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# DAILY TRUST

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TRUST IS A BURDEN

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## INEC to release time table for 2011 polls Tuesday



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## Man arrested with arrows says God sent him...



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PHOTO: AFOLABI SOTUNDE

MEMBERS of the Maroon, Sardauna, and other traditional associations in Jos, protesting against killings in Jos at the National Assembly, Abuja, yesterday.

### Inside Today's Daily Trust

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The National Council on Privatisation has been urged not to cancel NITEL's sale to the preferred bidder **34**



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Seven suspected members of Kenya's Munqik sect were shot and killed yesterday **19**

# GOC: Jang did not report attack

From Andrew Agbese, Mahmud Lalo & Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

THE General Officer Commanding (GOC) the 3 Armored Division, Jos Major General Saleh Maina yesterday dismissed claims by Plateau State Governor Jonah Jang that he alerted the Nigerian Army two hours before last Sunday's attack on three villages in Jos South Local Government Area of the

state. Maina said neither the state governor nor any of his officials telephoned him with such a report.

Governor Jonah Jang had said on Tuesday that he received a security report at about 9pm on Saturday and that he sent the same message to the army commanders in Jos, but that the army failed to take any action until the villages were sacked.

Jang equally said that he received reports that the attackers came about three hours after he sent the security report to the army commanders, which puts the time of the attack at about 12 midnight, even though the attack victims later testified that it happened at about 3am on Sunday morning.

General Maina, who is the commander of the Joint Military

Federal Government Special Task Force to restore peace in Plateau State, said at a rare news briefing in Jos that he had no foreknowledge or report of the attack and only got to know of it through text messages after it had taken place.

He said the time he received the text messages can be verified from any of the GSM network

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# NASS: Jonathan sent no Uwais report

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Nasidi A. Yahaya

COPIES of the unedited report of the Justice Muhammad Lawal Uwais Electoral Reform Committee were sent to the National Assembly by President Umaru Yar'adua before he fell ill last year and no fresh copies were received

recently from Acting President Goodluck Jonathan, both chambers of the National Assembly said yesterday.

They were reacting to claims by Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF) Alhaji Mahmud Yayale Ahmed, who told demonstrat-

ing members of the Save Nigeria Coalition (SNC) in Abuja on Wednesday that Jonathan transmitted unedited copies of the report to the National Assembly two weeks ago for consideration. The SGF did not tell the truth on the matter, they said.

Briefing newsmen on the issue yesterday, Vice Chairman of the Senate Committee on Informa-

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# NEMA alerts on meningitis

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

THE National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has raised alarm over the spread of Cerebrospinal Meningitis (CSM) urging Nigerians to adhere to precautionary measures to avoid its spread.

The North-West coordinator of the agency Alhaji Mustapha Suleiman said in Kaduna yesterday that

cases of CSM had been recorded in three states in the zone.

"Various cases have so far been reported in Jigawa, Sokoto and Kaduna States of outbreaks of CSM and Cholera with varying degrees of fatality, though in low extent but requiring appropriate enlightenment measures", he said.

He urged relevant stakeholders to facilitate the enough awareness

among the populace on the need for personal and environmental hygiene, avoidance of over-congestion, proper ventilation and other practices that are germane to prevention of the menace.

He reiterated the readiness of the agency to partner with any state government to organize sensitization programmes in affected areas.

"In the North West zone, we are

aware of efforts by the state governments to provide necessary vaccines and relevant drugs at the most vulnerable areas. So also local health monitoring and evaluation officers have been vigilant in ensuring the continuous surveillance and prompt/early reporting of any outbreak to the relevant authorities. This is commendable but sensitization of communities with a view to

achieving prevention should be paid due attention," he added.

According to him, epidemics and communicable diseases constitute a major source of emergency in Nigeria, especially in the North West zone. Death from diseases like Cholera, Measles, Lassa and Yellow Fever are in hundreds every year and this poses a threat to lives more than any other disaster, he said.

## Jos: Women take protest to Assembly, Govt House

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

THOUSANDS of women yesterday thronged the Plateau State House of Assembly to protest last Sunday's killings in the state.

The women who were clad in black attires carried leaves and placards, chanting songs to express their displeasure over the crisis.

Speaking on behalf of the women, Mrs Naomi Jugu, said the protest was to register their grievances over the recent killings. She said there was a need to investigate the incident.

Mrs Jugu who presented some documents to the leadership of the Assembly, called on the legislators to intervene in the matter, saying those responsible for the attack must be brought to book to serve as deterrent to others.

Responding on behalf of the Assembly, the Speaker, Istifanus Mwansat, condemned the killings and urged the women to observe restraint on the issue as their grievances would be addressed. He also assured the women that the House would not play politics with the matter as it concerned the lives of innocent women and children.

At the Government House, the women also registered their grievances. The Deputy Governor Mrs Pauline Tallen received them and promised that the state government would look into their demands. Mrs Tallen condemned the series of violence in the state and maintained that there was a need for Muslims and Christians to live in peace as they were all created by God and vengeance belonged to God.

There was a need for Muslims and Christians to live in peace as they were all created by God



MINISTER of the Federal Capital Territory, Alhaji Adamu Aliero (right) with Managing Director/COO Media Trust Limited Isiaq Ajibola, when a management team of Media Trust visited the minister in Abuja, yesterday.

## Meningitis ravages Kano LGs

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

CEREBROSPINAL Meningitis has hit 18 local government areas in Kano State where 50 cases have been reported.

Speaking with our correspondent on phone, Kano State

Commissioner for Health Hajiya Aishatu Kiru confirmed the figure of cases and the number of affected areas, saying health officials had been sent to the areas and house-to-house vaccination had begun.

The commissioner said gov-

ernment had intensified immunization in areas that were prone to the disease.

"We are vigilant because we want to make sure that it does not escalate", she said.

The commissioner called on people to stay in well ventilated

rooms. The affected local government areas are Nassarawa, Kano Municipal, Tarauni, Kura, Kumbotso, Fagge, Wudil, Gezawa, Ajingi, Madobi and Dala. Others include Bichi, Doguwa, Minjibir, Dawakin Tofa, Dawakin Kudu, Tofa and Bagwai.

## 'Nigeria needs \$3bn annually to attain MDGs'

From Auwalu Umar, Kano

A recent costing exercise undertaken by the office of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) has established a funding gap of \$3 billion annually to achieve the goals in Nigeria, Senior Special Assistant to the President on MDGs Hajiya Amina Az-Zubair said in Kano yesterday.

Speaking at the commissioning of the Conditional Grant Scheme-funded Wudil water works, the senior

special assistant said the development had made it imperative for all tiers of government to pool resources as no single tier can go it alone.

Mrs. Zubair, who was represented by a director in the MDGs office, Dr Ishaq Muhammad, also said the undeniable capital requirement of such an undertaking surpassed the capability of either the local government or state government in isolation. "The capital requirements are too high for the state and local governments to take in segregation, but

on other hand, it cannot be left to the federal government alone due to the level of detail and close proximity to the people", she said.

She said the 2005 negotiated debt relief from the Paris Club of creditors translated in savings to the tune of N110 billion annually and the Federal Government channeled these funds through appropriations to relevant MDGs to scale up MDGs related projects and programmes.

Lessons learned from 2006 appropriations from the low level of project

delivery, according to her, partly informed the introduction of the Conditional Grants Scheme (CGS) in 2007.

CGS, she also said, was a Federal Government initiative where states and local governments are able to access funding for the implementation of projects and programmes that would scale up investments in MDGs related areas contingent upon meeting set criteria as set out in the guidelines governing the scheme.

## Workers hold council chairman hostage

From Ibrahim Muhammad, Yola

THE Chairman of Yola North Local Government in Adamawa State Alh. Muhammadu Ibrahim Attah -Baba Ami was yesterday held hostage by aggrieved workers over non-payment of their four months salaries.

The council boss was held for several hours, prompting the deployment of security personnel to disperse the workers to pave way for negotiations between the council management and the union leaders as well as the committee set up by the state government on the issue.

The council chairman told newsmen that the matter had been resolved and accused some union leaders of instigating their members against his administration.

He said it was unfortunate that some union leaders who were supposed to be peace-brokers had

turned to fuel the situation by instigating the workers to protest.

The council chairman said his intention was to go by the recommendations offered by the committee set up to verify the genuine entitlements of the workers. When contacted, the chairman of Medical and

Health Workers Union of the council, Alh. Bello Hamman Joda, confirmed that there was a protest by his members but assured that the matter was being resolved, saying as union leaders, they were working assiduously to ensure that workers receive their salaries up to February this year.

# Senate excludes ex-military rulers from pay package

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Turaki A. Hassan

THE Senate has passed a bill excluding all former military heads of state and leaders who came to power through undemocratic means from benefitting in a new remuneration package for former leaders, heads of the legislature and the judicial arms of government.

The bill has ruled out former Heads of State, Late General Aguiyi Ironsi, General Yakubu Gowon, General Ibrahim Babangida, General Muhammadu Buhari, Late General Sani Abacha, General

Abdulsalami Abubakar and Chief Ernest Shonekan who headed an unelected Interim National Government (ING) from being part of remuneration for former Presidents and Heads of State.

Presenting the bill, Chairman Senate Committee on National Planning Senator Zaynab Kure (PDP, Niger) said "The thrust of the bill is essentially to amend Decree 32 of 1999 and ensure that only democratically elected former presidents are entitled in the schedule to the bill."

The bill provides for remuneration to former presidents,

vice presidents, Senate presidents, deputy Senate presidents, speakers and deputy speakers of the House of Representatives and chief justices of the federation.

"The members of families or deceased former Presidents and Vice Presidents shall be entitled to annual payments as shall be recommended by the Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) and approved by the National Assembly," the bill provides.

The remuneration covers upkeep of spouses and children of a deceased former presidents and

deceased former vice presidents as well as the education of the children up to the university graduate level or its equivalent.

During the debate, senators argued that former military heads of state irrespective of whatever nomenclature they adopted during their reign cannot be part of the remuneration package because they came to power through means that breach Section 1(2) of the 1999 Constitution.

Section 1(2) of the Constitution provides that "(2) The Federal Republic of Nigeria shall not be governed, nor shall any persons

or group of persons take control of the Government of Nigeria or any part thereof, except in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution."

Speaking during the debate, Senate Olorunimbe Mamora (AC, Lagos East) said including ex-military rulers in the package would amount to encouraging truncation of democracy.

But Senate President David Mark insist that the clause as contained in the bill which recognises former Presidents and Heads of State is in line with the Constitution.

## Halliburton: Italy's Eni cuts profit for bribery probe

By Habeeb I. Pindiga, with agency report

ITALIAN oil and gas company Eni cut its 2009 net profit to 4.37 billion euros, saying it had set aside 250 million euros for possible charges resulting from a bribery probe in which Nigerian officials were allegedly paid bribes to facilitate a gas contract.

Reuters news agency reported that Eni said yesterday it had reduced its preliminary consolidated net profit of 4.62 billion euro (\$6.27 billion), to take into account "an increase to the legal proceedings provision" related to TSKJ consortium in Nigeria.

TSKJ consortium, which included Eni's Snamprogetti unit, is being investigated in several countries over allegations it paid bribes to Nigerian government officials between 1994 and 2004 to get contracts worth more than \$6 billion to build liquified natural gas facilities in the country.

Halliburton unit KBR, which headed the consortium, pleaded guilty last year in the United States to charges it had paid \$180 million in bribes to Nigerian officials.

Eni said in its 2009 annual report posted on its website yesterday it had improved internal control procedures since the probe started and continued to cooperate with authorities.

It said recent discussions with U.S. authorities investigating the case had enabled it to estimate the cost to resolve all possible claims arising from the U.S. probe.

Prosecutors asked Italy's top appeals court last month to bar Eni and its oil services group Saipem, under which Snamprogetti now falls, from doing business in Nigeria until it had completed its probe into the allegations.

The Federal Government and the National Assembly had instituted investigations into the Halliburton bribery allegations, though no indictments have yet been announced.



EKITI State Governor Segun Oni waving to the people during a walk round Ado-Ekiti, the state capital, in commemoration of this year's World Kidney Day celebration. With him are Deputy Governor Dr. Sikiru Tai Lawal, Chief of Staff Mr. Olu Adekunle, the governor's wife, Mrs. Kemi Oni, wife of the deputy governor, Princess Yemisi Lawal and Special Adviser on Chieftaincy Affairs, Princess Jolaade Onipede

## INEC to release time table for 2011 polls Tuesday

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Turaki A. Hassan

TIME table for the conduct of the 2011 general elections is to be made public Tuesday, Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Prof. Maurice Iwu said yesterday.

Iwu disclosed this when he visited Senate President David Mark.

He said registration of voters will begin in June and end in July while the commission has set-up automatic strategic centres in Jigawa, Ogun and Abia states to serve as data base for the registration of voters across the country.

The INEC boss said the commission has also devised new means of minimizing incessant cases of ballot snatching, election violence and rigging and other

electoral malpractices.

He assured Nigerians of successful elections in 2011 saying "INEC will further engage the services of National Youths Service, corps (NYSC) members as back-up staff for the 2011 polls instead of ad-hoc staff."

Responding, Senate President David Mark assured the INEC of that the National Assembly will fast track the electoral reform

process in order to benefit the 2011 general elections.

Mark said "I am impressed that the voters' registration will soon commence, but I am of the opinion that the exercise should be a continuous process. Anybody who has come of age could easily walk into any INEC office and register; this will ease the process and make it more accessible to all Nigerians".

## Minister: FCTA generates N3.5bn monthly

By Nasir Imam

THE FCT Administration's internally generated revenue is now N3.5 billion monthly as against the previous N600 million, FCT Minister Senator Muhammad Adamu Aliero has said.

The minister disclose this yesterday while receiving the Managing Director/Chief Operating Officer of Media Trust Nigeria Limited Ishaq Ajibola who led a team of management staff on a visit to the minister.

Aliero said the amount would

soon be doubled when property tax is introduced, adding that the FCT Administration is assiduously working to improve on its revenue profile to tackle the ever increasing challenges of municipal administration because the FCT authorities cannot afford to fail the nation.

He also revealed that the Abuja Rail Transportation project is on course as over 20 per cent has been achieved.

He said the administration is presently handling the Phases I to III of the project but that a foreign

investor has indicated interest to go into Public-Private-Partnership to inject more funds.

According to him, the FCT Administration would soon sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the foreign investor with the target of getting the entire project operational by the year 2012.

Senator Aliero said the completion of rail project would reduce traffic congestion in the city especially at peak hours thereby improving economic activities in the whole 8,000 square kilometres of the territory.

He urged the Abuja three route concessionaires to increase the fleet of their buses on Abuja roads as it would also go a long way in improving transportation problems in the territory.

Aliero said the FCTA would soon subsidise the operations of Abuja public transportation; stressing that without subsidy it would eventually collapse.

He called for closer ties with the Media Trust Nigeria Limited to allow the public objectively know what the government is doing.

# Secrecy on Yar'adua can happen only in Nigeria — Obasanjo

By Habeeb I. Pindiga, with agency report

THE secrecy with which President Umaru Yar'adua's illness and his return from medical trip are being handled could happen only in Nigeria, former President Olusegun Obasanjo told American news network CNN on Wednesday.

Yar'adua returned from a

three-month medical sojourn in Saudi Arabia three weeks ago, but he has not made a public appearance and not been seen yet by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan.

Obasanjo said the whole episode with Yar'adua's illness is unusual.

"I think ... the way it was handled by his handlers and the way it's been couched in secrecy and shrouded in mystery is strange.

Somebody said it can only happen in 'wonderland' Nigeria," he said.

He said it will be very dangerous if Jonathan fails to implement reforms quickly because the country is full of expectations for change.

The former president also spoke about the recent violence that claimed at least 200 lives in Plateau State, saying it was

not driven by religious tensions between Christians and Muslims—but by ethnic, social and economic problems.

"If you have one group or a community that has land that's been encroached upon by another community or even by itinerant cattle farmers, then the people who lay claim to the land will fight back," Obasanjo said.

"If there are job opportunities

in an area, and persons believe they are indigenous to that area, and (are) not getting enough out of the jobs that are available, they will fight those who are getting the jobs," he added.

Obasanjo said he's convinced the conflict in the country does not have religious roots, because religious leaders have come together and deliberated on the problems in Jos.

PIC: NAN



Illegal local 'refinery' site discovered by JTF in Gbekebor, Burutu Local Government Areas of Delta State.

## Akunyili says stress, low pay kill journalists

By Atika Balal & Muideen Olaniyi

MINISTER of Information and Communications Professor Dora Akunyili has blamed the high rate of death amongst journalists on stress that they undergo Mondays through Sundays and insufficient salaries.

She appealed to journalists to lead a healthy life amidst the stress of their jobs and said the ministry will help organize stress relief programs to that effect.

The minister said this when she paid a condolence visit to the Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ) FCT secretariat Abuja over the deaths of six journalists which occurred recently under different circumstances.

The journalists are former Managing Director of the Guardian newspaper Dr. Stanley Macebuh, Silas Uti of Capital FM, Ademola Adedeji of the Punch, Efenji Efenji of AIT, Salihu Abubakar and Cosmos Eliagu both of the News Agency of Nigeria.

She prayed that the families of the deceased's will have the fortitude to bear their loss, adding that a condolence purse will be sent to each family through the NUJ.

Speaking, National Vice President (Zone H) of the NUJ Gbenga Onaigha asked the minister to help legislate on the poor salary structure of journalists, particularly government owned media organizations.

He said plans are underway to establish an insurance scheme for journalists so that they can have something to fall back on at the end of the day.

## Court: El-Rufai can't challenge Senate's ban

By Atika Balal

FORMER FCT Minister Nasir el-Rufai's application contesting the decision of the Senate which recommended that he should not be allowed to hold any public office in the country was dismissed by an Abuja Federal High Court.

The Senate's Joint Committee on FCT and Housing said the former minister should not be allowed to hold any public office again.

Holding that the cause of action arose outside the statute period, Justice Mohammed Garba Umar said the claims made by one of the respondents in the preliminary objection stat-

ing that the petition was given to the petitioner on April 9, 2008, was not challenged by the applicant.

El-Rufai sued senators alongside the Senate President, Senator Abubakar Sodangi, Clerk of the National Assembly, FCT Minister, Attorney General of the Federation (AGF), and the Ministry of Justice for violating his human rights.

The ex minister had gone to court seeking a declaration that the recommendation of the committee which said he is not a fit and proper person to hold public office in a democratic set up is a fundamental breach of his rights to participate in the government

of Nigeria and have access to public service as guaranteed by the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights.

He sought an order to quash the entire proceeding and the interim report of the Joint Senate Committee on FCT and Housing investigative public hearing into the administration of the FCT under him.

He asked the court to declare that the membership of the Joint Committee of the Senate on FCT and Housing which allegedly investigated his administration of the FCT was composed mainly and principally of persons interested in the subject matter which is contrary to the principle of fair

hearing.

He similarly sought a court declaration that the refusal of the committee to afford him the opportunity to cross examine those who allegedly wrote petitions and testified against him constitutes gross violation of his rights.

He asked for an order perpetually prohibiting the defendants whether by themselves, agents, privies, officers, members or by whomsoever and howsoever from acting on the recommendations of or deliberating upon the interim report on the Investigative Public Hearing on the activities of the Federal Capital Territory administration 1999-2008.

## Lukman denies blocking probe into 90m litres missing fuel

By AbdulFattah Olijide & Mohammed S. Shehu

PETROLEUM Minister Rilwanu Lukman yesterday denied preventing the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) from probing the missing 90 mil-

lion litres of petroleum products belonging to the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC).

Lukman had announced in Lagos last year that a probe was being conducted by the EFCC into the alleged scam.

Responding to questions from State House correspondents yesterday after leading a delegation of Japanese businessmen to Acting President Goodluck Jonathan, Lukman denied involvement adding that his duty as minister was

to ensure transparency in the ministry.

He said the matter has been handed over to the appropriate law enforcement agencies and it is left to them to do their jobs.

On how the product got miss-

ing, Lukman said NNPC gave the product to a firm for storage but the product got missing.

"It is either they (firm) turn in the products or pay for it. And this is not the way to do things. We then took the matter to EFCC".

## Jonathan sent no Uwais report

Continued from page 1

tion and Media Senator Anthony Manzo (PDP, Taraba) said the claims by the SGF as reported in several newspapers was not true.

He said, "We read in the newspapers that the Acting President has transmitted the Uwais report to the National Assembly. That is not true. We got copies of the report several months ago from President Yar'adua after he sent the electoral reform bills. I want to tell you that the Acting President has not transmitted any report. Senators have copies of the report more than two months ago."

He said the Presidency under Yar'adua sent the original copies of the report after senators requested that the consideration of the six electoral reform bills sent by Yar'adua was to be done while referring to the Uwais report.

Manzo said the National Assembly is in advanced stage of the Constitution review exercise as well as electoral reform and could not have acted on a report sent two weeks ago to the benefit of the 2011 elections.

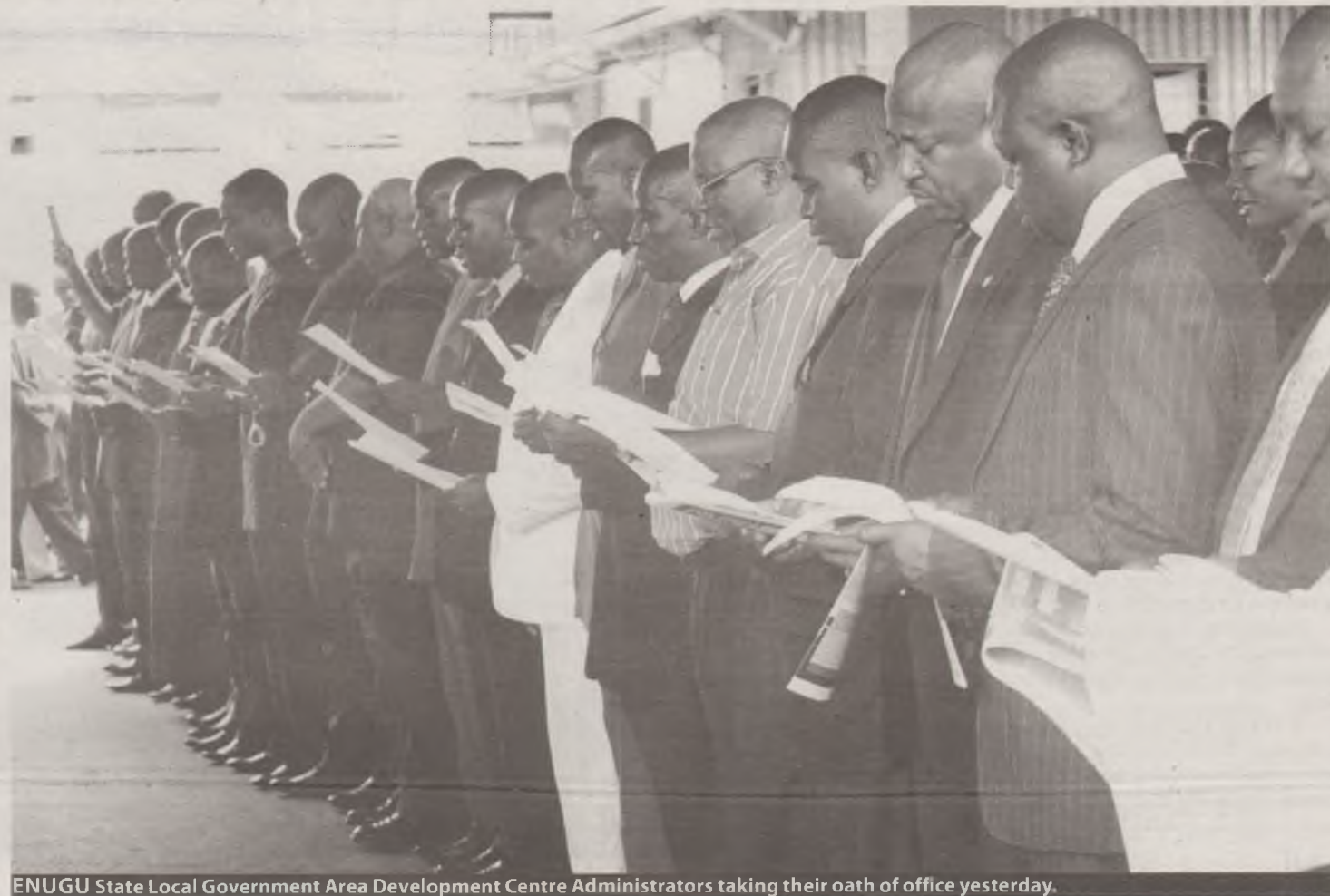
Also speaking on the matter, Chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Media and Public Affairs Mr. Esemeyiboh (PDP, Akwa Ibom) said the House is not in custody of any report sent by the Acting President as indicated by the SGF.

He said, "I am not aware of any report other than the previous one we had. I told you yesterday (Wednesday) and you reported it. That is to say we have not been in receipt of any communication apart from the one sent to us by the President (Yar'adua). And if there is any of such report, I am not aware of it."

Minority Leader in the House, Rep Mohammed Ali Ndume (ANPP, Borno) said the SGF lied President sent the Uwais report two weeks ago. Ndume said, "We did not receive any new report from the Acting President. The SGF just wanted to confuse Nigerians."

Last night, a source close to Alhaji Yayale Ahmed clarified the SGF's statement at the SNC rally. He told *Daily Trust*, "What actually happened was that two weeks ago, the Acting President asked the SGF to bring to him copies of the Uwais report on electoral reforms.

When they were taken to him, the Acting President said he was going to give them to National Assembly leaders. "The SGF assumed that Dr. Jonathan handed them over to the Assembly leaders, but we have since learnt that when the Acting President offered the report to them, the Assembly leaders said they had them already, that it was sent to them by President Yar'adua last year when they requested for it."



ENUGU State Local Government Area Development Centre Administrators taking their oath of office yesterday.

## Crises: Plateau women take case to N/Assembly

By Nasidi A. Yahaya

PLATEAU State women yesterday visited the National Assembly to protest killings of women and children during the reprisal attack on some villages allegedly carried out by some pastoralists near Jos on Sunday. The protesters, under the aegis of Plateau Women Development Association, Abuja branch, made a presentation to Speaker of the House of Representatives Dimeji Bankole, who told them to meet him at a later date to discuss the issue.

In the presentation signed by the Vice President of the association Mrs. Margaret Bagas and Secretary General Dr. Zipporah Kpamor, the women decried recurrence of crises in the State.

The women said they are against the criminal activities being allowed in Plateau State which has led to the killings of hundreds of people in addition to the loss of confidence the people have been made to suffer. "We are no longer comfortable with the situation in our land. Can we leave our God-given land for someone else, visitors we have been very hospitable to and accommodated peacefully? No, never," the women said.

## 'Innocent Fulanis being arrested in Jos'

By Misbahu Bashir

INNOCENT Fulani herdsmen are being arrested over the killing of Berom people in some villages in Jos recently, a Fulani leader said yesterday.

Alhaji Saleh Bayari said at a press conference in Abuja that local Fulani pastoralists are being arrested over the recent killing of Beroms in Jos and all those arrested are innocent.

He said those who carried out the killings have fled, adding that herdsmen who did not participate in the killings should be set free.

"Tens of herdsmen have been killed on the International Cattle Route that passes through Rasat and Dogo Nahawa villages by suspected Beroms. The herdsmen from Chad, Niger and Cameroon pass through this route. When they will come to avenge the unprovoked killing of their women and children, other local herdsmen will not know. So it will be most unjust and wicked to arrest the local Fulani as those that killed the Beroms at Dogo Nahauwa. 49 innocent Fulani herdsmen have been arrested by the police among 200 suspects. The police failed to mention the tribal identities of the 151 suspects mostly found with dangerous weapons," he said.

## Corrections: For the record

In our Weekly Trust edition of March 6th 2010, on page 6 in the story 'SMEDAN to create 5 million jobs - DG', the number of businesses to be generated by the agency is 10,000 and not 5,000 as reported in the story.

In the Daily Trust of Tuesday March 9th 2010, on page 2, the picture caption says the outgoing National Security Adviser was Rtd. Major Gen. Sarki Abdullahi, the former NSA's correct name is General Abdullahi Sarki Mukhtar.

Also in the Daily Trust of Thursday 11th March 2010, in the caption of our cover photo, the Save Nigeria Group was mistakenly named Save Nigeria Coalition. All errors above are regretted.

## Jang did not report attack

Continued from page 1

centers

On receiving the information, he said, the military task force immediately deployed troops to the affected villages and that they arrived at the villages fairly quickly despite the difficult terrain. The GOC said the military got on top of the situation soon after the attack as it deployed troops to those villages as well as other neighbouring villages that were not attacked. He said the soldiers pursued the attackers till they came in contact with 25 of them. They killed four and arrested one of them, he said.

The GOC described statements credited to Governor Jang as "unfortunate," saying for a

person who rose to the rank of one star general in the military to make such comments was uncalled for "if he is not misquoted by the media." "Plateau Government official's statements were misleading, inciting and it will only aggravate the situation," he added.

The GOC also warned the public warned against attacking and stoning soldiers, such as what happened at Bukuru Gyel and other places which he said led to the death of two soldiers while several others were injured. "Enough is enough," he said. Maina said soldiers cannot be accused of taking sides in the Plateau crises because they have laws governing their operations and they were deployed to pro-

professionally maintain peace and restore law and order in all parts of the state. The GOC said those calling for his redeployment have missed the point, as he did not post himself to the state, adding that whatever posting he receives as a military man he would always say 'amen' and ask God to guide him. He added that he had handled a similar operation in his home state of Borno, where most of those involved were Muslims and that he had never been accused of bias. He wondered why he could be said to be biased in the present situation.

It would be recalled that following last Sunday's attack on the three villages, Governor Jang told reporters at the State House in Abuja on Tuesday that he got wind

of the attack before it occurred and alerted the military, but that they took no action until the villages were sacked with the loss of over 100 lives, mostly of women and children.

Army Headquarters had responded to Jang's allegations on Wednesday, describing them as naive and embarrassing. A statement by Army spokesman Brig General Chris Olukolade said the Army was shocked that a governor with substantial military experience such as Jang could incite the public against the army by falsely accusing it of complicity in the Jos crises. He said Jang was "extraordinarily partisan" in the Plateau conflicts and that the Army would not be blackmailed into supporting his position.

## Accidents: Kogi to mount speed breakers

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

FOLLOWING Tuesday's accident in Lokoja which claimed over 70 lives, the Director of Press to Governor Ibrahim Idris Richard Elesho yesterday said the state government would mount speed breakers on highways within the state.

The project which he said would be in conjunction with the Federal Government is to control vehicle speed on the highway, especially around the market area.

In another development, the state Deputy Governor Philip Salawu yesterday denied that his near attack by angry residents at the scene of the Tuesday's accident at Felele market in Lokoja was politically motivated.

The deputy governor who was reacting through his Chief Press Secretary Yusuf Itoba on insinuations that the near attack on him was because the people did not like him, said he went to the scene of the accident on behalf of Governor Ibrahim Idris to sympathise with the victims.

Confirming that he was nearly mobbed by the angry residents, the deputy governor said when the situation appeared to be getting out of control, he had to leave the scene.

"It is true that they were trying to mob me and my entourage. There is nothing strange about that. People can attempt to do anything when they are angry. So, they were merely displaying their anger about the incident.



ICAN President Elizabeth Adekite (right) with the institute's Abuja Chapter Chairman, Fred Okonta during the ICAN public awareness on the institute's examination syllabus in Abuja yesterday.

## Why we won't vacate roadsides —Lokoja traders

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

ROADSIDE traders in Lokoja, the Kogi State capital, yesterday said that nothing would stop them from transacting businesses along the road.

The marketers' insistence came in the wake of the state government's decision to set up a taskforce that would ensure that nobody again transacts business along the road in the state in a bid to forestall a reoccurrence of Tuesday's accident that reportedly killed over 70 people with many others seriously injured.

Many of the roadside traders told our correspondent that apart from the fact that they could not afford to get shops inside Felele market, most of their customers preferred buying goods displayed at roadsides because of their cheaper prices.

"We, roadside traders are the first recipients of customers who normally patronise us because our goods are cheaper than those transacted inside the market", said Adam Azeez, a roadside trader.

Special Adviser to the governor on Media and Public Matters Zakari Adamu disclosed that the government would soon invite acting President Goodluck Jonathan to commission the newly constructed international market, adding that the House of Assembly had passed a resolution backing the governor on the move to evacuate roadside traders in the state.

## Unredeployed sacked hospital director

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

GOVERNOR Ibrahim Idris of Kogi State has announced the redeployment of the sacked Chief Medical Director of the State Specialist Hospital Professor John Enekele Onuminya to the Kogi State University, Anyigba.

Special Adviser to the Governor on Media and Publicity Zakari Adamu who disclosed this to our correspondent yesterday, said Onuminya, following the appointment of a sole administrator for the hospital, had been appointed Protem Provost of the university's College of Medicine.

"The redeployment of Professor Onuminya as Protem Provost of the College of Medicine is in realisation of the government's determination for the take-off of the college believing that with his wealth of experience, the college would begin on a sound footing", Zakari explained.

It would be recalled that Onuminya was on Wednesday relieved of his post as the CMD of the hospital following allegations of financial mismanagement, high-handedness, inflation of contracts and violation of due process in the running of the hospital.

# Cases of missing persons increase in Kebbi

From Ismail Adebayo, Birnin Kebbi

RESIDENTS of Badariya area of Birnin Kebbi now live in fear following the disappearance of three children and the kidnap of two others last week by men believed to be ritual killers.

Nine year old Usman Bala who was sent by his mother to buy mosquito coils within the neighborhood disappeared Sunday around 8:30 pm in the area, the residents said.

It was also gathered that efforts by the people of the area who were awakened by the cry of the boy's mother around 11:00pm to find the boy did

not yield any result. His body was found two days later by the roadside with the two eyes plucked out.

Earlier that week, a man was reported to have climbed the fence of a building in the area to snatch a baby who was with her mother as they slept in the compound at night. He was sighted by the baby's father and hurriedly threw the baby down and escaped.

Two bodies were recently found beside Adamu Abdullahi Road in the town with vital organs removed. A resident told our reporter that "powerful" people in the town may be behind the acts for rituals as is com-

mon when elections approach.

Two days ago, a woman was heard shouting and wailing in Hausa; "Yarinya ta". It was learnt that two men had gone into their compound in the same Badariya area and forcefully took her baby girl from her in the presence of her husband. The baby was dumped a few meters from their house.

The Police Public Relations Officer Mallam Dawud Mohammad Dawud said no such reports had been brought to them. He however said case of the child reported to have been snatched from her mother was currently being investigated.

## Katsina speaker blames fifth columnists on Yar'adua's health

From Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

AGAINST the backdrop of recent demonstrations over the health status of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua, the Speaker, Katsina State House of Assembly Ya'u Umar Gwajo Gwajo has said fifth columnists were fuelling

tension around the ailing President's health to destabilise the country.

In a statement in Katsina yesterday, the Speaker said those behind the debates were after self aggrandizement and their actions were detrimental to the continued existence of Nigeria as an indivisible political entity.

He said their hardened stance despite recent developments portrayed their quest to satisfy their selfish political motives and those of their sponsors which he noted was capable of bringing the country to ridicule. He urged well meaning Nigerians to ignore them.

## Students protest death of colleague

From: Femi Akinola, Lagos

ACADEMIC activities at the Community Senior Secondary School, Agric Bus Stop area of Ojo in Lagos were disrupted Wednesday following protests by the students over the sudden death of their 17-year old SSS I colleague, Gabriel Michael.

Our correspondent

learnt that Michael was playing football when he collapsed on the pitch and on the way to a nearby hospital.

It was learnt that the school and the Education District informed the family of the deceased of the incident the following day.

Confirming the development, the Information Officer in the state Min-

istry of Education Alhaji Tunji Bakare in a statement said the older brother of the deceased organized hoodlums to besiege the school premises, saying, "It is understood that the older brother of the deceased has also been going around threatening that he would return to repeat the dastardly act."

According to Bakare,

the state government has warned that the security of the staff and property of its schools would not be compromised, cautioning parents and guardians to warn all those fomenting trouble in and around the school premises, and indeed other schools in the state, to desist from such act or face the wrath of the relevant laws.

## Governor Jang broadcast of March 9, 2010

FELLOW citizens,

THESE are not the best of times for us on the Plateau - I mean all of us brothers and sisters from all nationalities destined to be residents of our beautiful state.

In the last few years we have been witnesses to rounds of violence especially on our dear City Jos. Sadly of recent, these attacks have become one too many. The latest being in the early hours of last Sunday where four communities in the neighbouring Local Governments of Jos South and Barkin Ladi were attacked leaving in their trail many residents dead, especially women and innocent children and properties of inestimable value destroyed.

On behalf of the Government and people of Plateau State, I wish to commiserate with all those who lost loved ones and properties in all the crises. We assure you all that in all these moments of grief and pain, our hearts go out to you. I pray that Almighty God comforts you as we continue to have our faith in Him.

My dear citizens, at this hour

of hurt and despair, it is human to start trading blames and making excuses. This will in no way solve our situation. As humans too, we are likely to be inflamed with hatred and bitterness. Also, this will do us no good both as individuals and as a State. There is also the temptation to start asking God, 'why?'. Our God is a God of justice. I believe God has allowed this for a purpose. We must therefore continue to have faith in our living God. I pray that He will bring comfort to all those that have lost their loved ones in these crises.

I hereby call on all of us to as a people undertake three days of fasting from Thursday 11th - Saturday 13th March to pray and cry out to God for the forgiveness of our sins, and to please with him to bring peace on the Plateau and our dear nation, Nigeria.

As I said at the National Peace Conference in Jos two days ago, I want us to pause and ask ourselves; what has happened to our legendary peace and brotherliness, what mistakes have we made and how do we correct

them as a nation?

We must not allow this to continue. Violence cannot be used as a way of solving conflicts. We must all respect each other irrespective of any affiliations. The responsibility of achieving peace is a collective one. Therefore, all hands must be on deck for us to achieve this goal.

However, let me warn all those contemplating any reprisals or vengeance attacks to desist. This is because the Acting President, Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, Dr Goodluck Jonathan has since put the security agencies on red alert to deal with any further breach of the peace.

Similarly, rumour mongers are warned to stop their nefarious activities and other conducts that have generated anxiety among our people. Residents are however advised to be vigilant and pass any useful information to the security agencies for verification instead of spreading unsubstantiated information.

I hereby direct all local government chairmen and tra-

ditional rulers to hold regular meetings in their domain towards promoting harmony. They are to also establish information desks where information could immediately be passed for onward submission to security agencies. I wish to encourage communities to be watchful of strangers in their midst and report same to relevant authorities.

The challenge before us all now is how to move forward as a people and put this sad episode behind us. It is time to forgive and allow peace to reign. We must sheathe our swords and embrace harmonious coexistence.

