**T**HERE are suggestions that you would embark on a tour of the 27 local government areas in Borno State with Governor Ali Sheriff. Are you flagging-off the 2011 campaigns?

It is just a normal government routine. The governor is the Chief Executive of the state and has a responsibility to go to various local government areas to see finished or ongoing projects embarked upon by either the state executive or local government chairmen. In fact he has the social responsibility to go to all the local governments in Borno State to see his people; and to see how the councils are fairing.

**I**s the embargo said to have been placed by the governor on political meetings and activities been lifted?

There is nothing of such nature. What happened was that we had our stakeholders meeting and we all agreed that we have a social responsibility and a programme. So it is our responsibility to make sure that we execute our programmes without distractions, we all agreed that when the time comes, all of us will meet and make sure that we choose the right people for various positions. So, it is an agreement by all of us that we should not heat up the system at this time but concentrate on our development programmes. This is the issue; there is no ban on politicking. People are definitely politicking, going from place to place, doing it underground and some openly. The governor has not stopped anybody from politicking. As I said he only told us that we should concentrate on the actualisation of our policies and programmes for now.

**G**overnor Sheriff has allegedly said that no individual in the ANPP could confront the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in terms of financial resources. Does it mean money is likely to determine 2011 politics?

The governor couldn't have said so. In 2003, he defeated an incumbent governor in the AD as well as the big names in the PDP. The late Mala Kachalla, as incumbent governor, had more resources yet the people of Borno

massively voted for Ali Modu Sheriff in the ANPP. I believe the 2011, like other elections before it will be about conviction, people have seen the performance of the ANPP in the entire state and our projects will speak for us.

**G**eneral Muhammadu Buhari was here in Borno during your campaigns in 2003 and 2007. Now, he has formally resigned from the ANPP. Wouldn't his resignation affect your campaigns ahead of 2011?

It is very sad losing Buhari, but I am assuring you that our party would come out stronger in 2011 and beyond the elections. But if I were in his (Buhari's) position, I would stay in my party to pursue my dreams by saying to myself 'this is a party that has given me two mandates to become the flag bearer of the party and that party is not something that you can just abandon'.

**S**ome members of the PDP are said to be making moves to make Mohammed Goni the party's candidate in 2011, believing that his performance when he was governor surpassed that of Sheriff. Doesn't your party feel threatened by the former governor?

Well, the PDP people in Borno State have not changed. They are still the ones who contested elections twice with us? And we are the same set of people in ANPP; SAS is still the same SAS who is a night mare to the PDP stalwarts in Borno. The only slight difference is that we have received a lot of people from the PDP. SAS knows the terrain very well. It is a known fact that PDP's key men cannot stand the ANPP's train; the governor is a tactician and has many political tricks that within the ambit of the law, and which our opponents cannot easily comprehend. Besides, he has a united force in the ANPP which is devoid of the kind of crisis that is common with our opponents. We are equal to the task, and we are ready to face anybody with the enormous dividends of democracy we have given to the good people of Borno State.

When Governor Sheriff went to Gombe recently, the mammoth crowd that came out to welcome him along the road to Gombe surprised everybody. So, my governor is somebody who is loved by

the good people of Borno State; who is loved by people in ANPP and many people. So his popularity is God-given, which no one can just take away, not even the forces in Borno PDP.

**O**ne question on the lips of many is who would succeed Governor Sheriff. Some people insinuate that he is grooming his younger brother for the job. Can you comment on this?

The governor has told us during our last congress that nobody from his family would succeed him. But it is not democratic. What if the people of Borno State want his younger brother to contest? Life is dynamic and not static. If you critically look at places like America now, you have the Clintons, the Bush and the Kennedys. If you go to Kwara State, you have the same thing. So, democracy is a game of number. If people want it, what do you do? But the governor has insisted that he doesn't want his brother or anybody from his family to take over from him. But I think if we are playing politics, we should play it according to the rules. As far as I am concerned, his younger brother is super qualified to contest the presidency of Nigeria, not even the governorship position. He is a graduate of more than 30 years standing. He was a commissioner in late Malla Kachalla's government. He was Commissioner for Finance and Housing under this government. But the governor told us vividly that it is the Congress of the ANPP that would bring out his successor. So we believe in that....

**Y**ou are from southern Borno and there is an agitation for Savannah State, at the same time people are clamouring for power to shift to Southern Borno. Do you think this is feasible ahead of the 2011 elections?

I do not believe in rotational presidency or governorship. I believe in bringing a qualitative person irrespective of the area he comes from. I believe that we have come to a time we should start looking inward for people who will deliver. By the time you insist on rotation this, rotation that, you will be seen to be living in a stone age. Just take a look at America, somebody whose father is of Kenyan origin has been



ALHAJI Yusuf Adamu

voted as president on the conviction that he was the best candidate of the moment.

We have people that were even born in Borno, grew up here but cannot contest elections in the state. I spent most part of my life in Maiduguri metropolitan. But if I want to contest an election in Maiduguri metropolitan, people would start telling me that you are from Biu therefore I should run to Biu and pick ticket from there. So, my own thinking and concept is that we should start looking inward, that is, we should go for the best from wherever location he comes from.

In respect of Savannah State, if you look at Yobe, I am happy to see Yobe developing. And I want a situation where Savannah State is created. But we would have to work very hard. You know, the issue of state creation is cumbersome. If you look at it, the people from Imo State came to Maiduguri and talked to us because they know that before any state is created, you have to go to all the states in Nigeria and talk to the Houses of Assembly across

various states because you need their support. So we should not concentrate on making noise in newspapers. We should be practical in the actions.

**T**here is an issue before the Borno State Assembly about the creation of new emirates; some believe that the aim is to create an emirate for the governor's father who is Galadima of Dikwa. People believe that the issue could count against the ANPP in 2011 elections. What is your take on these?

Well, I have not seen the Bill but I was opportune to meet the father of the governor, a very humble man. And I have talked to him in respect of this issue. He is not even aware that there is any Bill that was sent to the House of Assembly. And he told me vividly that he is a renowned businessman, and has no business in becoming emir or anything of that nature. He said he has never even thought of it. He said he has no business in what his son is doing.

## Inside Politics

# PDP sweeps Jigawa LG polls, loses one councillor seat

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Dutse

THE Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has won all the 27 local governments and 286 councillorship seats in the council election held across Jigawa State on Saturday. The party lost only one councillorship to the Accord Party (AP).