My fellow Citizens, I know that as a people we can talk to ourselves in friendship and love. But we must also tell divisive outside forces to leave us alone to rebuild the Plateau that the world has always known as "Home of Peace and Tourism" firmly anchored on the indomitable Plateau spirit. It is this spirit that has made Plateau the home of many nationalities over the

years. Our spirit should not be dampened as I am convinced that we shall come out stronger.

I ask all our security men and women to demonstrate high professional standards and ethics in the course of their duty here on the Plateau. In this situation and in this challenging world of diverse interest, you must show yourselves as men and women of honour and integrity.

I appreciate our Statesmen particularly former Heads of state and governors, Members of the National and State Assemblies, retired senior military and para-military officers, local government chairmen, traditional and community leaders, members of the clergy, the media, NGO's, trade unions and professional associations and our youths. Your patriotism and commitment to peace on the Plateau will remain indelible in my heart. Posterity will not forget you.

Plateau State is on the rise again! God bless Plateau State, God bless Nigeria. Thank you and remain blessed.

## Yobe sacks Egyptian doctor over 'misinformation'

From Hamza Idris, Damaturu

THE Yobe State government yesterday terminated the appointment of an Egyptian medical doctor, Mohsen Abdulhamid Mohammed El-Asran, a consultant radiologist for allegedly misinforming the public.

Dr. El-Asran, who worked at the Sani Abacha Specialists Hospital in Damaturu, had claimed that most

of the 23 Egyptian doctors recruited by the state government were quacks and reportedly sent petitions to Governor Ibrahim Gaidam, the state Commissioner for Health Idrissa Machinama, the Egyptian embassy in Nigeria and the EFCC.

The radiologist had in his petition equally alleged that the Egyptian doctors were holders of diplomas and were mistakenly employed as

resident doctors, therefore putting the lives of patients at risk even as they receive salaries between N540, 000 and N640, 000 monthly from the Yobe government.

The commissioner of health said a committee was set up to verify the claims of El-Asran which were found to be false. The state government have terminated his appointment because he was misleading

the public which has the potential of causing disaffection and confusion in the health sector", the commissioner said.

Dr. Usman Abdullahi, the Principal Medical Officer (PMO) of the Sani Abacha Hospital, described the allegations by El-Asran as "unfortunate, misleading and outright lies".

He said all the Egyptian doctors had completed their medical courses

in addition to other post graduate qualifications. "They (Egyptian doctors) were subjected to screening in line with international standards before we recruited them", Dr Abdullahi said. Our sister publication, the Sunday Trust had reported a scuffle between El-Asran and his Egyptian colleagues who reportedly broke his ribs when he allegedly called them quacks.

## Judge considers bail for Boko Haram suspects

From Sharafa Dauda, Maiduguri

FOLLOWING the failure of two new principal witnesses who appeared before the Borno State High Court 9 yesterday to provide any incriminating evidence against the 19 suspected members of the Boko Haram sect, the presiding judge, Justice Abdullahi Yerima Sanya, has said he is ready to consider applications for bail from defense counsel of the accused persons since the prosecution has failed to prove its case.

Justice Sanya said this at the end of yesterday's hearing after the two new principal witnesses, the Village Head of Jabbamari in State Low cost, Alhaji Zanna Ahmed and the Ward Head of Kumshe, Bulama Shetima Modu, identified the seventh

accused person, Alhaji Bukar Gaji, before the court. But he said the accusation leveled against him was based on suspicion of his involvement after he was arrested upon an instruction by the state government that all traditional leaders should fish out suspected members from their domains and hand them over to the police.

Alhaji Ahmed said following the state government's order, he instructed his ward heads to fish out members of the sect from their respective wards. He added, "I have never met or known the seventh accused person until his name was listed by the Bulama of his ward (Kumshe) along with others who fled." The case has been adjourned till April 13, 2010.



FROM left: Chairman, National Salaries, Incomes and Wages Commission, Chief Richard Egbule, Minister of Finance, Dr Mansur Muhtar and Minister of Labour Ambassador Ibrahim Kazaure, during a meeting at the Presidential Villa in Abuja yesterday.

## Gombe varsity implements new salary structure

From Aliyu M. Hamagam, Gombe

THE Gombe State University has implemented a new salary structure as agreed by the Academic Staff Union of universities (ASUU) and

the Federal Government, the Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor Abdullahi Mahdi has said.

He made the statement yesterday in Gombe while speaking with newsmen in his office. He

noted that the institution was able to implement the new salary structure following an increase in its quarterly subvention by the state government.

According to him, the univer-

sity's quarterly subvention was increased from N160 million to N210 million, saying since the inception of the university in 2004, it had been enjoying increase in subvention which was started with

N30 million. The vice chancellor added that the state government had equally paid the salary arrears that accrued following the implementation of the new salary scale from July 2009 totaling N112 million.

# Assembly denies plans to sack LG chairmen

From Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

THE Katsina State House of Assembly yesterday denied reports that it wanted to sack the 34 local government chairmen in the state, saying the resolution

was a routine legislative action intended to bring sanity to local government administration.

The Assembly had last week passed a resolution asking the state governor to sack any or all of the 34 local government chair-

man before the expiration of their tenure. Clarifying the House's position to newsmen in Katsina yesterday, the Chairman, House Committee on Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs Bala Sani Yaya said contrary to the reports,

the House had no intention of terminating the tenure of the council chairmen until the expiration of their three year tenure. Yaya said the recommendations were parts of his committee's report on the amendment the Local Govern-

ment Laws 2000.

He pointed out that the bill which empowered the state governor to dissolve a council before the end of its tenure was only in the event of a crisis or financial mismanagement.

PIC: NAN

## Dearth of doctors hits Jigawa

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Dutse

SHORTAGE of doctors is crippling activities in government owned hospitals in Jigawa State.

When our reporter visited the Dutse Hospital Wednesday, it was observed that only two doctors were attending to patients at the emergency unit while other sections were without doctors.

Some of the patients and their relatives who spoke to Daily Trust said they were disappointed in the present administration for its failure to provide adequate doctors.

"Despite the money claimed to have been invested in the health sector, we are yet to have enough doctors to man our hospitals. I brought my pregnant wife to the hospital around 7am, but there was no doctor to attend to her and dozens of other patients. I think government should do something to address the situation before it gets out of control", a patient's relative said. The state Commissioner for Health Dr. Ibrahim Muhammad Nashabaru confirmed that the state lacked doctors, saying government was doing everything within its powers to address the situation. Dr. Nashabaru said a committee had been set up by the government to register pregnant women. He added that the measure was meant to decongest the general hospitals.

## Adamawa promotes 6,700 teachers

From Ibrahim Muhammad, Yola

ABOUT 6,700 teachers have been promoted in Adamawa State. The Executive Chairman of the state Universal Basic Education Board Dr Salihi Bakari Girei who disclosed this yesterday in Yola said teachers were expected to play their roles effectively to justify the promotion.

"Nyako's administration is committed to teachers' welfare, promotion and other entitlements," he said. He regretted that the failure of local government councils in the state to provide money stalled the promotion of teachers for five years. He said the present administration in the state did not ask local government councils to contribute for counterpart funding of the Universal Basic Education as is being done in other states.



CARS wading through flood on Isaac John Street in Ikeja Area of Lagos yesterday.

## NTI trains 115,000 teachers

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

ABOUT 115,000 primary school teachers were trained last year by the National Teachers' Institute (NTI) under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) capacity building programme from across the country, the Director General of the Institute Dr. Aminu Ladan Sharehu said yesterday.

Speaking during a review meeting of the training, he said the teachers were trained by the institute as part of efforts to make them better teachers.

"The project was executed and funded under the MDGs/ debt relief grant (DRG) 2009 projects. The training of the teachers was conducted in 246 training centres. About 115,000 of the 120,000 teachers expected were trained in the 2009 edition. This represents a 96 percent attendance," he said.

He stressed the need for training and re-training of teachers with a view to raising the standard of education in the country.

The NTI boss said the review was in preparation for this year's training and urged stakeholders in the sector to always support the training.

"There is no doubt that teachers have a very important role to play in the attainment of government's development goals and agenda. They are critical to the development of any country," he said.

## Deputy govts to meet Jonathan over cocoa

From Leye Adewumi, Akure

DEPUTY-GOVERNORS of the 14 cocoa producing states in the country have concluded plans to meet Acting President Goodluck Jonathan to discuss issues affecting cocoa.

This was contained in a communiqué issued Wednesday in Akure, the Ondo State capital. The convention was organized by the Ondo State government. They said the meeting was important to ensure a timely intervention in the cocoa industry. They also urged the Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources Alhaji Sayad Aba Ruma to revive the National Cocoa Development Committee (NCDC) just as they charged the Minister of Commerce and Industry to promote cocoa consumption and efficient marketing systems both in Nigeria and abroad.

The communiqué committee which was chaired by the Deputy Governor of Kwara State Chief Joel Ogundeji said the cocoa development levy should be used to assist farmers in the procurement of inputs through the state Cocoa development Committee (SCDC).

All cocoa producing states were also encouraged to initiate local consumption of cocoa, especially among school children in their respective states. "The national cocoa policy should be reviewed to meet current challenges, cocoa products developed and patented by CRIN should be promoted for further production by private stakeholders to ensure a national culture of cocoa consumption", they said.

## Zamfara to enact law on food security

From Sadeeq Aliyu, Gusau

THE Speaker of Zamfara State House of Assembly Alhaji Umar Bature has said that a law on food security would be enacted in the state to ensure availability of food at all times.

Bature who said this yesterday while receiving the Association of Zamfara State Women in Agriculture under the auspices of Food Rights Campaigners said the state government would

give agriculture priority in this year's budget. He added that farmers would be educated on modern techniques of farming to boost harvest.

The state Chairman of Agriculture and Allied Employees Union of Nigeria (AAEUN) Sa'adu Gwaram urged the government to assess the performance and capacity of the state Ministry of Agriculture, its departments and agencies with a view to strengthening them. He

also requested government to guarantee access to inputs, credit, fertilizer, seedlings, equipment and other necessary facilities. According to him, the group, Food Rights Campaigners which is a coalition of agriculture unions has conducted series of researches on the matter. He said the researches revealed wastages in the sector through procurement of inappropriate technologies some of which were injurious to the system.

## Envoy: Egyptian doctor's allegations against colleagues untrue

By Aisha Umar Agaie

THE selection of Egyptian doctors working in Yobe State followed due process which included the verification and certification of their credentials, Egyptian ambassador to Nigeria Sheriff Najib has said.

Najib said the allegations by Dr Mohsen Abdel-Hameed Mohammed El-Asran that 10 of the Egyptian doctors working in Yobe State possess only diplomas as against the post graduate degrees demanded by the state gov-

ernment were untrue.

Dr El-Asran was reportedly beaten by his Egyptian colleagues for writing series of petitions against them to Yobe State government and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) that they were holders of diplomas but employed in error as resident doctors.

However, the Egyptian envoy told Daily Trust in an interview that there was no error in the contract between Yobe State and the Egyptian medical doctors which was made in Cairo

and mediated by the Nigerian Embassy in Egypt.

"Our Egyptian medical doctors are well educated and well trained. They have excelled in areas of medical treatment and they have been rendering their medical service in Nigerian Hospitals and clinics for a long time.

Nigerian patients increasingly receive their medication in the Egyptian hospitals and come back better. They feel that Egyptian medical authorities do their best in helping them," he said.

## Onovo orders withdrawal of orderlies

By Misbahu Bashir

INSPECTOR General of Police Ogbonna Onovo has ordered the immediate withdrawal of police orderlies from people who are not entitled to have them, including wives of state governors.

The Deputy Police Force Public Relations Officer CSP Yemi Ajayi said Onovo gave the order at a meeting with senior police officers yesterday in Abuja. He said orderlies would be removed from people who are not allowed by law to have police orderlies.

The order which was given in 2009 was not implemented by the police and majority of people not entitled to have orderlies including wives of state governors were allowed



INSPECTOR General of Police Ogbonna Onovo

to retain theirs. The Minister of Police Affairs Dr. Ibrahim Yakubu Lame last week, said government will take punitive measures on police authorities that fail to implement the order in two weeks.

The President and his

Vice, judges, ministers, state governors as well as local government chairmen and their deputies were allowed to have police orderlies. But wives of state governors, government functionaries and wealthy men were not allowed.

## Maduekwe lauds IFAD for support to Nigeria

By Aisha Umar Agaie

MINISTER of Foreign Affairs Ojo Maduekwe has commended International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) for immense support given to Nigeria in recent years.

Maduekwe said this when the new President of IFAD Dr. Kanayo Felix Nwanze visited him in Abuja.

He said IFAD's Rural Micro Enterprise Development Programme has enjoyed wide acceptance in rural Nigeria, particularly in the areas of cassava cultivation and fisheries.

The minister emphasised the imperative of utilising the USD 28.9 million made available by IFAD for the speedy development of the areas. "Failure to do so would not be in the interest

of the image of this country," he said.

He congratulated Dr. Nwanze on his deserved appointment.

Dr. Nwanze, who is visiting Nigeria for the second time since his appointment, is in the country for the ongoing High Level Conference on Development of Agro Business and Agro Industries in Africa (HLCD) holding in Abuja.

## Senate passes bill for local content in oil industry

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Turaki A. Hassan

THE Senate has passed the bill seeking to provide for the development of Nigeria content, plan supervision, coordination, monitoring and implementation of local content and matter connected thereto in the nation's oil and gas industry.

The bill intends to address the issue of foreign

domination in policies in the oil and gas industry which has been in existence since the discovery of oil in the Niger Delta region about 50 years ago.

Clause 3 section 2 of the bill reads, "There shall be exclusive consideration to Nigerian indigenous service companies which demonstrate ownership of equipment, Nigerian personnel and capacity to execute such work to bid on

land and swamp operating areas of Nigerian oil and gas industry for contracts and services."

The bill also stipulates that all companies must maintain reasonable number of personnel from the area within which they operate.

The House of Representatives will have to pass the same version of the bill for onward transmission to the President for his assent.



### MUSLIM LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA

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#### OPEN LETTER TO ACTING PRESIDENT

#### GOODLUCK JONATHAN GCON

#### LET JONAH JANG RECONCILE THE PEOPLE

This is certainly not the best of the moment for Nigeria in its 50 years of nationhood.

Many people have argued and we seem agree with them that God loves Nigeria more than any other nation of the world. This is because we have always called unto him during our trying period and he has always been there for us.

Not many of the nations of the world have been so lucky to pass through the crisis our country has gone through in the last 10 years and survived.

The current crisis in Jos is gradually taking another dimension such that if care is not taking it may end up engulfing the entire nation.

We have visited Jos particularly; the places and people affected by the crisis and what we saw on the faces of the people were frustration, sorrow, tension, anger, fear and disappointment.

We have also visited the prison to see those that were said to have been arrested in connection with the violence and the story is the same.

But one thing is clear; the kingpins of the crisis are alive enjoying their freedom while the innocent are either in the graves or languishing in prison custody

Many people have lost all they have laboured for and as well lost their loved ones.

People are more disappointed that the Government they suffered and labored queuing in sun and rain to vote in office could not protect them when it mattered most.

For how long are we going to be talking about arresting the perpetrators that no one seems to know? In the history of sectarian crisis in this country how many perpetrators have been arrested and prosecuted?

What we are saying here is that the police and security agencies should carry out a thorough investigation to fish out the kingpins as it will be unfair to punish the innocent who already has been battered, traumatized and probably lost his properties and loved ones.

#### THE WAY OUT

Certainly, this is not the time to trade blames and therefore not the purpose of this letter. Rather, the purpose is for the governor of plateau state to realize that his name would go down in history as the worst Governor the state ever had if he does not reconcile his people.

As the Governor of the state, he is the father of all, irrespective of religion, creed, or faith. He should know now that anyone who is giving him information, castigating one religion, tribe or sect and praising the other is his enemy and as well as the enemy of the people

As the Governor of the state, he can and should not see himself as belonging to any particular tribe or ethnic extraction.

The people of plateau have lived together as brothers and sisters for decades without problem and the Governor should ask himself "why this, at my time".

Let him visit the people in their various villages, communities and settlements to plead with them, reconcile them and beg for forgiveness if need be. The Governor should know that this is not a task to be delegated. The truth of the matter is that, the people want to see their governor physically to reunite with them and not on the television.

Let him also drop all controversial resolutions or recommendations being urged on him for now

We urge him to listen to his inner voice and do these not because he is guilty or the cause of the problem, but because he is the father of all.

We call on the Acting president, Jonathan Goodluck, the Governors Forum and eminent Nigerians who love peace and desired continued unity of Nigeria to plead with Governor Jang to give these suggestions a trial. Again, this is not because he is the cause, but because he is the father of all.

We hope that this advice would not be politicized.

Adekola Mustapha  
National president

# Conjoined twins need time for separation -Doctor

From Yahaya Ibrahim, Maiduguri

CONJOINED twins recently delivered in Bauchi State cannot be separated immediately because they need to add weight for the surgical operation to be successful, Dr Auwal Abubakar, the Consultant Pediatrician handling the twins at the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital has said.

The consultant who is also the Head of the Surgery Department at the hospital

said the twins would be separated in four months. According to him, there is no need to rush the operation.

Dr Abubakar said experts in different fields would be involved in the operation, adding that the twins had been doing well since they were taken to the hospital and that their chances of survival were high.

It would be recalled that a 28 year old woman about three weeks ago delivered the twins in Guduba village in Ningi Local Government Area of Bauchi State.

## Dutse Emir tasks journalists on ethics

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Dutse

EMIR of Dutse Alhaji Nuhu Muhammadu Sanusi has advised journalists to always respect the ethics of their profession.

The emir who spoke in Dutse yesterday while

receiving the editorial board of a Kano based private radio station, Freedom Radio said, "The media in indeed is key to global development, hence the need for its practitioners to stick to the ethics of the profession."

He said Freedom Radio had changed the life style

of the people, particularly in the areas of politics and religion. He maintained that the medium had helped to shape the minds of the people. He charged members of the editorial board to remain focused and run programmes that would promote and protect Nigeria's culture.

## Police parade fake Army, SSS officers

From Kehinde Akinyemi, Abeokuta

TWO suspected fake army officers and a State Security Service (SSS) impostor were among the 21 suspected criminals paraded by the Ogun State Police Command in Abeokuta yesterday.

Also paraded was an acclaimed man of God, Timothy Adebayo, who allegedly raped a 24 year-old female admission seeker in his church at Ijebu Ode on March 4, 2010.

The state Commissioner of Police Musa Daura while parading the suspects called on government to create job opportunities to reduce armed

robbery and other criminal activities in the country.

On the fake army officers, Daura said Agbebaku David, 23 and Philip Biyar, 35 posed as military officers and committed crimes in the state. The 32 Artillery Brigade Military Police, he said, arrested the suspects. About 10 items including a pair of the Nigerian Army uniform, one fake mobile police face cap, two pairs of military boots, two military belts, one police ID card were recovered.

The SSS impostor, Raphael Kingsley Ogasi, who claimed to be an SSS officer attached to the FCID Alagbon was arrested on March 3rd alongside one vigilante member named Sulaiman

Aliu at Sagamu during a robbery operation.

Daura maintained that if people were gainfully employed, it would be difficult for them to go into robbery.

"If you have something to do on a daily basis, there will be no need for you to rob. Let them get something to do so. All they need is employment," he said. The commissioner said the rape victim had followed the pastor to his church in Ijebu-Ode where they both entered into his private apartment. He said the pastor threatened to kill her if she refused to have sexual intercourse with him. Daura called on parents to educate their children on rape.

## NYSC seeks stoppage of members' rejection

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

THE National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) has called on companies to stop rejecting corps members.

The Niger State NYSC Coordinator Mr. Daniel Dauda made the call yesterday in Minna at the 2010

swearing-in ceremony of the Batch A corps members. He maintained that the indiscriminate rejection of corps members in places of primary assignment would not only affect the morale of the corps members, but would also rubbish the scheme.

The Secretary to the

State Government (SSG) Dr Mohammed Kuta Yahaya said the state would help corps members to develop professionally.

He warned that the state would not tolerate indolence on the part of the corps members, saying anyone found wanting would be dealt with.

## Eight Yobe pilgrims abscond in S/Arabia

From Hamza Idris, Damaturu

THE Executive Chairman of the Yobe State Pilgrims Commission Alhaji Hassan El-Badawy yesterday said eight pilgrims from the state absconded after completing last year's hajj in Saudi Arabia.

El-Badawy while reviewing the last hajj exercise at a meeting with officials of the commission from the 17 local govern-

ment areas of the state said stringent measures would be adopted to ensure that only people who would abide with the rules are allowed to perform the exercise.

He said the last hajj exercise was hitch-free and successful.

"We hope to liaise with district and village heads to screen prospective pilgrims. We will ensure that foreigners and pregnant

women do not get to the holy land through our commission", he said.

He said those in charge of fare collection could start collecting advance payments from intending pilgrims. El Badawy said the advance payment should be at least 80 percent of what was paid for the last pilgrimage.

About 3,000 people from Yobe State performed last year's hajj exercise.

## Jos: Lagos religious, ethnic leaders hold forum

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

LEADERS of various religious groups yesterday met in Lagos to prevent the spillover of the religious crisis in Plateau to Lagos State.

Speaking to newsmen after the meeting facilitated by the state Ministry of Home Affairs and Culture, the Primate of the Methodist Church Ola Makinde said, "Religious crisis will never occur in Lagos because of its peculiar nature. People from various ethnicities live here happily."

Talking about the recent killings in Plateau State, Primate Makinde said it was important for government to do something urgent to prevent a reoccurrence.

The state Chief Imam Akinola Garuba called for an improved association with God, maintaining that no religion encouraged violence.

The former Deputy Governor of the state Alhaja Lateefat Okunnu blamed women and mothers for undue involvement of youths in social disturbances, urging them to

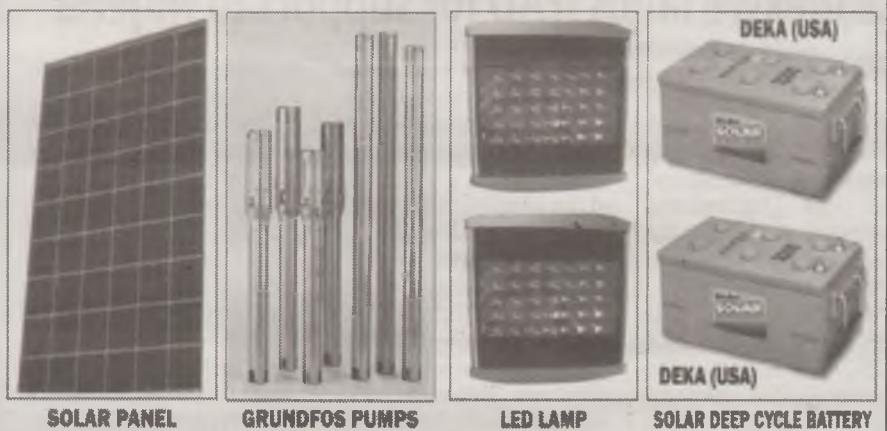
have more time for their children.

Governor Babatunde Fashola through his Commissioner for Home Affairs and Culture, Babatunde Balogun said for they too have peace residents of the state must trust one another. He urged Lagosians to eschew violence.

"We are thinking of preventing any crisis in Lagos. If there is no peace in Lagos, no one in Nigeria will have peace because a lot of Nigerians live in Lagos. We pray for God to put an end to the happenings in Jos," he said.

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# WHO warns of possible resistance to malaria

By Ruby Rabi with agency reports

THE World Health Organization (WHO) has called on states presently being ravaged by malaria to test patients before treatment to ascertain the diagnosis to avoid creating a resistance pattern.

Releasing new guidelines for the treatment of malaria, and the first ever guidance on procuring

safe and efficacious anti-malarial medicines, WHO warned that the misuse of the treatment of malaria can lead to resistance and thereby make potent drugs ineffective.

"In recent years a new type of treatment called artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACTs) has transformed the treatment of malaria, but if

not used properly the medicine could become ineffective," the guidelines said.

The Guidelines for the Treatment of Malaria (second edition) provides evidence-based and current recommendations for countries on malaria diagnosis and treatment.

Director of the WHO Global Malaria Programme (GMP) Dr

Robert Newman said the world now has the means to rapidly diagnose malaria and treat it effectively, adding that WHO now recommends diagnostic testing in all cases of suspected malaria.

Treatment based on clinical symptoms alone should be reserved for settings where diagnostic tests are not available," he

added. In 2008, just 22% of suspected malaria cases were tested in 18 of 35 African countries reporting.

Until now, most clinics had to rely on microscopy, but the recent development of quality-assured Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDTs) using a dip stick and a drop of blood means a policy change is possible.



PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE

EXECUTIVE Director Corporate Banking of Diamond Bank Plc Mr. Uzoma Dozie (right) addressing newsmen during Diamond Xclusive launch in Abuja. With him is Senior Adviser, Retail Banking Grang Marsh.

## Man arrested with arrows says God sent him to Nigerian leaders

By Misbahu Bashir

A man arrested with bows and arrows told the police that he was sent by God to deliver a message to Nigerian leaders.

Terhemen Bob who absconded from University Medical College Ibadan said "God is angry with leaders in Nigeria and asked me to inform them to change their attitudes or else the country will be destroyed."

He said there was earthquake recently in Haiti, Chile and Turkey "and the next in

line is Nigeria. So I came to bring the message to the leaders in Abuja."

FCT police commissioner John Haruna said Bob was arrested because he was found with arrows, bow and sickle in his possession.

He said Bob will be rehabilitated and sent back to school to complete his medical studies.

Bob told the police that he was carrying arrows because God will use them to destroy the country if the leaders fail to change.

## Mark tasks police, FRSC on accidents

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

Yet another ugly fate befell the state."

SENATE President David Mark has tasked the Nigeria Police and the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) to be more alive to their responsibilities in reducing the spate of auto accidents.

In a condolence message to Kogi State over the recent accident that claimed several lives, Mark expressed grief over the spate of auto crashes in the state.

He said "It is very unpleasant to hear of another horrible incident in Kogi State at the moment. We are just getting over the Dekina market accident which claimed over 90 people in December last year.

Mark in the condolence message to family of victims, and government of the state said "I was personally touched and sincerely sympathize with families of the victims. My prayer is that God report the souls of the departed and grant the injured a quick recovery."

He appealed to motorists in the country to always ascertain the worthiness of their vehicles before taking to the road saying "We cannot continue to tolerate loss of lives on account of road accidents. We will toughen the punitive measures and make defaulters face the music to serve as deterrent to others."

## Deregulation: NLC asks Jonathan to caution Lukman

By Francis Okeke

THE Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) yesterday said it was disturbed by comments attributed to Petroleum Minister Rilwanu Lukman that fuel scarcity will persist unless the oil sector is deregulated.

NLC President Comrade Abdulwahed Omar

said the minister's comments were pre-emptive of the ongoing dialogue between the government and labour on the deregulation policy. He urged Acting President Goodluck Jonathan to caution him.

Omar said in a press statement the NLC "is of the strong opinion that Dr

Lukman's view that fuel scarcity will persist unless the downstream sector of the petroleum industry is deregulated is fallacious."

He also said that the comments confirm the position of the union that the scarcity being witnessed since last year is created deliberately to force Nigerians to accept

deregulation.

The NLC said scarcity of products cannot be remedied by deregulation but by a conscious commitment of the agencies in charge of the oil industry to take the right actions, "the most urgent of which is to ensure that all our refineries are producing at optimum capacity."

## Police probe robbers' escape from custody

By Misbahu Bashir

POLICE in Abuja said they are investigating three officials of Kuje Medium Security Prison for allegedly allowing armed robbers to escape from custody.

Commissioner of Police in Abuja John Haruna said the three warders were handed over to the police by the prison authorities over negligence of duty and allowing suspected armed robbers to escape from custody. The three suspected officials have been dismissed from work.

The armed robbers scaled through the fence of a court in

Gudu District Abuja were they were taken for trial. The three robbers requested to go to toilet and one official was assigned to accompany them. The robbers whose handcuffs were removed scaled the fence and ran away.

The CP said the three officials are being investigated to determine if they intentionally allowed the suspects to escape or the robbers escaped due to negligence.

Police said one of the robbers that escaped, Emeka Michael in conjunction with one Michael Joseph and Attah Ogbu were yesterday found with stolen vehicle had died in gun battle with the police.

## Epidemic: NEMA wants allocation for early warning

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

THE National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has said the lack of adequate allocation always hinders the early warning in response to epidemic disaster across the country.

This is contained in a report by Multi-disciplinary committee on Early Warning Mechanism for Epidemics in Nigeria presented to DG NEMA retired AVM Muhammad Audu-Bida in Abuja.

The committee, which ranks epidemic diseases high in claim-

ing lives in the country, also states that lack of political will and support in terms of the Integrated Disease Surveillance Response (IDSR) is frustrating early warning in the country consequently claimed more lives.

The report said there is "no budgetary allocation for Early Warning/Disease Surveillance at all levels, where it exist either fund are not being release or it is inadequate."

It also observed a part from the shortage of skilled manpower during the epidemic, there is the absence of adequate public

health laboratory services during the epidemics.

For the reduction of the epidemic across the country, the committee suggested that relevant agencies in disaster response should collaborate with Media in disseminating early warning signals to the public.

In his speech, NEMA DG said data compiled by the agency of top 10 disasters in Nigeria, sorted by the number of people killed for the period of 1983 to 2008, indicated that nine out of 10 were epidemic related deaths."

# Online Reactions

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



## Army: Jang's remarks naïve, embarrassing



PLATEAU State Governor David Jonah Jang

### Jang warns against reprisals

WHEN the Beroms killed over 300, Jang was not even quoted to have condemned the act, now he is calling for a fast.

**Kamil Tunde**  
[kammy4u@yahoo.com](mailto:kammy4u@yahoo.com)

Why didn't you give this kind of address earlier? Why didn't you order a three day fast when the first Jos crisis occurred?

**Auwalu Aranposu**  
[auwalaranposu@hotmail.com](mailto:auwalaranposu@hotmail.com)

Does Jang really want peace in plateau? While on one hand he is preaching peace on the other he is making inflammatory and inciting comments. He should be removed.

**Abdussalami Yaro**  
[abdussalami@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:abdussalami@yahoo.co.uk)

This statement came late and why can't the government react in the same way to all crises. Let the governor be sincere.

**Yusufu**  
[aayusufu@yahoo.com](mailto:aayusufu@yahoo.com)

### Jos: Police, govt disagree over casualty figures

WHAT about previous crises, did you make it a point of duty to take the local and international media round to see the casualties? Why is it now that Fulanis have retaliated that you want the whole world to see what happened?

**Musa**  
[musagarbati@yahoo.com](mailto:musagarbati@yahoo.com)

What happened in Jos is unparadonable. I think the governor of Jos did not take the previous crisis seriously because if he did, he would have provided adequate security in the state to forestall a reoccurrence.

**Godwin**  
[goddyAir@yahoo.com](mailto:goddyAir@yahoo.com)

The disagreement on the number of people killed is totally unnecessary. What does it matter even if it was one life that was lost in the crisis? How long are we going to continue to shed innocent blood in this country? Perhaps, if the "security agencies" especially the police had been alive to their duties and responsibilities, would we hearing arguments on how many people were killed?

**Pita**  
[justpita@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:justpita@yahoo.co.uk)

Same old story. Arrests have always been made, but what happens to the suspects? Nothing.

**Saleh Adamu**  
[xboyado@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:xboyado@yahoo.co.uk)

IT is sad that the Nigerian Army is now trading words with a civilian administrator. I am not sure that this is safe because it shows an element of uncertainty and incompetence on the part of the Army and/or the officer that took it upon himself to bandy words with Jang.

If we allow this trend to continue, there is certainly going to be a breakdown of law and order.

The soldiers may be carrying arms today, but that does mean that it can force illegality down the throats of Nigerians. This is the 21st century and the Armed Forces must wake up.

**Merem Emeribe**  
[emeokoro@yahoo.com](mailto:emeokoro@yahoo.com)

Did Governor Jang intimate the army before the crisis? Did the Army get any report of a possible attack? If yes, why didn't they respond? Again, why was it possible for the shooting and burning of houses to go on for 30 minutes without any response from security agencies? I think they should

apologise to Nigerians.

**Kazeem Oluwale**  
[mezybusiness@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mezybusiness@yahoo.co.uk)

How can someone with a military background say such things? It will only tarnish the good image of the Nigerian Army, it will not solve the problem.

**Zanna Baruwa Gashua**  
[bukar.zanna@yahoo.com](mailto:bukar.zanna@yahoo.com)

Governor David Jang said he contacted the GOC in Jos and he failed to mobilize his men. What else do you want the man to do? What is difficult in land operations for the Army? How can you say a retired Air-force Officer is naïve? A lot of excuses, you might say. But will the GOC say he was not given security reports by the governor? At least, these are verifiable claims.

The network operators could be contacted to provide their call log details. Let's not politicize this one. It is Berom people today, it might be your turn tomorrow.

**Adegbola**  
[lekeblessing@yahoo.com](mailto:lekeblessing@yahoo.com)

## What Jang said about *Daily Trust*

PLEASE Jang try to be fair. Remember that you are expected to secure the lives of everyone as the governor of Plateau State. A lot of Fulanis were slaughtered in the Kuru attack, some of the survivors fled to neighbouring states to seek refuge and you did not sympathise with them, but because your people are now affected, you are angry.

**Muhammad Y.**  
[scofieldthegenius@gmail.com](mailto:scofieldthegenius@gmail.com)

The problem in Jos is purely an ethnic one. Everyone should be more vigilant including the Fulanis, Beroms and other tribes in Jos. The governor should be more alive to his duties, he is a father to all in the state including the Fulanis. He can include them in his cabinets, this will make lives more secure. The governor should learn from Governor Fasola of Lagos who included other ethnic groups in his government. Infact, this will curb unrest in the state drastically.

**Oladimeji D.M.J**  
[osunkayode@yahoo.com](mailto:osunkayode@yahoo.com)

The comment by Jang on Daily Trust has shown clearly that he is

completely out of tune with the affairs of Plateau State. It is unfortunate that a people and government will resort to such pettiness and use of force to handle a matter that could have been talked over. The Federal Government must take a very firm and fair action so that there will be no spill or reprisal elsewhere.

**Mukhtar**  
[mukhtargarba@gmail.com](mailto:mukhtargarba@gmail.com)

Jang can say anything about *Daily Trust*, but we your readers believe in you. Your reports are not based on rumours like some other newspapers.

**Haruna Gambo Jagindi**  
[jagindi2004@yahoo.com](mailto:jagindi2004@yahoo.com)

It is really disheartening that Nigerians are fighting each other. Please note that we are one indivisible nation. Jos crisis is politically engineered, it has no religious colouration. Some people in authority must be displaced in order to restore peace and harmony. Governor Jang should also be removed.

**Salisu**  
[salisu@ncc.gov.ng](mailto:salisu@ncc.gov.ng)



ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan

### Uwais panel report: Jonathan throws out Yar'adua's review

IT is good that the Acting President has sent an unedited version of the Uwais report on Electoral Reforms to the National Assembly, but I believe strongly that change of electoral laws in itself is not enough to guarantee a free and fair election. We must change our attitudes towards elections, by not allowing ourselves to be used by power hungry politicians, protect our votes and ensure that they count. That way, we can ensure free and fair elections in Nigeria.

**Ibrahim Tsadu Ibrahim**  
[elkutigi@gmail.com](mailto:elkutigi@gmail.com)

We, Nigerians are desirous of credible candidates to lead this country and this cannot be achieved without free and fair elections. This cannot be achieved without having an enabling environment, which the National Assembly must create through constitutional amendment.

**Mustapha Usman**  
[usmapha@yahoo.com](mailto:usmapha@yahoo.com)

### Gov Sheriff splits century old emirate

WELL, it was speculated that the governor would create new emirates and he is now confirming what many have said. The question now is, who will be the new emir of the new Dikwa emirate?

**Engr. Baba Shehu**  
[ibnabubakar@gmail.com](mailto:ibnabubakar@gmail.com)

Soldier go soldier come, barracks remains the same. How many more years does he have to remain in office? Constitutionally, he will never be governor again. May God bring someone who will preserve our traditional institutions and not politicize it.

**Ali Abbakura**  
[alikura2000@yahoo.com](mailto:alikura2000@yahoo.com)

Governor Sheriff should remember that there is a day of reckoning on earth and in the hereafter.

**Ali**  
[alimalahb@gmail.com](mailto:alimalahb@gmail.com)

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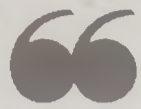
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By William David

## Bank woes: Who will audit the auditors?

In the wake of the shocking discovery of widespread financial malpractice in eight troubled banks in Nigeria courtesy of the Central Bank of Nigeria's recent audit of our banks, financial experts are beginning to turn a critical gaze on the nation's leading audit firms. And the sight isn't pretty: our top auditing firms are just as wracked by, and deeply implicated in, financial fraud as the banks and other business concerns they purport to audit—if not more so.

This much was the kernel of the discussions that transpired during a recent The Market Ombudsman town hall meeting. "The lawyer who anchored the events, Ope Banwo," the *NEXT* newspaper reported, "used Akintola Williams Deloitte, an audit firm, as a case-study", and recalled a N20 million fine in 2008 imposed by the Securities and Exchange Commission over its audit of Cadbury Nigeria Plc's financial result.

Experts say that the appropriate reg-

It has also contributed to the loss of thousands of jobs not only in the banking sector but in other segments of the economy

ulatory and professional bodies in the country should pay a closer attention to the activities and history of firms like that and either discipline them or give companies they audits the latitude to dispense with their services where their accounting practices threaten investors' interests.

After Akintola Williams Deloitte gave Cadbury Nigeria a clean bill of health that was found later not to be so clean, according to Business Day of January 9, 2007, the international Board of Directors of Cadbury Schweppes commissioned another firm of auditors to review and investigate Cadbury Nigeria Plc's financial position. The result was the discovery of a monumental corporate scandal.

In the aftermath of the initial discovery, Akintola Williams Deloitte formally announced its resignation as external auditors to the beverage company after more than over 40 years of handling Cadbury Nigeria Plc's account. In April 2008, the Securities and Exchange Commission formally found Akintola Williams Deloitte guilty of financial records falsification. The commission's report said the auditing firm "did not carry out their assignment with high level of professionalism and diligence expected of a reputable accounting firm of its calibre" and ordered it to pay a N20 million punitive fine, including "a penalty of five thousand Naira (N5, 000) per day from June 1, 2002 to June 31, 2006 within 21 days of the decision, failing which its registration with the Commission will be cancelled."

The auditing giant was also, among other stern rulings, "strongly reprimanded and warned to desist from engaging in acts that may affect the investing public's confidence in the capital market."

This has prompted calls from financial experts for a closer scrutiny of all the previous and current accounts of the company and a possible suspension of its activities until regulatory agencies are assured that it has put its house in order.

However, it appears that even Akintola Williams Deloitte's parent company, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu (DTT), has not been immune from the kinds of damaging allegations that have dogged its Nigerian representative. For instance, on April 26, 2005, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission slammed the auditing firm with a whopping \$50 million fine for falsifying the financial statements of Adelphia Communications Corporation, formerly the fifth largest cable company in the United States before it collapsed in 2002 as a result of internal corruption.

On March 31, 2006, investors in a Chinese company known as Guangdong Kelon Electrical Holdings also took Deloitte to court for its failure to alert them to the company's precarious financial position.

Again, on February 20, 2006, Deloitte and Touche was fingered as being possibly complicit in shady deals regarding a local government IT project called the Haringey Council Refresh Project in the UK, where costs dramatically rose from £9 m to £24.6 m. The accounting firm had conflict-of-interest issues because they were consultants on the IT project, despite being employed at the same time as the council's auditors.

In 2005, Deloitte and Touche's subpar consulting support of the health accounts system software of the Irish Health Service Executive (IHSE) caused the project to be stopped entirely. Originally due to cost just £6.2m, the cost rose to £80m but was still not fully implemented.

Similarly, in October 2007, it was reported that the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) incurred a total of \$140 million in payments to Deloitte to get its complex accounting system working properly. The system remained broken in spite of this huge outlay and only improved marginally a year later.

So when Akintola Williams Deloitte's CEO said, in the wake of the Afribank audit scandal, that his firm adhered to a "world renowned in-house audit approach system called Deloitte audit that ensures our audit are carried out in full compliance with all applicable auditing and accounting standards both local and international," he was probably right. The "Deloitte audit" apparently isn't worth much, as examples of the parent company's international auditing misadventures show.

The trouble, though, is that these under-the-table accounting practices have caused, and continue to cause, innocent investors in Nigeria to lose huge sums of money. It has also contributed to the loss of thousands of jobs not only in the banking sector but in other segments of the economy.

Disciplining the firm therefore is in order, but financial experts want a more thorough examination of the practices of all auditing firms in the country.

David wrote from 16, Borno Way, Ebute Metta, Lagos.



By Isa Ado Abubakar

## US: A biting behind the bush

The press release from the US Deputy Secretary of State has surprised Nigerians as the statement came when Nigerians have virtually resolved their political bedlam surrounding the health issue of Mr. President, Umaru Musa Yar'adua.

The press release statement that pronounced Nigerians have right to see the president in developed democracy aired on *BBC Hausa Service* programme dated 5th March at 8.30 (Nigerian time) seems to be irrelevant taken into cognisance the time when such statement was made. The most unfortunate thing is that the statement came from quarter that claimed to have been promoting democracy, the rule of law and peace globally. Going by those claims, it is expected that US deputy Secretary of State should play the role of a catalyst to enhance political stability in Nigeria, assist in amending the political bitterness due to power tussle as well as respect for sovereignty of Nigeria as an independent states.

The President's Health issue is internal and Nigerians have fully demonstrated maturity, tolerance and echelon of political development by resolving the issue amicably. Similar, Nigerians have manifested the zeal, determina-

The President's Health issue is internal and Nigerians have fully demonstrated maturity, tolerance and echelon of political development by resolving the issue amicably

tion and commitment towards making Nigeria a vibrant democracy worthy of emulation among its peers by providing an exemplary way of addressing crucial issues which if not handled with maturity could have affected the nascent democracy.

The expectation of political analysts is that the US Deputy Secretary of State should have commended Nigerian people for embracing peaceful approach to the issue with a view to encouraging adoption of peaceful resolution to national issues rather than embarking on the statement that could ignite fresh debate, political calculation and misunderstanding among politicians having overcome the political turbulence experienced some couple of weeks ago.

However, as it became evident that the President's Health issue has been politicized by few to achieve political ends and it is political gaffe for a country like US that is considered having highly competent, experienced and visionary political leaders to have made such statement when political tension in an emerging democracy has drastically gone down.

US being a developed and powerful nation should have been assisting the developing nations like Nigeria not only in area of democracy but to minimize the tempo of corruption which make power scuffle on increase through ploughing all the stolen money back to the coun-

try of origin. I could remember when US Secretary of State, Mrs Clinton paid a state visit to Nigeria she was quoted to have said that over \$300 billion was misappropriated from the public treasury. However, Nigerians have heard so many fraudulent issues involving government officials but are yet to see US efforts towards bringing back to Nigeria all the stolen money deposited in foreign accounts to develop infrastructures, fight poverty and improve education, Health and other sectors so that Nigerians can enjoy the dividends of democracy.

If US is really committed to the development of Nigeria, it should utilize its influence to assist the country to bring back at least 50% of that \$300. It is certain that there will be rapid transformation of Nigeria and that single act will teach a perpetual lesson that will deter others from committing misappropriations having known that they are no longer safe.

Recent, Nigerians have heard the outcome of investigation made by one committee in US senate involving senior political office holder under the preceding administration on the same media-BBC Hausa Service. The wonder is that Nigerians have just heard the outcome of the investigation but not the ploughing back of the money or any official decision that could lead to bringing the money back to its legal origin which is claimed to have been deposited under different names.

The funny thing is that US officials are very vigorous in press release in internal matters affecting Nigeria but are so slow in matters that could help the country to overcome its numerous challenges. Moreover, they are good in making noise about Nigeria's bad side but never exaggerate the good side of country that is blessed with numerous potentials which if assisted would be a heaven on earth.

It is well known fact that the major Nigeria's challenge is the leadership. If Nigeria will get credible leadership for just two terms, Nigeria would have surprised the whole world and US officials are very much aware of this fact but what are they doing to stop the mass rigging that has become the order of Nigeria's general election? Nigerians have wondered during 2007 general election which the foreign election observers described as worst ever in the history of the country but to the dismay of Nigerians, the US recognised the illegitimate government and to make the matter worse congratulation message was sent to the so-called winner then. This remains in the memory of Nigerians as how could an advocate of democracy end up congratulating the government that came to the thrown through the illegitimate mandate.

The most important for US is to concentrate on their internal problems such as reduction of unemployment, health sector reform etc as well as strict measures imposed on those that are interested to be in their country and allow Nigerians to resolve their internal political logjam themselves having proved the capability of doing so.

Abubakar is of Institute of Education, International Islamic University, Malaysia, (Isabakar2001@yahoo.co.uk)



## Your Letters

### Acting president: The Egyptian example

Reading the story in one of the newspapers of Sunday March 7, 2010 on how the Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak who was going for an operation in a German hospital officially handed over the country's government to the Prime Minister, the next in command.

Mubarak's action is what our President Yar'adua could not do for the fourth month now. The simple letter he could not write

to the appropriate authorities enabling Jonathan to take over while he is away is what has created the quagmire still lingering in Nigeria.

National Assembly should also be blamed for this mess. They knew the President was going for such a trip and yet they were playing politics, deceiving the masses as to which Chamber President Yar'adua should present the nation's 2010 budget. They knew that Yar'adua would not attend any assembly sitting and withstand the length of time it would have required him to conduct the official presentation; they played along with him, deceiving the entire nation that they claim were being represented. It is a big shame; and that is why people say that there was no election but

selection in 2007, with the connivance of INEC.

One is also waiting on the Judiciary to act on the forgery which Yar'adua's kitchen cabinet committed when they claimed that Yar'adua signed the supplementary budget. There was also the misleading information which Yar'adua's media adviser, Olusegun Adeniyi, dished out concerning that Yar'adua has asked Jonathan to act for him until he is fit enough to return to work.

One is at a loss as to why up till now the constitution is still not respected in what is looking like a national shame in the eyes of the international community. How long are we going to bear this?

**Dr. Segun Osobu, Osborne Road, Ikoyi, Lagos (osobu@yahoo.com)**

## Text us on 08 131 8000 30

### That'll be the day

PEACE will surely return to Plateau come May 2011, when Jonah Jang must have left office or, alternatively, a state of emergency is declared. Acting President should act and save the citizens of Plateau now. Let the truth be told... thank God no ticket for Jang in 2011.  
**ISHAKU, Tudun Wada, Jos, 08065263636.**

### Pertinent question

WHERE are the people arrested in January for killing Muslims?  
**AHMED D. Katsina, 08036483711.**

### Why blame the messenger?

GOVERNOR Jang should not deny the truth that what happened at Kure Junta in January was correctly and objectively reported by both the *Daily Trust* newspaper and Aljazeera cable news network.  
**MUHAMMAD Lamir, Zoo Road, Kano, 08132044818.**

### What irony!

WHAT a surprise that the government of Plateau State that accused

Al-Jazeera, BBC and VOA of inflating the casualty figures at Kuru Karama and Kuru Jenta in the crisis of January is now at the forefront in giving a hyper inflated casualty figure for the recent violence. I think it's high time the Federal Government realised that the Jos crisis is built and sustained clearly on an ethnic agenda.

**MAIGARI Ahmadu, Yola, 08032400127.**

### ...And hypocrisy too!

I now agree with Mohammed Haruna. When Muslims were attacked and massacred in Kuru Karama in January, the press, particularly the southern papers, downplayed the story. When I asked some journalists why, they said they didn't want the crisis to escalate. Now they are even exaggerating the figures! There can't be peace with this bias from government and the press.

**MOHAMMED Jos, 08034586787.**

### How others coped

PLATEAU people should borrow

a leaf from Kaduna State. Kaduna is one of the most peaceful States in Nigeria now, though it was the hotbed of crises in the past.

**UMAR M. Barau, Zaria, 08037038509.**

### Hidden agenda

I believe Gen Gusau's reappointment as NSA is an informal candidature for carrying PDP's Presidential ticket in the elections of 2011.

**08036885213.**

### These crosswords

ONE of your readers complained earlier about the size of the writing there in your crossword puzzle. Yet they're getting smaller by the day. Take a closer look at that of March 11, 2010, for instance: totally unreadable.

**KABIRU Mohammed, 08037019264.**

### Where're you, Akunyili?

HOW come you have stopped talking about the president and his kitchen cabinet? Have they stopped lying now?  
**OBASH, 08023101438.**



By Mike Nwokoro

## Why should Akunyili resign?

The truism that the worst form of democracy is by far better and more acceptable than the best type of military government cannot be objectively faulted by any rational human being especially in this part of the world.

Democracy has no doubt afforded and given people on a platter of Gold boundless opportunities to express themselves verbally or in writing, irrespective of their level of sanity. There is no iota of doubt in my mind that Mr. Kenneth Uwadi is currently savouring one of the greatest benefits of democracy, which is freedom of expression. Otherwise, who would have given him that liver or crude audacity to use a well respected, popular and serious-minded newspaper like the *Daily Trust* to publish a jaundiced, myopic and disparaging write-up on the person of Professor Dora Akunyili, the Honourable Minister of Information and Communications?

In his iconoclastic article titled: "Akunyili should resign" and published by *Daily Trust* of Tuesday, March 2, 2010 (page 12),

Mr. Uwadi not only presented the resume of the Minister from birth to her immediate past appointment as the Director-General of NAFDAC, where he confessed that Professor Akunyili did well, but went further to satanically conclude that she is now not doing well. According to him, "Today, Akunyili to me is a shadow of herself. She is not projecting the image of Nigeria very well as the Minister of Information. Her attitude reminds me of the film District 9".

It is pertinent to ask Mr. Uwadi the expected role of a Minister of Information and Communications as regards the projection of the Country's image. Do you project the image of a country by telling lies in this age of Information Technology? Are you oblivious that Professor Akunyili took upon herself the task of improving the image of our Country by initiating, launching and championing the course of Rebranding Nigerian Project within the first three months in office? I am not sure you read newspapers, or even listen to news both on Radio and Television to appreciate the patriotic and selfless services of this Amazon of our time to positively project the image of this country. She has continued to say that we have more good people in our great nation Nigeria than an infinitesimal few that are denting the image of our Country. Is this not a statement of fact?

Have you forgotten her spirited fight on the Abdulmutalab saga and the placing of Nigeria on the uncomfortable list of Countries to watch on terrorism? Have you forgotten that Professor Akunyili made Sony International to apologise to the Government of Nigeria and her good people for the District 9 film you scornfully referred to? Dora has never accommodated or Condoned evil in any form. She does not believe in dishing out tissues of lies or half truths to please people like Kenneth Uwadi. Her strong moral background has remained a veritable influence in the life of Dora. This can not be faulted.

Uwadi further wrote: "The role Akunyili is playing in this Yar'adua's ill-health issue provokes me to re-assess myself, who I am and where I am going in this world". You are free to re-assess yourself and decided where to go in any of the Continents of the world. But you should not in your desperate search for relevance rubbish the global reputation of Professor Akunyili, who remains the first African to be honoured by Transparency International.

What role did Dora play in the President's ill-health issue apart from stating the gospel truth that she is still not in the know of the actual situation and as such cannot be honestly held responsible to disseminate correct information to Nigerians as the Honourable Minister of Information and Communications?

Professor Dora is not looking up to Kenneth Uwadi to be made a heroin in this present scenario. She has assiduously worked and consulted with some of her Colleagues in the Cabinet. She is presently executing positively her function as the Honourable Minister of Information and Communications.

There is no logical or rational reason why Kenneth Uwadi should ask Akunyili to resign. Dora never castigated her colleagues or even did anything to boost her ego as wrongly presented in your subjective and negatively skewed article.

Patriotic Nigerians have continued to shower encomium on Professor Dora Akunyili for not misinforming the people but effectively managing the information at her disposal in the overall interest of the Nation. It is therefore uncharitable and an exercise in futility to call for her resignation for being bold, truthful and Patriotic in the service of the Nation.

**Mike Nwokoro Lives in Abuja.**

# DAILY TRUST

## EDITORIAL

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## Keep the military out of this pettiness

**G**overnor Jonah Jang of Plateau State last Tuesday sought to lay some blame for the latest round of crises in his state at the doorstep of the military, specifically the Nigerian Army. At a session with State House correspondents in Abuja, Jang anchored his allegation on the submission that the army authorities failed to act on various security reports made available to them.

Before Jang made his claims, there had been a cacophony of voices making serious allegations against, and casting aspersions on, the top leadership of the nation's army.

Late last month, a group calling itself Northern Christian Elders Forum issued a statement that questioned the propriety of the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Lt. Gen. Abdulrahman Dambazau, to deploy soldiers to security duties on the day that President Umaru Musa Yar'adua returned to Nigeria after a three-month medical sojourn in Saudi Arabia. Thereafter, and strengthening the ethnic character that the debate had dangerously assumed, a coalition of some Nigerian ethnic nationalities, including the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP), which is previously identified with the economic and social emancipation of the ethnic group, the Niger Delta Civil Society Coalition, and the Ijaw Youth Council, jointly released a statement to foreign missions raising similar questions, and tying them to their conclusion that General Dambazau was being disloyal to Acting President Goodluck Jonathan.

During the period, several political figures, mostly in the south west, and organisations, including the Action Congress (AC) tried drag the army leadership into the burgeoning political logjam created by Yar'adua's absence and eventual return. The Lagos chapter of AC stirred the controversy when one of its officials claimed in a statement published in some newspapers and later denied by the national leadership that Dambazau had declared that the army was loyal only to President Yar'adua, and no one else.

We are amazed that Governor Jang would make the complaint that he has, namely that he lacked control over the security agencies deployed to Plateau State. Somehow, Mr Jang is, in our view, trying to disclaim any form of responsibility for the perennial carnages that have wracked parts of the state under his watch as the chief security officer. Unless Mr Jang neglected to constitute it, all heads of security agencies in every state, i.e. the police, the army, air force, navy, customs service, are members of the state's security committee, usually chaired by the state governor. If in the Plateau case the committee was constituted and had been meeting and making its reports available to individual members, then there must be something amiss.

Beyond that, however, is the larger issue of the disparate groups trying to drag one of the remaining symbols that make us a nation, into divisive politics. If the army is smeared with the country's murky politics and pulled by ethnic and other divisive agenda, at a time when we are trying to wean them from the previous hangover, and build a true democracy, not only would the nation's ability to deter foreign aggression be compromised, the spectre of increasing internal threat of militancy and sectarianism, would be that much harder to deal with.

The Presidency cannot afford the luxury of pretending to stay above the fray and leave the army to defend itself against these unseemly comments by outsiders who think they are doing it a good turn. Dambazau has robustly replied to some of the allegations, and pledged the army's loyalty to constituted authority, and to defend the nation's fledgling democracy. The government must act to squelch any untoward effort to drag the army into the current petty politics that seem keen to pull down everything in its path.

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## Edo: Limit of gang-style politics

By Vincent Ojo Osagie

**W**hen Mr Adams Oshiomhole made known his intention to contest the governorship election of Edo State a lot of people who never knew him were happy that a labour leader was angling to occupy government house Benin.

This was because of his antecedents as the former President of the Nigeria Labour Congress [NLC]. People felt his fight against military dictatorship and oppression was going to bear on the governance of the state. The people of the state felt they were lucky to have somebody like Oshiomhole to govern them.

He made his governorship ambition known on the platform of his own political party, the Labour Party.

Later we heard that he later joined the Action Congress [AC]. The same people he had fought at the national level under the PDP-controlled federal government of Olusegun Obasanjo and the Abachas were the same people who formed the Action Congress.

The people of Edo state were saddened that eight years of Lucky Igbinedion in the state was a disaster and they wanted a change. How then can somebody they looked up to to give them a new lease on life meet their demand under such a platform. The same people they wanted to dislodge, the Igbinedions etc were the very people who were in charge in AC.

**N**o wonder then since Oshiomhole was declared governor of Edo state by the courts, he has behaved in the most undemocratic manner, never giving an ear to the opposition. Those who know him then in his NLC days will testify how he had rubbished peoples careers in the public service for daring to stand in his way. A living example was Chief Chinedum Nnorom who contested the NLC presidency against Oshiomhole in 2006. Oshiomhole incited the entire Nigeria workers against him on the pretext that he was sponsored by the government.

The question workers still ask now is how did Oshiomhole acquire the financial wherewithal to contest the governorship election in 2007? This same Oshiomhole is yet to

account for the over 500 million naira said to be missing from the Labour Mass Transit at the time he was NLC president.

The undemocratic, labour activism nature of Oshiomhole has now been carried to the government house in Benin. He does not tolerate criticism, despite his cultivated reputation of being the country's number one critic.

**O**n assumption of office, Oshiomhole wanted to beautify Benin City and restore the Benin master plan. As a result houses mostly owned by PDP stalwarts in the state were demolished. To protect their property, some had to decamp to AC for their business and properties to be spared demolition. A good example is Sunny Adun [Bob

text that they were rigged into office. They were all PDP members. But he could not dissolve the local councils because the House of Assembly would not allow it. Now, the state House of Assembly, previously controlled by PDP members, is now in Oshiomhole's pocket; he can now conveniently dissolve the local government councils. But it's too late now. Most of the house members of the councils have decamped to AC.

One cannot understand why Oshiomhole could not work with PDP-controlled local government councils and House of Assembly. He came into office through a court process just like Peter Obi of Anambra state and Olusegun Mimiko of Ondo state. Both Peter Obi and Mimiko belong to All Progressives Grand Alliance [APGA] and Labour Party [LP] respectively and both have PDP controlled local government councils and House of Assembly. They didn't have problem working with the

“One cannot understand why Oshiomhole could not work with PDP-controlled local government councils and House of Assembly”

Izua]. Bob Izua was the leader of PDP in Oredo local government area of Edo state until Oshiomhole started his demolition programme; the chief is now a member of AC.

All local government chairmen in Edo state, in Oshiomhole's estimation, are criminals except those in AC, or who agreed to decamp to AC. So far, about ten local government chairmen who got the position on the platform of PDP have decamped to AC escape Oshiomhole's wrath and save their political necks. Those who refused to decamp, especially chairmen of Oredo, Unhunwunde and Akoko Edo local government areas were forced into suspension. From the look of things, these will never return to their duty posts as long as Oshiomhole is governor of the state.

When Oshiomhole became governor in 2008 his first plan was to dissolve all local government councils under the pre-

PDP. Why is Oshiomhole different?

Oshiomhole has been telling the people that he would champion electoral reforms and campaign for one man one vote. Yet he seems bent on turning Edo into a one party state. One man One vote is useless if there is no alternatives to choose from. The people must be allowed to make choices. The dividends of democracy is not just about planting flowers and erecting street lights. In Democracy there should be freedom of opinion and freedom of association. The majority should always have their way but the minority should also have their say; anything outside that is dictatorship.

**I**n his relentless fight to rid Edo state of PDP the comrade governor is veering into blackmail. While swearing in commissioners a couple of weeks ago, the governor claimed that Chief Tony Anenih, a compatriot of his and kinsman, was anti-Bini. He blamed Anenih and the PDP for his inability to provide leadership that he promised the people. People like him don't recognize the sign even when it clearly spells F.A.I.L.U.R.E. There should be limits to this kind dirty politicking. The Edo people deserve better.

Osagie wrote from 100 B, Uselu Road, Benin City.

“The question workers still ask now is how did Oshiomhole acquire the financial wherewithal to contest the governorship election in 2007?”



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# INTERNATIONAL

## 43 Somalis die in capital after 2 days of warfare



SOMALI government soldiers cross a street during heavy fighting with Islamist insurgents in northern Mogadishu, yesterday.

HEAVY fighting between Somali insurgents and pro-government troops has killed at least 43 people over two days, as African Union peacekeepers used tanks to help the beleaguered government beat back an insurgent attack, officials said yesterday.

Militants attacking from the north on Wednesday reached to within a mile (2 kilometers) of the presidential place in the heart of the capital, Mogadishu, before African Union peacekeepers in tanks reinforced government troops, residents said.

Ali Muse, the head of Mogadishu's ambulance service, said he saw 40 bodies lying in the streets over the two days of fighting Wednesday and Thursday. Nearly 150 were wounded, mostly civil-

ians, he said.

"The fighting was heavier than that of yesterday," said Muse. "Our ambulances are sometimes caught in the crossfire. Our ambulance crews use dangerous streets and they have to dodge mortars and bullets. Sometimes it takes us hours to reach injured civilians and because of that they bleed to death."

Three of the wounded brought in Wednesday died overnight, said Abdi Mahad, a doctor at Medina Hospital. "A mortar shell has just fallen into the house next to me. We can hear neighbors crying and can see smoke over their building, but I do not know if there is a casualty," Sahra Haji Abdulle said by phone from her home in northern Mogadishu. "We could hardly

sleep last night. The sky was lit up by shelling all night. We have nowhere to escape."

More than half of those living in Somalia's seaside capital have fled. Those remaining are mostly too poor to move or fear being attacked as they leave. Compounding their dilemma, an Islamist group issued a series of demands at the beginning of the year that caused the UN's World Food Program to pull out of much of southern Somalia. Soon families fleeing into the countryside may find nothing to eat. Neither the Islamists or the UN-backed government can take and hold enough ground for a decisive victory.

The government is supported by around 5,300 African Union

peacekeepers, whose tanks and armoured vehicles help them to outgun the insurgents. The insurgents favor mobile hit-and-run attacks, using snipers and mortar fire to make it hard for the government's poorly trained and irregularly paid soldiers to hold their position.

The peacekeepers used tanks to help government forces when the insurgents got within a mile of the presidential palace, said resident Omar Salad. Other residents confirmed his account.

The insurgents, the government and the peacekeepers have all been criticized by human rights groups for indiscriminately firing into and shelling residential neighbourhoods. But the criticism has had little effect.

## Police shoot dead seven suspected Kenya sect members

SEVEN suspected members of Kenya's Mungiki sect, notorious for its beheadings, were shot and killed in a police operation in Nairobi overnight, police said yesterday.

The gunbattle erupted late Wednesday when police acted on a mob that was attacking motorcyclists to extort money from them, a senior police officer said. "Those killed were in a group of over 20 who were ambushed as they terrorised motorcycle taxi drivers who had declined to pay them the illegal taxes they levy," the officer said.

"They all started running away while attacking the police. Seven of them were shot dead while the others escaped," he said. The Mungiki sect officially announced in October last year its dissolution and transformation into a political movement. Its members are notorious for racketeering, notably in the public transport sector.

"I was woken by heavy gunfire just near my house and I thought we were under attack," said Jacob Mwanza, a mechanic who lives near the scene of the shootout. "When it cooled down, I peeped through the window and saw a lot of police and residents at the scene. "It was a bloody scene, there were people lying dead and it was so scary. We hear it is the Mungikis who have been terrorising us here," he said.

The sect had been a group of mainly unemployed youths who worshipped spirits in Mount Kenya and embraced rituals such as female circumcision, while also rejecting Westernisation and Christianity.

The group, which claimed to have been founded by Mau Mau fighters who fought British colonial rule, was banned in 2002 but continued to operate.

## DR Congo government backs UN force's exit

THE Democratic Republic of Congo government said yesterday it backs plans to start winding up the UN mission in the war-torn country later this year and hoped the pullout would be completed in 2011.

The withdrawal will "crown a job well done, when all's said and

done, and which had the great merit of helping us end a war that nearly wiped our nation off the map," said Communications Minister Lambert Mende.

Alain Le Roy, the UN under-secretary-general for peacekeeping operations, on March 5 said that a first drawdown of troops

from the 20,000-strong mission known as MONUC might begin around June 30.

He was speaking after briefing the UN Security Council on a three-day visit this month to Kinshasa, where he conferred with President Joseph Kabila and other officials on MONUC's future.

"During the course of 2011, we should expect to see the end of the progressive withdrawal," Mende said. He stressed that when the UN force was gone, the country "certainly won't turn into a paradise on earth. Like in other countries, there will be socio-economic problems, security risks,

rights abuses." Mende said that in the first four years of its existence, from 1999 to 2003, MONUC's presence helped to ensure that "the war of 1998 decidedly came to an end," and he also praised the "undeniable success" of the UN mission in organising the general elections of 2006, won by Kabila.

## International

# Partial results from Iraqi vote show tight contest

EARLY results from Iraq's key election began coming in yesterday, showing a coalition led by the prime minister ahead in two southern Shiite provinces, where he was opposed by hard-line religious parties with close ties to Iran.

The results were the first to be officially released by the Independent High Electoral Commis-

sion since Sunday's balloting, and Iraqis continued to wait for results from the country's other 16 provinces. The early results only reflect about a third of the votes cast in the two provinces in Iraq's Shiite-dominated south.

Still, they foreshadow an al-Maliki victory in an area where he was opposed by hard-line religious

Shiite political leaders who have close ties to Iran.

In an effort to cast himself as an inclusive leader for all Iraqis, al-Maliki quit the main Shiite coalition last year to create the State of Law alliance, which includes some Sunni groups.

In Babil province, al-Maliki's political bloc won about 42 per-

cent of the estimated 160,870 votes that have been counted so far, according to the data released by the election commission. In neighbouring Najaf province, al-Maliki's win was even stronger — about 47 percent of the ballot count of 116,600 votes.

The Iraqi National Alliance, which is Iraq's top Shiite religious

coalition, came in second in both provinces. The non-sectarian Iraqiya coalition led by former Premier Ayad Allawi, al-Maliki's top critic, came in third in the two provinces. Some rivals of al-Maliki from the main Shiite coalition opposing him said earlier that his coalition appears to be in the lead across the country.

## Biden implores Israel, Palestinians to make peace

US Vice President Joe Biden yesterday implored Israelis and Palestinians to move beyond a diplomatic spat that has marred his trip to the region, urging the sides to waste no time in resolving their decades-old conflict despite daunting obstacles.

Biden used conciliatory language as he wrapped up a three-day visit to the area in an apparent attempt to get past the uproar sparked by an Israeli plan for new settlement construction in disputed east Jerusalem. The Israeli announcement — seen as a slap in the face to Biden — drew a sharp condemnation from the vice president as well as a Palestinian threat to withdraw from US-mediated peace talks before they even begin.

The 22-nation Arab League, which gave Abbas the backing to resume talks with Israel, has recommended withdrawing support for indirect talks in the wake of the Israeli settlement plan.

Biden's speech appeared aimed at not letting the row with Israel derail the Obama administration's latest drive for Mideast peace. However, the vice president's effusive praise for the Jewish state — saying the US has "no better friend" than Israel — could disappoint those who had hoped he would talk tougher in the wake of the new settlement plan. Speaking at Tel Aviv University, Biden said the sides must get down to the business of making peace.

"To end this historic conflict, both sides must be historically bold," Biden said. "If each waits stubbornly ... this will go on for an eternity." The vice president's trip had been meant to repair strained ties between Israel and the Obama administration.

However, the Israeli plan to build new homes in east Jerusalem — the section of the city claimed by the Palestinians for a future state — quickly overshadowed the visit. Traditionally strong US relations with Israel have been strained recently precisely because of Israeli settlements. Biden reiterated his condemnation of the building plan, urging both sides to avoid acts that could undermine the negotiations. "I, at the request of President Obama, condemned it immediately and unequivocally," he said.



AFGHANISTAN'S President Hamid Karzai, left, with Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani at the prime minister's residence in Islamabad, Pakistan yesterday.

## Afghanistan welcomes Pakistani role in peace talks

PAKISTAN will play a major role in peace talks with the Taliban, Afghan President Hamid Karzai said yesterday, apparently trying to dismiss speculation that Kabul was trying to sideline Islamabad, once a close ally of the militants.

Karzai recently made a renewed push to jump-start peace talks with the Taliban, which ruled Afghanistan until late 2001 and since then has led a bloody insurgency against the US-backed government in Kabul. Pakistan

has offered to help negotiate with the militants. But many observers believe Afghanistan wants to keep Pakistan out of any talks, suspicious of Islamabad's support of the Taliban government while the militants were in power.

Karzai tried to dispel that speculation during a joint news conference with Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani as part of a two-day trip to Pakistan — his first since he was re-elected in a fraud-marred vote last year.

He thanked Gilani "for offering support to Afghanistan's efforts for reconciliation," and added: "Indeed, Pakistan has a significantly important role to play there, and Afghanistan welcomes that role."

"Pakistan is a brother of Afghanistan," he said. "Pakistan is a twin brother of Afghanistan. We are more than twins — we are conjoined twins." But such diplomatic hyperbole may mask Kabul's distrust. Speculation over

Pakistan's role in peace talks with the Taliban has increased in recent weeks following Islamabad's February arrest of the group's No. 2 leader in a joint raid with the CIA.

The arrest of Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, considered a likely channel in any talks with the top Taliban leadership, came as a surprise. He was one of the first senior Taliban commanders captured by Pakistan — even though many of the group's leaders are believed to be based in the country.

## Myanmar's Suu Kyi denounces new election laws

DETAINED Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi said she is surprised but undaunted at the military government's new election laws that will bar her from running for office or even voting in polls to be held this year.

The Nobel peace laureate described the laws as "repressive" and "unjust" and called for

a strong response from supporters of her democracy movement, but has not yet specified what they should do, her party spokesman Nyan Win said yesterday.

The country's ruling junta enacted five election-related laws Monday to govern polling to be held some time this year, and has been gradually unveiling details.

Several provisions announced so far severely curtail Suu Kyi's involvement in the polls, even if she were to be freed from house arrest before her term ends in November.

"Aung San Suu Kyi said she never expected such repressive laws would come out but said she's not disappointed," Nyan

Win told reporters after meeting the 64-year-old Nobel laureate at her home yesterday.

"She said such challenges call for resolute responses and calls on the people and democratic forces to take unanimous action against such unfair laws," Nyan Win said he was not yet in a position to say what the responses might be.

## International

# Chile gets new president amid strong quakes

THE strongest aftershock since Chile's devastating earthquake rocked the South American country yesterday as President Sebastian Pinera was sworn into office. The 7.2-magnitude aftershock was stronger than the quake that destroyed the Haitian capital on Jan. 12.

There were no immediate reports of damages or injuries but the temblor — and at least three other aftershocks strongly swayed buildings, shook windows and provoked nervous smiles among the dignitaries attending Pinera's inauguration at the congressional building in coastal Valparaiso.

The biggest aftershock happened along the same fault zone as Chile's magnitude-8.8 quake on Feb. 27, said geophysicist Don Blakeman at the U.S. Geological Survey in Golden, Colorado.

"When we get quakes in the 8 range, we would expect to see maybe a couple of aftershocks in the 7 range," he said. Blakeman said Chile now can expect to feel "aftershocks of the aftershock."

"It's not a sign of anything different happening. But what does occur when you get these large aftershocks, typically we have a whole series of aftershocks again," Blakeman said.

Bolivian President Evo Morales seemed briefly disoriented and Peru's Alan Garcia joked that it gave them "a moment to dance." Outgoing President Michelle Bachelet arrived in an open limousine, followed by Pinera, who entered the hall of Congress to loud applause, shaking hands with politicians and dignitaries, and then swore his oath as president.

Bachelet said before the ceremony that she's leaving Chile in good shape, having already resolved a number of the country's most urgent needs in the wake of

the February quake.

"I'm leaving office with sadness for the suffering of our people, but also with my head held high, satisfied with what we have accomplished," the socialist president said as she prepared to hand over

the government to the first right-wing president to be elected in 52 years.

Bachelet led a "Viva Chile" cheer and then delivered a long goodbye from the presidential palace, La Moneda, where she

marched with the palace guards and lingered with a passionate crowd in the plaza outside. Supporters waved socialist-party flags and pressed forward to shake her hand, give her flowers and even caress her face.

"We are handing over to the new government a country that is politically and socially stable, respected internationally and with authorities who have strong credibility," she added in her farewell address Wednesday night.



CHILE'S new President Sebastian Pinera, left, shake hands with Colombia's President Alvaro Uribe.

## Spain marks 6th anniversary of Madrid bombings

HOURS after terrorist bombs ripped through Madrid commuter trains six years ago yesterday, an outpouring of grief engulfed the city, with people flocking to makeshift shrines to

leave tokens of mourning.

Now, as part of the commemorations of the massacre, a government research body has completed a sociological study and compiled an archive of

around 70,000 items deposited at the shrines. The archive, to be housed in the state rail company's museum, was unveiled this week before memorial ceremonies on yesterday's anniversary.

Some of the items at the archive include children's drawings of people with saddened faces, broken trains, trees, doves and words with messages of peace and sympathy left at Ato-

cha rail station and other targeted sites for the 191 dead and 1,800 injured. One message scrawled by an 11-year-old said, "You'll be always be here, even if you're in a different place."

## France's Sarkozy faces whipping in regional vote

VOTERS hit by France's worst recession since World War II are fearing for their jobs, and are worried and conflicted about how Islamic veils and immigrant culture fit in their nation today may get the chance to voice their frustration in an election starting Sunday that is likely to leave opposition Socialists in charge of nearly every regional government in France.

The left is even dreaming of a

"grand slam": control over all 26 regions.

The usually confident and charismatic Sarkozy, though he's not on the ballot, is likely to emerge the big loser in this vote, halfway through a presidential term he vowed would transform his country into an economic powerhouse.

Sarkozy "thought he could do anything at any moment, all the time, and he figured out that it is

not true," said Daniel Cohn-Bendit, the leader of Europe Ecologie, a green-minded party shaping up to be the decisive third force in the regional elections.

The landscape is already bleak for Sarkozy's conservative UMP party going into the vote. The president's approval ratings are below 40 percent, and Socialists secured a stunning 20 of 22 regions on mainland France in the last elections in 2004.

## E/Timor president says no to war crimes tribunal

EAST Timor President Jose Ramos-Horta yesterday denied claims by Amnesty International that he would support a tribunal for abuses committed during Indonesia's occupation.

Amnesty had claimed he was in favour of the establishment of an international tribunal for crimes committed during the 1975-1999 occupation, should the UN Security Council set it up. But Ramos-Horta said Amnesty International had "inaccurately reported and thus misrepresented" a discussion he had with Amnesty members at the University of Bradford in the United Kingdom on March 5. "I remain firmly unconvinced that the interests of the victims of my country and the cause of peace and democracy are best served with an international tribunal," he said in a statement.

## International

## Iraq elections: Why America is jittery

By Charles Onunajju

**M**ANY world capitals, particularly Washington and Teheran, are eagerly awaiting the results of the March 7 parliamentary elections in Iraq.

A victory for the parties advocating an immediate end to the American occupation of the country would constitute a serious political and military setback for the Barack Obama administration. A lot of political heat and sectarian tensions have been generated in the run-up to the elections.

So much so that the air is thick with fear that sectarian violence could once again erupt on a grand scale across the country.

According to reports, the incumbent Prime Minister, Nouri al-Maliki, is fighting to stave off a determined challenge from his rivals among the various Shia-supported parties.

The political grouping led by the radical anti-American cleric Moqtada al-Sadr is seen to be emerging as a major contender for power. Al-Sadr wants the US occupation forces to quit the country at the earliest, a view shared by the majority of Iraqis. Washington, however, seems to be having long-term plans in Iraq. The US is constructing its biggest embassy in Baghdad and has built big military bases in preparation for a long haul.

The recent terror attacks in Baghdad and other cities have dented al-Maliki's reputation. He had been claiming that much of the country had become peaceful under his watch. The civic infrastructure in Baghdad and other major cities has not improved. Massive power cuts and water shortages are still the order of the day.

Allegations of corruption at the top levels of the government have also queered the pitch for the State of Law bloc led by al-Maliki. Ayatollah Bashir al-Najafi, a member of the Marjaiya (the Shia spiritual authority with which leading Shia theologians are associated), has accused the al-Maliki government of nepotism and corruption. He went to the extent of accusing the executive authority of betraying the nation and fostering sectarianism. Al-Maliki's claim is in spite of all these.

**T**he Iraqi National Alliance (Al-Maliki's main rival in the elections), consisting of the Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council (SIIC) and the Sadrists, seems to have the implicit backing of the influential Shia clerical establishment.

The pre-eminent Iraqi Shia cleric, Ayatollah Ali Sistani, has, however, made a belated appeal to the Marjaiya to remain neutral in the election campaign. In the last general elections, the Marjaiya had publicly supported the



IRAQI Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki with the radical cleric, Moqtada al-Sadr.

United Iraqi Alliance to which al-Maliki belonged. The Alliance has since broken up with al-Maliki and has opted for new political partners.

The third main contender is the Iraqi National Movement, a coalition of mainly secular Shia and Sunni parties, under the leadership of another former interim Prime Minister, Iyad Allawi. Allawi, a former Baathist, was a known Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) asset during his days in exile.

**T**he National Movement is trying to position itself as a joint Shia-Sunni secular alternative to the two Shia fronts, which have good relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Allawi is Washington's choice, but opinion polls indicate that the coalition led by him will come third, securing around 20 per cent of the vote. The Obama administration is concerned about the possibility of the National Alliance getting the largest number of seats in the 325-member Parliament.

The SIIC is known to be close to Iran. A worst-case scenario for Washington is the Sadrists obtaining the largest number of seats in Parliament and securing the top job of Prime Minister. American officials are already alleging that Teheran is throwing its full weight behind the Sadrists. Salah al-Obeidi, the chief spokesman of the Sadrists, said recently that the National Alliance would win 70-80 seats, of which the Sadrists were hopeful of getting around 35.