Briefing newsmen yesterday, the chairman, Jigawa State Independent Electoral Commission (JSIEC) DR. Alili Galadima said "PDP won all the 27 local governments and the councillorship seats except one councillor seat of Gudubawa ward in Kiyawa local government that was won by the Accord Party".

The electoral chief said elections were conducted in 3,527 polling units across the 27 local government areas of the state, adding that 33 political parties par-

ticipated in the polls.

Speaking to *Daily Trust* earlier, Dr. Galadima described the election as free and fair. He also disputed allegations of irregularities, saying, "I have only received complain from Dutse and Babura and were corrected immediately".

He said that election materials were distributed to the polling units on time and election went smoothly. He commended NGOs, individual observers and the INEC for assisting JISIEC to conduct peaceful election.

Also speaking, chairman of the Jigawa State chapter of the Congress of Nigerian Political Parties (CNPP), Alhaji Inuwa Yahaya Square, described the polls as fair and objective, saying "the CNPP in Jigawa was satisfied with the result and received it in good faith."



GOVERNOR Sule Lamido

## PSP closes Kano chapter as leaders defect to CPC

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

THE office of the Kano State chapter of the Peoples Salvation Party (PSP) has been closed as the party's leadership defected to the Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) at the weekend.

Speaking while receiving the defecting leaders of the PSP, the publicity secretary of the CPC Malam Musa Haruna Gama said the PSP closed its

state office to join the CPC because of the party's popularity and acceptance among the people.

According to him, the party had been receiving decampers from the major parties in the state, and that the local government chapter offices of the CPC were being besieged by defectors.

"History has shown that money politics is not peculiar to Kano. You will

bear me witness that all those elected governors in Kano State were not rich men. I can tell you that Kano people have political awareness," Gama said.

He assured the decampers that their party would ensure fairness to all, saying they would be treated as any other member of the party. "We will ensure fairness in all our dealings and will not discriminate against you," Malam Gama told the decampers.

## INEC not competent to conduct 2011 elections – AD

THE Alliance for Democracy (AD) on Saturday in Lagos stated that what happened during the governorship election in Anambra State penultimate week had shown that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) would not be able to handle the 2011 general elections.

Alh. Musa Umar, the Deputy National Chairman of the party said "there were so many things wrong with the election, like the late delivery of materials, absence of names on the voter register and lots more."

"So unless something is done between now and the next elections, I think INEC as it is now is not capable of conducting election in 2011," he said.

Umar noted that Anambra was

just one state out of 36, adding that because of INEC's inefficiency the police had to take more than 20,000 police men to supervise the election.

Besides, the AD chieftain stressed that the leadership of INEC was not properly constituted as the chairman, as well as all the commissioners, who were appointed by government and supervised by states' chief executives, would naturally take orders from them.

"A situation where by one party controls the executive and also controls 70 per cent of the legislature, does not augur well because INEC will always play to the tune of the party in office.

"So I agree with the judgment,

unless the constitution and so many things are addressed, we shall still be having problems with INEC," Umar said.

The Federal High Court in Lagos declared INEC incompetent to organise any election in the country because of a lack of proper composition of its Board of National Commissioners.

The board has four, instead of 13 commissioners as provided in section 159 of the 1999 Constitution.

The court also held that one-third of the 13 National Commissioners, required for INEC's National Commissioners' meetings as required in section 159 of the same Constitution, is five as against the present four that have continued to decide the policies of INEC. (NAN)

## Jonathan can't achieve anything with current Ministers – AC

By Muideen Olaniyi

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan must realise that he will not achieve much with the present crop of ministers, the Action Congress (AC) said yesterday.

AC's National Publicity Secretary, Alhaji Lai Mohammed, upbraided the Ministers who constitute the Federal Executive Council (FEC) for failing to live up to the expectations of Nigerians during the critical days that they were needed to act.

Mohammed said if the Ministers had shown courage and patriotism, the leadership crisis would not have lasted as long as it did, and the National Assembly would not have resorted to the unconstitutional solution that broke the logjam.

"Today, we read about Ministers pledging their loyalty to Acting President Jonathan or seeking his favour. We are not surprised at their sudden love for Jonathan, whom many of them did everything possible to undermine, apparently to please the Yar'adua clique in the cabinet.

"In any case, this kind of blind loyalty is not what is required of self-respecting men and women that make up the cabinet. Their loyalty should first be to their country, so that they can always act in its interest, instead of pursuing narrow, selfish and parochial interests.

## Distance yourself from Obasanjo, Chuma Nwofor tells Jonathan

By Muideen Olaniyi

CHUMA Nwofor, a former Anambra State governorship aspirant under the umbrella of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), yesterday advised Acting President Goodluck Jonathan to distance himself from former President Olusegun Obasanjo amid speculations that he (Jonathan) would act Obasanjo's script.

Nwofor, who was speaking to journalists, also called on the Acting President to take a critical look at the report of Justice Mohammed Lawal Uwais' Electoral Reform Commit-

tee, saying that his positive disposition to the report would give room for a credible election in 2011.

The former PDP Caretaker Committee Chairman in Anambra State observed that 'information on President Umaru Musa Yar'adua's illness was mismanaged by those he described as his loyalists.

He said President Yar'adua should not be assessed based on the behaviour of his loyalists, considering his strong belief in the rule of law.

He underscored the need for Jonathan to set up a presidential committee that will oversee the existing committees constituted by President Yar'adua, particularly the committees on the Amnesty Initiative.

While charging him to work towards bringing about internal democracy in PDP, he emphasized the need for a collaborative working relationship with the PDP National Working Committee (NWC) members to avoid complaints of not being carried along.

Chuma said: "Acting President Goodluck Jonathan needs to take urgent steps in addressing the fears of Nigeria that he does not have the capacity to hold the office, that he is too docile and that he will not have the courage to combat corruption which has bedeviled the country.