The Sadrists have undertaken social and developmental work

in their areas of influence in the big cities.

The American "military surge" had forced the Sadrist militia to keep a low profile. Al-Sadr himself left for Iran in 2007; he is now positioning himself as a mainstream politician. His party made a respectable showing in the provincial elections last year.

The Obama administration is trying its best to ensure that the Sadrists are kept out of the government. Washington hopes the Kurdish and Sunni minorities will get enough seats to keep the Sadrists out of the corridors of power.

The Sadrists and the SIIC, on their part, have even suggested that they will even support outside candidates for the Prime Minister's post in order to prevent al-Maliki from retaining the job. Among the names being mentioned in this context are those of Ahmad Chalabi and the former Prime Minister, Ibrahim al-Jaafari. Chalabi, who seemed to be America's chosen man at one time, is now viewed as being closer to Teheran.

**T**he Sunni minority does not favour either Chalabi or Jaafari. Chalabi, as the head of the government-appointed Justice and Accountability Commission, had purged thousands of Sunnis from government jobs for their alleged ties with the banned Baath party of Saddam Hussein.

Top Sunni politicians have been barred from contesting in the March 7 elections on the grounds that they were pro-Baathist. In all, 500 candidates were debarred as part of the de-Baathi-

fication campaign sponsored by the al-Maliki government. Saleh al-Mutlaq, a prominent Sunni parliamentarian and leader of the National Dialogue Party, who was among them, has called upon his followers to boycott the elections.

During the two-year stewardship of the government under Jaafari, who preceded al-Maliki, the Sunni population bore the brunt of the sectarian violence, which claimed tens of thousands of lives and turned millions into refugees. Seven years after the American occupation, many of the ground realities have changed in Iraq.

**M**uch of the Sunni resistance has been either cajoled or coerced into cooperating with the US military under the leadership of General David Petraeus. Washington is now exerting pressure on the al-Maliki government to reintegrate former Baathist officials and military men back into the system.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, speaking on the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in February, accused the Obama administration of interfering in the election process of Iraq by trying to get the former Baathists into government. On the other hand, the leading Sunni party, the Iraqi Islamic Party, blamed Washington for turning the country into "an open theatre for regional and international interference".

Christopher Hill, the US Ambassador to Iraq, has, meanwhile, accused Iran of trying to undercut the US' efforts at stabilising Iraq before the scheduled withdrawal of its troops later in

the year. Iran, he said in a speech delivered at the United States Institute of Peace, was showing a "malevolent face" and was trying to "frustrate US and Iraqi common goals".

There is no doubt that the US is worried about the growing Iranian influence in Iraq. Almost all the Iraqi Shia parties are indebted in one way or the other to Iran. Most of their leaders, including Jaafari and al-Maliki, have spent long years in exile there. Only the former Baathists and a section of the Kurds in Iraq are hostile towards Iran.

The umbrella resistance group, the Islamic State of Iraq, which is fighting the US occupation forces, has issued a statement condemning the elections saying that they would only help the Shias beholden to Iran consolidate power.

Al Qaeda in Iraq is part of the group. However, unlike in the 2005 elections, there are no signs of a mass Sunni boycott of the coming elections.

Christopher Hill had, in his speech, warned the Iraqi Shia leaders not to bank on Iranian support. He said that "one of the great calling cards we have in Iraq is that we can introduce Iraq to the international community."

**A**t present Iran can introduce Iraq to North Korea, and not much more." The Iraqi National Alliance termed the statements of Hill and U.S. military officials as "regrettable". The National Alliance said that the American-inspired move to rehabilitate the Baathists "was a coup against the political process".



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## WE SAID SO:

# SANUSI'S 'BLUEPRINT' IS UNPRINTABLE!

Following our consistent report of the CBN Governor's questionable ways, our position has at last been validated by the nation's premier newspaper, The Guardian: See what the paper's editorial of Wednesday, March.10,2010, on page 14 has to say:

### THE CENTRAL BANK AND INADEQUATE BLUEPRINT

"Nigerians were justifiably alarmed when recently the Minister of State for Finance, Mr. Remi Babalola drew attention to the absence of a codified plan of action by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), noting that it appears the CBN Governor was operating public policy on the basis of an "as the spirit leads me" impetus. The Minister confessed publicly that the Government had in the recent past abdicated to the CBN some crucial responsibilities in its desire to achieve a sure-footed autonomy of the CBN. Clearly, the Government has woken up to a rethink, and now seeks to "BE MORE INVOLVED". This is a welcome revision. In previous editorials, we had expressed concern that there are indeed too many decisions being made and imposed by a motley of public servants without accountability and responsibility to the Nigerian people, a contradiction in the context of democratic ethos.

Within days, the CBN issued a refutation of the Minister's claims and has since presented what is touted as a blueprint with a 10-year run out for banking sector reformation. We are dismayed by the content, the presentation and context of the CBN's attempt at a so-called blueprint for reforms. It does no credit to that institution with the capacity of its once fabled research department and its reputation for quick hire of top notch advisers to present this document touted as "Four Pillars of the Banking Reform".

First, the content has, unabashedly, no sufficient originality as would be connected to the direct experience of banking supervision of the past one year or convey to us, the banking public, that these are adequate responses and justification for the decimation of the banking sector. Omnibus expressions such as "Enhancing the quality of Banks", "Establishing Financial Stability", "Enabling healthy financial sector evolution" are the first three pillars and save for the fourth, "Ensuring Financial Sector contribution to the Real Sector" appear mealy-mouthed and inchoate for the Nigerian economy to bear over 10 years. It may not be uncharitable to ask from the CBN if these same initiatives were absent from the 2004 Banking Consolidation Agenda announced by the then Governor. The CBN has rushed out an amorphous, immeasurable programme and given it a life-time that is unambitious and thoroughly tentative when it could have, with specific amendments, created a continuum with the erstwhile 13-point document of 2004.

We believe that a responsive banking and monetary policy response has to be short and pointed enough to put out the pains and losses in the immediate environment; secondly, position the banks through the absorption of toxic assets to lend in a bold and direct manner, but not exclusively, to the real sector so that the production indices will show true and verifiable growth and not the serial media releases of statistics. We fail to see the potentials of the CBN's new reform plan in this regard. Thirdly, the reform due within the bloated and expensive CBN does not get the urgency and seriousness Nigeria deserves.

For its presentation, the document falls short of giving confidence. Given the penchant lately for a debasement of roles and standards, it is necessary to remind ourselves that this document when signed off by the CBN Governor actually belongs to the court of Governors of the Central Bank of Nigeria where he is presiding as Chairman. It should be of concern to this Board, which should be a moderating influence, and many Nigerians that a document of this purported import would be primarily unveiled as a University's Pre-28th Convocation Address! This is not appropriate and subtracts from the significance of the document which should go first to the banking constituency in a professional manner. We consider that this reflection of inappropriateness in language and occasion is part of the baggage the CBN should hurry to shed. The CBN as an institution is debased by this new example of arbitrariness and share of limelight. It is the duty of a correctly focused and independent Board of Governors to stem this habit.

Within the context of this reform paper, we find a plethora of issues that should be open to discussion, debate and perhaps civilized disagreements by those entitled to it. What, for instance, rationalizes the segregation of banks into regional, specialized and international categories? Surely, it would not be the question of share capital alone because for the opportunities in this economy and the under-provision of several years, it is arguable that the current N25 billion may not be such a high enough ceiling. How many transactions under the impressive local content programme of the Oil and Gas sector would that finance? To the extent that this is a discussion paper, and the CBN is flying kites, still working on the guidelines, Nigerians should have another chance to take up the gauntlet and seek responsible monetary and economic policies to shape the lives of the families and people. We must initiate an urgent reprieve to enable Banks take risks and stop criminalizing enterprise. This document, as presented, is an exercise in uncertainty.

It is doubtful that Nigerians and even the Ministry of Finance would find the document meeting their own demand for a planned codified roadmap for a comatose and terrified banking sector. Unfortunately, it is not so."

**MR. AG. PRESIDENT, NIGERIANS COUNT ON YOU TO RESTORE ECONOMIC SANITY AND PROGRESS**

SIGNED

**Renaissance Professionals**

VICTOR SHODIPO, IKEJA, LAGOS  
victorshodipo@yahoo.com

# THE AREWA MEDIA FORUM (AMF) ANNUAL LECTURE



The Arewa Media Forum (AMF)

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the General Public to its

## SECOND ANNUAL LECTURE

*Theme:*

### “THE CHALLENGES OF ALMAJIRCI AND DESTITUTION IN THE NORTH”

**LECTURE BY:**

*His Excellency*

**MALAM IBRAHIM SHEKARAU**

Executive Governor, Kano State

Royal Father of the Day/Chairman of the Occasion

*His Royal Highness*

**ALHAJI MUHAMMAD AWWAL IBRAHIM**

Sarkin Zazzau of Suleja

**DISCUSSANTS:**

Sheikh Shariff Ibrahim Saleh al-Hussain

Senator Umar, Tafidan Argungu

Dr. Sadiq Al-Kafawi, ABU Zaria

Representative of UBEC

Tutors and Learners Foundation, Kaduna.

**Time:** 9am

**Venue:** The Main Auditorium of the  
Arewa House, Kaduna

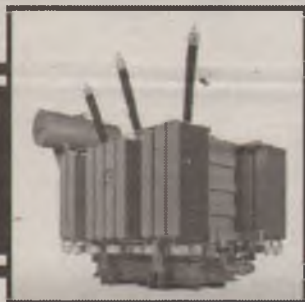
**Date:** 15th March, 2010

**Announcer: Secretary**



## NIGERIAN NATIONAL PETROLEUM CORPORATION

NNPC Towers, Herbert Macaulay Way, Central Business District,  
P.M.B. 190, Garki, Abuja - Nigeria.



### INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF 2NOS. 15MVA TRANSFORMERS IN NNPC TOWERS, ABUJA

#### INTRODUCTION

The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation intends to procure 2Nos. 15MVA 33/11kV range Power transformers to replace the 7.5MVA range currently in place at the Corporate Headquarters, NNPC Towers, Abuja. In this regard, quotations are invited from you as a reputable and accredited representative of Power Transformer set manufacturer in Nigeria.

#### SCOPE OF WORK

The Scope of work shall comprise the following:

1. Supply and installation of 2Nos. 15MVA 33/11kV, 50Hz, outdoor mounted, ONAN, Yn11 power transformers with all necessary materials for equipment/system protection to ensure proper integration of the new transformer with existing upstream and downstream equipment.
2. Assessment and modification of existing associated equipment to suit the new increased transformer rating, such as:
  - a. Upgrade of 33kV panel from 150/5-5A to 300/5-5A
  - b. Upgrade of 11kV panel from 500/5-5A to 800/5-5A
  - c. Upgrade of circuit breakers both on the 33kV and 11kV side, where necessary.
3. Assessment and modification of the existing plinth including all other civil works such as re-fencing of transformer yard, modification of separating wall and provision of canopy, of non conducting material, for transformers
4. Dismantling/relocating existing 2Nos. 7.5MVA transformers to location as may be designated by NNPC;
5. Tie-in of the transformers to the upstream and downstream equipment of the existing system;
6. Testing and commissioning of the completed integrated installations for conformity to international best practices;
7. Clearing and cleaning out to ensure good housekeeping.

**Your submission therefore, must include the following in addition to the entire requirement for meeting the above scope:**

1. Source of equipment with evidence of subsisting relationship with the manufacturer.
2. Project plan duration and detailed program of works (from equipment delivery to work completion).
3. Statement of tropicalisation and suitability with local environment.
4. Statement of Factory Acceptance Test and Inspections.
5. List of recommended three (3) years operations spare parts.

The operating philosophy shall be strictly based on one transformer ON and one on STANDBY. Any modifications on the existing system therefore, shall assume full load operation of the transformer at a time. However, both transformers must meet all conditions for parallel operation.

#### REQUIREMENT

Completed tenders which must include payment terms, validity and estimated delivery time will be accompanied by the following:

1. Company's legal status and incorporation documents.
2. Company's profile.
3. Details of relevant verifiable similar works the company has executed in the past five years including client, cost and completion certificates.
4. Reference of three major clients that can be contacted for information and references.

#### SUBMISSION

Your technical, un-priced commercial and priced commercial submissions should each be in a separate envelope respectively marked:

1. "Technical Bid for Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 2nos. 15MVA Transformers in NNPC Towers, Abuja".
2. "Un-priced Commercial Bid for Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 2nos. 15MVA Transformers in NNPC Towers, Abuja".
3. "Price Commercial Bid for Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 2nos. 15MVA Transformers in NNPC Towers, Abuja".

All three envelopes should then be placed in one sealed envelope marked "Bid for Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 2nos. 15MVA Transformers in NNPC Towers, Abuja". Your submissions should be addressed and sent within **three weeks** of this publication, to

**The Secretary,  
Headquarters Tenders Committee (HTC),  
Room 415, 4th Floor, Block A,  
NNPC Towers, Central Business District,  
Abuja.**

#### NOTATION

1. You are advised to visit and examine the site and obtain for yourself all information that may be necessary for preparing your quotation.
2. This invitation does not obligate NNPC to consider a responding company for award of contract or to inform them of any resultant action. NNPC reserves the right to either accept or reject any submittal in part or in whole.
3. All cost incurred as a result of this bid and any subsequent request for information shall be to the responding company's account.
4. There should be no price indication on the submission to Group General Manager, HR as that may lead to disqualification.
5. All submissions (technical, un-priced commercial and priced commercial) with all necessary documents shall be in sealed envelopes marked "**2Nos. 15MVA Transformers for NNPC Towers**" and should reach the designated addresses not later than **(3) three weeks** from the date of this publication.

**Signed: NNPC MANAGEMENT**

# T.Y DANJUMA AGAIN!

..... ***"Obasanjo is running Third Term through Yar'Adua and we'll stop him"***

*(The Guardian February 17<sup>th</sup> 2008)*

Nigerians, the sons and daughters of Katsina State have been watching recent political developments with keen interest as our son; Umaru Yar'adua Presidency is the topical issue. During this period, our attention has been drawn to a publication "T.Y Danjuma's New Vocation" by the save Nigeria Coalition who published excerpts of an interview with Danjuma in 2008.

T.Y. Danjuma's words exuded contempt and anger for General Obasanjo but our grave concern is the implication to the presidency and possibly, life of our son the Matawallen, Katsina State, Umaru Musa Yar'Adua. We would have ignored the reference to the interview by the group but further investigative journalism by concerned Katsina State indigenes unearthed excerpts from his interview with the political editor of The Guardian, Akpo Esadjere published on February 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> 2008.

Nigerians, we wish to publicly place on record relevant excerpts that have led us to the conclusion that our son, the president may have been thrown to the 'political wolves' of this nation. For the records;

.....**"A country that took him (Obasanjo) out of jail and made a president; he abused Nigeria, he deceived Nigeria and he deserves a second term in prison and we will make sure he ends up there."**

.....**"Right now, we are in Third Term with Obasanjo in Ota. (Alhaji Umar) Yar'adua, a harmless but spineless president in Abuja is counseled by Aremu of Ota.**

.....**"The man that he installed - and he made a good choice- is a puppet that he wanted to his tune."**

.....**"We need to dis-couple Aremu from Umaru."**

.....**"I helped to finance his first term election. I raised \$7 million. Slightly more than half of it came from my pocket. The other half came from my business associates...And not once did he find out from me where this money came from. Was it from me, from my business associates, whether I stole it or whatever-he didn't ask!...Then he set up the presidential advisory committee with me as the chairman and we assembled nearly 100 people to produce the document (position paper on his presidency) for him.**

.....**it is the same Aremu, who used Ribadu to harass his perceived enemies and political**

**opponents. He used Ribadu to intimidate and harass his governors. He used Ribadu and some of his ministers to pursue (former Vice President) Atiku (Abubakar). He used Ribadu and (Malam Nasir) el-Rufai and one or two of his ministers to cover his tracks in PTDF (Petroleum Technology Development Fund)**

Did Obasanjo invite you to come over as his friend and key backer to discuss Third Term? What did you tell him?

**"He said, he thought he needed time to put a new person. I said, "well, let me tell you this: you were in prison when Abacha went to bed and didn't wake up. You were in prison and just coming out when (Chief MKO) Abiola (acclaimed winner of June 12, presidential polls cancelled by the military government of Gen. Ibrahim Babangida) died. Does it occur to you that none of these two deaths came through natural causes?"**

**He kept quiet. I said, "if you want to die in this office, you're going about it the right way. They'll kill you. The same people, who killed Abiola, would kill you the moment they realized that this country was going to be saddled with a man like you".**

Nigerians, as we watch what may be an unfolding plot and 'political war' between Danjuma, Obasanjo and other cabals, we hope and pray that our son will not be a casualty of this 'political warfare'.

For a man of T.Y Danjuma's status to have said in this interview that Obasanjo is running Third Term through Yar'adua thus implying that the nation is saddled with him and also stating that "The same people who killed Abiola, would kill you the moment they realized that this country was going to be saddled with you"; we have every legitimate reason to worry about the safety of Matawallen, Katsina, President Umaru Musa Yar'adua, our son.

The emergence of T.Y Danjuma, a man who once made uncomplimentary remarks about the President and the known enmity between Danjuma and late Shehu Yar'adua as Chairman of the Presidential Advisory Council is a sign that the plot may be thickening!

Nigerians, let us be vigilant.

**Alhaji Dauda Mamman  
Bakori, Katsina State**



**GOVERNMENT OF SOKOTO STATE OF NIGERIA**  
**STATE TENDERS BOARD**  
**SOKOTO**

**INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION**

The Sokoto State Government is desirous of executing three major projects that have direct bearing on the lives of its people. The Projects are:

- i. **Sokoto State University, Sokoto**
- ii. **Permanent Site College of Legal & Islamic Studies**
- iii. **School of Midwifery, Tambuwal**

2. Consequently, interested construction firms are hereby invited to pre-qualify on all or any of the above projects. Submissions are to include the following:

- a. **Evidence of incorporation by the Corporate Affairs Commission.**
- b. **Certificate of Registration with the State Tenders Board.**
- c. **Evidence of Tax Clearance.**
- d. **Evidence of Financial Capability and Banking Support.**
- e. **Experience/Technical qualification of the key personnel.**
- f. **Equipment and Technology capacity.**
- g. **Annual Turn-over.**
- h. **Vat Registration and Evidence of Remittances.**

- Failure to submit any of the listed documents will be grounds for disqualification.

3. Interested firms are to submit their pre-qualification documents to the **Secretary, Sokoto State Tenders Board, Cabinet Office, Usman Faruk Secretariat, Sokoto** not later than 14 days from the date of this publication. However, late submissions would not be accepted and Government reserves the right to take final decision on any of the documents received.

*Signed:*  
**SECRETARY**  
**FOR: CHAIRMAN**  
**Sokoto State Tenders Board**

# BUSINESS

0805 1000 536

## First Bank may not return Longe as MD

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

FOLLOWING the Supreme Court judgement that nullified the sack of the former First Bank Managing Director Dr. Bernard Ojeifo Longe, the management said yesterday that it has begun negotiation with Longe on monetary settlement based on the entitlements inherent in his employment contract with the bank.

Last Friday, the Supreme Court ruled that his sacking was illegal and that he be returned as the Managing Director of the bank.

The bank's spokesperson Ms. Celine Loader in a response to an enquiry by Daily Trust in Lagos said the bank is currently in discussion with Mr. Longe to map out an amicable resolution

"The bank is currently in discussion with Mr. Longe to map out an amicable resolution which will involve an agreeable monetary settlement based on the entitlements inherent in his employment contract with FBN. There is no implication on the performance indicators of the bank", she said

Supreme Court in a 28-page unanimous ruling read by lead Justice, George Oguntade, and read by Justice Funke Adekeye the court agreed that Mr. Longe's sack violated the provisions of section 266 (1) and (2) of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, (CAMA).

The court was of the opinion that Longe was sacked without notification and ruled that the board of directors was wrong to have held a meeting where he was sacked without letting him know.

The Court thereby ruled that any decisions taken at the meeting was illegal and null and void.

The management of First Bank of Nigeria Plc (FBN) had in 2002 sacked Longe over his alleged official misconduct in the 2001 \$111.7 loan he granted Investors International London Limited (IIL) in the botched acquisition of 51 per cent equity in Nigeria Telecommunication Limited (NITEL).

Although IIL was able to pay the 10 per cent initial deposit of its total bid offer of \$1.317 billion for NITEL and was given a 90-day deadline to pay the balance of \$1.185 billion.



FIRST Bank Managing Director Stephen Olatibi Onasanya

Few days before the expiration of the deadline, the consortium sought and received a six-week extension to pay up the balance of \$1.317 billion.

But the extension granted by the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) drew the ire of the House of Representatives committee on communication which led to the cancellation of the process and confiscation of the \$131.7 million by the federal government.

This made the bank to lose \$100 million loaned to IIL.

This however led to the dismissal of Longe, the executive director, Risk Control, Mr Uzoma Nwankwo as well as the Head of Treasury and Funds management, Mrs Funke Oyetunji.

In the judgement, Supreme court stated that Longe is still deemed the managing

director of First Bank not minding his purported dismissal.

The court also averred that Longe cannot be dismissed without following the due process of the law found to have committed an offence deemed to amount to gross misconduct.

"The appeal is allowed, the removal did not follow due process especially as provided in CAMA section 266 (3) for the removal of the managing director", the court ruled

Meanwhile, Loader said the bank has accepted the Supreme Court judgement

"As a law abiding corporate citizen, First Bank has accepted the Supreme court's ruling which faulted the process of dismissal of Mr Longe as the Managing Director of First Bank Plc", she said.

### 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)

### Trust Index

Inflation	→	12.3%
GDP	→	6.90%
Budget	→	N3.1tr
External Reserves Acct	→	\$41.5bn
Excess Crude Acct	→	\$4.2bn
Poverty Ratio	→	54.4%
Monetary Policy Rate	→	6%
Banks	→	24
Oil Price	→	\$81 a barrel
Power Supply	→	2, 200MW
Oil output per day	→	2.5mbd
Broad Money Supply	→	N10,796,734.5m
Credit to Private Sector	→	N10,018,035.3m
Inter-Bank Rate	→	1.1600%
Treasury Bills	→	2.02%
Deposit Rate	→	12.28%
Prime Lending Rate	→	18.38%

CBN EXCHANGE RATES			
	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)
CFA	0.2855	0.2955	0.3055
DANISH KRONER	26.9516	27.0431	27.1346
EURO	200.6429	201.3242	202.0055
POUNDS STERLING	219.9621	220.709	221.4559
RIYAL	39.2667	39.4	39.5333
SDR	225.1011	225.8655	226.6298
SWISS FRANC	137.1681	137.6339	138.0997
US DOLLAR	147.25	147.75	148.25
WAUA	224.3258	225.0875	225.8492
YEN	1.6283	1.6339	1.6394

BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES	
BUYING	
DOLLAR	N151
EURO	N204
POUNDS	N232
SELLING	
DOLLAR	N152
EURO	N207
POUNDS	N235

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

Stock Market Index	
Date:	Thursday, March 11, 2010
Index:	23,412.41
Deals:	7,083
Volume:	509,501,952
Value:	N 4,697,497,581.61
Cap.:	N 5,638,236,644,048.92

## Business

## Slim overtakes Gates as world's richest man

Carlos Slim Helu takes No. 1 spot on Forbes World's Billionaires list as a record 164 10-figure titans return to the ranking amid the global economic recovery.

For the third time in three years, the world has a new richest man.

Riding surging prices of his various telecom holdings, including giant mobile

outfit America Movil, Mexican tycoon Carlos Slim Helu has beaten out Americans Bill Gates and Warren Buffett to become the wealthiest person on earth and nab the top spot on the 2010 Forbes list of the World's Billionaires.

Slim's fortune has swelled to an estimated \$53.5 billion, up \$18.5 billion in 12 months. Shares

of America Movil, of which Slim owns a \$23 billion stake, were up 35% in a year.

That massive hoard of scratch puts him ahead of Microsoft cofounder Bill Gates, who had held the title of world's richest 14 of the past 15 years.

Gates, now worth \$53 billion, is ranked second in the world. He is up \$13 billion from a year ago as shares of Microsoft rose 50% in 12 months. Gates' holdings in his personal investment vehicle Cascade also soared with the rest of the markets.

Buffett's fortune jumped \$10 billion to \$47 billion on rising shares of Berkshire Hathaway. He ranks third.

The Oracle of Omaha shrewdly invested \$5 billion in Goldman Sachs and \$3 billion in General Electric amid the 2008 market collapse. He also recently acquired railroad giant Burlington Northern Santa Fe for \$26 billion.

In his annual shareholder letter Buffett wrote, "We've put a lot of money to work during the chaos of the last two years. When it's raining gold, reach for a bucket, not a thimble."

Many plutocrats did just that. Indeed, last year's wealth wasteland has become a billionaire bonanza. Most of the richest people on the planet have seen their fortunes soar in the past year.

This year the World's Billionaires have an average net worth of \$3.5 billion, up \$500 million in 12 months. The world has 1,011 10-figure titans, up from 793 a year ago but still shy of the record 1,125 in 2008. Of those billionaires on last year's list, only 12% saw their fortunes decline.

U.S. billionaires still



CARLOS Slim

dominate the ranks — but their grip is slipping. Americans account for 40% of the world's billionaires, down from 45% a year ago.

The U.S. commands 38% of the collective \$3.6 trillion net worth of the world's richest, down from 44% a year ago.

Of the 97 new members of the list, only 16% are from the U.S. By contrast, Asia made big gains. The region added 104 moguls and now has just 14 fewer than Europe, thanks to several large public offerings and swelling stock markets.

The new billionaires include American Isaac Perlmutter, who flipped Marvel Entertainment to Disney for \$4 billion last December. The Spider-Man mogul netted nearly \$900 million in cash and 20 million shares of Disney in the transaction.

Also new to the ranking: 27 billionaires from China, including Li Shufu, whose automaker, Geely, announced plans to buy Swedish brand Volvo from Ford in December. The deal is expected to close in March 2010.

Finland and Pakistan both welcomed their first

billionaires.

For the first time China (including Hong Kong) has the most billionaires outside the U.S. with 89.

Russia has 62 billionaires, 28 of them returnees who had fallen off last year's list amid a meltdown in commodities. Total returnees to the list this year: 164.

Eleven countries have at least double the number of billionaires they had a year ago, including China, India, Turkey and South Korea.

Thirty members of last year's list fell out of the billionaire's club. Moguls who couldn't make the cut: Iceland's Thor Bjorgolfsson, Russia's Boris Berezovsky and Saudi Arabia's Maan Al-Sanea.

Another 13 members of last year's list died. Among the deceased: real estate developer Melvin Simon and glass tycoon William Davidson.

**Net Worth: \$53.5 billion**

**Source: Telecom**

**Residence: Mexico**

• Telecom tycoon who pounced on privatization of Mexico's national telephone company in the 1990s becomes world's richest person for first time after coming in third place last year. Net worth up \$18.5 billion in a year.

• Recently received regulatory approval to merge his fixed-line assets into American Movil, Latin America's biggest mobile phone company.

• His construction conglomerate, Impulsora del Desarrollo el Empleo, builds roads and energy infrastructure.

• Son of a Lebanese immigrant also owns stakes in financial group

Inbursa, Bronco Drilling, Independent News & Media, Saks and New York Times Co.

• Newspaper outfit's stock popped in early March on talk he might buy a controlling stake; he denies the rumor.

• Donating \$65 million to fund a research project in genomic medicine with American billionaire philanthropist Eli Broad.



BILL Gates

**Net Worth: \$53 billion**

**Source: Microsoft**

**Residence: U.S.**

• Software visionary is now the world's second-richest man. Net worth still up \$13 billion in a year as Microsoft shares rose 50% in 12 months, value of investment vehicle Cascade swelled.

• More than 60% of fortune held outside Microsoft; investments include Four Seasons hotels, Televisa, Auto Nation.

• Stepped down from day-to-day duties at Microsoft in 2008 to focus on philanthropy.

• Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation dedicated to fighting hunger, improving education in America's high schools, developing vaccines against malaria, tuberculosis and AIDS.

## Dangote is second richest black African

By Jibrin Abubakar

ALHAJI Aliko Dangote, President Dangote Group of Companies has emerged as the 463rd richest person and the second richest black African with an estimated net worth of \$2.1 billion, according to Forbes' list of world's richest people. He is the only Nigerian on the list.

There are five Africans on the 937 list of which Alhaji Dangote is the fourth.

In 2008, with an estimated net worth of \$3.3 billion, Dangote, was ranked the 334th richest person in the world, making him the Africa's richest. Then he was the richest black African to appear on Forbes' Billionaire list and beat Oprah Winfrey to become the world's richest black person.

The richest black African, Mr. Patrice Motsepe, 48, is a South African and worth \$2.3 billion. He ranks 421st on the list.

The richest African however, according to Forbes, is an 80-year old self-made Egyptian billionaire Mr. Onsi Sawiris with an estimated net worth of \$3.1 billion.

Onsi Sawiris was the founder and president of Orascom, the original family partnership involved in trading and contracting which was later to be named "Orascom Construction Industries" after its incorporation in 1998. Mr. Sawiris has been the Chairman of the Board of OCI since its incorporation and also serves as a director of Orascom Telecom Holding, Orascom Projects & Touristic Development, Misr Exterior Bank and AIG Egypt. In 2006, Orascom offered to buy Nigerian Telecommunication Limited (NITEL) at \$256.53 million but this was also rejected by the Federal Government on the grounds that it was far below NITEL's market value.

Other Africans on the



DANGOTE

list include: a 55-year old Egyptian Naguib Sawiris who worth \$2.5 billion and ranked 374 on the list; and Samih Sawiris, 53, has a net worth of \$1.5 billion and ranks 655 on the Forbes' list of billionaires.

**Net Worth: \$2.1 billion**

**Fortune: Inherited and Growing**

**Source: sugar,**

**flour, cement**

**Age: 52**

**Citizenship: Nigeria**

**Residence: Lagos**

**Education: NA**

**Marital Status: Married, 2 children**

**Background**

Dangote was born in Kano on April 10, 1957 into a wealthy family. His mother Mariya Dantata was the grand-daughter of businessman Alhassan Dantata, and his father Mohammed Dangote was Dantata's business associate.

**Business:** Stocks of his sugar and flour companies are both up in the past year. Meanwhile, stake in Benue Cement has doubled, helped by demand from China. Dangote now expanding cement operations in Senegal and Zambia. Overcame negative reports about debts owed to banks and share price fixing allegations to become the newly installed President of the Nigerian Stock Exchange last August. Settled row with businessman Femi Otedola, who fell off the billionaires list this year. Dangote began career as trader; built his Dangote Group into conglomerate with interests in sugar, flour milling, salt processing, cement manufacturing, textiles, real estate, and oil

## Top 24 world's billionaires

Rank	Name	Citizenship	Age	Networth (\$BIL)	Residence
1	Carlos Slim Helu & family	Mexico	70	53.5	Mexico
2	William Gates III	United States	54	53.0	United States
3	Warren Buffett	United States	79	47.0	United States
4	Mukesh Ambani	India	52	29.0	India
5	Lakshmi Mittal	India	59	28.7	United Kingdom
6	Lawrence Ellison	United States	65	28.0	United States
7	Bernard Arnault	France	61	27.5	France
8	Eike Batista	Brazil	53	27.0	Brazil
9	Amancio Ortega	Spain	74	25.0	Spain
10	Karl Albrecht	Germany	90	23.5	Germany
11	Ingvar Kamprad & family	Sweden	83	23.0	Switzerland
12	Christy Walton & family	United States	55	22.5	United States
13	Stefan Persson	Sweden	62	22.4	Sweden
14	Li Ka-shing	Hong Kong	81	21.0	Hong Kong
15	Jim Walton	United States	62	20.7	United States
16	Alice Walton	United States	60	20.6	United States
17	Liliane Bettencourt	France	87	20.0	France
18	S. Robson Walton	United States	66	19.8	United States
19	Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Al Saud	Saudi Arabia	55	19.4	Saudi Arabia
20	David Thomson & family	Canada	52	19.0	Canada
21	Michael Otto & family	Germany	66	18.7	Germany
22	Lee Shau Kee	Hong Kong	82	18.5	Hong Kong
23	Michael Bloomberg	United States	68	18.0	United States
24	Sergey Brin	United States	36	17.5	United States
24	Charles Koch	United States	74	17.5	United States

## Business

## Shell shuts down Sapele, Oben gas plants

By Fidelis Mac-Leva

OIL and gas giant, Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria, SPDC, has shut down its gas plants at Sapele and Oben saying it was a temporary measure pending the re-commissioning of its vandalised Trans Forcados Pipeline, TFP.

SPDC Managing Director and Company Chair, Mutiu Sunmonu, said the TFP has now been repaired following numerous incidents of sabotage by militants fighting for larger share of oil resources in the restive Niger Delta.

"We deeply regret the inconvenience any temporary shutdown might cause but it is absolutely necessary that we repair damaged facilities and bring them to safe and normal operations as quickly as possible," Sunmonu said in a statement to the media. "We sincerely thank NNPC for their support in condensate handling in the past months."

Shell claims that recent incidents of sabotage to its facilities had left the TFP badly damaged as a result of which the company had been unable to evacuate the condensate sediments that were blocking its gas pipelines.

Following the damage to its gas pipelines, Shell had sought the assistance of its long-term business partner, the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC, which granted the Dutch giant use of its refinery in Warri for temporary storage and distribution of its gas to power plants in parts of the country.

But the NNPC withdrew its generosity earlier this week when its Warri Refinery and Petrochemical Company (WRPC) resumed production after a protracted breakdown, saying it was not going to shut down its refining facilities simply because SPDC wanted to evacuate condensate deposits from the gas pipelines.

In a feeble attempt at fence-mending, Sunmonu said Shell was "most grateful for the understanding and responsiveness of NNPC."

Responding to recent media reports which suggested that Shell's failure to supply gas to power plants was hurting electricity supply in the country, Sunmonu re-affirmed that the company was "totally committed to supplying gas for power generation in Nigeria as had been the case for a very long time."

He said SPDC had delayed the shut down of its TFP facility in order to minimise the impact it would have on power generation and distribution across Nigeria which already boasts one of Africa's most atrocious power supply systems.

A fortnight ago Shell shut down its gas plant at Sapele and threatened to do same with its other three gas plants within six days unless the NNPC evacuated the concentration of wet condensate that had accumulated at the Warri Refinery which

was put at 472,000 barrels.

Following the development which led to further drop in the country's power generation, Minister of Power, Lanre Babalola, if the situation did not change, the six thermal power stations in the country might also

face the prospect of being shut down; which would mean more days of darkness for the country where majority of its population already.

Shell, the single biggest supplier of domestic gas pioneered gas supply to industries in Nigeria in

the 1960s, and currently supplies over 75% of the domestic gas for power generation and other industries in Nigeria. Shell also owns and operates the 650MW-power plant at Afam, which represents over 20% of current national power supply.



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## Travelogue

# Niger: A passion for wrestling

The recent traditional wrestling championship was more than just a contest to the people of Niger Republic. While the 31st annual competition of the event was still going on in Zinder Province, the military struck and ousted the government of Mamadou Tandja.

By Lawan Danjuma Adamu, who was in Niger Republic

THE military intervention was expected to bring an abrupt end to the cultural event. But that did not happen. Instead, it continued to the point where the last man standing emerged. While speaking to this reporter few days before the military takeover, one of the tournament's principal organizers and its Technical Director, Malama Barka, claims: "wrestling is to Niger, what football is to Brazil." He can't be wrong!

Its survival in the face of the military coup d'état, was an explicit account of Nigeriens affinity with and love for the local sport, which cut across social classes.

Traditional wrestling competition was first introduced into the country in 1975 by its then new military rulers, and the first place to host the national event was the Province of Taohoua. Since the inception of the contest, Niger Republic has witnessed 31 wrestling

competitions yearly, including the one that ended recently in Zinder.

The cultural relevance of wrestling to Niger's homogenous society, is explained by the participants that are drawn from all the eight provinces that make up the country, including Niamey, the capital. With the entire population, Hausas, Turegs, Fulanis, Kanuris, Zarmas and the Gurmas, taking part in the championship, no citizen of Niger is left out, which is why it is truly national. Every year, ten heavyweights representing each of the provinces, compete in a highly competitive and revered final, that sees the fittest of the fittest grab a coveted sword trophy, and a fortune as monetary prize.

The selection of 80 finalists who will compete against each other is a rigorous process that is usually started at the individual province level, where able-bodied young men are matched against one another in a series of bouts until 10 strong men remain.

Throwing the opponent to the ground is all that is required for a win, and any contestant who makes it to the finals, must have been a professional winner, who is adequately conversant with winning techniques. Being that it has always been a meeting of the best hands, no wrestler, no matter his dexterity and number of victories, dares enter the ring without loads of potent backups.

The rules of the contest allow use of charms and other supernatural powers to ensure victory. Most of the supplements are used or invoked conspicuously to the glare of opponents and spectators. It is not strange therefore, to see a wrestler murmuring incantations before the start of a match, or using amulet to touch the body of his opponent.

Usually bouts are started with a show of contempt against opponents with moves like cupping their heads in the palm, or attempting to grasp their hands. And when a fight stalemated, it is ended in a draw,

but when a winner emerges the vanquished is tasked with duty of tailing behind him as he goes round, row after row, collecting cash gift from dignitaries.

When a bout is on, praise singers treat the wrestlers to songs of bravery, in order to spur them to win.

This year alone, the government of Niger Republic pumped a whopping sum of CFA80million into organizing the tournament. From this amount and other donations from sponsors, the first to fourth positions winners, were awarded with cash prizes.

To further underscore the importance of the yearly cultural activity to the country, deposed President Mamadou Tandja ordered Ministers of Youth and Sports Alhaji Kazalma Umar, and that of Culture Alhaji Umaru Hadari, to relocate their offices and staff from Niamey to the host province, until the 10-day national event was over. Malam Barka said Tandja was personally interested in the championship, and was therefore "closely monitoring its progress."

The opening ceremony, which was held on Friday 12, February 2010, saw the display of Niger's rich culture of dancing and singing; troupes after troupes entertained guests, comprising first class traditional rulers, parliamentarians and foreign guests, including some from Nigeria. While declaring this year's event open, Minister of Youths and Sports Alhaji Kazalam Umar, reminded the heavyweights of the mouthwatering gifts that awaited winners.

The contestants, ten each from the provinces of Agadez, Diffa, Dosso, Maradi, Niamey, Taohoua, Tillaberi and Zinder (Damagaram), were subsequently reminded by the President of the International Traditional Wrestling Federation



WRESTLERS lock horns during a contest.

and President of Niger Traditional Wrestling, Alhaji Abuba Ganda, about the place of local wrestling to Nigeriens as a people, and to Niger as a country, urging them to play by the rules and continue to give the country a formidable representation at international wrestling arenas.

Similarly, the Emir of Damagaram Alhaji Muhammadu Mustafa Kakali charged the wrestlers to be of good conduct throughout the period of the championship, while he joined the secretary to the government of Zinder Ibrahim Agume and Zinder Council President Laminu Suleman to express appreciation over the choice of the province as the host for this year's tournament.

Damagaram has hosted the event 7 times, and its sons have won the coveted and highly prized sword trophy 7 times, its leaders proudly recalled at the gathering.

Thousands of spectators, who thronged Zinder Arena for the competition, were able to witness the opening ceremony free of charge. The proper commenced on day 13 February with a bout between Salisu Ouza of Agadez and Zarto Yahaya of Tillaberi where the former was defeated. For the next seven days from the eight participating provinces were slugging in an elimination series, all the provinces were matched against each other. And in the end, the capital Niamey was eliminated from the tournament for a sword, as all heavyweights have been through the ground.

Initially, the tournament set up some surprising results when heavyweights of the wrestling names like Abou Umaru Chera from Dosso, Umaru Dangwara from Maradi, and Murtala Sani also from Maradi were defeated by newcomers.

“The tournament winner, Maidabba, received a cash prize of CFA 5 million, a horse and a sword, while Annafi, who came second, received CFA 3 million. The third and fourth position winners Umaru Bindigau from Maradi and Tasi'u Ibrahim from Diffa, received CFA 1.7 and CFA 1 million respectively.



abba disclosed that the secret of emerging victorious at a wrestling contest is luck. "When God makes you the victor, nobody can upstage you," he said, even though he said wrestlers are spurred by supporters who cheer them up during fights. "That gives me a lot of encouragement," he explained.

Also corroborating the champion, a renowned wrestling praise singer, Sogolo, said throwing down an opponent in wrestling contest is an act of God. The old singer, who says he spent 63 years praising wrestlers, described Maidabba's victory at the tournament last year, as the most surprising winning he has ever seen in his career.

New innovations were introduced into the tournament this year, according to Malam Barka. "We have introduced lightweight contest of youths between the ages of 16 and 17, which is 65kg category," he stated, while he also added that "the lightweights will be prepared after a selection process to represent Niger at international levels."

Malam Barka revealed that the country has already introduced local wrestling into the curricula of its secondary and tertiary institutions, a move he said that will remove the negative feeling towards the game in the hearts of the nation's future leaders. "We don't want to forget our culture, that is why we

are training the youths now, so that this wrestling tradition can be transmitted to our future generation," he said.

"If they can speak French anywhere they go, they should also be able to show their indigenous traits," the wrestling Technical Director stated.

According to him, traditional wrestling is the only sport that has the power of convening women, children and the old in Niger Republic, saying "it will be difficult to see an old man at a stadium watching western games, but for wrestling, there you can find everybody including traditional rulers."

The official also informed *Daily Trust* that periodic reviews of the wrestling rules and regulations are conducted every two years, where he said ministers, state governors, national and state representatives, veteran wrestlers and other stakeholders meet to look at grey areas, and address laws that are incongruent to the progress of the game.

But one factor which Nigeriens say plays an important role in sustaining their wrestling culture, is the support it gets from Nigeria. "For close to three years, our fathers and elders in Nigeria, especially from Jigawa, Sokoto, Zamfara and Kano, come to attend the finals, and they dish out cash donations and car gifts to our wrestlers, and this helps strengthen the championship."

No venue has been announced yet as host for the contest next year. But at where the hosting rights fall to Nigeriens - their leaders, children, women and men, even their friends - will throw their weight behind a tradition that has survived even a century.

It is not strange therefore, to see a wrestler murmuring incantations before the start of a match, or using an amulet to touch the body of his opponent.

spectated the due of followed cere- fight Satur- bout Agadez laberi, feated. pairs spating it out, until paired at the ey had e con- con- own to

like Yahaya Kaka from Taohoua and Yakubu Adamu from Niamey.

Three times champion and sword winner, Bala Haruna from the host province of Zinder, was defeated in the quarter final rounds, during a clash with defending champion Laminu Maidabba from the province of Agadez.

At the initial stage, there was a large turnout of spectators. However with the uncertainty that blanketed the country after the sudden overthrow of Tandja's government, the crowd thinned.

The day of the grand finale, Sunday 21 February, featured a bout between the defending champion, Maidabba and Muhammadu Annafi of Taohoua. The match ended in a defeat against Annafi, who clinched the second position. Twice in succession, Agadez and Taohoua were squaring up at the grand finale, and twice Agadez was trashing Taohoua to claim victory.

The tournament winner, Maidabba, received a cash prize of CFA 5million, a horse and a sword, while Annafi, who came second, received CFA 3million. The third and fourth position winners Umaru Bindigau from Maradi and Tasi'u Ibrahim from Diffa, received CFA1.7 and CFA 1million respectively.

During a chat with our reporter after his second contest in the just ended tournament, Maid-



SPECTATORS inside Zinder Wrestling Arena during the championship.

ent put defeats, and big abakar so, Isa li and aradi, omers

# Business

## Don't cancel NITEL sale, CNPP tells NCP

By Idris Ahmed

THE National Council on Privatisation (NCP) has been urged not to cancel the NITEL sale to the preferred bidder, New Generation Telecommunication Limited.

The Conference of Nigeria Political Parties (CNPP) said this at a press briefing yesterday in Abuja through its National Publicity Secretary Osita Okechukwu, ahead of today's meeting of the NCP over the moribund national telecommunication company.

New Generation Telecommunication Limited offered to pay \$2.5 billion for the NITEL when the bidding opened on February 16.

Two days after the deal, one of the partners in the Consortium, Unicom China said it was not party to the deal. It later said a unit in Europe was the partner.

As controversy continues to trail the deal, the Director General of the Bureau for Public Procurement (BPE) Dr. Christopher Anyanwu got a letter of suspension.

CNPP said if the deal is cancelled it will expose the rots in the NITEL privatisation exercise since 2001.

CNPP said: "Information reaching CNPP is that the new cabal around the Acting President is persuading the Acting President as the Chairman of NCP to cancel the bid with utter disregard that Unicom China has stated clearly that Unicom Europe is in contact with New Generations Telecommunications' bid, thus reversing their earlier position.

"CNPP wishes to warn that it will be too early in the day for the Acting President to allow predators and scavengers who are alleged to have collected huge sums in dollars to deceive him into cancelling the NITEL bid." It was said that the liabilities trailing the NITEL transaction is hovering between \$1.5 to \$1.8 billion.

CNPP alleged that the \$510 billion earlier paid by Transcorp on NITEL was not paid into the federation account, saying government was forced to pay N70 billion to the banks that borrowed Transcorp the money.

"Consequently, CNPP will open up the Pandora's Box if the NITEL bid is cancelled for it is our considered view that there is no cogent and verifiable reason to do so", Osita said.



KABIR A Tijjani, Head, Legal Services of Premium Pension Limited, Funmi Femi-Obalemo Head, Corporate Communication and Hamidu Mohammed, Head Business Development, Lagos, SW & North, discussing the success of the Premium Pension Limited Retiree Forum held in Ilorin, recently.

## Diamond launches products for the rich

By Idris Ahmed

DIAMOND Bank yesterday in Abuja introduced a new product for its rich customers.

DiamondXclusive will enable customers enjoy varieties of exclusive benefits such as 2.5 percent to 4.5 percent credit interests, zero Cost on Transaction (COT), fixed monthly fee of N5, 000 and free life insurance cover of N500, 000 among others, the banks said.

Diamond Bank's Executive Director on Corporate Banking Uzoma Chidzie who unveiled the product said special features as described in the DiamondXclusive lounges will be subject to availability and will be provided to customers at the bank's discretion.

To qualify for the product, a customer must earn a gross monthly income salary of N600, 000 or more. A customer must also own a business which has generated a turnover of N5 million or more per month over the previous three months.

Other condition for eligibility include a customer having provable, investable assets of N5 million and above either in cash, share and properties.

For the last eighteen month, Diamond provided Saving Xtra Account for all categories of customers where many customers emerged millionaires for keeping up to N5, 000 in their account for a month.

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**AREWA CHAMBERS**

BEHIND UBA, A1 AHMADU BELLO WAY, KADUNA.  
TEL: 0803 643 5586  
Email: yahya.mahmood@yahoo.com



Our Ref:

Your Ref:

Date:

15<sup>th</sup> February, 2010

His Lordship  
Chief Justice of Nigeria  
Supreme Court  
Abuja.

My Lord,


**PETITION IN RESPECT OF APPEAL ON SOKOTO GOVERNORSHIP APPEALS BEFORE ABUJA AND SOKOTO COURTS OF APPEAL.**

We are solicitors to Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) (referred to hereinafter as "Our Client") and it is on their authority and instruction we write this petition.

Governorship election was held in Sokoto on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of April 2007. Our client returned ALIYU MAGATAKARDA WAMAKKO of the Peoples Democratic Party as duly elected having polled 392,258 votes to defeat the other 9 contestants. Dissatisfied with the return and the declaration, Alhaji MUHAMMADU MAIGARI DINGYADI of Democratic Peoples Party who came second with 296,419 Votes filed an election petition before the Governorship and Legislative House Election Tribunal sitting in Sokoto which dismissed his petition.

2. On appeal to the COURT OF APPEAL, KADUNA DIVISION, the appeal was allowed with consequential orders, inter alia:

- a. annulling the election for substantial irregularities in the conduct of the election and on the ground that the 1<sup>st</sup> respondent was not qualified to contest the election as at 1<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2007.

  
**AREWA CHAMBERS**

- b. Fresh election ordered between the same Parties and Candidates as appear on the declaration of result form.

3. Alhaji Maigari Danyadi filed suit No. FHC.ABJ/CS/260/08 before the FEDERAL HIGH COURT ABUJA asking the court for 2 fundamental relief,

- a. Whether our client can issue Nomination forms to ALHAJI MAGATAKARDA WAMAKKO or allow Peoples Democratic Party to nominate or sponsor any candidate for the fresh election.
- b. Whether in the light of 2 earlier decisions of the Court of Appeal, Peoples Democratic Party had right or power to nominate or sponsor anybody for the fresh election.

4. In the Affidavit of urgency in support, they deposed that the purpose of the suit is for the Federal High Court to interpret the judgment of the Court of Appeal Kaduna dated 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2008 mentioned in paragraph 4 above. On the 17<sup>th</sup> of July 2008, the Federal High Court Abuja dismissed the suit on the ground that it has no power to interpret the judgment of the Court of Appeal.

5. Our client conducted fresh election on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May, 2008 and ALHAJI MAGATAKARDA WAMAKKO of the Peoples Democratic Party polled 562,395 votes as against Muhammad Maigari Danyadi of the Democratic Peoples Party 124,046 votes.

6. Dissatisfied, Alhaji Maigari Danyadi of the Democratic Peoples Party filed a petition before the Governorship Election Tribunal sitting in Sokoto, and the particulars in support of their petition was RELIANCE on the judgment of the Court of Appeal Kaduna judgment dated 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2008. The Tribunal dismissed the petition for 2 reasons. It has no power to interpret the judgment of the Court of Appeal Kaduna, and there was no complaint at all in respect of conduct of FRESH ELECTION. They appealed to the Court of Appeal, Sokoto.

7. Meanwhile, the Counsel to the Democratic Peoples Party candidate applied to the Court of Appeal for leave to RAISE FRESH ISSUE,

  
**AREWA CHAMBERS**

i.e. that the Federal High Court Abuja had powers to enforce the judgment of the Court of Appeal Kaduna. Objections were raised and the application was refused on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November, 2009. They appeal to the Supreme Court and prayed the Court to invoke Section 22 of the Supreme Court Act do determine the substantive appeal on the merits.

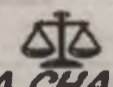
8. There were thus 2 appeals, one before COURT OF APPEAL ABUJA, one before COURT OF APPEAL SOKOTO from decision of the Federal High Court Abuja and Election Tribunal Sokoto on the CONSTRUCTION OR INTERPRETATION OF THE JUDGMENT OF THE COURT OF APPEAL KADUNA.

9. To avoid conflicting decisions which will cause JUDICIAL CONFUSION AND ANARCHY, Chief Wole Olanipekun, SAN wrote a letter dated 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2009 drawing the attention of the President of the Court of Appeal (Umaru Abdullahi, as he then was). We were to await the outcome of the Supreme Court decision to settle the matters once and for all.

10. On his assumption of office, ISA AYO SALAMI PCA, the new President constituted a panel for the Sokoto Appeal. Senator Umar Dahiru and myself met him to find out if he was aware of why the decision to await the Supreme Court judgment was taken by his predecessor to wit, TO AVOID JUDICIAL ANARCHY. He told us he was aware.

11. Just to find out motives, if any, we met him again and tried to convince him why his decision was not appropriate. We had a 2 ½ hour discussion and his Lordship was only trying to explain to us that Court of Appeal Kaduna Division judgment, subject of the whole controversy, was wrong. We were apprehensive for 2 reasons. Why he ignored the decision of his predecessor, and why he was so forceful in his argument. We left him convinced that he has more than official interest in the matter. All we wanted was some conviction that there was no foul play.

12. Chief Wole Olanipekun, SAN found out that the Appeal in Abuja was abandoned. He compiled the records and filed them at the Supreme Court. The Counsel to the Democratic Peoples Party withdrew the appeal. Peoples Democratic Party counsel had on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> filed

  
**AREWA CHAMBERS**

a Motion on Notice before the Court of Appeal Sokoto inviting Counsel to address the Court on whether one division of the Court has

13. powers to review the judgement of another division in an appeal from the decision of Election Tribunal that it has no jurisdiction to interpret such judgement. The Motion on Notice also seeks reference to the Supreme Court under section 295 of the Constitution. Where a party applies, it is mandatory to make the reference. Despite the Motion, we were most reliably informed that the Panel had conference in Abuja (Although it is a Sokoto case) and fixed 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2010 for judgment. The appeal was heard on January 18<sup>th</sup> and the Tribunal has up to April 18<sup>th</sup> deliver its judgement. Why is the Sokoto Court of Appeal panel in a hurry? Meanwhile, the issue raised is very fundamental and the more reason why the Supreme Court should have been allowed to decide the issues.

14. My Lord, JUSTICE IS ROOTED IN CONFIDENCE. We need confidence that the President of the Court of Appeal who set up the panel is not bias in any way. He should have been more tactful and diplomatic. We need confidence that the panel is free from any interference or control by the President or other persons. We do not have that confidence. In fact, what we have is to the contrary.

15. We do not want to embarrass the Judiciary or any of its Principal Officers. The President of the Court of Appeal should disband the panel in the interest of justice and re-constitute another one. We do not want to make a formal complaint to National Judicial Council. Those to whom the President spoke, would like to appear before you, in his presence and STATE ON OATH all he told them.

16. We wish he did not create any bad impression. We wish the Panel did not create any wrong impression. We wish the withdrawal of the appeal before the Supreme Court did not create the impression that they have advance knowledge of the judgment to be hurriedly delivered on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 2010. We wish the Motion on Notice filed on Thursday was taken seriously by the Panel and since time was not against them, exercised their discretion judiciously by giving a date for the Motion instead of having a conference in Abuja.

Contd.



**AREWA CHAMBERS**

17. We hope, with all due respect, that Your Lordship will take this matter very seriously and urgently. And we want it treated with discreet. Investigation will reveal that our fears are well founded. Most obliged.

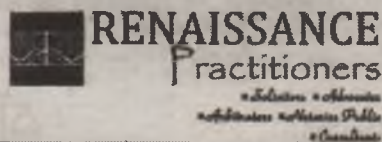
Yours Faithfully,  
For: YAHAYA MAHMOOD & CO.

Ym  
(YAHAYA MAHMOOD ESQ)  
PRINCIPAL SOLICITOR.

CC:  
The Chairman,  
Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)  
INEC Headquarters,  
Abuja.

Sir, above is for your information and record.

Ym  
(YAHAYA MAHMOOD ESQ)  
PRINCIPAL SOLICITOR.



15<sup>th</sup> February, 2010

HIS LORDSHIP  
THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF NIGERIA/  
CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL JUDICIAL COUNCIL  
ABUJA.

My Lord,

**PETITION AGAINST THE HONOURABLE PRESIDENT OF COURT OF APPEAL, HON. JUSTICE ISA AYO SALAMI IN RESPECT OF GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION APPEALS BEFORE THE COURT OF APPEAL SOKOTO DIVISION.**

We are writing as Solicitors to Alhaji Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko and on whose behalf we are writing this petition.

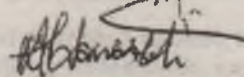
- Our client's petition was premised on an imminent miscarriage of justice that may occur should judicial discretion and exclusive jurisdiction allowed to be exercised in a manner that will override/suppress justice as envisaged by the letter and a spirit of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999.
- Our client won the April 14<sup>th</sup> 2007 elections haven won 392,258 votes in the said election, thus defeating other nine contestants. Dissatisfied, Alhaji Muhammadu Maigari Dingyadi of Democratic Peoples Party who scored 296,419 votes filed a petition before the Governorship and legislative Assembly Election Tribunal which dismissed his petition on grounds that the petition is grounded on pre-election matter and therefore they lack jurisdiction.

- Their decision went on appeal to the Court of Appeal Kaduna Division which allowed the appeal and nullified the election and ordered a fresh election between the candidates and parties that contested the April 14<sup>th</sup> 2007 election.
- The Court of Appeal's order of a fresh election was held on the 24<sup>th</sup> may 2008 and our client won 562,395 votes and still dissatisfied, Alhaji Muhammadu Maigari Dingyadi of the Democratic Peoples Party filed a petition before the Governorship and Legislative Assembly Election Tribunal, asking the tribunal to give the interpretation of the judgment of the Court of Appeal which the tribunal declined jurisdiction to do so. Alhaji Muhammadu Maigari Dingyadi of the Democratic Peoples Party filed an appeal before the Court of Appeal Sokoto Division.
- After the 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2008 judgment of the Court of Appeal Kaduna and before the conduct of a fresh election as ordered by the Court of Appeal, Alhaji Muhammadu Maigari Dingyadi approached the Federal High Court Abuja to interpret the judgment of the Court of Appeal which the Court declined jurisdiction to do so. Dissatisfied, they went to the Court of Appeal Abuja.
- In the appeal before the Court of Appeal Sokoto Division which is the subject of this petition, a panel was constituted by the Honourable President of the Court of Appeal to hear the appeal which clearly is predicated on clear manifestation of the Hon. President to make the panel to review or set aside the earlier judgment of the Court of Appeal Kaduna on the previous Governorship election for Sokoto State. This tendency was manifested on several occasions when the Hon. President had told some individuals that the earlier judgment of the Court of Appeal Kaduna was wrong and with greatest respect, we wish to state that we take strong objection to that opinion, needless to say no person or authority have the power to alter judicial determination of a matter by COMPETENT Court and details could be given of individuals that he had spoken to if so required, this is in addition to summoning the panel to his office to have a conference twice in Abuja which is a clear manifestation of an administrative interference in judicial matters.
- Looking at the appeal which involves substantive question of law, our client filed a Motion on Notice to move the court to invoke section 295(3) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 for a reference to the Supreme Court but to our chagrin, the panel refused to give a date for us to move the said motion but went ahead to give a date for judgment, this clearly shows that the judgment is already prepared and will be delivered irrespective of the merit of the Motion on the critical issue of jurisdiction and in particular, the mandatory reference on question of law to the Supreme Court which is thereby rendered insignificant and irrelevant. The conduct of the panel coupled with other circumstances gave us reasons to believe that injustice is about to be meted/perpetrated on our client by technically discountenancing such an important issue like jurisdiction.
- Our client having suffered a similar injustice on other grounds during the previous appeal where an interested party, the wife of the Democratic Peoples Party's Gubernatorial candidate for Gombe State in the 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2007 elections presided over the appeal panel that gave judgment of the 11<sup>th</sup> of April 2008. Now again, similar thing is about to occur as the Hon President of the Court of Appeal did not exercise his discretion judiciously in the composition of the panel for appointing yet another justice who is married to an influential politician on the panel.
- This, our client will no longer fold his arms to be robbed of the mandate of his people by the Court on arbitrariness and undue influence manifested by the apparent interest

Contd.

shown by the Hon. President of the Court of Appeal. It happened the previous time and must not be allowed to happen again as our client's right to fair hearing as enshrined under section 36 of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999. Now therefore, due to evidence of bias which is imminent, our client respectfully urge your Lordship to use your good office to ensure that justice is done by causing the Hon. President of the Court of Appeal to judiciously exercise his powers to disband and reconstitute a fresh and impartial panel.

Yours Faithfully,

  
**Alfred N. Agu, Esq**  
 Associate Partner



NATIONAL JUDICIAL COUNCIL,  
 SUPREME COURT COMPLEX,  
 THREE ARMS ZONE,  
 CENTRAL DISTRICT,  
 P. M. B. 483,  
 ABUJA-NIGERIA.

Ref. No. NJC/CA/DM/IV/48

19<sup>th</sup> February, 2010

Hon. Justice Musa Dattijo Mohammad  
 Presiding Justice, Court of Appeal, Sokoto Division;

Hon. Justice Paul A. Galinje,  
 Court of Appeal, Lagos Division;

Hon. Justice John Inyang Okoro,  
 Court of Appeal, Kaduna Division;

Hon. Justice Mas'oud Oredola,  
 Court of Appeal, Sokoto Division; and

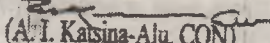
Hon. Justice Regina O. Nwodo,  
 Court of Appeal, Lagos Division.

**RE: PETITION IN RESPECT OF APPEAL IN SOKOTO GOVERNORSHIP APPEALS BEFORE ABUJA AND SOKOTO COURTS OF APPEAL; AND**

**RE: PETITION AGAINST THE HONOURABLE PRESIDENT OF COURT OF APPEAL, HON. JUSTICE ISA AYO SALAMI IN RESPECT OF GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION APPEALS BEFORE THE COURT OF APPEAL SOKOTO DIVISION**

I forward herewith two petitions both of which dated 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2010 by one Yahaya Mahmood Esq, Principal Solicitor to Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC); and one Alfred N. Agu, Esq., Solicitor to Alhaji Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko on the above subject matter. The petitions are self-explanatory. Your comments on same should reach my Chambers by 11 a.m. on Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2010!

2. Meanwhile, you are to ensure that further action on the Appeals is put on hold pending the determination of the serious allegations levelled against you and the President of the Court of Appeal, please.

  
 (A. I. Katsina-Alu, CON)  
 Chief Justice of Nigeria and Chairman,  
 National Judicial Council.

FF 01:40pm  
 IN THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT OF NIGERIA  
 HOLDEN AT ABUJA



**AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF PETITION TO THE NATIONAL JUDICIAL COUNCIL ON SOKOTO GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION APPEAL**

I, YAHAYA MAHMOOD, a Nigerian citizen, male, adult, of A1 Ahmadu Bello Way, Kaduna do make oath and declare as follows:

1. That I am Kaduna-based Private Legal Practitioner, called to Bar on the 8th of July, 1978, and the Principal of YAHAYA MAHMOOD & CO., Arewa Chambers, Kaduna.
2. That I have been retained as External Solicitor to Sokoto State Government from 1999 to date, i.e:
  - (a) 1999-2007 during Governor Attahiru Dalhatu Bafarawa's Administration.
  - (b) 2007-Date during the current Governor Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko Administration.
3. That I defended the elections of Bafarawa and Wamakko as Governor and Deputy Governor at both the Election Tribunal and the Court of Appeal in 1999 and 2003.
4. That Independent National Electoral Commission retained me to defend:
  - (a) 2007 Governorship Elections in Kebbi and Zamfara States.
  - (b) 2008 Governorship fresh election in Sokoto.
5. That I know Honourable Justice Isa Ayo Salami very well since 1980s when he was a Principal State Counsel and I was a Chief Magistrate.
6. That the Court of Appeal Kaduna (Bulkachuwa, Aboki, Belgora, Gumel and Ndukwe-Anyanwu, JJ.CA) nullified the 14th day of April, 2007 Election of Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko as Governor of Sokoto State, in Appeal No. CA/K/EP/Gov/60/2007 on the 11th of April, 2008 and ordered fresh election between the same parties and candidates.
7. That Independent National Electoral Commission conducted the fresh election on the 24th of May, 2008 and the results were:
 

(a) Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko (PDP)	..	562,395 votes
(b) Muhammadu Maigari Dingyadi (DPP)	..	124,046 votes
8. That Muhammadu Maigari Dingyadi filed Suit No. FHC/ABJ/CS/260/08 on the 25th of April, 2008 through Originating Summons for the interpretation of the said judgment of the Court of Appeal, Kaduna.
9. That on the 17th of July, 2008, the Federal High Court Abuja (Bello, FJ) dismissed the suit on the ground that the Court has no jurisdiction to interpret the judgment of the Court of Appeal.
10. That Muhammadu Maigari Dingyadi appealed to the Court of Appeal Abuja in Appeal No. CA/A/278/08 on the 21st July, 2008.
11. That while the appeal was pending at the Court of Appeal, and on the 3rd of November, 2008, the Appellant filed an application for leave to raise fresh issue, i.e. that the Federal High Court Abuja had jurisdiction to enforce the judgment of the Court of Appeal, Kaduna.
12. That on the 30th of November, 2009, the Court of Appeal Abuja (Peter-Odili, Bada, Lokule-Sodipo, JJ.CA) refused to grant the leave to raise fresh issue on the grounds that an appeal is a continuation of hearing and not an invention of a new cause of action.

13. That on the 14th day of December, 2009, the Appellants appealed to the Supreme Court, and one of its prayers was asking the Supreme Court to invoke its inherent powers under Section 22 of the Supreme Court Act and determine the substantive appeal on the merits.
14. That after the fresh election, the same Appellants filed a petition before the Sokoto Governorship Election Tribunal where:
- they made no complaints against the conduct of the fresh election
  - but claimed that Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko was not qualified to contest the fresh election based on the 11th April 2008 Court of Appeal Kaduna judgment, in effect, asking the Election Tribunal to interpret the judgment.
15. The Election Tribunal dismissed the petition on the grounds that it has no jurisdiction, and that in view of the similar pending matters before the Court of Appeal Abuja, the petition is an abuse of Court process.
16. The Appellants then appealed against that decision to the Court of Appeal Sokoto.
17. That in respect of the same election, and the interpretation of the Court of Appeal Kaduna judgment, there were 2 pending appeals, one before Court of Appeal Sokoto, as Final Court, and the other, before Court of Appeal Abuja with the likelihood of further appeal to the Supreme Court.
18. That Chief Wole Olanipekun, SAN, on the 22nd of April, 2009 as Counsel to Governor Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko, wrote to the President of the Court of Appeal (then Umaru Abdullahi) advising that it was better to await the Supreme Court verdict before constituting a Panel for the Sokoto appeal to avoid judicial confusion and anarchy likely to result by Court of Appeal Abuja and Sokoto interpreting the decision of the Court of Appeal Kaduna differently.
19. That on resumption as the new President of the Court of Appeal, Hon. Justice Ayo Salami constituted a Panel to hear the Sokoto appeal although the Abuja Court of Appeal was still pending.
20. That I went to see Hon. Justice Isa Ayo Salami in his house, on appointment, in the company of Senator Umaru Dahiru, who is my friend, a Senator from Sokoto, and Chairman Judiciary and Human Rights Committee of the Senate to find out if he was aware of the reasons why his predecessor did not set up the Panel, awaiting for the Supreme Court decision.
21. That I Did not want him to make any mistake, and I went with the Senator because Hon. Justice Salami request me on several occasions to link him up with the Senator for his nomination, submission and screening to his present appointment.
22. That Hon. Justice Salami was very free with the two of us, and informed us that he reversed his predecessor's decision because it was Administrative and not Legal.
23. That I took his decision in good faith and thought it was to ensure speedy disposal of the appeal and therefore in the interest of justice.
24. That on the 18th of January, 2010 when the appeal was heard, I persuaded Chief Wole Olanipekun, SAN, to withdraw his Motion on Notice which was in support of his letter to the former President of the Court of Appeal.
25. That Senator Dahiru and myself were on our way to Kaduna from Abuja when he received texts from a GLO number 0807-662-0716 which I read,
- telling him that judgment will be delivered on the 23rd February to remove the Governor
  - that he should not do anything to change the judgment
  - threatening him and his career.
26. That there was a pending Motion on Notice filed by the Counsel to PDP:
- requesting the Court to invite Counsel to address it on whether it has powers to review the judgment of another Division on the same matter
  - alternatively, refer the matter to the Supreme Court under Section 295 of the 1999 Constitution.
27. That Senator Dahiru and myself met Justice Salami in his office and had a two-and-a-half hour discussion on the case where he freely told us his mind:
- that the decision of the Court of Appeal Kaduna was wrong
  - that the Court of Appeal Sokoto can review it through an appeal from decision of Election Tribunal which declined jurisdiction to interpret same
  - that although he recently held that the Court of Appeal Abuja could not review its own decision in respect of Niger State Governorship Election Petition, they could do so in this case.
28. That although he realised he went too far, and said it was his personal opinion, we left him very apprehensive in view of the fact and circumstances surrounding the setting up of the Sokoto Court of Appeal Panel by him.
29. That the following day after we saw Justice Salami, Senator Umaru Dahiru informed me that DPP supporters were jubilating in Sokoto, apparently the judgment had been leaked.
30. That when I told Chief Olanipekun, SAN, he informed me and I verily believe him, that he went to the Court of Appeal Abuja and found out that the Appellants appeal to the Supreme Court was abandoned, so:
- he compiled the records
  - he filed it at the Supreme Court along with Motion on Notice praying inter alia for INJUNCTION restraining both Sokoto and Abuja Courts of Appeal
  - he got appeal No. 32/2010
  - he got 15th March, 2010 date upon filing Affidavit of Urgency
  - he got the Motion on Notice, processes and Hearing Notice served on all Counsel and the Courts
31. That despite the pending application by the Counsel to Peoples Democratic Party, that despite the Supreme Court processes served on the Court of Appeal Sokoto, which includes a Motion for injunction, and a Hearing date at the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeal fixed 24th February for hearing the Motion on Notice and for judgment.
32. That I had to write the petition I wrote to the Chief Justice of Nigeria with the hope that he could talk to Hon. Justice Salami to see what could appropriately be done.
33. That the appeal was heard on the 18th of January, 2010 and will not lapse until 17th of April, 2010, and there was no reason why judgment must be delivered on the 24th of February, 2010:
- when there was a pending Motion on Notice before the Court
  - when the Court was aware of the Supreme Court matter coming up on March 15th, 2010.

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## POLICY ON PUBLICATION OF ADVERTORIALS, PETITIONS AND RELATED MATERIALS



Media Trust Limited

**M**edia Trust Limited, publishers of Daily Trust, Weekly Trust, Sunday Trust and Aminiya newspapers take very seriously its responsibility to the public to publish all points of view, including those we do not share. We think this is the function of an independent, liberal newspaper dedicated to the pursuit of the common good. We are also conscious of the fact that it is a shortsighted business policy for a newspaper to shut out a particular point of view for its own reason or due to pressure from powerful institutions and advertisers.

But we are also aware that professional agitators can use the pages on newspapers to malign governments, companies and individuals on spurious grounds.

Caught between our desire to give voice to the concerns of the voiceless and to protect public officers and institutions from unfair and demoralizing attacks, we have been forced to develop a more stringent policy for the placement of advertorials, petitions and other related materials in the pages of our newspapers.

### The new policy is depicted hereunder

1. The writer(s) of such advertorials must not be anonymous but people who can stand by what they say, with their full names and address.
2. If there is any accusation against any person or organization, such writer(s) must substantiate the claims with evidence which can stand before a Court of Law. For example, if they claim that a contract was inflated, they must show Media Trust, relevant documents to back this up.
3. The placement must be fully paid for, before it is carried.
4. The author(s) should be

prepared to accept corrections or alterations made by us but the corrected version would be shown to the author(s), before publishing.

5. The publishers have the right to reject any piece considered to be libelous, containing assertions without supporting facts and figures to prove the authenticity of such claims.
6. In the alternative, we are prepared to enter into an indemnity agreement with those who place such advertorial which will put the onus of proof squarely on them.
7. Media Trust employees that collect such materials have been instructed to contact the Advert Manager, who will also consult further with the relevant superior officers to analyze the piece before placement is made.
8. If the publishers of Daily Trust, Weekly Trust, Sunday Trust and Aminiya newspapers reject any material regarded as unprintable based on the above consideration, they will not enter into any correspondence with the author(s).

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Signed:  
MANAGEMENT

# Business



L-R: Finance Minister Mansur Muhtar, Group Managing Director/CEO, BGL Plc Albert Okumagba and the Minister of State for Petroleum Odein Ajumogobia at the public presentation of five BGL Research and Intelligence publications in Abuja... recently.

## Rescued banks to pay back in Q2 —Sanusi

NIGERIA'S asset management company (AMC) will purchase non-performing loans held by rescued banks in the second quarter of this year, enabling them to repay the capital injected, the Central Bank said yesterday.

"My sense is that certainly within the second quarter of this year the AMC will have purchased these assets and the banks will have paid back the Central Bank," Central Bank Governor Lamido Sanusi told CNBC Africa

television.

Sanusi also said the AMC, which is meant to soak up bad loans at banks rescued by the central bank in a \$4 billion bailout last year, would be able to purchase equity in the rescued institutions to help them recapitalise.

"The AMC will purchase non-performing loans. The AMC can purchase equity and therefore recapitalise the banks," he said.

Legislation to create the AMC passed a second reading in the

Senate on Wednesday and was also passed by the House of Representatives, bringing it another step closer to being enshrined in law.

The Senate will now debate the AMC bill at a public hearing before passing it in a final reading.

Any discrepancies with the version to be passed by the House of Representatives will then be ironed out before Acting President Goodluck Jonathan can sign the bill into law.

## Asset Management bill passes second reading

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Turaki A. Hassan

A bill seeking to establish the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria was Wednesday read for the second time in the Senate and sent to relevant committees for further action.

The corporation when established is for the "purpose of efficiently resolving the non-performing loan assets of banks in Nigeria."

In his lead debate Senate Leader Teslim Folarin said the bill proposed by the Central Bank of Nigeria "is aimed at sanitizing the banking

sector; thus building both depositors and investors confidence in the industry."

Folarin said the corporation will assist banks to efficiently manage and dispose of eligible bank assets; that is non-performing loans as may be determined by the CBN.

He said the Corporation is deliberately structured to exercise certain special power in the following areas: "to act as or appoint a receiver/manager for a debtor company whose assets have been pledged as collateral for an eligible loan/debt acquired by the corporation.

To require a bank to stop fur-

ther transactions on the account of a debtor if there is fund therein; a debtor may be declared bankrupt under the act and the corporation will be appointed Trustee of the Debtor's property."

The Bill was committed to the Committee on Banking, Insurance and other financial institutions for further legislative work and report back within two weeks.

The Asset Management Corporation was conceived by the Yar'adua administration as part of the policy options for implementing the on-going reform of the banking industry.

## Reforms: 'Business as usual is over in oil sector'

From Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna

THE Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) is undergoing transformation and it will not continue to do business as usual once the Petroleum Industry Bill is passed into law, Engineer B.A Ayodele, the Managing Director of Kaduna Refinery and Petrochemical Company declared yesterday.

The managing director, who made this known at a contractors/suppliers forum, also said that some provisions of the bill seek to give autonomy to the strategic business units of NNPC, including the Kaduna refinery. "Financial autonomy implies that KRPC will shift from being a cost centre to a profit centre," he said, adding that for this reason, the corporation will be self sustaining.

According to Ayodele, the implication of this shift entails that: "We would rely on sales from our operations to finance our expenditure; salaries/wages, vendors/suppliers services, operational costs etc". He said that the coming situation "demand proactive measures from all stakeholders. This is why the timing and theme of this forum 'Client-vendor confidence, recipe for supply chain effectiveness'" is very apt.

The managing director also said that having "social and ethical problems in the supply chain is one of the fastest ways to damage a business reputation and erode brand value." He further said that they impact negatively on all stakeholder value, investor apathy, low staff morale and inability to settle vendor/suppliers bills.

According to him, a better understanding of the problem will not only improve client/vendor relationship and avoid the debilitating costs, it will "bring about a remarkable improvement in supplier performance which has a direct positive impact on our relationship with tangible benefits, such as increased knowledge of suppliers."

For these reasons, both NNPC and its suppliers cannot afford to pay lip service to ethical responsibility because they must engage one another in order to avoid punitive market reaction, Ayodele said. "Any organisation that fails to improve the social and ethical performance of its supply chain in today's business environment is doing so at its own peril," he added.

## NNPC distributes 335million litres of fuel in 1 week

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

THE Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) has said that it has distributed about 334.6 million litres or 10,142 trucks of fuel nationwide in the last one week.

The figure translates to a daily average distribution of about 1,448 trucks or 47.7million litres of PMS, a statement from the company's spokesman Levi Ajuonuma has said.

Ajuonuma said by so doing the 'War Room' (an action-oriented special task force created by the management of NNPC to tackle the fuel issue) exceeded its average national weekly target of 1300 trucks (per day) the equivalent of 42.9 million litres with an additional 4.8million litres.

The 47.7 million litres figure is also far ahead of the daily national fuel consumption volume which stands at 33million litres.

A further breakdown of the War Room weekly loading chart for the period indicates that a haul of 131.4 million litres of fuel in 3,982 trucks were distributed nationwide last weekend beginning from Friday through Sunday in an unprecedented deployment of trucks.

The records also show that while over 59.1 million litres of fuel was dispatched throughout the country on Thursday, March 4, 2010 via 1792 trucks a total of 1592 trucks or 52.5 million litres of PMS was loaded on Wednesday, March 3, 2010. A day earlier, 47 million litres of fuel was dispatched nationwide to complement the over 43.2 million litres of PMS which was loaded nationwide in 1310 trucks on Monday, March, 1 2010.

Malam Farouk Ahmed, a member of the NNPC War Room who is also Executive Director, Commercial of the Pipelines and Products Marketing Company, PPMC, a subsidiary of the NNPC explained that the task force is determined to ensure a complete sanitization of the fuel supply and distribution chain in the country.

"Now we are moving beyond just eliminating the fuel queues to a point where we can build up inventory to act as quick intervention in case of line breaks or unexpected shortfalls. The idea is to use some of our depots like Ilorin, Kaduna, Suleja and Port Harcourt to build up stocks," Ahmed stated.