CHIEF Olusegun Obasanjo

# TRUST CLASSIFIED

## INITIATIVE FOR MORAL REBIRTH IN NIGERIA

The general public is hereby notified that the above named body has applied for registration to the Corporate Affairs Commission under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

### THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Barrister Mustapha Adekola
2. Barrister Muhammed Sambo Shehu Idris (Sarkin Kudun Zazzau)
3. Dr. Aliyu Mammad
4. Alhaji Ismaila Abdul-Azeez
5. Alhaji Abdullahi Maikudi Nuhu
6. Alhaji Suleiman Muhammed Hussaini
7. Alhaji Sanusi Suleiman (Sarkin Yaki Kachia)

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To foster the essence of morality in our society.
2. To collaborate with faith based organizations, educational institutions and other relevant bodies towards promoting morality.
3. To equip people with values for participation in the development of the society.

Any objection to the registration of this Association should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, Garki, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

General Secretary

## GREEN RIGHT INITIATIVE IN AFRICAN

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

### The Trustees are:

1. PROF BENAYADE - CHAIRMAN
2. DR FRANCIS AYADE - SECRETARY
3. MR KIETH SHERMAN - MEMBER

### Aims and Objectives

1. Creation of environmental awareness campaigns, community development support, skill acquisition, training of youths and rehabilitation programmes.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Register-General Corporate Affairs Commission Abuja, within 28 days of this publication/notice.

Signed

Bar. Martin Odey  
08033902007

### PUBLIC NOTICE

## STREAM OF POWER MINISTRIES

Notice is hereby given to the general public that named Ministry is applying for Registration under Companies and Allied Matters Decree 1990 Law of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

### THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Rev. (Mrs) Cordelia Nwoke
2. Pastor Emeka Ashipgor Casmir
3. Deaconess Chiamaka Dorothy Ojuro
4. Pastor Kelechi Nwoko
5. Deacon Benedict Arah
6. Deacones Ekwutosilam Eziniite
7. Sister Edith Chukwu

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. To propagate the gospel.
2. To preach the gospel of the kingdom of GOD to all nations by word and example.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja within Twenty eight (28) days of this publication

Signed:

Secretary

## GATAN MARAYU FOUNDATION

Notice is hereby given to the general public that above named Association is applying registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990

### The Trustees are:

1. Fatima Binta Imam
2. Sophia Essahmed Bayero
3. Ina Zein
4. Rasha Akhatib Ghaddar
5. Maryana Jihad Fadlillah
6. Anjali Arun Hathiramani

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Skills Acquisition for widows and youth.
2. Scholarship for orphans and vulnerable children.
3. To empower youth and assist the less privileged.

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General Corporate Affairs commission plot 420, Tigris crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi street, Maitama Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

MARYAM BELLO

## LOSS OF CREDENTIALS

This is to notify the general public that the original of all my credentials are missing, and all efforts to trace them has proved abortive they are:- FSLC, GCE O'L Cert, FGC Enugu Testimonial, DIP, and B,SC (Hons) Acctg (ABU Zaria), IJMB result, NYSC, ICAN Regri, ICAN Exemption, Employment, Promotion, Confirmation, Deployment & Release letters and other documents. If found, please call 08035906294, 07032975456 or return to the nearest police station.

Signed: DAKO, ABEJE JOSHUA.

## LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT ORIGINAL LAND DOCUMENTS IN RESPECT OF PLOT NO. 42 AT GADON KAYA ISSUED WITH OCCUPANCY PERMIT NO 4144 BY KANO STATE MINISTRY LAND BELONGING TO ALH. ISA IDRIS IS MISSING. ALL EFFORTS TO TRACE IT PROVED ABORTIVE. IF FOUND RETURN TO KANO STATE MIN OF LAND OR THE NEAREST POLICE STATION.

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## THE SHEPHERD HOUSE ASSEMBLY INTERNATIONAL

This is to inform the general public that the above named Association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

### The trustees are:

1. Rev. Joshua Talena
2. Pastor (Mrs.) Jackie Acheno Talena
3. Dr. Gabriel Oduma Musa
4. Mr. Brian Etuk

### Aims and objectives:

1. To teach, preach and propagate Christain mission in Nigeria and elsewhere.
2. To educate and enlighten the public on the importance of peaceful coexistence in the society.
3. To encourage and unite christain brothers and sisters for the purpose of peace and tranquility

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed:

Prestigious Legal Services  
08025290393

## UNITED SUCCESS FRIENDS CLUB OF NIGERIA

Notice is hereby given to the general public that above named Association is applying registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990

### The Trustees are:

1. Mr. Emeka Uzor
2. Mr. Chijioke Onuigbo
3. Mr. Onyebuchi Obidile
4. Mr. Onyeka Nweke
5. Mr. Marcel Ozongwu
6. Mr. Chidi Okam

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To promote peace, love, progress and mutual understanding among members.
2. To promote cooperation among members.

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General Corporate Affairs commission plot 420, Tigris crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi street, Maitama Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

Secretary

## UP UP JESUS WORLD OUTREACH MINISTRY

Notice is hereby given to the general public that above named Association is applying registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990

### The Trustees are:

1. Pastor Dotimi Patience Amatare
2. Sister Elizabeth Preye Amatare
3. Brother John Iminabo
4. Brother Funso Ezekiel

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 1-Preach, publish, proclaim, promote, project, propagate, present and plan Jesus Christ all over the world.

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General Corporate Affairs commission plot 420, Tigris crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

Secretary

## CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly MISS AMARACHUKWU ROMANDERROSE NWSU, now MRS AMARACHUKWU ROMANDERROSE JOSEPH OKEREKE ATTAN. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, FORMALLY KNOWN AS MISS MATTI KAFILAT ABISOYE NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS MRS SOKUNLE KAFILAT ABISOYE. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAINS VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC TO TAKE NOTE.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AS AHMED OLALEKAN NOW WISH TO BE CALLED AS JACOB AONDOYILA AWUA. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID, GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.

I formerly known as ZARA MOHAMMED JAJERE now wish to be called ZARA MUHAMMAD ISA CHIROMA. All former documents remain valid. All institutions and general public take note.

I formerly known as miss. ZULFAT OVAIZA SULEIMAN now wish to be called as MRS.ZULFAT SULEIMAN ABBA. All former documents remain valid .public take note

I, formerly known as MISS CHRISTIANA PWACHOM GYANG now wish to be called as MRS CHRISTIANA PWACHOM TONGMAN. All former documents remain valid general public should take note.

I formerly MISS OLUYEMIS I HELEH LAWAL now wish to be called as MRS OLUYEMISI HELE OMORAGBON. All former documents remain valid EQUITORIA TRUST BANK, and public should take note.