## Dangote takes products to Enugu trade fair

By Sunday Williams

DANGOTE Industries Limited is set to take its new Kally Sparkling Soft Drink, Noodles and Spaghetti to the 21st Enugu International Trade Fair with a promise to offer excellent treats to visitors to its

stand, a statement said. The Fair which is scheduled to commence from March 19 until March 29, 2010 at Permanent Site, Trade Fair Complex, Enugu will witness Dangote exhibiting its numerous products ranging from Dangote Noodles, Kally Sparkling Soft Drinks, Dansa

Fruit Juice, Pasta (Spaghetti and Macaroni), Tin Tomatoes, Dangote water, Cement, Sugar, Salt, Beverages, Flour etc. In keeping with its brand promise which is touching lives every day, guests at the Dangote stand would be exposed to its new offerings - The Kally Sparkling

Soft Drinks and Dangote Noodles. The Kally drink is available in 4 flavours Guarana twist, Apple Bite, Cola thrill, and Red Orange while its brands of noodles comes in three variants namely; instant noodle, ready-to-eat and the snack. The Dangote Spaghetti has been

fortified with more vitamins and nutrients through a special process (ACTILEASE) which ensures complete absorption of these additions into the body system. This makes Dangote Spaghetti the only Spaghetti fortified with Actilease in Africa.

## Business/Finance

## Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Thursday, March 11, 2010

COMPANY Name	No of Deals	Quot. (N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)				
<b>2ND-TIER SECURITIES</b>								
ADSWITCH PLC	1	2.30	3,500	7,665.00	UTC NIGERIA PLC	10	0.72	55,762
CAPITAL OIL PLC	8	0.50	773,440	386,720.00	SECTOR TOTALS	771		20,773,962
SECTOR TOTALS	9		776,940	394,385.00	<b>HEALTHCARE</b>			
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>								
FTN COCOA PROCESSORS PLC	14	0.90	614,400	560,623.00	EVANS MEDICAL PLC	4	1.00	12,820
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	12	0.72	126,273	90,916.56	FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	25	2.34	780,418
OKTIPUPA OIL PALM PLC	1	6.53	1,000	6,210.00	GLAXOSMITHKLINE CONSUMER NIG. PLC	14	27.00	197,820
PRESCO PLC	15	5.10	880,325	4,523,550.75	MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC	13	5.05	164,628
SECTOR TOTALS	42		1,621,998	5,181,300.31	NEIMETH INTERPHARM. PLC	11	1.44	190,104
<b>AIR SERVICES</b>					PHARMA-DEKO PLC	1	4.97	6,400
NIG. AVIATION HANDLING COY. PLC	64	8.60	1,088,821	9,406,179.07	UNION DIAGNOSTIC & CLINICAL SERV. PLC	15	0.61	840,010
SECTOR TOTALS	66		1,141,521	9,543,199.07	SECTOR TOTALS	88		2,192,200
<b>AUTOMOBILE &amp; TYRE</b>					<b>HOTEL &amp; TOURISM</b>			
DNTYRE & RUBBER PLC	15	0.50	478,370	239,185.00	CAPITAL HOTEL PLC	13	3.53	2,197,086
R.T. BRISCOE (NIGERIA) PLC	28	5.50	571,014	3,112,265.60	IKEJA HOTEL PLC	1	1.36	50,000
SECTOR TOTALS	43		1,049,384	3,351,450.60	SECTOR TOTALS	14		2,247,086
<b>BANKING</b>					<b>INDUSTRIAL/DOMESTIC PRODUCTS</b>			
ACCESS BANK PLC	198	9.60	38,495,292	358,038,177.19	ALUMACO PLC	1	13.55	50,000
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	40	2.36	2,342,108	5,523,861.82	B.O.C. GASES NIGERIA PLC	7	10.37	7,214
DIAMOND BANK PLC	172	9.00	78,802,084	701,013,455.91	FIRST ALUMINIUM NIG. PLC	1	0.50	100,000
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	56	5.95	2,178,432	12,961,670.40	VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC	23	5.00	451,184
FIRST CITY MONUMENT BANK PLC	111	9.72	74,173,109	716,713,750.94	SECTOR TOTALS	32		608,398
FIDELITY BANK PLC	256	2.89	20,184,185	56,693,150.29	<b>INFORMATION &amp; COMM. TECH.</b>			
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	896	15.80	25,445,617	392,112,885.33	CHAMS PLC	28	0.70	3,163,679
FINBANK PLC	63	0.70	4,100,529	2,846,122.59	IHS NIGERIA PLC	2	4.03	200
GTBANK PLC	439	18.02	13,814,245	250,990,887.48	STARCOMMS PLC	20	1.96	1,031,694
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	98	9.01	10,114,901	92,153,794.24	SECTOR TOTALS	50		4,195,573
INTERCONTINENTAL BANK PLC	96	2.15	4,091,040	8,530,323.25	<b>INSURANCE</b>			
OCEANIC BANK INTERNATIONAL PLC	78	2.15	3,994,326	8,575,257.44	AFRICAN ALLIANCE INSUR. PLC	3	0.50	1,002,000
BANK PHB PLC	106	1.79	9,757,279	17,244,500.78	AIICO INSURANCE PLC	269	1.05	4,479,094
SKYE BANK PLC	182	7.19	12,060,854	87,666,807.62	CONTINENTAL REINSUR. PLC	9	0.95	670,000
SPRING BANK PLC	13	1.06	1,142,861	1,212,437.74	CORNERSTONE INSUR. CO. PLC	22	0.52	523,791
STERLING BANK PLC	75	1.86	8,347,126	15,588,601.31	CUSTODIAN & ALLIED INSUR. PLC	26	3.03	1,262,930
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC	316	13.45	34,930,677	472,971,604.07	EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC	3	0.50	23,500
UNION BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	179	6.20	3,745,675	22,691,365.10	GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	17	0.52	1,458,467
UNITY BANK PLC	27	1.01	1,270,330	1,310,464.69	GUARANTY TRUST ASSUR. PLC	25	2.20	3,774,350
WEMA BANK PLC	79	1.12	2,909,614	3,131,108.74	GUINEA INSURANCE PLC	1	0.50	100,000
ZENITH BANK PLC	325	16.19	12,541,654	202,708,413.64	CONSOLIDATED HALL MARK INSUR. PLC	1	0.50	10,000
SECTOR TOTALS	3,805		364,441,938	3,430,733,641.17	INTERNATIONAL ENERGY INSUR. COY. PLC	23	0.52	3,524,101
<b>BUILDING MATERIALS</b>					LASACO ASSURANCE PLC	36	0.52	2,714,604
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	59	16.30	959,315	15,431,256.73	LAW UNION & ROCK INSUR. PLC	6	0.50	1,633,000
BENUE CEMENT COMPANY PLC	52	55.98	503,905	27,171,277.01	LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	3	0.50	52,666
CEMENT CO. OF NORTHERN NIG. PLC	35	16.65	890,866	14,957,297.48	MUTUAL BENEFITS ASSUR. PLC	2	0.64	155,000
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	56	33.50	355,218	11,842,894.60	N.E.M. INSURANCE CO. (NIG.) PLC	32	0.51	4,944,030
SECTOR TOTALS	202		2,709,304	69,402,725.82	NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC	14	0.73	394,558
<b>CHEMICAL &amp; PAINTS</b>					PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC	4	3.10	130,000
BERGER PAINTS NIGERIA PLC	4	4.06	7,571	32,252.46	SOVEREIGN TRUST INSUR. PLC	2	0.50	201,212
CHEMICAL AND ALLIED PRODUCTS PLC	1	28.26	1,000	26,850.00	STACO INSURANCE PLC	2	0.76	28,700
DN MEYER PLC	6	3.24	130,328	415,062.72	STANDARD ALLIANCE INSUR. PLC	8	0.50	235,205
SECTOR TOTALS	11		138,899	474,165.18	UNIC INSURANCE PLC	15	0.69	1,096,000
<b>COMMERCIAL/SERVICES</b>					UNITY CAPITAL ASSURANCE PLC	2	0.79	250,000
RED STAR EXPRESS PLC	11	2.58	855,471	2,253,308.99	UNIVERSAL INSUR. COY. PLC	4	0.50	118,000
SECTOR TOTALS	11		855,471	2,253,308.99	INTERCONTINENTAL WAPCO INSUR. PLC	17	0.85	857,145
<b>COMPUTER &amp; OFFICE EQUIPMENT</b>					SECTOR TOTALS	546		29,638,353
NCR (NIGERIA) PLC	1	8.13	5,000	42,650.00	<b>LEASING</b>			
OMATEK VENTURES PLC	6	0.53	301,500	156,765.00	C&I LEASING PLC	16	2.75	478,540
TRIPPLE GEE & COMPANY PLC	2	4.37	107	445.12	SECTOR TOTALS	16		478,540
SECTOR TOTALS	9		306,607	199,860.12	<b>MARITIME</b>			
<b>CONGLOMERATES</b>					JAPPAUL OIL & MARITIME SERV. PLC	113	1.25	4,833,204
A.G. LEVENTIS (NIGERIA) PLC	5	3.00	107,601	330,614.84	SECTOR TOTALS	113		4,833,204
JOHN HOLT PLC	1	9.28	1,000	8,820.00	<b>MEDIA</b>			
PZ CUSSONS NIGERIA PLC	47	27.00	319,255	8,539,448.85	DAAR COMMUNICATIONS PLC	26	0.73	2,166,820
SCOA NIGERIA PLC	2	8.71	5,250	43,470.00	SECTOR TOTALS	26		2,166,820
TRANSNATIONAL CORP OF NIG. PLC	79	0.56	40,276,468	23,080,534.02	<b>MORTGAGE COMPANIES</b>			
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	69	45.50	758,211	34,394,884.88	ABBAY BUILDING SOCIETY PLC	1	1.61	2,000
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	105	25.02	3,651,012	91,440,347.14	ASO SAVINGS & LOAN PLC	3	0.67	62,300
SECTOR TOTALS	308		45,118,797	157,838,119.73	RESORT SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	1	0.50	25,000
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>					UNION HOMES SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	35	0.87	1,813,750
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	35	5.33	508,755	2,647,994.44	SECTOR TOTALS	40		1,903,050
JULIUS BERGER NIGERIA PLC	23	27.95	403,239	11,099,989.02	<b>OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS</b>			
MULTIVERSE RESOURCES PLC	5	0.50	174,000	87,000.00	CRUSADER NIGERIA PLC	18	0.95	2,364,573
SECTOR TOTALS	63		1,085,994	13,834,983.46	DEAP CAPITAL MANAGEMENT & TRUST PLC	2	2.02	35,000
<b>ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY</b>					ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC	1	0.59	12,928
CUTIX PLC	5	2.97	61,910	183,879.70	SECTOR TOTALS	21		2,412,501
NIGERIAN WIRE & CABLE PLC	2	0.69	210,000	144,900.00	<b>PACKAGING</b>			
SECTOR TOTALS	7		271,910	328,779.70	NIG. BAG MANUFACTURING COY. PLC	148	2.39	1,289,658
<b>FOOD/BEVERAGES &amp; TOBACCO</b>					BETA GLASS CO. PLC	60	13.00	2,289,360
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	21	30.60	86,686	2,785,221.18	POLY PRODUCTS (NIGERIA) PLC	1	4.23	500
BIGTREAT PLC	12	0.86	647,500	544,089.00	SECTOR TOTALS	209		3,579,518
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	118	17.50	2,225,784	37,391,785.23	<b>PETROLEUM (MARKETING)</b>			
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	211	13.92	6,294,183	86,592,319.74	AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC	104	43.11	715,369
DANGOTE SUGAR REFINERY PLC	115	17.10	2,259,566	39,139,689.35	BECO PETROLEUM PRODUCT PLC	3	2.09	51,600
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	100	48.00	1,098,537	52,868,826.35	MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC	19	69.79	62,190
HONEYWELL FLOUR MILL PLC	46	8.50	1,192,540	10,558,271.23	CONOIL PLC	33	39.00	331,541
P.S. MANDRIDES PLC	1	5.66	1,000	5,660.00	ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC	54	7.09	650,010
NATIONAL SALT COY. NIG. PLC	61	6.30	2,760,940	17,381,885.18	MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC	21	102.53	108,439
NIGERIAN BOTTLING COY. PLC	25	25.50	532,457	13,551,703.96	OANDO PLC	19	84.84	146,869
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	28	270.00	22,607	6,130,138.47	TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	14	142.50	5,977
NORTHERN NIG. FLOUR MILLS PLC	3	23.00	7,000	155,520.00	SECTOR TOTALS	267		2,071,995
TANTALIZERS PLC	20	0.91	3,589,400	3,178,972.00	<b>PRINTING &amp; PUBLISHING</b>			
					LONGMAN NIGERIA PLC	2	9.76	6,000
					UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC	17	5.85	261,171
					SECTOR TOTALS	19		267,171
					OVERALL TOTALS	7,083		509,501,952

## What is Halted Issue?

It is the temporary stoppage of trading of the listed securities of an issuer, which may be imposed by the exchange, its agent or voluntarily requested by the issuer.

Google.com

## GAINERS

BCC	2.64
NB	1.90
FLOURMILL	1.10
CADBURY	0.72

## LOSERS

OANDO	4.46
WAPCO	1.00
DANGSUGAR	0.72
ALUMACO	0.71

# THE HOME FRONT

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## What to know about whitlow

Akor Ojoma and Romoke Ahmad

A whitlow or felon is an infection of the tip of the finger. The terms are sometimes misapplied to paronychia, which is an infection of the tissue at the side or base of the nail. Whitlow could be referred to as herpetic or melanotic whitlow.

According to Dr Emeka Anene, The medical director of Jikwoyi Medical Centre. "Herpetic whitlow also called digital herpes simplex, finger herpes, or hand herpes—is a painful viral infection occurring on the fingers or around the fingernails. Herpetic whitlow is caused by infection with the herpes simplex virus (HSV). Infections with HSV are very contagious and are easily spread by direct contact with infected skin lesions."

**Types**

There are 2 types of HSV:

Herpes simplex virus type 1 (HSV-1) infections usually occur around the mouth, lips, nose, or face however, it can sometimes cause infections in the genitals or buttocks.

Herpes simplex virus type 2 (HSV-2). These infections usually involve the genitals or buttocks but can occasionally cause infections around the mouth, lips, nose, or face. Both types of HSV produce 2 kinds of infections: primary and recurrent. Because it is so contagious, the herpes simplex virus causes a primary infection in most people who are exposed to the virus. However, only about 20% of people who have a primary infection with the herpes simplex virus actually develop visible blisters or sores. Appearing 2–20 days after a person's first exposure to HSV, the sores of a primary infection lasts about 1–3 weeks. These sores heal completely, rarely leaving a scar. Nevertheless, the virus remains in the body, hibernating in nerve cells.

**Causes**

People develop herpetic whitlow when they come into contact with areas already infected with HSV, either on their own bodies or on someone else's body. Usually, there is a break in the skin, especially a torn cuticle at the base of the fingernail, which allows the virus to enter the finger tissue and establish an infection. HSV-1 causes approximately 60% of herpetic whitlow infections, while HSV-2 causes the remaining 40%.

**Those at risk**

Herpetic whitlow can affect people of all ages, of all races, and of both sexes. However, it is more common in children and in dental and medical workers. Children



often contract herpetic whitlow as a result of thumb- or finger-sucking when they have a herpes infection of the lips or mouth. Dental and medical workers may contract herpetic whitlow by touching the contagious lesions of a patient with herpes simplex virus infection. In these groups of people—children and health care workers—herpetic whitlow is most commonly caused by HSV-1. In everyone else, herpetic whitlow is usually caused by infection with HSV-2.

**Symptoms**

The most common locations for herpetic whitlow include: thumb, index finger and other fingers. Approximately 2–20 days after initial exposure to the herpes simplex virus, the infected area develops burning, tingling, and pain. Over the next week or 2, the finger becomes red and swollen. Small (1–3 mm) fluid-filled blisters develop, often clustered together on a bright red base. The blisters usually rupture and scab over, leading to complete healing after an additional 2 weeks. Other

symptoms occasionally associated with the primary infection of herpetic whitlow include: Fever, red streaks radiating from the finger, swollen lymph nodes in the elbow or underarm area. People with recurrent HSV infections may report that the skin lesions are preceded by sensations of burning, itching, or tingling. About 24 hours after the tingling symptoms begin, the actual lesions appear as one or more small blisters, which eventually open up and become scabbed over.

**Diagnosis**

Most herpes simplex virus infections are easy for physicians to diagnose. However, a swab from the infected skin may be sent to the laboratory for viral culture, which takes a few days to grow. Blood tests may also be performed.

**Prevention**

Because herpes simplex virus infections are very contagious, it is important to take the following steps to prevent spread of the virus during the prodrome phase (burning, tingling, or itching) and

active phase (presence of blisters or sores) of herpetic whitlow: Avoid sharing towels and other personal care items, cover the affected finger with a bandage, wear gloves if you are a health care provider and don't pop any blisters—it may make the condition worse.

**Treatment**

Acetaminophen or ibuprofen may help reduce fever and pain caused by the herpes simplex virus sores. Dr Emeka Anene said applying cool compresses or ice packs may also relieve some of the swelling and discomfort. Untreated HSV infections will go away on their own, but medications can reduce the symptoms and shorten the duration of outbreaks. Your physician may prescribe antiviral medications in order to help relieve symptoms and to prevent spread of the infection to other people like acyclovir pills, valacyclovir pills, famciclovir pills, and topical acyclovir ointment. More severe herpetic whitlow may require oral antibiotic pills if the area(s) are also infected with bacteria.



Remote controlled: 'Our brains have not evolved to learn from machines,' says Jean Gross, an education psychologist. 'Babies are primed to respond to a face'

## Why DVDs are no way to nurture a baby

By Jo Clarke

**I**N my as-yet-unwritten but splenetic parenting book, there are few sights more insufferable than the middle classes treating their babies as though they were proper human beings. The tinier the infant, the more adult the conversation. The husband of a friend insists on matter-of-factly addressing their son as though he were a colleague from the Frankfurt office, rather than a head-lolling six-week-old who spends most of the day asleep. To wit: "I'm probably going to be late home from work after my 5pm conference call, so I'll catch up with you in the morning."

Another acquaintance proudly props up her four-month-old daughter in front of Baby Einstein DVDs for hours on end, as the dribbling tot apparently "adores it" and it's "so educational".

No wonder slackers like me, whose idea of nurturing is rolling around the floor playing the tickling hand game in a silly voice, have been made to feel like philistines in polite circles – up until now.

New research has shown that toddlers shown "educational" DVDs – popular with pushy parents keen to give their toddlers a head start – actually have worse vocabularies than children who didn't. Far from boosting IQ, they appear to hamper learning, according to a team from California University who carried out a study of almost 100 one- and two-year-olds, using an £18 DVD from the Baby Einstein range.

Face-to-face time with parents appears to be far more

stimulating, a view recently echoed by the Jean Gross, an educational psychologist and the government's first "communication champion", who admitted that middle class children are struggling to communicate because working parents are unable to spend enough quality time with them, read them bedtime stories or eat meals with them. "Our brains have not evolved to learn from machines; babies are primed to respond to a face," says Gross.

According to speech and behavioural expert Sioban Boyce, the middle class preoccupation with hothousing and speaking to little children as though they were adults is not simply a bit pretentious, but downright harmful.

"Increasing numbers of parents are deciding not to 'babify' their babies, which is just as contradictory as it sounds, and is storing up trouble for the future," says Boyce, a former NHS speech and language therapist and author of *Not Just Talking* (£9.99, [www.notjusttalking.co.uk](http://www.notjusttalking.co.uk)), a parent's guide to helping babies communicate from the moment they are born.

"Addressing little children like grown-ups is a very bad idea that can have long term consequences on their ability to communicate properly as they get older. They might be fine academically, but they will find it hard to maintain friendships and can become either very introverted or frustrated, and even aggressive." There are sound scientific reasons why we're programmed to speak to our babies in exaggerated intonation pattern known as motherese. Ironically, this way of verbalisation is the only way they can learn to recognise and understand non-verbal communication, which accounts for between 60 per cent and 90 per cent of any conversation.

"By understanding big expressions, where we elongate vowels, make noises and adopt a sing-song tone, babies learn to 'read' our faces and body language and understand what we are trying to convey, whether that's excitement or anticipation or sadness or anger," says Boyce, herself the mother of three boys.

In adult interactions, or on television, the social signals are so subtle that a child can't read them. Without this foundation, he or she will go on to have great difficulty being able to interpret the unspoken cues we take for granted, which can be as diverse as a frown of disapproval or an interested nod.

Shared meals enable babies and children to see parents communicating with one another, and to discover that we talk to different people in different ways. Problems may go unnoticed, however, until the child is older, when their social skills will be out of synch with their peers, which may lead to their isolation in the playground.

"We've all encountered the highly articulate nine or ten-year-old who just opens his mouth and speaks exhaustively, without letting anyone else have a word in or being receptive to the reactions of the listener," says Boyce. "In some cases, the child may be diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome or even autism, when in fact, all they need is to be taught the very basics of non-verbal communication."

A DVD, no matter how "fun and stimulating", is no substitute for one-to-one interaction. "Babies are fascinated by faces," says Boyce, "and if they don't discover early on that we need to look at people's faces in order to properly understand what they are saying, then acquiring language is like trying to learn Chinese from the radio."

Culled from [telegraph.co.uk](http://telegraph.co.uk)

### Guest columnist

## 'Sponsoring' marriage for jobless men and the rate of divorce

By Aisha Ahmed Shehu

I am a northern woman and I came across your write up which was about some parents who did everything financial for their sons' marriage even though the sons are jobless and can't take care of a family.

It is very disheartening and sad for one to hear how we have young ladies all over this region who fall victims of failed marriages. I don't blame the men for doing such, if a person is being spoon fed to get married what else does one expect of the outcome?

The typical northern culture will marry a wife for the son especially the first marriage which the Hausa call "auren gata". Here, the parents more or less do everything for the son. The entire family, relatives and friends contribute and whatever they can; at times they are asked to bring specific things or money so as to buy all the necessary things needed for the marriage rites. Most times a house will also be given to the boy in addition.

Being a boy who is privileged to have all these at his finger tips, he can get married today and divorce the next day; what else do you expect of someone who has not suffered for anything and has played no major role besides asking the lady out. The most surprising and annoying part is if he divorces the woman and wishes to get married for the second time, these same set of people still come together and marry another wife for him.

As for the girl's parents one will be surprised how

**“In the typical Ibo culture a man must build a house of his own before he can even think of getting married. In that part of the country a boy makes himself a man and not the other way round**

they give out their daughters to men who don't even have a job, but just because he is the son of one rich man or the suitcases brought for the wedding are expensive he become the right candidate. Sometimes they will tell you the boy is from a well known family or rather respected family, so that qualifies him as eligible enough. What of the up keep of your daughter, the welfare and the maturity of the boy in question?

One may wonder why it is not so in the southern and western part of the country. The answer is simple, a boy has to be matured enough and self reliant to marry a girl, most times what the parents do is to help partake in the introduction as a sign of respect and as custom demands. In the typical Ibo culture a man must build a house of his own before he can even think of getting married. In that part of the country a boy makes himself a man and not the other way round. You have to prove to the world that you are man enough.

Why can't parents educate their children, especially the male child to be self reliant and be a man rather than making him a man?

Divorce by our religious book is what God really frowns at, then why do we go ahead and do it?

Aisha contributes from Abuja.

**“The typical northern culture will marry a wife for the son especially the first marriage which the Hausa call "auren gata"**

# Health interactive

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

## Advice by Dr Aminu Magashi

### What is spina bifida?

**Please I need more explanation about Spina bifida. What are the causes and how can it be prevented? I lost a child as a result of that problem.**

BM

Spina bifida is a birth defect. It occurs when the bones of the spine (vertebrae) do not form properly around part of the baby's spinal cord. It can affect how the skin on the back looks. And in severe cases, it can make walking or daily activities hard to do without help.

The disease can be mild or severe.

The mild form is the more common form. It usually does not cause problems or need treatment.

The severe forms are less common. There are two types:

1. **Meningocele.** Fluid leaks out of the spine and pushes against the skin. You may see a bulge in the skin. In many cases, there are no other symptoms.

2. **Myelomeningocele.** Although this is the most rare and severe form of spina bifida, it is the form most people mean when they say "spina bifida."

Part of the spinal nerves push out of the spinal canal, and you may see a bulge in the skin. The nerves are often damaged, which can cause problems with walking, bladder or bowel control, and coordination. In some babies, the skin is open and the nerves are exposed.

**What causes spina bifida?**

The exact cause of this birth defect is not known. Experts think that genes and the environment are part of the cause. For example, women who have had one child with spina bifida are more likely to have another child with the disease.

**What are the symptoms?**

Your child's symptoms will depend on how severe the defect is. With a mild defect, your child may have no symptoms or problems. Or your child might have a dimple, a birthmark, or a hairy patch on his or her back.

In severe cases, you may see nerves coming out of your child's back or swelling on the spine. A child with a severe defect may have nerve damage that affects daily living. The child may have little or no feeling in the legs, feet, or arms. And he or she may not be able to move those parts of the body.

Children with severe defects are sometimes born with fluid buildup in the brain (hydrocephalus). They may also have this problem after birth. It can cause seizures, mental retardation, or sight problems. Some children also get a curve in the spine, such as scoliosis.



A pregnant woman can have a blood test and a fetal ultrasound to check for spina bifida and other problems with the fetus.

If test results suggest a birth defect, she can choose to have an amniocentesis, a test that helps confirm if spina bifida exists. But this test also has risks, such as a chance of miscarriage.

After birth, doctors can tell if a baby has spina bifida from the way the baby's back looks. The doctor may do an Xray, or a CT scan to see if the defect is mild or severe.

Treatment depends on how severe the defect is. Most children with spina bifida have only a mild defect and may not need treatment. But a child with a severe defect may need surgery.

### What is Vaginal Prolapse?

**I used to notice a small bulge in my vagina from time to time. I visited a doctor who said I suffer from vaginal prolapse. I am scared and don't want any operation. Please enlighten me about it.**

Laraba U

The network of muscles, ligaments, and skin in and around

a woman's vagina acts as a complex support structure that holds pelvic organs, tissues, and structures in place.

A vaginal prolapse is a condition in which structures such as the uterus, rectum, bladder, urethra, small bowel, or the vagina itself may begin to prolapse, or fall, out of their normal positions.

*The following are types of vaginal prolapse:*

1. **Rectocele** (prolapse of the rectum) - This type of vaginal prolapse involves a prolapse of the back wall of the vagina (rectovaginal fascia). When this wall weakens, the rectal wall pushes against the vaginal wall, creating a bulge.

2. **Cystocele** (prolapse of the bladder, bladder drop) - This can occur when the front wall of the vagina (pubocervical fascia) prolapses. As a result, the bladder may prolapse into the vagina. When this condition occurs, the urethra usually prolapses as well. A urethral prolapse is also called a urethrocele. When both the bladder and urethra prolapse, this condition is known as a cystourethrocele.

3. **Enterocoele** (herniated small bowel) - The weakening of the upper vaginal supports can cause this type of vaginal

prolapse. An enterocele results when the front and back walls of the vagina separate, allowing the intestines to push against the vaginal skin.

4. **Prolapsed uterus** (womb) - This involves a weakening of a group of ligaments called the uterosacral ligaments at the top of the vagina. This causes the uterus to fall.

(A) **First-degree prolapse:** The uterus droops into the upper portion of the vagina.

(B) **Second-degree prolapse:** The uterus falls into the lower part of the vagina.

(C) **Third-degree prolapse:** The cervix, which is located at the bottom of the uterus, sags to the vaginal opening and may protrude outside the body. This condition is also called procidentia, or complete prolapse.

(D) **Fourth-degree prolapse:** The entire uterus protrudes entirely outside the vagina. This condition is also called procidentia, or complete prolapse.

5. **Vaginal vault prolapse** - This type of prolapse may occur following a hysterectomy, which involves the removal of the uterus.

Common factors that may cause a vaginal prolapse include the following:

- **Childbirth** (especially multiple births): Long, difficult

labors and large babies are especially stressful to these structures.

- **Menopause:** Estrogen is a hormone that helps to keep the muscles and tissues of the pelvic support structure strong. After menopause, the estrogen level decreases; this means that the support structures may weaken.

- **Hysterectomy:** involves removing the uterus. Without the uterus, the top of the vagina may gradually fall toward the vaginal opening.

Other risk factors of a vaginal prolapse include the following:

- **Advanced age, obesity, dysfunction of the nerves and tissues, abnormalities of the connective tissue, strenuous physical activity and prior pelvic surgery**

**Vaginal Prolapse Symptoms**

The symptoms associated with a vaginal prolapse depend on the type of vaginal prolapse present.

The following are general symptoms of all types of vaginal prolapse:

1. Pressure in the vagina or pelvis
2. Painful intercourse (dyspareunia)
3. A lump at the opening of the vagina
4. A decrease in pain or pressure when the woman lies down
5. Recurrent urinary tract infections

The following are symptoms that are specific to certain types of vaginal prolapse:

1. **Difficulty emptying bowel** - This may be indicative of an enterocele, vaginal vault prolapse, or prolapsed uterus.

2. **Difficulty emptying bladder** - This may be indicative of a cystocele, urethrocele, enterocele, vaginal vault prolapse, or prolapsed uterus.

3. **Constipation** - This is the most common symptom of a rectocele.

4. **Urinary stress incontinence** - This is a common symptom of a cystocele.

5. **Pain that increases during long periods of standing** - This may be indicative of an enterocele, vaginal vault prolapse, or prolapsed uterus.

Some women who develop a vaginal prolapse do not experience symptoms.

Any woman who experiences symptoms that may indicate a vaginal prolapse should contact her doctor. A vaginal prolapse is rarely a life-threatening condition. However, most prolapses gradually worsen and can only be corrected with intravaginal pessaries or surgery. Thus, timely medical care is recommended to evaluate for and to prevent problematic symptoms and complications caused by weakening tissue and muscle in the vagina.

# Financial infidelity: Bane of most marriages

By Akor Ojoma and Tosin Omoniye

**F**INANCIAL infidelity has become prominent on the list of reasons why couples get divorced these days, dwarfed only by extra marital affairs and alcohol and other substance abuse. This is due to the fact that several couples find it difficult to discuss money issues with one another.

ACCORDING to an Abuja based financial expert, Dotun Adetoun, the issue is further worsened in the country by the inability of couples especially newly married ones to trust one another on how they earn and spend money. "Not many Nigerian couples are transparent with their partners when it comes to issues like how much they earn at their places of work or what other financial revenue comes into their purses on a daily basis. It is a brick wall that militates against successful marriages today," he said.

An online source, ehow said one of the reasons for this barrier is the fact that money is a tangible item and is also limited, yet it has deep emotional connotations for most people. "Money is more than a means to an end; for many, it brings emotional security, stability, and defines their sense of self-worth. Does one spouse make more than the other? Males are accustomed to making more than females, yet increasingly, this trend is reversing. Women are bringing higher incomes home and some males may feel threatened by it or even resent it. This dimension is but one example of why it is critical that couples address financial issues early and often."

On the relatively unknown term, 'financial infidelity' it adds inter alia: 'financial infidelity is a relatively new phrase that researchers use to describe how couples use money to betray one another during the course of the relationship. Much like sexual infidelity indicates a betrayal of basic sexual trust, couples who engage in financial infidelity are unable to trust or feel betrayed by the other person's use of the marital assets. In order to avoid the fallout of these trust issues, couples need to begin the conversation of how household assets should be saved or spent. It may mean the difference between a healthy relationship and a search for a divorce attorney.'

A marriage counselor with one of the parishes in the Redeemed Christian Church of God, RCCG, Mrs Helen Imasuen asserts that except couples are willing to tackle financial issues with all sense of responsibility it is capable of upturning any accomplishments they may have recorded in their union. She adds that from her experience in marriage counseling and soon to be wedded couples, financial infidelity accounts for a major reason why most marriages hit the rocks in Nigeria today. She said: "Whenever I counsel intending couples, I always make sure I enumerate to them the challenges they are likely to face whenever they eventually get wedded. Financial infidelity is one of such challenges I emphasize to them because it is a major reason for break ups today. It is appalling that most partners do not get to know the income of their partners even many years after the marriage contract is sealed. I know of a man who always gives instructions to his financial partners that



whenever they come to deliver any financial document or package to his home and he is not there they should never give such to any other person in his household even his wife. Is that not absurd?"

The National Marriage Project at the University of Virginia United States of America makes in-depth researches on issues related to marriage and financial issues in addition to other areas that impact relationships. One of the most recent publications focuses on the amount of debt one or more persons in the marriage carries in such relationships which if not properly handled may ultimately lead to divorce. Even though it accepts the fact that there are many other underlying factors that may lead to a couple's decision to divorce, one thing is obvious and that is couples with financial stress who are not communicating about such issues are headed for trouble. That is why communication especially on money matters is key to the sustenance of marriage institutions.

Sadly most couples today are unaware of the importance of communication in terms of financial issues. Couples ought to acknowledge the importance of financial issues to the marriage. It is not uncommon in marriage for one person to assume full responsibility for managing funds. Sometimes it is the person who earns the

most money and other times it may be the person who has primary responsibility of maintaining the household. Whatever the arrangement, both persons need to know how much income is available, where assets are located and how much money is needed each month for expenses.

It is also extremely important to know how much debt is owed. Even if the payments each month don't pay down much on the debt, knowing just how much is owed on the house or the student loan is an important piece of information that both individuals need to know. Secrecy on financial issues creates a formidable stumbling block to happy homes.

The following steps have been identified by the online utility site which it says is vital for the survival of marriages irrespective of culture. Talk about what finances mean other than being able to make ends meet. For example, maybe the husband grew up in extreme poverty and being able to spend money seems extravagant. He may adopt the approach that they need to save every extra dime in order to avoid falling back into poverty. His wife, though, may not share this viewpoint and feels that money should be enjoyed. She may spend money secretly on purchases he would never approve simply because she feels she has to deny herself nice things.

If this couple refuse to talk about what money means to each of them and why spending or saving is important, they may find themselves at odds far too often over how they should use their income. Eventually, the marriage will be in serious trouble if they cannot come to terms with their approach to either saving or spending.

Evaluating financial priorities is very essential. Much like taking the step to openly communicate and focus on what money means to each as an individual, this should be done with both persons. Is it important to pay credit cards in full each month? What about saving money for a new home or vehicle? Will they purchase new or used vehicles and what type of financing is an option? Openly approaching these questions and others will help the relationship thrive when thinking about where the future finances should be spent or saved. Plus, if both can agree on an approach to saving or spending, it will make it easier to have both of them "buy into" the same vision for the future.

Couples are also enjoined to aim for at least partially combined finances. Since couples are marrying at later and later ages and bringing assets and debt to the marriage at the beginning, it may seem plausible to keep everything separate. This line of thinking, however, does not take into account debt that is incurred after they are married. For instance in the US most states will deem both individuals liable for debt incurred after marriage, and in the event of divorce, both may resent having to share the debt that they do not feel responsible for. Other households may never have separate accounts and may share everything. It makes it more difficult in these marriages for someone to have an individual identity and feel free to spend money only for themselves. Couples who report the highest level of happiness in their marriage have mingled some portion of their finances. The most common method is through the establishment of a joint account. While each of them may have a separate account, a joint account allows them the ability to pay monthly bills related to the marriage like house payments, utilities, entertainment expenses, etc.

The site however concludes: seek outside counsel if you are unable to work through it on your own. A marriage and family therapist can help, but there are also financial counselors that can help open the lines of communication. While a marriage and family therapist may not have in-depth knowledge of financial issues; however, he or she can look at the underlying issues to why couples may not be able to talk about money. An impartial outsider can shed new light on a situation that may have otherwise seemed impossible.

From whichever side of the coin one may wish to view it, it is obvious that spouses who take each other into confidence on issues of finance have an invaluable balm which is capable of sealing any budding problem in their marital union. And as a 47 year old business woman and mother of three, Mrs Judith Ufon, who said that money has never caused crisis in her 24 years of marriage aptly asserts, 'money ought to be a slave in marriages not a boss. It is meant to be used to cement the marriage and not to destroy it.'

# Make a statement with scarves

By Ogechi Ohalee

**L**OOKING fabulous is always exciting especially when it comes to making a fashion statement. Lately, the scarf has become one item everyone wants to have in their wardrobe. With it, you add a hint of chic to your looks, whether it is traditional attire, a corporate outfit, casuals or an evening dress.

There are no particular seasons or occasions where scarves can be used exclusively. As long as it compliments your style and accentuates your look, go for it. Women's scarves are one of today's hottest accessory essentials. For a simple piece of material, a scarf can whip up a fashion trend with a few simple knots.

A nice piece of scarf holds the power of making you stand out. With a scarf, you can transform a simple or plain attire to a classy and elegant look. Short scarves can be worn around your neck, as a head cover or headband or even as a ponytail wrap.

The materials and designs for scarves are unlimited; all you need to do is make a choice. Sometimes choosing just the right one to wear can seem challenging, but the perfect scarf for any occasion is waiting in your closet, your local markets or on a boutique shelf.



# DIGEST

## Eating breakfast and fatty diet during early pregnancy increases chances of having a boy

WHAT women eat while they are in the early stages of pregnancy influences the sex and health of their unborn baby, new research suggests.

Women who eat a full breakfast and a high fat diet at the time of conception are more likely to have a boy, scientists claim.

A low fat diet with periods of long fasts favours girls, the researchers have found.

The findings seem to give some credence to old wives' tales such as eat "bacon for boys".

Dr Cheryl Rosenfeld, of the University of Missouri, and colleagues said: "High calorie diets generally favour birth of males over females, whereas low calorie diets tend to favour females over males.

"In humans and mice, food restriction and a suboptimal diet during the period around conception and early pregnancy also lead to a surfeit of daughters, most probably due to selective loss of male foetuses, the most vulnerable sex in the womb."

Researchers analysed the genes in placentas of pregnant mice fed diets high in fat or carbohydrates and low calorie diets and found each one had a distinctive effect compared with a third group given normal soybean meal-based food.

As well as the changes in sex, female foetuses were more sensitive to their mother's diet and their genes were more likely to be affected or altered, it was found.

After 12 days – just over half the animals' pregnancy term – there were differences in almost 2,000 genes including those involved in kidney function and smell.

They concluded gene expression in the mouse placenta is "adaptive and shaped by maternal diet" with the biggest effect on the placentas of females.

The research, published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, follows a study two years ago that found a woman's diet around the time of conception



EATING a high-fat diet around conception increases the odds of giving birth to a boy, while low fat consumption with periods of long fasts favours girls

may influence the gender of her baby.

A high-calorie diet at this time – and regular breakfasts – might increase the odds of a boy while women with a lower energy intake were likelier to give birth to a girl.

The research shows a higher calorie intake around the time of conception can shift the odds of having a son from ten to 11 boys in every 20 births.

Sons and daughters are also at different risk for diseases later in life, apparently related to either the mother's diet or body condition while pregnant.

For instance, sons of obese mothers are more likely than daughters to become obese and develop diabetes as they get older, even though no differences in birth weight may be evident.

The researchers added: "The reason why a maternal high fat, low carbohydrate diet favours survival of sons and a maternal low fat, high carbohydrate diet results in more daughters continues to elude us.

"The effect was such that the more women ate the more likely she was to have a boy.