I formerly HALIMA IBRAHIM now wish to be known as HALIMA ABDULLAHI. All former documents remain valid. FCE/ABU Zaria, NYSC and the general public to note.

# TRUST CLASSIFIED

## UNEMPLOYED YOUTHS ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (UYAN)

This is to inform the general public that the above named Association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Dr. Idaminabo Goddy (Chairman)
2. Her Excellency (Arch) Yemisi Suswan
3. Chief Emmanuel Okeme
4. Hon. Emmanuel Onyechezana Ikebuaku
5. Comrade Ogbada Achoji
6. Tamuno Ogan
7. Dr. Amadu Emmanuel
8. Engr. Philip Olateju (Sec)

**Aims and objectives:**

1. To reduce the high rate of youth unemployment in the country
  2. To create unity among members of the Association
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed:  
Philip Olateju (sec)

## TRADEMORE ESTATE PROPERTY OWNERS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

This is to inform the general public that the above named Association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

- |                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Anthony Osa Okafor   | 2. Ogunleye James     |
| 3. Awe Okuseyi          | 4. Johnson Achilike   |
| 5. Olufemi Fasoyin      | 6. Yerima Kolomi      |
| 7. Emmanuel Okeke       | 8. Mr. Anselm Mbanifo |
| 9. Mr. Jonas Chukwujoke |                       |

**Aims and objectives:**

1. To provide for the welfare of trademore estate property owners and residents.
2. To ensure the maintenance of peace and security in trademore estate, Apo.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed:  
Barr. Moses Okezie Okafor  
Suite 4, Day Spring Hotel,  
Wuse Zone 6, Abuja.

## CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly known as **MISS ROSE ONWANYI OJAR** wish to be known as **MRS ROSE ONWANYI OGAR**. All former documents remain valid. National Hospital Abuja, general public to take note.

I formerly **WALIDA BELLO BABAYO** now **MRS WALIDA IBRAHIM MADUGU**. All former documents remain valid general public take note.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AS **OKPODARO SOLOMON IMAFIDON** NOW WISH TO BE CALLED **ASHAJU SOLOMON IMAFIDON**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. BUK, AND GENERAL PUBLIC TO NOTE.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AS **FATIMA TIJJANI NABABA** NOW WISH TO BE CALLED **FATIMA TIJJANI SANI**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. BUK NYSC AND GENERAL PUBLIC TO NOTE.

I, formerly known as **GEORGINA M-EMBER UGOUGH** now wish to be known as **MRS GEORGINA M-EMBER ASASE**. All former documents remains valid. NAFDAC and general public take note.

I, formerly **KOYA OLUFUNMILAYO** now to be known as **MRS BOLARINWA OLUFUNMILAYO**. All former documents remain valid, General public to take note.

I wish to inform the general public that these names: **OHUCHE MARY NWANYIBUAKU** and **NWAZUE MARY NWANYIBUAKU** belong to the same person. The general public should take note.

I, formerly known as **Funke Akinsulure** now wish to be addressed as **MRS FUNKE ADEBAYO**. All former documents remain valid.

## UMAR BAGO 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. Mohammed Umar Bago- President
2. Abubakar Hussein
3. Engr. Buba Galadima- Patron
4. Alhaji Saidu Minin
5. Kolo Joseph Esq

**Aims and objectives:**

1. To promote unity and progress in the community
  2. To empower youths in our community towards self reliance
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed:  
Aibarka Associates  
08035872210

## SONGHAI-RIVERS STATE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

This is to inform the general public that the above named Initiative has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Dr. Godwin Poi
2. Rev. Father, Godfrey Nzamujo
3. Chief Sampson Agbaru
4. Dr. Ukam Edodi
5. Dr. Chris Oboh
6. Dr. Paco Sereme
7. Mrs. Joco Adamu

**Aims and objectives:**

1. To build a partnership between Songhai Initiative and Rivers State for manpower development training of trainers for the development initiative of Rivers state.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed:  
Harrison Ngor Isaac  
C/O I.A Blue Jack & Co.,  
08036023784

## ODUOLA OSUNTOKUN MEMORIAL 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. Chief Akin Osuntokun - Political Scientist
2. Chief Mrs. Mabel Osuntokun - Business Woman
3. Prof. Akinjide Osuntokun - Lecturer
4. Otunba Ademola Aladekomo - Business man
5. Dr. Olanrewaju Babalola - Legal Practitioner
6. Mr. Gbenga Oyebo - Business man
7. Chief Wole Olanipekun - Legal Practitioner
8. Prince Julius Adesina Adesanya - Pharmacist
9. Mrs. Tinuola Faboya - Business woman
10. Kunle Osuntokun - Banker

**Aims and objectives:**

1. To provide the highest quality of education of education possible to the society.
2. To provide desirable extra-curricular activities and award scholarship to deserving candidate such as bursaries, prizes, certificates, testimonials, benefits and conferment as may be appropriate
3. To enable the less privileged in the society to acquire skills for the good of the society

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

## EVER LIVING FAITH CLINIC MINISTRY

This is to inform the general public that the above named Ministry has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Pastor Sylvester Enwesi - Chairman/General Overseer
2. Mrs. Paulina Enwesi - Secretary
3. Pastor Moses Ajayi - Member

**Aims and objectives:**

1. To spread the good news of Christ to all Mankind.
  2. To draw all souls closer to God.
  3. To render assistance to the poor and needy in the society.
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed:  
Secretary

## SKE KINAH INT'L GOSPEL MINISTRY

This is to inform the general public that the above named Ministry has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Pastor Awe Akinwumi - General Overseer
2. Mrs. Awe Helen Fayckerhi - Assistant General Overseer
3. Mrs. Sade Omobola Oluoyemi - Secretary

**Aims and objectives:**

1. To preach the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to the unreaches, unchurched and unsaved.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed:  
Cedar wood Solicitors.

## HUMAN RIGHTS RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY CENTRE

This is to inform the general public that the above named Association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Mrs. Fatima Kwaku Esq. (MFR)
2. Dr. Mamman Lawan Yusufani Esq.
3. Mrs. Hafsat Musa Baba
4. Sadiq Danladi Garba
5. Muhammad Zubair Esq

**Aims and objectives:**

1. To create human rights awareness and respect among the general public
2. To advocate for respect, protection and fulfillment of human rights by all.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

## LOSS OF LAND DOCUMENT

This is to notify the general public that the Original offer of the terms of Grant/Conveyance of Approval of Plot No. 1045 measuring about 1000sqm FHA Karu layout dated 7/12/2001 belonging to Abubakar M. Bello is missing FCDA, AGIS and other relevant agencies please take note.

## LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public that the original copies of land application form issued on 24/7/2002 with receipt No. 000658674 belong to Ummu Ja-afaru P. O. Box 3423 Minna and Salima Abdullahi Dhacko with receipts No. 000658673 of N. E. 42A Emir Road Minna Issued on 24/7/2002 is missing. All efforts to trace it proved abortive if found kindly return to Ummu Ja-afaru of P. O. Box 3424 Minna or nearest Police Station.

Signed:  
Ummu Ja-afaru  
08037017732

## LOSS OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF CERTIFICATION FROM AGIS AND RECEIPT OF PAYMENT.

This is inform the general public of the following missing documents:

1. Mohammed Musa Plot No. H451, File No. YB 10125 Dape District, Abuja
2. Binta Mohammed Plot No. H314, File No. MISC 55815 Dape District Abuja
3. Abdulrazaq Garba plot No. H525, File No. MISC 55814 Dape District Abuja.

Sign: Abdullahi Mohammed Alkali

## SPORT

Togo appeals  
against Nations  
Cup ban

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# Trapattoni rejects Nigeria

By Ismaila Lere

NIGERIA'S search for a foreign coach to replace Shaibu Amodu as Super Eagles helmsman received a massive blow yesterday when one of the front-runners declined interest in the job.

Ireland coach Giovanni Trapattoni said he is not interested in taking the Eagles to the 2010 World Cup finals in South Africa,

**“I won't hide the fact that other countries have shown interest in me but I am happy in Dublin so it's a no to Nigeria.”**

insisting that he will want to see out his contract with the Republic of Ireland.

“I still have a two-year contract with the Irish federation,” he told Italian news service ANSA yesterday.

“I won't hide the fact that other countries have shown interest in me but I am happy in Dublin so it's a no to Nigeria.”

Earlier on Saturday, Trapattoni turned down an approach by Cote d'Ivoire, another World Cup-bound team.

The news comes after his advisor, Domenico Ricci, said Trapattoni might be interested in coaching Nigeria.

Ricci had told the BBC on Sat-

urday that the 70-year-old Italian coach would consider an offer from the Super Eagles, but is not looking for a short-term position.

“He refused an offer from Ivory Coast a week ago because they offered him only the World Cup,” Ricci said.

And so Trapattoni's name goes into the growing list of possible coaches that have turned down NFF overtures. Egypt coach Hassan Shehata, Russia's Guus Hiddink, Bayern Munich mentor Louis Van Gaal have all declined offers to coach the national team which leaves the Glass House with names of second-rate tacticians in the shortlist, namely, ex-Senegal coach Bruno Metsu, ex-Ghana coach Ratomir Djukovic and former England caretaker manager Peter Taylor.

The Nigeria Football Federation are on the hunt for a world class coach to lead the Eagles at the World Cup finals after firing Amodu a week ago.

Meanwhile, owing to the withdrawals of the Eagles top favourites like Van Gaal and Hiddink, the NFF have opted to desist from making any official comments henceforth on the new foreign coach until the emergence of the successful candidate after the interview sessions scheduled for Friday February 26.

NFF chieftain, Taiwo Ogunjobi said that the barrage of reports on the shortlisted candidates have been threatening to stall their plans, as virtually all the coaches under consideration are not happy with the media reports.



REPUBLIC of Ireland coach Giovanni Trapattoni has declined interest in coaching the Super Eagles to the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

## Ndanusa in court 'morrow to contest forgery allegation

AN Abuja High Court will tomorrow begin hearing on allege falsification of documents by Sports Minister, Engr. Sani Ndanusa.

The Minister will appear before Justice Othman A. Musa of Abuja High Court to contest allegation of forgery against him by the former chairman

of Gombe State Football Association, Ahmed Shuaibu Gara-Gombe.

In the originating summons, Gara-Gombe is asking the court to restrain the Nigeria Olympic Committee (NOC), which is joined in the suit as the first defendant, from giving recognition to Ndanusa as an eligi-

ble candidate for the contest to the office of the president of the Committee pending the hearing and determination of the substantive suit.

According to Gara-Gombe, Ndanusa was elected as the 1st Vice President of Confederation of African Tennis only on June 20, 2007 at Hotel El Mour-

adi Gammoerth Tunis, Tunisia; and that from the day he was first elected to December, 2009, Ndanusa had been in office for two and half years and does not have the mandatory four years required to be eligible to contest for the presidency of the NOC.

Gara-Gombe wants the court to stop Ndanusa from contesting

polls because the documents he presented to the electoral screening committee which indicated that he had served for four years were forged.

Ndanusa, who is the NOC second vice president, is contesting for the NOC presidency against the incumbent, Engr. Habu Gumel.



## England v Italy: Five reasons why Man United will beat Milan

TWO of Europe's elite clash on Tuesday night in the Champions League last 16 first-leg when Manchester United travel to San Siro to take on Milan. The English champions, and last season's beaten finalists, are tipped as favourites for the tie but will need to be wary of the Rossoneri's continental pedigree, which carried them through a tricky group that contained three previous winners of the competition.

United are again top of the Premier League rankings and seem to be chugging into form ominously as spring approaches. Despite the losses of key personnel through injury, the Old Trafford side continue to function as a formidable unit, even if a chunk of their pizzazz has been removed since the exit of Cristiano Ronaldo. No matter, Sir Alex Ferguson's team have enough quality and experience in their ranks to overcome Serie A's third-placed team.

Here's why...

**“The English champions are tipped as favourites for the tie**

### Experience:

For the past two seasons, United have cut a swath through to the finals of the Champions League, beating the best teams that the continent had to offer, including Barcelona, Chelsea, Inter and Arsenal. This season, even when they were without some of their key players, the Premier League leaders made their Champions League tasks look easy. The only defeat they suffered came in a dead rubber against Besiktas once qualification for the knockout was assured. Fergie has built winning momentum in the competition and made sure that his side are an imposing prospect for the opposition, no matter the

personnel on the field.