"Women who had sons were also more likely to have eaten a higher quantity and wider range of nutrients including potassium, calcium and vitamins C, E and B12. They were also more likely to have eaten breakfast cereals."

There has been a small but consistent decline of about one per 1,000 births annually in the proportion of boys being born in industrialised countries, including the UK, over the last 40 years.

It could be because women have been consuming low fat foods and skipping breakfast, among other things.



WOMEN are significantly better at managing the family finances than men

## Women are better in managing family finances

HISTORICALLY, it has always been a male responsibility, but according to a new survey, women are significantly better at managing the family finances.

Unlike men, who will regularly turn a blind eye, women are better at budgeting and keeping track of their spending.

They are also less likely to build up debt, ignore mounting debts, pay bills late or forget to pay them altogether.

Women will also make more of an attempt to chip away at a debt while men prefer to make minimum payments.

The study of 3,000 people, revealed that the average man has a credit card debt of £2,176, com-

pared with women, who owe an average of £1,987.

A quarter of men admitted to regularly paying their credit card bills late, or even forgetting them altogether, while just 17 per cent of women did the same.

But the difference between the sexes was not just limited to debt. Researchers found that women are generally better at keeping track of their spending as well.

Over 57 per cent of women know exactly what the family has to spend each month and when bills need to be paid, while 54 per cent of men said the same.

One in 20 men admitted that they had absolutely no idea about the family finances, always overspend and forget to pay bills.

Ed Bowsher, of *lovemoney.com*, which conducted the survey, said: 'It's

sad to see that both sexes are carrying so much debt on their credit cards.

'The best way to reduce your debt is to budget carefully and monitor your spending on a regular basis.'

**“The best way to reduce your debt is to budget carefully and monitor your spending on a regular basis**

### Sign Language



Warning to those with heart condition. Don't mind the poor translation  
Photo location: Miyajima Island, Japan, by Vic McInman  
Culled from telegraph.co.uk

## EASY CROSSWORDS

9

**ACROSS**

1. Malcolm - Warner
6. 1975 Spielberg classic
10. Office shape on *The West Wing*
14. Unlike *Frasier* Buelier's parents?
15. Send to the cutting-room floor
16. Peter Pan pouch
17. *ER* character: 2 wds.
19. Common subjects on *The Travel Channel*
20. *Right* - Shia LaBeouf action flick
21. *Floozie and Jesse* in *The Little Mermaid*
22. Make contact, like E.T.
24. *Weeks* character
25. *Crotchety Tiger*, *Hidden Dragon* setting
26. *Childs* part, in *Marge*
29. *Cold Comfort Farm* mystery
30. Doctor from *Callie*
33. Anthony Quinn costar Irene
34. *Cheers* barmaid
35. - *I Met Your Mother*
36. - *Brooklyn*
37. Niles's ex on *Prayer*
38. *One - Day*, Clooney romance
39. Drink served by 34-Across
40. *60 Minutes* cohost Morley
41. *Bring It On* stick
42. *Casper* gal
43. - *Max*, 2006 blockbuster
44. *SNL* funnyman Seth

**DOWN**

1. *The Silence of the Lambs* killer Gumb
2. - from *Her*, Julie Christie character
3. *Sealab 2021*'s team
4. *Find* for Indiana Jones
5. - of the *Fall*
6. *Fisher of Kings*
7. *General Hospital* actress Rachel
8. - *Ben Stiller's Money*
9. *Resurrected* surname
10. *The - Field*, 1979 true-crime feature
11. *Sajak's* costar: 2 wds.
12. *Pathway of Rachel Getting Married*

45. 1984 *Conan* Davis film

47. *Eddie and the Cruisers* leading man Michael

48. - *Elle* *Me*, teen soap

50. - *Your Question*, Johnny Carson quiz show

51. *Agent on Law & Order*, for short

54. Jodie Foster drama

55. TV's *Lurch*: 2 wds.

58. *Master Ed* gait

59. *Saving Private Ryan* vehicle

60. Spooky, as *Lost* airplane

61. Like *antennae* in *The Biggest Loser*, at times

62. The History Channel divisions

63. *A Boy - Charlie Brown*

38. Oscar winner Dunaway

40. *The Seventh* - , Demi Moore feature

41. *Corbin of LA Law*

44. *24* actress Kate

46. Nick of *Tropic Thunder*

47. Groups seen on *Animal Planet*

48. *A Bug's Life* extras?

49. *Rome* emperor

50. Mrs. *Overstays on The Facts of Life*

51. *The -*, 1998 Tom Cruise smash

52. *Nurse Jackie* star Falco

53. Adjective for *Tron*'s do in *Genie*

56. *Razed* item in *Field of Dreams*

57. 20,000 *Leagues Under the -*

39. *Girl in Bronze*

39. 1981 Warren Beatty epic

39. - and *Seek*, De Niro thriller

39. *Alda of M\*A\*S\*H*

39. *The -*, John McEnroe's game show

39. - *Barely*, 1932 Buster Keaton movie

39. See 34-Across

39. *Man Howard* role: 2 wds.

39. *Elle Macpherson* played one

39. *Made of -*, *Company* picture

39. *Bark of Her How*

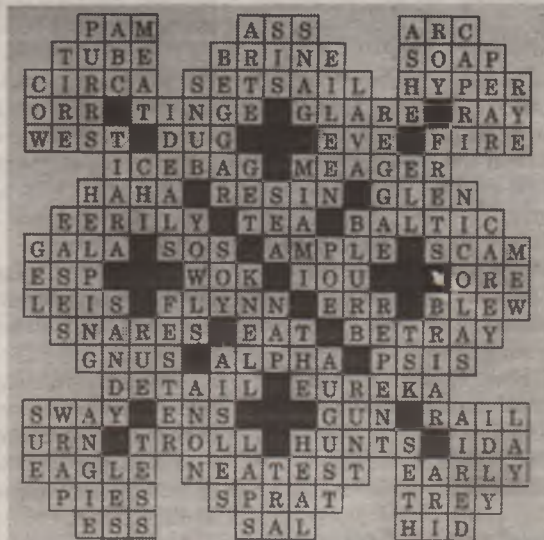
39. *Spider-Man* villain portrayer

39. *Harley* of TV

39. *Harley* of TV

### Solution to Easy Crosswords

8



# 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.

105

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

### Solution to Sudoku 104

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

## News Extra

# Nigerian illegal immigrant worked at House of Lords for six months

## ...After using fake passport to get kitchen job



FATOYINBO was able to work for six months in the House of Lords after using a fake passport

**A**n illegal immigrant worked for six months serving lunch at House of Lords after using a fake passport to get the job, a court heard today.

Nigerian Modupeola Fatoyinbo, 41, was employed as a casual catering assistant in the Palace of Westminster.

When she was invited to apply for a permanent job she produced a fake passport, Southwark Crown Court heard.

Prosecutor Peter Zinner said the defendant had been able to find work at the Houses of Parliament with ease.

He said: 'It seems that for a number of months, probably about six, Mrs Fatoyinbo had been working as a casual worker in the catering department at the House of Lords in the

Palace of Westminster.

'To gain access to the relevant department, she had been issued with a visitor's pass, and she would be met by a member of catering staff, who would escort her to the department.

'The result of this was that she was working in a secure area without being security checked.'

When Fatoyinbo was eventually invited to apply for the role formally, she produced a fake Nigerian passport.

Mr Zinner said: 'It was found to be a false, counterfeit document, containing a counterfeit Home Office leave to remain in the UK and permission to do work.'

Fatoyinbo was arrested and admitted she knew the passport was fake, telling police that she had bought it for £170 from a friend.

Home Office records sub-

**“The court heard Fatoyinbo, has lived in the UK for 16 years without any right to do so.**

sequently showed that she had legally arrived in the UK in 2000, and had applied to stay in the

country on the grounds of long residence, but that application was refused in May 2006.

Mr Zinner added that there was no 'sinister' motive for Fatoyinbo having worked in Parliament.

Jailing Fatoyinbo for four months, Judge Andrew Goymer told her: 'These are serious offences, which undermine confidence in the management and identity control systems of this country.'

'People must expect to go to prison for such offences.'

'I bear in mind that you are of previous good character, and have two young children.'

'I have also been told that you pose no security or terrorist threat, and as far as I'm aware, you did not present a security risk to the Palace of Westminster.'

The court heard Fatoyinbo, has lived in the UK for 16 years

without any right to do so.

Victor Onipede, defending, said she is currently seeking asylum and claims her two young daughters will apparently face forcible female circumcision if she has to return to Nigeria.

He said that although she accepts having worked illegally since arriving in this country, she has never claimed benefits and is not a burden on the state.

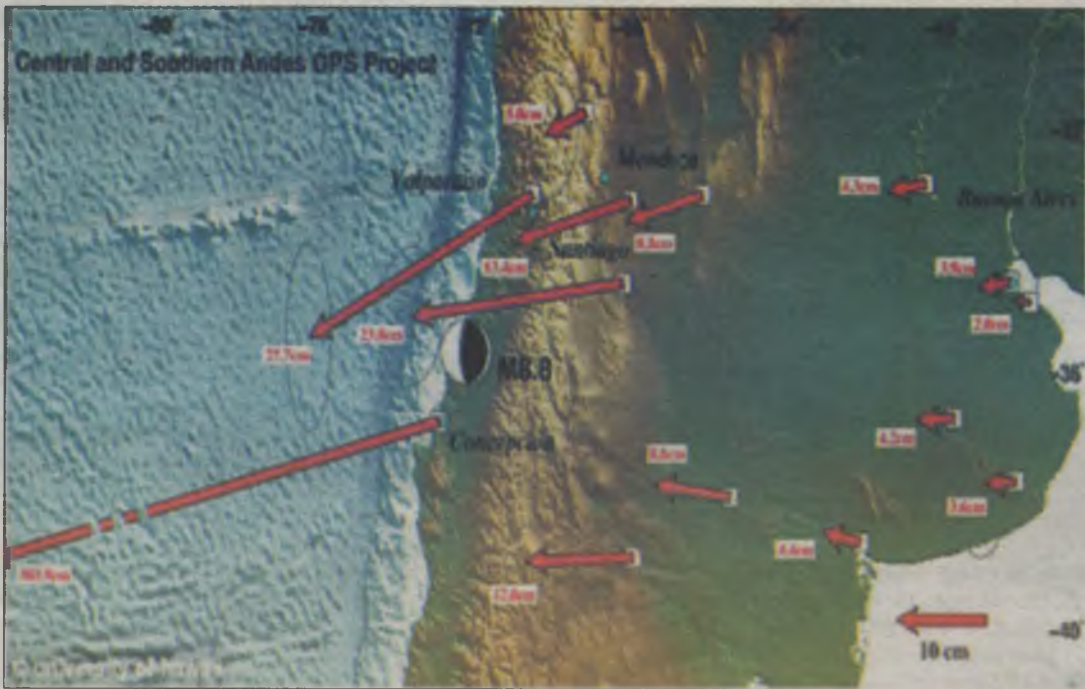
**M**r Onipede added that 'financial pressure' had driven Fatoyinbo to offend, and that she was 'very remorseful and sorry' for what she had done.

The judge made no deportation recommendation because of the ongoing asylum application.

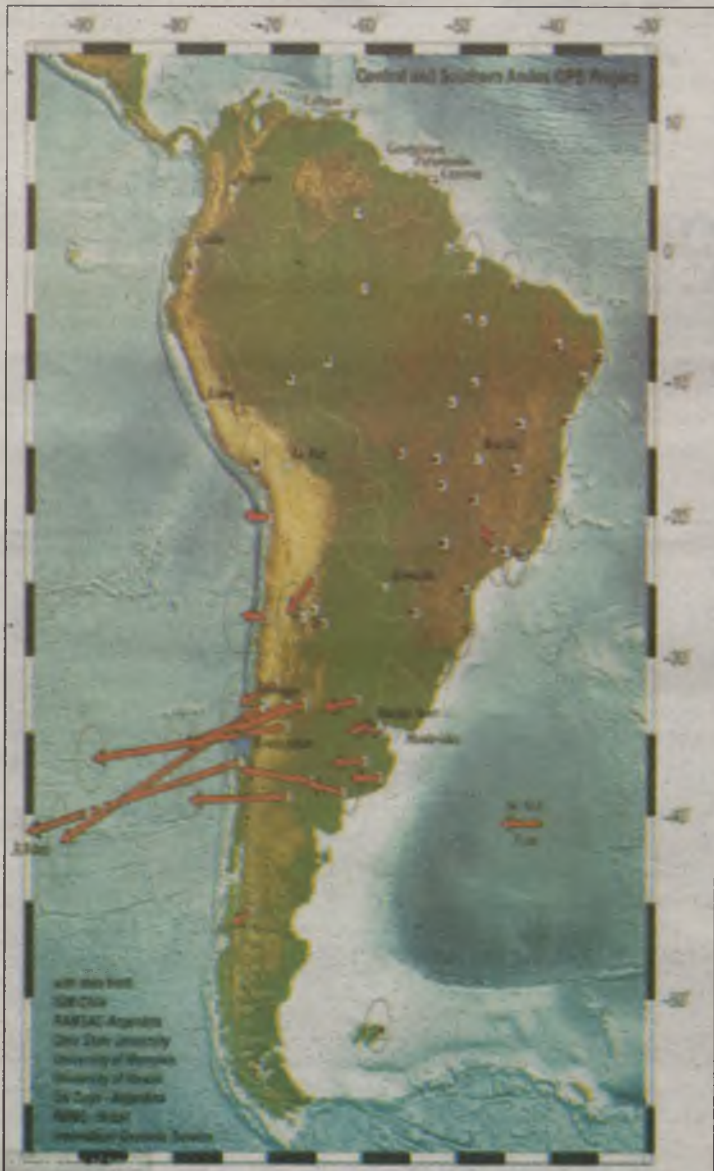
Fatoyinbo admitted a single count of possessing a false identity document.

News Extra

# Chile earthquake moved whole city 10 feet to the west



A graphic created by the Central and Southern Andes GPS Project. It shows the displacement in centimetres of the area surrounding the Chile earthquake epicentre. Concepcion moved the furthest at 303.9cm



THE earthquake shifted land as far apart as the Falkland Islands and Fortaleza, Brazil

land Islands and Fortaleza, Brazil.

Scientists measured the impact of the February 27 earthquake by comparing precise GPS locations from before the event to those 10 days later.

These revealed Chile's capital, Santiago, moved about 11 inches to the southwest. Even Argentina's capital, Buenos Aires, which is 800 miles from the epicentre, moved an inch.

The earthquake is believed to be the fifth most powerful since seismic measurements began.

It even knocked Earth a little off its axis. NASA's Dr Richard Gross calculated the tremors moved the axis about which Earth's mass is balanced by about three inches. It even shortened the length of the day by about one-millionth of a second.

The quake's epicentre was in a region of South America that's part of the so-called 'ring of fire', an area of major seismic stresses which encircles the Pacific Ocean

All along this line, the tectonic plates on which the continents move press against each other at fault zones.

Dr Mike Bevis from Ohio University, has led the CAP project since 1993 that uses GPS to analyse the crust of Chile.

oceanic plate is colliding with the South American continental plate and being squeezed into the Earth's molten mantle below.

This creates a build up of geologic pressures, which caused the Chilean quake in February.

The US Geological Survey reported that there have been dozens of aftershocks, many exceeding a magnitude 6.0 or greater, since the initial event February 27.

Dr Bevis' team, made up of scientists from US and Argentinian universities, hopes to add 50 extra GPS stations to its current 25. This should help them to measure the ongoing movement and deformation of the crust.

Team member Ben Brooks, from the University of Hawaii said: 'The Maule earthquake will arguably become one of the, if not the most important great earthquake yet studied.'

'We now have modern, precise instruments to evaluate this event, and because the site abuts a continent, we will be able to obtain dense spatial sampling of the changes it caused.'

'As such the event represents an unprecedented opportunity for the earth science community

The massive earthquake that struck near Maule in Chile, moved the entire city of Concepcion at least 10 feet to the west, experts have revealed.

The destructive event, which



A destroyed building in Concepcion, Chile. The whole city shifted 10 feet to the west as a result of the February earthquake

measured a magnitude of 8.8, also shifted other parts of South America as far apart as the Falk-

The area is of particular interest because it is an active subduction zone where the Nazca

if certain observations are made with quickly and comprehensively.

## News Extra

# Lula stubs out smoking habit

Brazilian president says he has not had a cigarillo for more than 40 days – and this time it's permanent



LULA smoking beside Tony Blair at a London conference in 2003.

**I**t took a health scare and a sense of creeping mortality but, after half a century, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva appears to have finally quit smoking.

Brazil's president revealed that he had not smoked for more than

40 days and had renounced his beloved cigarillos, small cigars often made without filters. It puts him in the company of his idol, Fidel Castro, as one of the few serving leaders to have quit smoking while in office.

Barack Obama could only

wish: he is still struggling to give up, according to his first medical examination since taking office.

Lula was preparing to fly to the World Economic Forum in Switzerland in January when his blood pressure shot up, forcing him to cancel the trip and spend a night

in hospital. It made the 64-year-old ponder a habit dating from adolescence. "The good thing is that I quit smoking... I don't have any more time to experiment with my life," he told the Associated Press. He apparently did it through willpower.

Lula has stopped smoking before but insists that, this time, it is permanent. "I'm feeling good," he said.

He was diplomatic about Obama's failure to kick the habit. "On these sort of things, you don't give advice," he said. "Everyone can do what they want if they're of age. Everyone knows that it's not good for your health."

**C**astro smoked cigars and occasional cigarettes for four decades until stopping in 1985 for his health and to set an example. He did not sneak even the occasional puff, he told interviewers, because smoking "accomplices" would know his quitting was a sham.

Venezuela's Hugo Chávez quit some time ago but confesses to relapses. "Occasionally I smoke a cigarette, but I'll never do it in public because it's a bad example. It's very sporadic. I did it during some periods." It would be nice to think relations between Washington and Caracas would improve should Hugo and Barack sneak out for a smoke at the next regional summit.

Culled from guardian.co.uk

## World's oldest person? 129-year-old Georgian woman makes record bid

**A** woman in Georgia claims she is nearly 129 years old - making her the oldest living person in the world.

Documents found by Georgia's Rustavi 2 TV station state that Antisa Khvichava was born on July 8, 1880.

The station has broadcast footage of Mrs Khvichava playing backgammon and drinking

vodka.

Mrs Khvichava lives with her son, one of two surviving children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren in the village of Sachino, deep in the Caucasus Mountains, 170 miles from the capital Tbilisi.

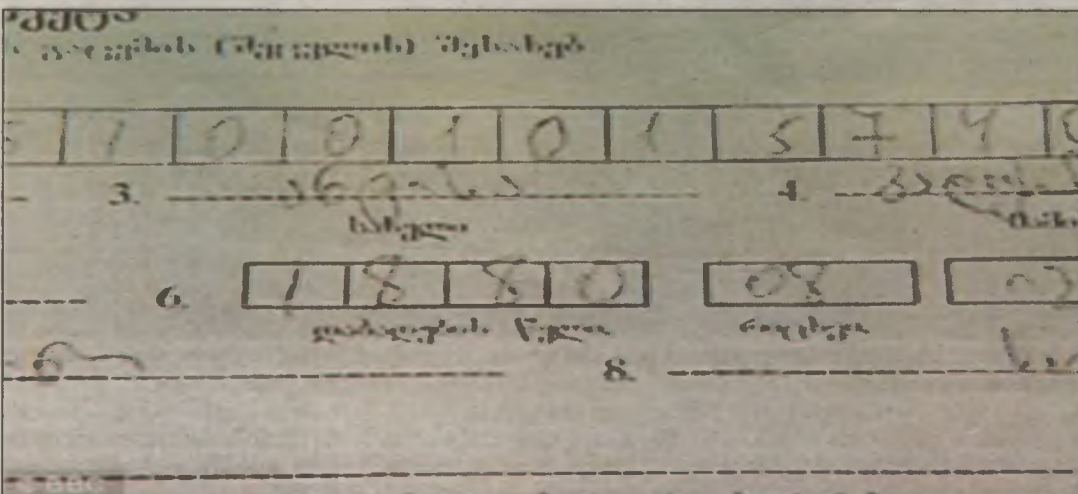
Granddaughter Shorena Khvichava said: 'My grandmother is 130 years old.'

Gia Vashadze, an official at Georgia's Civil Registry Agency, said he is hoping to prove Mrs

Khvichava's age and get her an entry in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Mr Vashadze said documents, including Mrs Khvichava's Soviet-era passport registration, which shows her date of birth, prove she is the oldest person in the world.

**T**he officially certified 'oldest living person' is currently Japan's 114-year-old Kama Chinen.



MRS Khvichava's Soviet-era passport registration shows her date of birth as 1880



GEORGIAN great-grandmother: Antisa Khvichava claims she will turn 130 in July

# PROPERTY

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## NHRC wants Lugbe demolition stopped

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

THE National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has called on the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Alhaji Adamu Aliero, to cease and desist from proceeding with the planned demolition of houses at Lugbe and Garki villages pending adequate arrangements for resettling the families that would be affected by the exercise.

The commission made the statement in respond to the report that the Department of Development Control of the

Ministry for Federal Capital Territory concluded arrangements to evict over 200,000 families from their homes and business premises in Lugbe village in the suburb of Abuja.

NHRC Executive Secretary, Mr. Roland Ewubare, said "it was unacceptable to evict families who have had uninterrupted possession of their homes and business premises for over 20 years, without due legal process and adequate rehabilitation arrangements."

He said the Commission had cautioned the FCT administration on the consequences of forced evictions, which

cause social upheavals in the areas of health, education, employment and business among families, especially women and children.

Ewubare also said the forced eviction of these persons "will lead to violation of rights including the right to dignity of the human person, adequate housing, right to private and family life as guaranteed by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 and other Regional and International Human Rights Instruments to which Nigeria is a signatory.

## FG partners estate experts on housing

By Mustapha Suleiman

THE Minister of State for Works, Housing and Urban Development, Mrs. Grace Ekpiwhre has reiterated the commitment of the Federal Government to work closely with the International Real Estate Federation (FIABCI).

She said this on Tuesday while receiving in audience members of the delegation from an International Real Estate Federation (FIABCI).

The minister said that though the country is facing housing deficit, collaborations with such an international partners would be welcomed and sustained in order to enhance housing delivery to Nigerians. She equally lamented the topical issues of urbanization which further aggravates accessibility and affordability of housing in Nigeria. She equally stressed the need to strengthen mortgage institutions in the country with a view to making funds available to Nigerians for the development of the housing sector in the country.

Earlier, the leader of the delegation Lisa Kurrass, reiterates the commitment of FIABCI in partnering with Nigeria towards the development and the sustenance of housing delivery in Nigeria.



L-R FHA Board Chairman, Mrs. Chidi Onyemelukwe, Minister of State for Works, Housing and Urban Development, Grace Ekpiwhre and the Permanent Secretary, Dr. Tukur Bello Ingawa, during a courtesy call by the board of FHA on Tuesday

## FCTA to enforce building code on Abuja structures

By Nasir Imam

HENCEFORTH, all structures in the Federal Capital Territory must meet the standard of the National Building Code.

The FCT Minister, Senator Muhammad Adamu Aliero said this on Wednesday while receiving the President of the Nigerian Institute of Building that paid him a courtesy visit in his office.

The Minister therefore directed the FCT Department of Development Control to ensure full compliance.

Senator Aliero disclosed

that all categories of buildings including public, commercial, individual residential houses or mass housing projects are affected with this directive.

The Minister implored members of the institute to embark on aggressive enlightenment programme to sensitise the general public on the need to employ the services of professional builders to avert ugly incidences that sometimes lead to loss of human lives.

His words: "We regard members of your profession as partners in progress, we value

cooperation with your institute and we will religiously comply by all the building plan guidelines in the Federal Capital Territory".

The Minister remarked that his administration has been able to bring back 15 major projects on track in the Federal Capital Territory.

According to him, these projects are very important and critical as they have to do with infrastructures like roads, district infrastructures which for the last 21/2 years have been on hold; adding that 80% of such projects have been executed.

Speaking earlier, Builder

Dachollom Dalyop Jambol said that the National Building Code 2006 has given the builders the role of the management of the execution of building works including the supervision of artisans and craftsmen which shall be carried out by registered Builders.

The President observed and identified with the road network developments taking place in Abuja; stressing that the projects are of great service to the FCT which surely would reduce the heavy traffic congestion problems in the capital city.

## Funds stall work on Kano – Maiduguri road dualisation

From Sharafa Dauda, Maiduguri

THE contractor handling the dualization project of the Potiskum – Damaturu Section of the Kano – Maiduguri road, which covers a length of 96.24kilometer and 14,000 kilometer dual carriageway by-pass has said that inadequate budgetary provision by the Federal Ministry of Finance, through the Federal Ministry of Works, Housing and Urban Development

is delaying the completion of work as scheduled.

Representative of the contractor Messrs CGC Nigeria Limited, Engineer O. C. Ojinna, said this on Monday when the project monitoring team for the north east from the Federal Ministry of Finance, in collaboration with officials of the supervising ministry, went to Yobe State to monitor progress of work on federal government funded

projects. Engineer Ojinna said the project, which commenced since February 1, 2007 with a contract sum of N30.25billion and was to be completed by November 30, 2009 had only received only N4.4billion, hence its ability to cover only 22.28 percent of the work as at December 2009.

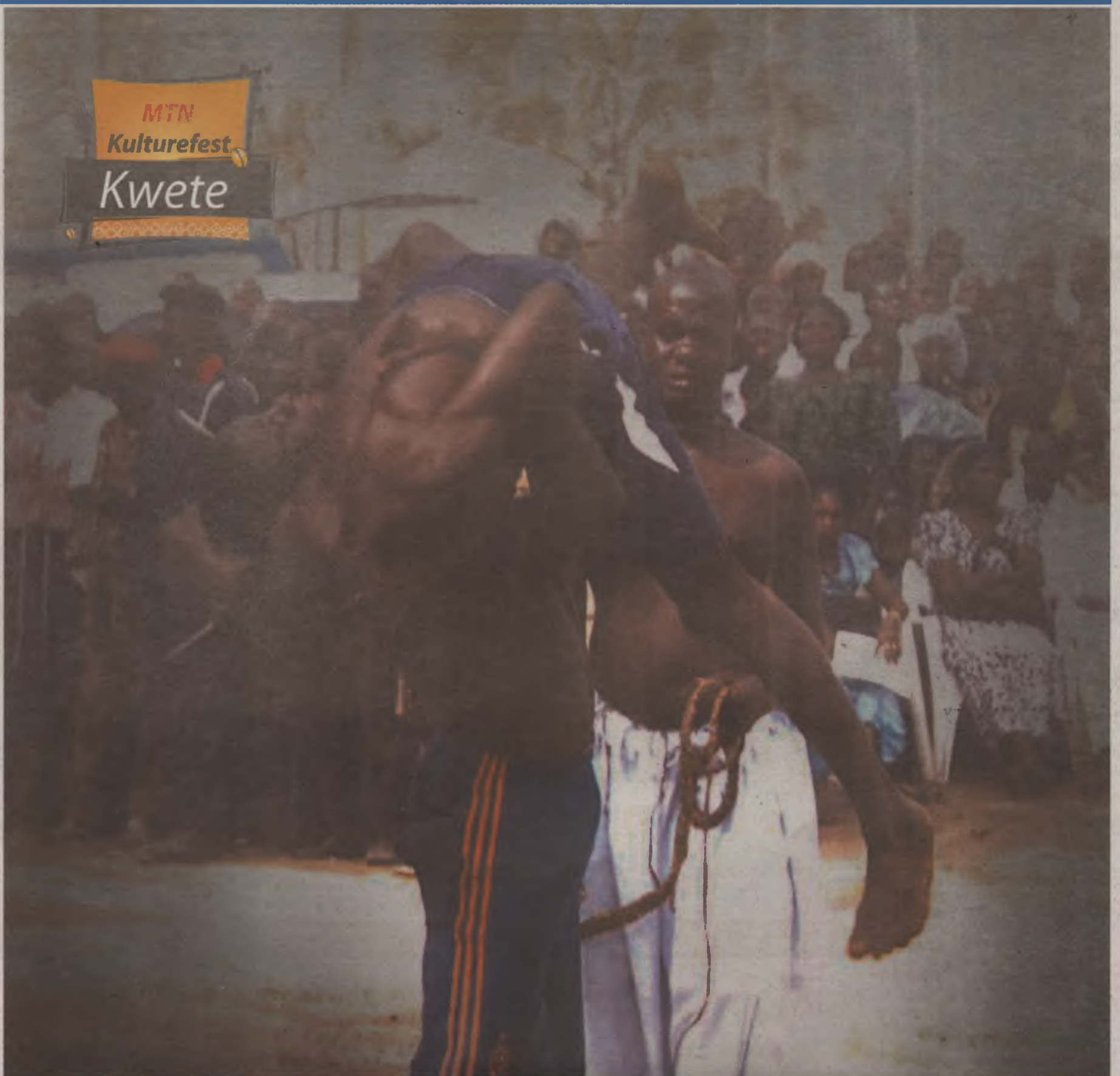
The exercise is part of the nationwide fourth quarter 2009 budget performance assessment,

which is at present on-going across the six geo-political zones of the country, starting from March 8 and lasting till March 19.

Responding, the team leader, Mr. Linus Egeruo said the dualization project is part of President Yar'adua's quest to meet up with one of the seven point agenda of rural transformation through good road networks to facilitate the transportation of agriculture

produce and other services to urban centers, as well as strengthening on-going rehabilitation and repairs of the country's road network across the country.

The team also visited on-going projects at University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital (UMTH) and proceeded to Adamawa, Taraba and Gombe states to continue their assessments of projects there.



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# FCT senator moves against demolitions

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

SENATOR representing the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Adamu Sidi-Ali has obtained a court restraining the FCT Administration (FCTA) from demolition and relocation of Garki, Apo and Akmajeya villages to a new site.

Speaking to newsmen on the issue, Sidi-Ali said his action was as a result of the fact that the FCTA is yet to

provide basic infrastructures at the new settlement while several aborigines are yet to be allocated befitting houses at the new site.

He said "I had to go to court to seek for the injunction in order to avoid violence, bloodshed and crisis in our new federal capital. I expect the FCTA to embrace these people, but on the contrary they came to mark their houses and gave them warning to pack out or bulldozers will come in. From experience I know that it can happen at any time,

only God knows what would have happened that is why I decided to go to court to stop that from happening."

He said it is unfair for the FCTA to force the people to relocate to the new settlement when there are no basic infrastructures such as water, electricity, security and health centres adding that "All we are asking the government to do is to conduct proper enumeration, proper allocation of houses, there must be infrastructural facilities within the new site before a hut is pulled down in the old settlement."

## '5bn people will live in urban areas by 2020'

By Sunday Williams

THE Special Adviser to the President on New Economic Partnership for African Development (NEPAD), Amb. Tunji Olagunju has said that the United Nations has projected that by 2020, five billion people will live in urban environments.

Speaking yesterday in Abuja at a national conference on NEPAD sustainable cities 2010, the special adviser said increasing urbanization has been identified to be a major factor influencing African counties individual and collective development.

Represented by Director Administration and Finance, Mrs Delu A Usman, the special adviser said the NEPAD sustainable cities programme seeks to promote the role of cities in the achievement of the NEPAD objectives of eradicating poverty, placing African countries on the path of sustainable growth and development.

He said that the programme was born out of UN-HABITAT which called for the strengthening of the Africa-owned model for sustainable development as enshrined in the NEPAD framework document through a focus on the development of the continents cities.

"This is built on the premise that African countries must, as a matter of urgency, deal with issues of urbanization if they indeed hope to claim the 21st century taking cognizance of the fact that well-managed cities are recognized as engines of economic growth," he said.



TOFA House, Central Area, Abuja

## FHA urged to ensure housing delivery target

By Mustapha Suleiman

THE Minister of State for Works, Housing and Urban Development, Mrs. Grace Ekpiwhre has urged the Federal Housing Authority (FHA) to make maximum utilization of its vantage position in Real Estate Development Sector in order to ensure delivery of affordable and decent housing to Nigerians.

She made this statement on Tuesday while receiving Mem-

bers of the Board of Directors of the Federal Housing Authority led by the Board Chairman, Mrs. Chidi Onyemelukwe.

The Minister further stated that though decent and affordable houses are not easily accessible to most Nigerians particularly salary earners, she however, pointed out that the FHA stands in a better position to acquire land for housing development as well as having more credibility in approaching financial institutions for funds to

finance housing sector.

She further emphasized the need for more harmonious working relationship between the FHA Board and the Management as well as the Federal Ministry of Works, Housing and Urban Development which is the supervising agency of the FHA. According to her, this would go a long way in achieving the desired objective of providing affordable houses to Nigerians.

Earlier in her address, the

Board Chairman, Mrs. Chidi Onyemelukwe, enumerated some of the major challenges facing the FHA which includes inadequate funding as a result of non receipt of subvention from the Federal Government for about 6 years. According to her, this has greatly hampered their mandate in housing delivery. She therefore urged the Federal Government to assist FHA in this respect, so that affordable houses could be delivered to Nigerians.

## FIABCI to provide affordable mass housing

By Francis Okeke

INTERNATIONAL Real Estate Federation (FIABCI) which operates in 60 countries across the world yesterday in Abuja said it has initiated a process that will generate affordable shelter for the urban poor in Nigeria.

FIABCI's African Region President Mr. Osita Okoli said the group in conjunction with United Nations and others have started preliminary work on replicating its activities across the world in Nigeria.

He made the statement in a press conference prior to the kickoff of the group's Africa Trade Mission being hosted by Nigeria.

Okoli said that with over 100 affiliate organisations, "FIABCI has made presentation to Global Housing Foundation (GHF) which is one of the foundations affiliated to FIABCI to cater for affordable houses for the urban poor in the regions of Asia, South America and lately, Africa.

"They are projects ongoing, financed and coordinated by the United Nations in conjunction with Meryl Lynch and also handled by GHF of South Africa at the moment."

He said GHF "has also approved and we have been in liaison and correspondence for projects to be done in Abuja, Nigeria. We have written to the Federal Capital Territory about that, we have set

up meetings and we had a team that was planning to come to Nigeria late last year but that meeting had been delayed.

"It is going to be actualised. We are working hard to see that GHF implements projects in Nigeria especially starting with Abuja.

He said the group met the minister of state for works, housing and urban development Mrs. Grace Ekpiwhre where it expressed its desire to not just build affordable houses for urban dwellers but to "also partner with her ministry in spreading this to other parts of Nigeria.

"That is one way FIABCI is helping to bring housing to the urban poor and these projects are structured in such a

way that housing are going to come virtually free to the people; the government provides land and infrastructure, FIABCI mobilises capital, provides materials and labour to build houses and they are titled and given away to the urban poor" he said

On her part, the International President of FIABCI Lisa Kurass who works in Texas stated that the organisation which has about 35 universities globally will use the African Trade Mission "to unlock the vast potential of real estate in Africa as well as expose those potentials to the world. The upside potential is tremendous and we want encourage the building energy efficient buildings



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## 'Why we went to court over Garki resettlement'

Senator Adamu Sidi-Ali represents the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) in the Senate. In this interview with newsmen he explains the reasons behind his court action against the FCTA on the issue of resettlement of Garki village.

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

**WHY did you go to court to stop the resettlement programme of the FCTA?**

I think basically I had to go to court to seek for the injunction in order to avoid violence, bloodshed and crisis in our new federal capital. You are aware that 34 years ago the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) was declared and there was a policy that all villages within these 8000 square meters be settled outside the FCT. Ab-initio the government failed to settle these people outside the territory. At the end of it all the Federal Government decided to resettle these villages and towns within the FCT whilst development catches up with

them within the FCT. That is the case at hand today.

This is the first set of villages to be resettled under a democratic dispensation. That is Garki village, Apo and Akmajeya. This programme started almost four years ago and I am aware that a lot of budgetary provision has been made for this resettlement exercise. But what we have on the ground today is carelessness from the authorities concerned at resettling these people; that is the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA). There was never a time they took this issue seriously. There has been no transparency and there is element of fraud in this resettlement exercise. As it were today, they want to use this mistake of theirs to kill the few boys we have in Garki village. I felt I should stop it by all means.

For instance, we have a committee in place that has been working with the authorities of FCT. They enumerated those who are to be resettled and when this exercise continued there were flaws here



SENATOR Sidi-Ali

and there that needs to be corrected in terms of either omitting names of those who are supposed to be settled or inappropriate allocation of houses. Some people have four bedroom house and they are given one bedroom etc. At the site itself, there is no water, no power supply, no security, the road network has not been completed, there are health facilities to take care of the people.

All these issues are being addressed by the committee. Suddenly, they appeared warning these communities that they have to move out since they have been allo-

cated houses. What they refer to as allocation of houses we found out that some are just plots in the bush. The people have not been properly compensated because the basic factor of production they have in their lives is land and they have not been given the alternative. These people have contributed their quota to building the new capital city for the country, so I feel that serious measure should be taken to make sure that these aborigines are properly resettled completely before anybody thinks of bulldozing their houses. I expect the FCTA to embrace these people, but on the contrary they came to mark their houses and gave them warning to pack out or bulldozers will come in. From experience I know that it can happen at any time, only God knows what would have happened that is why I decided to go to court to stop that from happening. I have also written to the Acting President of the country and the Senate President to notify them of the situation in my constituency.

**Did you try to resolve this**

**with the FCT minister before going to court?**

The committee has been meeting with him (Aliero), we have been discussing no one has doubt in our consultations with the FCTA, but it appears while we are discussing practical actions are being taken that could cause crisis. The fact is there are no serious attempts made to address the issues on the ground. We have seen what happened few years back where houses are marked in the morning and before evening the houses are pulled down. We cannot wait this time until the houses are pulled down; lives are lost before we begin to set up panels to investigate the causes. Our children are just coming up, most of them were born a little above thirty years ago, we don't want to lose them.

Since we found that there are contrary actions to our consultations with the FCTA, the best thing is to go to fair ground where we can be protected. That was why we went to court. Now we have injunction restraining them from

pulling the houses down and we will continue talking with them until all the issues rose are addressed.

**What will you do if they go ahead with the demolition inspite of the court order?**

It will then be for this nation to see and decide. They have done that before, but all along the authorities have always denied that they were not served with the court orders. We have all the proof that this injunction has been served. We asked them on telephone if they have gotten the order and they confirmed that they have been served. So, if they go ahead to violate it, well the president should know the kind of people he has on ground there. I don't think that Mr. President will close his eyes and watch court orders being violated by any of the agencies. I don't think the acting president will allow that and I don't think this nation will accept that. It has happened before, but I don't think they will do that.

## Kwara rehabilitates 200 km in 15 months

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

THE Chairman Kwara State Road Maintenance Agency, Alhaji Abubakar Zubair, has disclosed that the agency has rehabilitated over 200 kilometers of roads since 2009

The chairman who said that the rehabilitation cut across the three Senatorial District of the state said that it include patching of potholes within Ilorin Metropolis in Kwara Central Senatorial District and construction of refraining walls and toe beams in other areas of the state.