### Wayne Rooney:

The Scouse striker has seemingly been liberated since the departure of Cristiano Ronaldo, weighing in with his most impressive goalscoring season to date. However, goals only tell part of the Rooney story. His link-up play, physicality and instinct mark him out as one of the most devastatingly effective players in the world at the moment. Rooney is capable of sublime moments but it is often his willingness to undertake the rudimentary with a frightening zeal that makes him nigh-on unplayable. A sure bet to score at least once over the two ties.

### Fitness:

Energy, sharpness, edge, incisiveness, verve; whatever you want to call it, Manchester United have it in abundance. Patrice Evra will hassle and harry at every opportunity in the opposition half, Darren Fletcher will prevent Andrea Pirlo from having the time and space he needs in order to wave his magic wand and Wayne Rooney will test the mettle of a fragile defensive duo of Alessandro Nesta and Thiago Silva. United will not let Milan settle into the kind of game they want to play. More likely is that the English side will dictate the tempo and force the ageing Milanese to play a quick game, resulting in a high rate of possession turnover. United are masters at counter-attacking too, so if Milan moves break down at the edge of the box, United will breakout at a canter and hit Milan with more speed and power than they can handle.

### Dida:

If you are looking for a goalkeeper to spoon a clearance to opposition attackers or drop a cross at a key time, then Dida is surely your man. The Brazilian netminder seems a solid enough last line of defence for about 89 minutes of every game, however, he is an accident waiting to happen. Witness Raul's goal against Milan in the group stages as evidence of this. No matter if Alessandro Nesta and Thiago Silva are fit and ready, the



POINT to prove...David Beckham will want to show Alex Ferguson what he's missing.

Rossoneri still need Dida to be on guard. Rooney and co. will need no second invite to pounce on his inevitable errors.

### Vengeance:

Well matched at Old Trafford, outplayed at San Siro, United's 2007 Champions League defeat to Milan has left a bitter aftertaste in the throats of the English champions. Milan, led imperiously by Kaka, were far and away superior

to United, and went on to lift the trophy. The Red Devils failed to give anything close to a decent account of themselves and will be relishing the opportunity to get one back on the Italians this time around. Milan are muddling on with much of the same number as those ties but have replaced the likes of Maldini and Kaka with players of inferior quality.

Culled from Goal.com

## Beckham won't be distracted by United clash

AC Milan midfielder David Beckham insists he will be able to cope with the emotions of his first encounter with former club Manchester United in the Champions League on Tuesday.

Beckham will face United in a competitive game for the first time since quitting Old Trafford to join Real Madrid in 2003 when the English champions visit the San Siro for the first knockout round first leg.

The 34-year-old, on loan at Milan from LA Galaxy, spent 10 years in Sir Alex Ferguson's team after emerging from United's youth academy and won a host of honours including the Champions League and Premier League.

Beckham is a self-confessed United fan and the England midfielder admits it will be quite an occasion to come up against his old friends.

But he is confident he will be able to keep his emotions in check and help Milan in one of the Champions League's biggest fixtures this season.

"Obviously there will be emotions but I don't think it will be a problem. I've played in many big games," Beckham told the Sunday Times.

"There has been so much talk about me going back to Manchester United in the second leg, because it will be my first time playing for a club there in seven years.

"But this tie is not just about me playing against United, it's about AC Milan. It's about two great clubs coming together, and that's what makes it such a big game, for the teams, for the fans."

Beckham believes in-form United striker Wayne Rooney, who has 23 goals this season, is the man his side must stop if they want to reach the quarter-finals.

## Ferguson: Good time to play AC Milan

ALEX Ferguson believes AC Milan are a different side since the departure of Kaka, and is in confident mood Manchester United can overcome the Italian giants in the Champions League.

The last meeting between the sides finished 3-0 in favour of the Rossoneri, with a Kaka

inspired performance in the San Siro knocking the Red Devils out of the 2007 Champions League semi-final.

Kaka joined Real Madrid last summer, alongside former United forward Cristiano Ronaldo, and Ferguson is happy his side won't face the Brazilian maestro.

"It's a good time for us to be going to Milan," said Ferguson.

"They played this weekend [beating Udinese 3-2 on Friday night], they've lost Kaka and have a few injuries, whereas we aren't playing this weekend and we have had a good rest."

Ferguson believes the loss of the Brazilian playmaker has

forced Milan to change their tactical set-up, and is something his Red Devils are prepared for this time.

He added: "They have changed since they lost Kaka. They used Kaka at the head of a diamond and two front players, but they have changed that and gone 4-3-3 with two wide players

and three centre-midfield players. "You have to recognise they are not short of skill and experience. Ronaldinho, Pato all these players, but equally we have players who can win the match too.

"After the experience in the San Siro three years ago, where they dominated the game, I know that won't happen again."

## Mancini fury as Delap throws City off course

TWO hundred million pounds should be enough to stop a Rory Delap long throw. But Manchester City's hapless players proved otherwise to leave their normally urbane manager Roberto Mancini more than a little irritated.

Mancini, who needs a trophy to guarantee he is still in a job next season, must have thought he had one foot in the FA Cup quarter-finals when Shaun Wright-Phillips scored early on and Stoke suffered a devastating setback with star winger Matthew Etherington carried off with a serious knee injury.

Then, Delap undid all the good work with one mighty chuck after 57 minutes. Wright-Phillips, all 5ft 5in of him, laughingly jumped in front of the Stoke substitute to block the throw's trajectory.

Predictably, the ball sailed over his head into the danger zone where Shay Given remained rooted to his line and expensively-assembled defenders Wayne Bridge, Kolo Toure, Pablo Zabaleta and Joleon Lescott stood like statues as Ricardo Fuller headed in from close range.

Former Manchester City manager Joe Royle looked away in disgust, declaring: 'Zonal marking at its worst.'

Mancini did not defend his players as Fuller continued his record of scoring in every round this season. 'We had prepared for

It wasn't a fair result because we played well in the first half and had four good chances.

this because we knew Stoke are dangerous from throw-ins. But our players were in a bad position and they scored,' said the Italian.

'It wasn't a fair result because we played well in the first half and had four good chances. But when you don't score a second, it can be dangerous because Stoke are dangerous at every set-piece.'

Things got worse for Stoke in the 13th minute when Etherington slipped as he went to challenge Bridge and was carried off with suspected medial ligament damage that might keep him out for two months.

It took Stoke until half-time to re-organise but they gave a real scare to a Manchester team missing Carlos Tevez, in Argentina for the birth of his child. Only in the closing stages did the home side threaten again as Gareth Barry had a header saved and Roque Santa Cruz failed from six yards.

Mancini will now experience the raucous atmosphere of the Britannia in the Premier League on Tuesday and again in a Cup replay. 'It will be good for him,' laughed Pulis.



VERA Zvonareva of Russia made a successful defence of her Pattaya Open title after a tense 6-4, 6-4 win over Tamarine Tanasugarn yesterday.

## Zvonareva retains Pattaya Open title

RUSSIA'S Vera Zvonareva made a successful defence of her Pattaya Open title after a tense and testing 6-4 6-4 win over local favourite Tamarine Tanasugarn on Sunday.

Zvonareva had a fierce battle with the tenacious Thai, who was inspired by the partisan home crowd and challenged the Russian throughout a physical one hour, 51-minute match.

'In the end I'm glad I can beat her,' Zvonareva said. 'It was a tough match, a tough tournament to defend.'

The world number 14 got off to an impressive start and raced to a 3-0 lead but Tamarine clambered back into the match and piled the pressure on her oppo-

nent as the intense heat took its toll in the second set.

The Russian varied her returns to try to keep Tamarine on the defensive, but the American-born Thai pushed Zvonareva all the way in marathon games of backcourt slugging.

Zvonareva regained her composure after being frustrated by a series of contested line calls, fending off a late fightback to become the only player to retain the title at the 19-year-old tournament.

It was the second successful defence for the Russian, whose consecutive wins in Memphis in 2004 and 2005 were among her 10 titles since turning professional in 2000.

'This match we both enjoyed,

it was very close,' Zvonareva said. 'There were a couple of calls I think were faulty. I tried to stick to my game, every game, in every point so every one of them is important.'

Tamarine expressed regret for being a losing finalist on home soil for the third time in 14 years. She praised Zvonareva for a polished performance.

'Credit to her, her game is brilliant, she didn't let me play mine and she didn't miss on hers,' Tamarine told reporters.

'I had to run around and take chances to attack and get her on each and every point. It was quite close, especially on the second set, but I admit, she never opened the door.'

## Cavs to buy Stoudemire from Suns

THE Cavaliers and Suns are close to a deal that would send Amare Stoudemire to Cleveland in exchange for Zydrunas Ilgauskas and J.J. Hickson.

The Cavaliers believe LeBron James would re-sign with the team this summer if they're able to acquire Stoudemire. The Cavs' intention would be to sign Stoudemire, who has one year and \$17 million remaining on his contract, to a long-term deal at season's end.

Cleveland is still in trade talks with other teams - including the Wizards for Antawn Jamison, the Pacers for Troy Murphy and the Warriors for Corey Maggette - but Stoudemire is the organization's first choice, according to the report.

## Soderling wins ABN Amro

ROBIN Soderling won the ABN Amro final Sunday when former champion Mikhail Youzhny of Russia retired because of a thigh injury.

The third-seeded Soderling, who finished second to Michael Llodra two years ago, became the first Swedish winner of the indoor tournament since Anders Jarryd in 1993.

He dropped serve in the first game of the match but broke back immediately. The Swede broke twice more in the first set and once in the second to lead 6-4, 2-0.

Youzhny eventually decided he couldn't continue, giving Soderling his fifth career title.

In the semifinals, Soderling beat second-seeded Nikolay Davydenko and Youzhny defeated top-seeded Novak Djokovic.

## Dotd wins Avantha Masters

AUSTRALIA'S Andrew Dodt shot a final-round 68 on Sunday to hold off Englishman Richard Finch by a stroke and win the Avantha Masters.

Seven players began the final round tied for the lead, but it was Finch who made the biggest charge, shooting a 6-under 66 to get into contention. Dodt answered with birdies at Nos. 16 and 18 to get to 14 under, good enough for his first European Tour victory.

Richard Bland shot 71 to finish in a group at 12 under, along with fellow Brits Barry Lane and David

A bogey at the 11th threatened to derail the 24-year-old's bid.

Drysdale and Tetsuji Hiratsuka. The Japanese player shot 71 two days after his round of 62 set the course record.

Dodt, whose previous best finish was a tie for ninth at last year's Barclays Singapore Open, began the day one shot off the pace but picked up three strokes by the turn and was well placed with nine holes to play.

A bogey at the 11th threatened to derail the 24-year-old's bid, but he managed to recover over the final three holes to secure the trophy.

Finch, meanwhile, mounted his charge from down the leaderboard. He shot 32 on the front nine with five birdies and a bogey, but only picked up two more shots down the stretch.

Bland's 66 had catapulted him into contention on Saturday, and two early birdies allowed him keep pace at the top of the scoreboard. A bogey at the sixth set him back, and although he recovered a shot at the 16th, he wound up with a bogey at 18 to stay winless on the tour.



SODERLING

## THE MONDAY COLUMN

Mahmud Jega

mmjega@dailytrust.com, 08054102925

## Who is in charge here?

On March 30, 1981 when John Hinckley shot US President Ronald Reagan [in order, he later said, to attract the attention of actress Jodie Foster], a small drama played out in the White House over presidential succession.

Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger and other Administration big-wigs were assembling in the Situation Room awaiting the return of Vice President George H.W. Bush, who was in Texas. Weinberger did not notice that his colleague, Secretary of State General Alexander Haig, had slipped out of the room. Minutes later, Weinberger glanced at the television set, saw Haig speaking on it and asked, "What's that old picture of Al doing on telly?"

Turned out that it wasn't an old picture at all but a live one. That was when Haig stunned veteran White House reporters and constitutional lawyers alike by saying, "I am in control here."

The American Presidential Succession Act of 1947 provides a long order of succession to the Presidency so that, even in catastrophic situations, the country will still have a president. The succession line includes the Vice President, Speaker of the House of Representatives, President Pro-Tempore of the Senate, then Cabinet level secretaries in the order in which their Departments were created [making the Secretary of State the most senior, since his department was the first to be created in 1789]. In declaring himself to be in charge, Haig leap-frogged over three offices, causing a worldwide scandal in those days. Let us today remind Messrs David Mark and Dimeji Bankole that Nigeria needs a Presidential Succession Act.

Several years after the Haig episode, in 1986, the French Republic was gripped in a struggle for power when the opposition Neo-Gaullist party swept the parliamentary polls of that year and Socialist President Francois Mitterrand found himself in a messy "cohabitation" with his arch-rival, Prime Minister Jacques Chirac.

The French government became a two-headed hydra, tugging in different directions on most issues. The coach of the French national team at that year's football World Cup in Mexico dramatised the situation after his team won an important victory by saying he received congratulatory messages from both Mitterrand and Chirac. He said, "While the President congratulated us on our victory, the Prime Minister wished us success in our next match."

A Newsweek magazine French columnist wrote an article at the time titled "Who is in charge here?" It was a play on Al Haig's famous gaffe, but it is fitting to ask in Nigeria these days, "who is in charge here?"

Tuesday last week's unanimous resolution by both Houses of the National Assembly to recognise Vice President Goodluck Jonathan as Acting President on the strength of President Umaru Yar'adua's BBC interview a month ago has reduced tension in this country. It was a surprise solution to the political stalemate that lasted for nearly 80 days, when a President undergoing medical treatment abroad refused to transmit a letter of medical vacation to the Assembly so that Jonathan can act.

Yet, the National Assembly's resolution, and Jonathan's acceptance of it, was an action of dubious legality, when you remember that the Supreme Court severally said nothing should be added to the Constitution in the course of interpreting it. Remember that in 2007, the Supreme Court quashed then President Obasanjo's attempt to declare Vice President Atiku Abubakar's seat vacant because he became the presidential candidate of another political party, AC. The court said the Constitution listed four ways by which the VP could lose his seat, namely death, resignation, incapacitation or impeachment, and that no other situation can be added

to those four.

Now, since the Constitution spelt out in detail how the VP can become acting President, that is when the President transmits a letter to the National Assembly, then it is doubtful if any other situation can legally stand. But who will contest this matter in court? Not many people around have the locus standi to contest it. Those who probably have it, such as the Attorney General, Secretary to the Government or military service chiefs, will almost certainly not contest it.

In other words, a quasi-legal solution has been found to an essentially political problem. Political, because Yar'adua [or at least the few people who have access to him] refused to transmit a letter and clearly didn't want Jonathan to assume his presidential powers.

Even though there is no evidence that Dr. Jonathan lobbied anyone to resolve matters this way, he swiftly accepted the Assembly's resolution and even made a television broadcast to herald it. That could cause political trouble one day. Ideally, Jonathan should have sought the Attorney General's opinion as to whether the Assembly's resolution was constitutional. Instead, he swiftly removed the AG and banished him to the Special Duties Office. The flipside of it was, most Nigerians agreed that Michael Aondoaka deserved the sack.

As the week wore on, Jonathan consolidated his acting rulership by sitting on Yar'adua's desolate chair at the Federal Executive Council [FEC] meeting and by swearing-in Federal permanent secretaries who were appointed last year but could not be sworn-in due to Yar'adua's absence.

**“This whole arrangement is however pregnant with political danger. What if Yar'adua, or someone claiming to be acting for him, interferes with Jonathan's rule?”**

This whole arrangement is however pregnant with political danger. What if Yar'adua, or someone claiming to be acting for him, interferes with Jonathan's rule? A phone call from Jeddah to any minister or other government bigwig conveying a "presidential order" will be enough to cause real confusion, especially if it conflicts with another order given by

Jonathan. Legally, Yar'adua has no right to interfere, but this is politics, not law. We can now see that those constitution writers who envisaged a willing transmission of a vacation letter to enable someone become acting President really knew what they were doing.

Now, even though last week's arrangement has eased political tension in the country, it is only a temporary solution. For how long can Jonathan continue to act? There are many big ticket items on the President's plate right now, including the power problem, Niger Delta amnesty, electoral reform and oil sector deregulation, not to mention political preparations for next year's elections. No long-term planning is possible as long as the President is only acting, with Yar'adua's shadow looming in the background.

It will not be long before the clamour begins for a more permanent solution to this problem. The National Assembly may cohabit with an acting President for a few weeks, after which, if Yar'adua does not return, then it will probably ask him to resign or force the FEC to initiate the process of declaring him medically incapacitated. Given the stubbornness with which Yar'adua refused to transmit a simple vacation letter, I personally do not see him ever transmitting a resignation letter.

Maybe, just maybe, Jonathan and the National Assembly leaders as well as the governors who backed them up have credible information that Yar'adua may never be well enough to return to his duty post. That may explain the unlikely courage recently exhibited by Mrs Dora Akunyili, the governors, the National Assembly leaders, and Jonathan himself. For, if Yar'adua were to suddenly arrive at the Nnamdi Azikiwe Airport and walk with a shuffle into the VIP lounge, all the big men in this city will dive into an air raid shelter.

## SPORTS REPORT



WILL Togo be able to compete in 2012 Africa Cup of Nations?

## Togo appeals against ban

The Togolese Football Federation has appealed to the Swiss-based Court of Arbitration of Sport to overturn the two-year ban imposed on their side for pulling out of the African Cup of Nations.

The Togo team returned home on government insistence after their team-bus heading for Angola and last month's tournament was attacked by armed gunmen leaving two members of the delegation dead.

The African Confederation of Football, which organises the

biennial event, later banned Togo from taking part in the next two Nations Cups in Equatorial Guinea in 2012 and Libya in 2014.

"The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) has initiated an arbitration procedure following the appeal filed by the Football Federation of Togo (FTF) against the decision of 31 January 2010 taken by the African Football Confederation (CAF)," A CAS press statement read.

The Togolese are calling for a decision to be taken before February 20 when the draw is made for the 2012 qualifiers.



CRISTIANO Ronaldo

## Ronaldo won't rule out United return

Real Madrid star Cristiano Ronaldo has admitted he misses life at Manchester United and would consider a return to Old Trafford in the future.

The 25-year-old Portuguese superstar left English champions United to join Real for a world record transfer fee of 80 million pounds in June and has enjoyed a fine start to his time at the Bernabeu.

But when his time in Spain is up, Ronaldo claims he would be happy to return to England.

"Of course I miss playing for Manchester United," Ronaldo said in The News of the World. "I played there for six years and that's a long time."

"I am still interested in watching Manchester United and, you never know, maybe in the future I could return to play there. It's always possible."