Zubair who also thanked the governor, Dr. Abubaka, Bukola Saraki for prompt release of funds for the agencies projects appealed to motorists to continue to cooperate with workers of the agency anytime they are on site.

He said that the agency has suggested to the state government to compel contractors to lodge a percentage of their contract sum to a specific account which the agency would use for maintenance of roads year after such contractors must have left site.

Zubair however attributed lack of maintenance as one of the major problems in Nigeria.

The chairman appealed to banks operating in the state to also come to the aid of the agency as developmental projects could not be left for the government alone.



MINISTER of State for FCT, Chief. Chuka Odom, left, being decorated by the President of African chapter of International Real Estate Federation, Mrs. Lissa Kurass, during a courtesy call by the federation on the minister yesterday.

## FG pays N3bn for road rehabilitation in Katsina

THE Federal Government has so far paid N3bn to the contractor handling the rehabilitation of Funtua-Malumfashi-Dayi-Yashe-Katsina road.

The Federal Controller of Works and Housing in Katsina State, Alhaji Aliyu Mohammed, said this on Wednesday in Katsina shortly after inspecting the project site.

He said the amount paid so far to the contractor represented over 50 per cent of the total contract sum.

Mohammed said that "as at today, all outstanding payments of the contractor have been settled by the budget of last year."

He explained that the Federal Government had made adequate provision in the 2010 budget to ensure the completion of the project before the end of the year.

"The Federal Government is concerned about getting this

job completed and with the level of seriousness on the side of the government, the work will be completed on schedule," he said.

Commenting on the rehabilitation of Jibia-Kauranamoda road up to Gusau in Zamfara, Mohammed said about 24km from Jibia in Katsina State had so far been completed and asphalted.

He, however, noted that the encroachment of some parts of the road by structures in Jibia town was the major cause of delay on the completion of the work.

"Such structures which encroached on the main road have to be cleared in Jibia and we cannot do that without paying compensation," he added.

Contract for the rehabilitation of the 193km Funtua-Malumfashi-Dayi-Yashe-Katsina road was awarded by the administration of former President Olusegun Obasanjo at the cost of N5.6bn.

## Trust Islamic Forum

In the name of Allah the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful. All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the worlds. We testify that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, and that Muhammed (peace be upon him) is His prophet and messenger. May the benediction and blessings of Allah be on Prophet Muhammed who is the noblest of mankind, his household, his companions and those who follow their foot steps till the day of resurrection.

# A religion divided against itself

By Paul Craig Roberts

MUSLIMS are numerous but powerless. Divisions among Muslims, especially between Sunni and Shi'ites, have consigned the Muslim Middle East to almost a century of Western control. Muslims cannot even play together. The Islamic Solidarity Games, a regional version of the Olympics, which were to be held in April in Iran, have been canceled, because the Iranians and the Arabs cannot agree on whether to call the body of water that separates Iran from the Arabian Peninsula the Persian Gulf or the Arabian Gulf.

Muslim disunity has made it possible for Israel to dispossess the Palestinians, for the U.S. to invade Iraq, and for the U.S. to rule much of the region through puppets. For example, in exchange for faithful service, Egypt receives \$1.5 billion a year from Washington, which enables President Mubarak to buy off opposition. The opposition had rather have the money than support the Palestinians. Therefore, Egypt cooperates with Israel and the U.S. in the blockade of Gaza.

Another factor is the willingness of some Muslims to betray their own kind for U.S. dollars. Don't take my word for it. Listen to neoconservative Kenneth Timmerman, head of the Foundation for Democracy, which describes itself as "a private, non-profit organization established in 1995 with grants from the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) to promote democracy and internationally-recognized standards of human rights in Iran."

By now we all know what that means. It means that the U.S. finances a "velvet" or some "color revolution" in order to install a U.S. puppet. Just prior to the sudden appearance of a "green revolution" in Tehran primed to protest an election, Timmerman wrote that "the National Endowment for Democracy has spent millions of dollars during the past decade promoting 'color' revolutions in places such as Ukraine and Serbia, training political workers in modern communications and organizational techniques. Some of that money appears to have made it into the hands of pro-Mousavi groups, who have ties to non-governmental organizations outside Iran that the National Endowment for Democracy funds." So, according to the neocon Timmerman, funded by the National Endowment for Democracy, it was U.S. money that funded Mousavi's claims

that Ahmadinejad stole the last Iranian election.

During President George W. Bush's regime it became public knowledge that American money is used to purchase Iranians to work against their own country. The Washington Post, a newspaper sympathetic to the neocon's goal of American hegemony and war with Iran, reported in 2007 that Bush authorized spending more than \$400 million for activities that included "supporting rebel groups opposed to the country's ruling clerics."

This makes the U.S. government a "state sponsor of terrorism." For confirmation, one of the U.S. paid operatives, who conducted terror operations in Iran, has ratted on his terrorist supporters in Washington. Abdulmalek Rigi, leader of the Baloch separatist group responsible for several attacks, was recently arrested by the Iranians. Rigi admitted that the Americans in Washington assured him of unlimited military aid and funding for waging an insurgency against the Islamic Republic of Iran. (Read his confession here.)

Possibly he was tortured into confession. It is the American way. If the "light of the world," the "indispensable people," and the "shining city on the hill" tortures people, perhaps the Iranians do as well. Rigi's younger brother, himself on death row in Iran, has said that the U.S. provided direct funding to the separatist group and even ordered specific terrorist attacks inside Iran.

The U.S. and its NATO puppets have been killing Afghan women, children, and village elders since October 7, 2001, when the U.S. military invasion "Operation Enduring Freedom," a proper Orwellian title for a self-serving war of aggression, was launched. The U.S. installed puppet president of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai, is bought and paid for with U.S. dollars.

The money that Washington gives Karzai finances the corruption that supports him. Karzai's corruption and his treason against the Afghan people encourage the Taliban to keep fighting in order to achieve a government that serves Afghans instead of Washington, D.C.

Without the puppet Karzai selling out Afghans to Washington, the U.S. would have already been driven out of the country. With Karzai paying Afghans with American money to fight Afghans for the Americans, the war drones on into its ninth year.

Feminists, liberals, and



LEFT to right: 2007 Action Congress gubernatorial aspirant in Osun State, Rauf Aregbesola; Emir of Ilorin, Alhaji Ibrahim Gambari; the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Saad Abubakar; Baba Aidiñi of Nigeria, Sheik Abdul Hafiz Abou; Speaker, House of Reps., Dimeji Bankole and Alhaji Babatunde Balogun, commissioner for Home Affairs, Lagos State at the N100,000,000 fund raiser for NAJOMO Mosque Abeokuta, in Lagos on Sunday.

naive American flag-wavers will say that what is written here is utter rot, that Americans are in Afghanistan to bring women's rights and birth control to Afghan women and to bring freedom, democracy and progress to Afghanistan, even if it means leveling every village, town, and house in the country. We, "the indispensable people," are only there to do good, because we care so much for the Afghan people who live in a country that most Americans can't find on a map.

While this collection of naive rants on about America "saving" Afghans from whatever, the White House and the Congress are conspiring against the American people to cut \$500 billion dollars out of Medicare in order to give the money to private insurance companies. Jobless benefits are about to run out for millions of Americans, whose jobs have been moved offshore in order to make the rich richer. The U.S. Senate failed on Friday, Feb. 26, to extend jobless benefits. A single Republican Senator, Jim Bunning of Kentucky, was able to block the bill because it would cost a measly \$10 billion and "would add to the budget deficit."

The "fiscally responsible" Bunning supports blank checks for wars of aggression (war crimes under the Nuremberg standard) and payoffs to investment banks for wrecking the retirement plans of most Americans. Bunning sends the bills to the unorganized and unrepresented Americans, whose jobs have been stolen by corporate offshoring of jobs and whose retirements have been stolen by the endless greed of the Wall Street investment banks.

What fool believes that the U.S. government, which is totally indifferent to the fate of its own citizens, cares so much about Afghanistan that it will spend blood and treasure to bring "progress" and "women's rights" to a country half a world away, while it drives its own citizens into the ground?

At Washington's behest, the government of Pakistan is conducting war against its own people, killing many and forcing others to flee their homes and lands. The Pakistani government's war against its own citizens has caused military expenses to soar, putting Pakistan's budget deep in the red. Deputy US Treasury Secretary Neal Wolin ordered the Pakistani government to raise taxes to pay for the war against its own people.

The puppet ruler, Asif Ali Zardari, complied with his American master's orders. Zardari declared a broad-based value added tax on virtually all goods and most services in Pakistan. Thus, Pakistanis are forced to finance a war against themselves.

The "cakewalk war" in Iraq has lasted 7 years instead of the promised 6 weeks, and the violence is still ongoing with Iraqis killed and maimed nearly every day. The reason Americans are still in Iraq is because the Iraqis hate each other more than they hate the American invader. The vast majority of the violence in "the Iraq war" was committed between Iraqi Sunnis and Iraqi Shi'ites as they cleansed one another from neighborhoods.

The majority Shi'ites regarded the American invasion of Iraq as an opportunity to gain power over the minority Sunnis,

who ruled under Saddam Hussein. Therefore, the Shi'ites never engaged the American invading forces. The minority Sunnis (20 percent of the population) gave most of their effort to fighting the Shi'ite majority, but in their spare time a few thousand Sunnis were able to inflict serious losses on the American superpower.

Finally realizing the power of lucre in the Arab world, the Americans put 80,000 Sunnis on the U.S. military payroll and paid them to stop killing Americans.

This is how the U.S. won the war in Iraq. Iraqis sold out their independence for American dollars.

Considering that a few thousand Sunnis were able to prevent superpower America from successfully occupying Baghdad or much of Iraq, had the Shi'ites joined with the Sunnis against the invaders, the U.S. would have been defeated and driven out. This outcome was not possible, because the Shi'ites wanted to settle the score with the Sunnis, who had ruled them under Saddam Hussein.

This is the reason that Iraq today is in ruins, with one million dead, four million displaced or homeless, and the professional class having fled the country. Iraq, under the American puppet Maliki, is an American protectorate.

As long as Muslims hate and fear one another more than they hate their conquerors, they will remain a vanquished people.

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## CITY NEWS



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# Man denies paternity of teenage mother's baby

By Abubakar Yakubu

A middle-aged man, Nwachukwu Ikechukwu yesterday denied paternity of a baby delivered by a 15-year-old girl during a hearing at Customary Court Dutse-Alhaji, Bwari.

While the proceeding was on, the baby was sleeping on his mother's lap, while the teenage mother stared at the alleged father.

Ikechukwu, who was placed inside the defense box, told Judges Omavuezi E.O. (Mrs), Zubairu A. Safiya (Mrs) and Eze U. Charles that he made love and did not have sex with the girl in July 2009.

When cross examined by the teenager's counsel, Barrister Esther Uzoma, on what he used for his love making, Ikechukwu said he used his hands to touch the upper part of the girl's body.

He told the court he had an erection but later changed his statement when his lawyer, Barrister Uwem U. Umoanwan informed the court that his client is not literate enough to know what erection means.

Ikechukwu also admitted buying three pants for the teenager and said he bought them for her when he noticed on one of her visits to his place that she wasn't wearing a pant.

The man told the court that

he started a relationship with the girl in July 2009 and couldn't have been the father of the child since it was born in February this year.

According to him, it is not possible for him to be the child's father as the time she noticed the pregnancy till she delivered is six and a half months.

The plaintiff's lawyer, Esther Uzoma then asked the defendant to calculate from July 2009 to February 2010 and he confirmed it was eight months.

Barrister Uzoma then asked the defendant if he will submit himself for a paternity test and he accepted.

The defendant's counsel, Umoanwan however objected to the paternity test, arguing that the plaintiff never asked for such in court.

The court then asked both counsels to make an application and the plaintiff's counsel, Uzoma agreed to the paternity test, arguing that the test is the crux of the case as the plaintiff wants the defendant to take responsibility of the baby girl and look after her mother.

Barrister Umoanwan objected to the test, citing the case of Akinbunmi vs Akinbunmi and saying that what a plaintiff claims is what the court gives.

He told the court to discountenance the application of the plain-



FROM left: Princess Glory Okeke, Mrs Erdoo Kohol, Barrister Eze Ann Obiageli, the teenage mother and Barrister Esther Uzoma after yesterday's court hearing in Abuja.

tiff but Barrister Uzoma faulted the citation and said it was based on the matrimonial causes act and has nothing to do with the case.

Chairman of the court, Judge

Omavuezi O then adjourned ruling on the application to today on whether or not the paternity test will be ordered.

At yesterday's hearing, Bar-

risters Eze Ann Obiageli (Mrs) joined Barrister Uzoma for the plaintiff, while Obinna Amorha joined Barrister Umoanwan for the defense.

## Mother, son remanded over theft

By Romoke W. Ahmad & Lucas Istifanus

A woman and her 21-year-old son were recently remanded in prison custody pending a formal application for their bail.

The woman, Mrs Ifeayinwa Jideof and her son, Udoka Jidefo with one Vicent Nwora were arraigned for alleged joint theft of money and plumbing materials valued at N1.5 million.

Prosecutor Lucas Ephraim told the court that on February 8, one John Jidefo reported to the police that Udoka Jidefo, who was hitherto his sales boy had at different times stolen over N900,000 and plumbing materials worth N600,000.

The court also heard that Udoka stole a brief case containing some valuables from complainant's house.

The three accused persons

were charged for joint act, house breaking, theft, escape from lawful custody, assisting to conceal stolen property, possession of an item reasonably suspected to be stolen and they contravened Sections 279, 346, 283, 173 and 319A of the Penal Code Law," the prosecutor added.

Following the prosecutor's argument for the production of a bank account statement from the third accused person's bank in Anambra in accordance with Section 73 of the Criminal Procedure Code, Magistrate Ubangari Ahmed ordered that the branch manager should produce the said account statement based on one of the accused person's confession.

The magistrate ruled that the accused persons be remanded in prisons custody and adjourned the case to March 15 for hearing.

## Cell phone thief jailed 3 months

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

AN Abuja magistrate court Tuesday sentenced a 26-year-old man to three months imprisonment for stealing five cell phones belonging to some residents of Gbassa village, Abuja.

Paul Akpan of no fixed address was apprehended by a vigilante group as he was escaping with the stolen phones.

Prosecutor Yilkudi Dungji told

the court that on March 2, one Ibrahim Gabriel and four others reported to the police that their cell phones were stolen.

"On the same date, a vigilante group led by one Haruna Adam of Gbassa village caught the accused with five cell phones in his possession and during interrogation, he confessed he stole them from their owners," the prosecutor added.

He said the accused also confessed during police investigations that he

committed the crime and committed an offence punishable under Section 288 of the Penal Code Law.

When the charge was read to the accused, he pleaded guilty and begged for leniency.

Based on the confession, the prosecutor asked the court to try him summarily under Section 157 of the Criminal Procedure Code and Magistrate Khadijat Mustapha sentenced him to three months imprisonment or to pay N3,000 as fine.

## Civil servant charged with N.5m theft

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A 36-year-old civil servant Tuesday appeared before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly stealing N575, 000 belonging to one Mr. Kingsley Udoh.

The accused, Emmanuel Tawus of Lugbe, Abuja, was reported to have broken into the apartment of Mr Udoh in 2009.

Police prosecutor, Umoh Inah, told the court that on May 25,

2009, Kingsley Udoh reported to the police that the accused stolen his money.

"The accused broke into Udoh's room and stole his N575,000, which he kept in a bag and thereby committed offences punishable under Sections 353 and 288 of the Penal Code Law," the prosecutor added.

When the two-count charge was read to the accused, he denied them and requested for bail, which was not objected by the prosecutor.

In her ruling, Magistrate Khadijat Mustapha granted the accused bail in the sum of N25,000 with two reliable sureties in like sums, who must swear to affidavits to produce the accused in court on the adjourned date.

She also ruled that the one of the sureties must be a civil servant and that both of them must reside within the jurisdiction of the court.

The case was adjourned to March 29 for hearing.

## 3,740 corps members posted to FCT

By Mustapha Suleiman

A total number of 3,740 youth corps members posted to the Federal Capital Territory were yesterday sworn-in by Justice Suleiman Belgore at Kubwa.

A breakdown of the figure showed that 1,822 were females while 1,918 are males.

Speaking at the event, FCT NYSC Coordinator, Obong Paul Ata, said the exercise is designed to train and equip corps members with necessary skills for the one year mandatory service to the nation.

He said that the period of the orientation affords corps members the opportunity to have proper understanding of the scheme's goals and objectives and also to internalize its ideals.

Ata assured that all structures have been put in place to ensure that the youths have a balanced camping experience in the FCT.

While presenting the presidential address at the swearing in-ceremony FCT Minister of State, Chief Chika Odom noted that right from inception, the present administration, identified human capital development as a major plank of the government agenda, with youth empowerment as a central component.

"The federal government expects that you will be a veritable agent of change, actively driving the successful implementation of those elements of the 'Seven-Point Agenda' aimed at enhancing the welfare and well-being of the people of this country," he stated.

He implored the corps members to be guided by the same sense of duty and discipline that saw them successfully through their various academic programmes.

Also speaking, the Secretary Social Development Secretariat/Chairman NYSC FCT Governing Board, Barrister Habiba Kalgo expressed confidence that the corps members will take advantage of their training to transform difficulties into challenges, towards the improvement of the FCT.

# Motorist knocks down DRTS official

By Ogechi Ohalee

AN official of the Directorate of Road Traffic Services (DRTS), Mr Rotimi Fasuhanmi was on Wednesday knocked down by a hit and run driver at his duty post along Kubwa expressway.

This was disclosed by Mr. Alex Okereke of the DRTS public relations unit, who disclosed that an ash colour Toyota Carina 2 sta-

tion wagon car with registration number AM 341 KJA deliberately targeted the DRTS officer and knocked him down, before speeding off.

According to Mr. Okereke, the driver, who was conveying fruits to Abuja city did not stop but some good citizens who saw what happened helped the knocked down officer off the busy road and he was rushed to the hospital by his

colleagues for immediate as well as proper medical attention.

Mr. Okereke explained that E-Gadgets like a telescope was used to detect the vehicle as DRTS officials no longer chase violators.

He said the driver has no hiding place, adding that with E-Gadgets, hit and run drivers will be apprehended and made to face the law.

"On behalf of the DRTS director, we condemn these irrespons-

ble and callous acts of hit and run drivers in FCT and warn that such drivers had better change or be made to bear the full weight of the law," he stated.

He appealed to law abiding residents of the FCT to be vigilant and give useful information on how to track down the driver of the said vehicle to the directorate with phone number 070-34699944 or report to the nearest police station.



PIC: KENNEDY EGBONODJE

CHAIRMAN, Kuje Area Council, Mr. Danladi Estu Zhin (middle) addressing the press on his area council's activities on Wednesday.

## Woman accused of setting boyfriend ablaze

By Bunmi Omolehin

A 20-year-old woman, Chinyere Okafor was yesterday arraigned before an Abuja Upper Area Court for allegedly setting her boyfriend ablaze.

Police prosecutor, Mohammed Garba, informed the court

that one Collins Agu, who resides at Durumi, reported to the police that the accused poured kerosene on him and set him ablaze in his room after a minor disagreement.

The prosecutor said the complainant sustained serious injuries on his laps and stomach,

adding that he is presently receiving treatment at the Asokoro General Hospital.

"The two had a steady relationship for many years before the recent disagreement which resulted in the accused setting the complainant ablaze," he said.

The accused pleaded not guilty to the charge and requested for bail which was objected by the prosecutor who asked for a date for hearing.

The presiding judge, Umar Kagarko, remanded the accused in prison custody and adjourned the case to March 12 for hearing.

## Ex-policeman remanded over stolen car

By Bunmi Omolehin

AN ex-policeman arraigned before an Upper Area Court over a stolen car was yesterday remanded in prison custody pending when a formal bail application is made.

Abdullahi Usman was accused of being in possession of a stolen Toyota Corolla car belonging to one Chikezie Omogomi of Kado Biko village.

Police prosecutor, Simon Obagun had earlier informed the court that on February 12, one Chikezie Omogomi reported at Gwarinpa Police Station that on December 25, 2009, he parked his Toyota Corolla car at

his residence in Kado Biko village, Abuja but discovered the car stolen by unknown persons the next day.

The prosecutor told the court that after some days, the complainant sighted the accused with the vehicle and reported to the police, who subsequently arrested him.

"The said vehicle has been impounded by the police till investigation is completed," the prosecutor said.

The accused denied the charge and sought for bail.

Judge Umar Kagarko remanded the accused in prison custody and adjourned the case to April 28 for hearing.

## Abuja indigenes accuse FCDA officials of fraud

By Abbas Jimoh

GBAGYI natives of Garki, Akpajenya and Apo communities yesterday in Abuja kicked against the planned demolition of Garki village and their relocation to a settlement in new Apo, accusing FCDA officials of fraud as well as non provision of basic infrastructures.

This accusation is coming after an FCT High Court gave a restraining order on the FCDA, stopping it from carrying out demolition in Garki.

Spokesperson for the protesting communities, Laza-

rus Nuhu Nyaholo, of 'Garki Community on Resettlement and Compensation', said the FCDA marked structures in Garki village on March 3 and will commence demolition in 21 days.

He alleged that the minister of state for FCT ordered the community members to move to the new settlement without adequate compensation and provision of basic amenities.

The group accused the Department of Resettlement and Compensation of not carrying representatives of the communities along and acting

contrary to the decision of the committee, adding that of the 3,055 plots earmarked for various purposes, only 2,188 have been allocated leaving a balance of 897 plots of which the beneficiaries are not known.

"The entire exercise is fraudulent as we do not know the beneficiaries of 60 commercial, 32 public and 31 recreational areas as well as nine religious institutions.

He said the group is also ignorant of eight educational as well as seven palace plots and condemns poorly constructed apartments.

## Inside Politics

# PDP has failed Kebbi people, says NDP

ALHAJI Isa Nataro was the governorship candidate of the National Democratic Party (NDP) in the last governorship election in Kebbi State. He is also a member of the Good Governance Group. In this interview with our correspondent in Birnin Kebbi, he speaks on the political situation in Kebbi State. Excerpts:

From Ismail Adebayo, Birnin Kebbi

**W**HY did your party, the NDP, refuse to participate in the Kebbi Central bye - election held December last year?

Those of us in the NDP in Kebbi State decided not to take part in the election because there were signals that the election was going to be rigged in favour of PDP candidate just as they did in 2007. We knew that there was no how the senatorial election would be free and fair and we were vindicated at the end because the outcome of the election reflected our position. We knew it would be a waste of effort for us to participate in an election conducted by INEC as it is presently constituted. As for the 2011 election, we are relying on public opinion; we know that PDP is losing the confidence of Kebbi people because of the non performance of Governor Dakingari. Kebbi people have decided to do away with what they see as their parasite, which is the PDP. You can go round and see the level of poverty across the state. The PDP government has pauperised our people. They have not done anything tangible to justify the mandate of the Kebbi people that is why we are trying to upstage the government of Dankigari in 2011.

**A**re you saying the PDP has not done well in Kebbi, in spite of all that has been attributed to the Dakingari administration?

What good things can you point to that have been attributed to the present government of Kebbi State. The Dakingari administration has lost focus long time ago, that is why we are prepared come 2011, by Allah's grace, to get the people to vote them out of power. We intend to empower the youths, expand agriculture which is the major occupation of our people and the raise standard of education so that we can compete well with other states of the federation.

We know these things are possible but it is because the PDP government has no initiative to turn things around that we have continued to remain backward. From what we have seen so far, PDP does not have any programme which will help to transform Kebbi State from an agrarian society to an industrial one. People are suffering under this administration because the government has refused to release money. Many ministries are being starved of funds, including the local governments which are closest to the grassroots. How do they expect people to live in this kind of situation? Our people deserve to enjoy the dividends of democracy and we are determined not to fail if we get there.

**B**ut the PDP seems to be the only party in Kebbi State, there is no opposition which political observers say can check the government. What is your reaction to this?

Kebbi State can never be a one



ALHAJI Isa Nataro

party state. I know that severally, my party has offered its voice to advise the government on how things should be done in the state. We have constructively criticised the government when necessary. WE often lend our voice to the misrule of the PDP government in Kebbi State. So it will not be fair to

us to say we have been silent in the face of what's going. I have often said that most of the projects the government embarked upon are cosmetic projects; they cannot do the state any good. Look at the health sector, they went and purchased health equipment worth billions of Naira but those equip-

ments cannot be useful in Kebbi right now because we don't even have the manpower to operate them. What we expect from Dakingari in Kebbi is to have a dry port in Kebbi to enable us get a lot of things from other states not to build one market worth over N25 billion. But I will say Aliero did well in Kebbi because to a large extent, he collaborated with the Federal Government on the rice farming scheme in Kebbi State. I think he also did well in areas of the infrastructural development in the state but if this governor is a good planner as he has always claimed, Kebbi won't be as it is now.

**H**ow correct is it that you are planning to defect to General Muhammed Buhari's CPC?

We all know in this country that General Buhari is a reputable and trustworthy person. We also know that he can handle the affairs of this country better than many of those who have shown interest to be president of Nigeria. He is an honest human being whom Nigerians can trust with their mandate; other persons I can vouch for are the former Senate President Ken Nnamani and Nasiru el-Rufa'i. We all know he [el-Rufai] did well, forget whatever thing they are now saying or doing to discredit him. Concerning whether I am decamping to the CPC, I have not decided yet because I must first consult with my supporters on the way forward.

## I'm yet to decide on 2011 - Shekarau

From Lawan Danjuma Adamu, Kano

KANO State governor, Malam Ibrahim Shekarau has said that he is yet to take a position on his political direction ahead of the 2011 election. Governor Shekarau stated this while testifying before Justice Tani Yusuf of Kano High Court in a libel suit he filed against a Lagos based magazine, Business Eye.

When asked during cross-examination by the defence counsel, Barrister Festus Okoye, on his political ambition in 2011, the Kano State governor responded: "I have not yet decided."

When asked further if

his ambition will be based on the will of the people of Kano State, he pointed out that "there is a difference between ambition and decision," saying he will always be the one to decide for himself.

Shekarau is claiming N500 million damages against Business Eye for an libellous story it allegedly published on 28 September, 2008 titled "Shekarau on trial," wherein he was alleged to have stashed millions of dollars in eight foreign banks. Thirteen documents were tendered and admitted by the court as exhibits by Shekarau's counsel Dapo Akinosu (SAN) to refute the allegations.

While speaking to

reporters after the court sitting, Akinosu said his client's appearance to give evidence before the court was a clear "demonstration that he has absolutely nothing to hide and that he could answer any questions" and that the governor wanted to clear his reputation and ensure no similar allegations were labelled against him in the future.

On his part, Barrister Okoye said his defence team is "doing very well in the matter," saying only one witness is left for them to cross-examine. The case has been adjourned to March 26 and April 20, 2010 for continuation of hearing and defence respectively.

## Group endorses Nyako for second term

From: Ibrahim Muhammad, Yola

THE chances of Adamawa state governor, Murtala Nyako, securing another term of office got brighter yesterday as a group of politicians under the aegis Adamawa Awareness Foundation passed a vote of confidence on him, asking him to seek re-election. Addressing journalists in Yola, chairman of the group, Alhaji Muhammadu Abba Sarkin Shanu, applauded the performance of Nyako, stressing that the governor was the messiah the people had been waiting for since the state was created.

He pointed out that the people oriented projects

executed by the Nyako led government were clear indications that the governor has a vision to rescue the people of the state from poverty and underdevelopment.

He argued that if the governor was given another term to serve, Adamawa State would become the centre of excellence.

While reacting to this development, an Action Congress (AC) stalwart and former member in the state Assembly, Abdul Mumini Ibrahim Song, said the opposition in Adamawa was yet to appreciate the performance of the present administration in the state.

He averred that in spite of the huge amount of

money accrued to the state, people are yet see developmental projects. He alleged that only few cabals within the corridor of power do enjoy the government.



GOV. Murtala Nyako

## INTO Partner Universities Mini-fair



**UEA** University of East Anglia

UNIVERSITY OF  
**EXETER**

**C** GLASGOW  
CALEDONIAN  
UNIVERSITY

**Newcastle**  
University

### Dates/Venues:

#### INTO Mini fair in Abuja:

Monday 15th March 2010  
INTO Mini fair day one  
@ Transcorp Hilton Abuja,  
1, Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja  
Time: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Tuesday 16th March 2010  
INTO Mini fair day two  
@ Transcorp Hilton Abuja,  
1, Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja  
Time: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

#### INTO Mini fair in Kano:

Wednesday 17th March 2010  
Tahir Guest Palace,  
No 4 Ibrahim Natsungune Road,  
Off Ahmadu Bello Way, Kano  
Time: 12 noon – 6:00 pm

#### INTO Mini fair in Lagos:

Friday 19th March 2010  
INTO Mini fair day one  
@ Sheraton Hotel,  
30 Mobolaji Bank Anthony Way, Ikeja,  
Lagos  
Time: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Saturday 20th March 2010  
INTO Mini fair day two  
@ Sheraton Hotel,  
30 Mobolaji Bank Anthony Way, Ikeja,  
Lagos  
Time: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

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Studies, etc.



Students should come with  
credentials and photocopies.

Contact  
British Canadian International Education  
(BCIE) Offices:

**BCIE - VICTORIA ISLAND BRANCH:**  
Plot 146C Imnam Abibu Adetoro Str., Off Ajose Adeogun, by Sinari Daranjo,  
Victoria Island Annexe, Lagos. Tel: 01-8990891. Mobile: 0706 093 0343.  
Email: into\_lagos@bcie.co.uk

**BCIE - ABUJA BRANCH:**  
Ground Floor Metro Plaza, Plot 991-992, Zakariya Maimalari Str., Central Area, Abuja.  
Tel: 09-4611728. Mobile: 0703 613 3394. Email: into\_nigeria@bcie.co.uk

**BCIE - IKEJA BRANCH:**  
Valley View Plaza, 99 Opebi Road, Ikeja, Lagos. Tel: 01-8966508.  
Mobile: 0802 337 9290. Email: nigeriaikeja@bcie.co.uk

**BCIE - KANO BRANCH:**  
Chalet "E" Tahir Guest Palace (Annex), Lamido Road, Off Suleiman Crescent,  
(Behind Niima Hotel), Nasarawa G.R.A., Kano  
Tel: 08135403294. Mobile: 08130743252. Email: kano@bcie.co.uk

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### 2010/2011 PTDF OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME (M.Sc)

#### NOTICE OF APTITUDE TEST FOR SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES

This is to inform all candidates that applied for the  
**2010/2011 PTDF Overseas Scholarship Scheme (M.Sc)**  
that the list of shortlisted candidates for the **APTITUDE TEST**  
in respect of the scholarship award has been  
published in our website [www.ptdf.gov.ng](http://www.ptdf.gov.ng). The  
**APTITUDE TEST** will hold in different centres across the  
country on **Saturday March 20, 2010 by 8am**.

In addition, notification messages with details of the centres  
that each shortlisted candidate will sit for the test are being  
sent to the affected candidates through **Electronic Mails  
and SMS**.

Shortlisted candidates are strongly advised to report at the  
centres indicated in their notifications.

Please visit [www.ptdf.gov.ng](http://www.ptdf.gov.ng) for the list of shortlisted  
candidates for the **APTITUDE TEST**, a significant process  
leading to the award of PTDF Overseas Scholarship at  
Master's level.

**MANAGEMENT  
ANNOUNCER**



**UNIVERSITY OF MAIDUGURI**  
(Office of the Registrar)

#### APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION INTO REMEDIAL ARTS AND SCIENCE PROGRAMME FOR THE 2009/2010 ACADEMIC SESSION

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for admission into the  
Remedial Arts and Science Programmes.

##### 1. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The Admission requirements are 5 credits in SSCE, GCE or NECO in not more  
than two sittings. The credits must be in English, Mathematics and three other  
subjects relevant to the chosen Remedial Programme (Arts or Science).

##### 2. METHOD OF APPLICATION

Payment of **N3, 000:00** for the purchase of the forms must be made through the  
**University Account Number 0202130001105 with Diamond Bank Plc**. The  
Bank Teller is then presented to the Bursary for issuance of receipt, which would  
be used to collect the application forms from the Admissions Office. The  
application forms would be available as from **15<sup>th</sup> March, 2010**.

##### 3. SUBMISSION OF COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS

Completed application forms must be returned to the Admissions Office  
personally or by registered post/mail not later than **15<sup>th</sup> May, 2010**. The following  
documents must accompany each application form.

- a) One certified latest passport size photograph (stapled to the form)
- b) Photocopies of certificates
- c) Photocopy of receipt for the purchase of the form
- d) Local Government indigene certificate (for catchment's area candidates only)

**NB:** The University is not obliged to give reasons for the rejection of any  
application and will not enter into personal correspondence on the matter.

Signed  
**Dr. Lawan Bukar Alhaji**  
REGISTRAR

## Inside Politics

# ANPP sues Zamfara legislators for decamping

From Sadeeq Aliyu, Gusau

THE All Nigeria Peoples Party [ANPP] in Zamfara state has instituted a suit against members of the state House of Assembly for decamping to PDP, asking the court to declare their seats vacant.

Addressing journalists yesterday, counsel to ANPP Barrister Mohammed Sani Katu said Section 109 [g] of the 1999 constitution is unambiguous about a leg-

islator who leaves his party. "According that section, the moment a legislator who was elected under the platform of a particular party decamps, his seat becomes vacant," he said.

The legal practitioner said from the 3rd of March 2010 when the legislators of Zamfara State House of Assembly officially denounced their membership of the ANPP and declared for PDP, their seats had become vacant

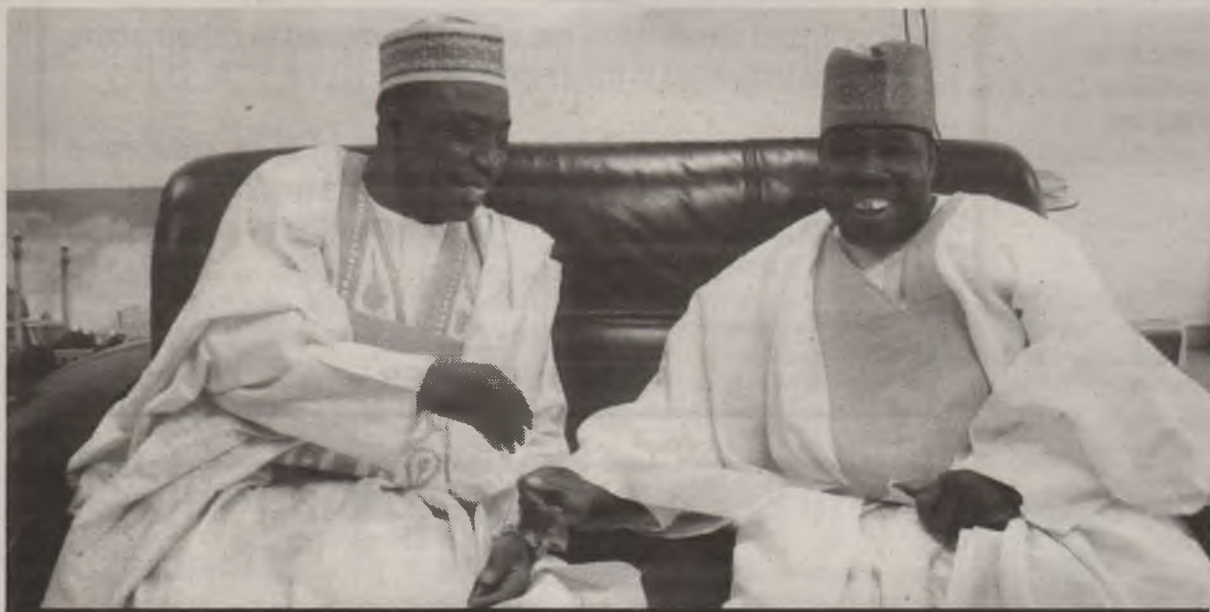
automatically.

He said ordinarily, there would not have been any need to go to court but ask INEC to conduct bye-election. However, Barrister Katu said the ANPP at the national level held a meeting and asked the state chapter of the party to file a suit to protect the mandate given the party during the election.

"We are mandated to go up to the Supreme Court in respect of this matter,"

he said.

Concerning members of House of Representatives and Senate from Zamfara who were also said have decamped along with the state legislators, Barrister Katu said the party is filing a separate suit at the Federal High Court in Abuja in which the Senate President and Speaker of the House of Representative will be joined to ensure that the federal legislators also vacate their seats.



FCT Minister Senator Mohamed Adamu Aliero (left) and Borno State Governor, Senator Ali Modu Sheriff during a courtesy call in Abuja, recently.

## AC says PDP's N11.5b secretariat monument to failure

THE Action Congress (AC) has described as a monument to failure and corruption the 12-storey, 11.5 billion Naira PDP's national secretariat whose contract was signed by the party in Abuja Wednesday.

In a statement by its National Publicity Secretary, Alhaji Lai Mohammed, in Lagos, the party said the PDP, having failed the nation and stifled democracy, should be winding up as a political party and preparing to give

way to serious parties like the AC, instead of wasting funds on a secretariat.

"Never in the history of any nation has a ruling party inflicted so much sorrow and pain on a people as the PDP has done to Nigerians - in the name of democracy - since 1999, when our country returned to democratic rule.

"The rudderlessness and confusion that have characterised the past few months of President Umaru Yar'adua's ailment

and the effect on Nigerians are some of the indications that the PDP has lost control of its own government and lost touch with reality. The party is now on a free descent into oblivion," AC said.

It queried where the party got the huge funds from, wondering whether they are part of the proceeds of looted public funds or whether the funds were skimmed off contracts awarded by the government. Either way, the funds

are proceeds of corruption.

AC said if the funds were contributed by the 27 states being controlled by that PDP, it would cost each state about half a billion Naira in public funds, adding:

The party said the contention of PDP Chairman Vincent Ogbulafor, that the construction of the secretariat demonstrated the commitment of the party towards institutionalizing democracy in Nigeria, is laughable and simplistic.

## Aliero pledges free, fair election in FCT

By Misbahu Bashir

MINISTER of the Federal Capital Territory, Mohammed Adamu Aliero, said yesterday that government will ensure free and fair elections during the April 10, 2010 Area Councils election and the general election in 2011.

Special Assistant to the Minister on Political Affairs, Aminu Kurfi, who represented the Minister at a meeting with security agents and political party leaders and aspirants, said government will not interfere with the electoral process or allow anybody to rig elections in the territory. He also pledged to secure election materials during subsequent election in Abuja.

The minister advised candidates to address issues that

will improve the living standard of the electorate during campaigns rather than matters that could heighten tension among the populace.

FCT Commissioner of Police John Haruna said policemen and other security agents would be fully monitored during elections and will be neutral. He said adequate security will be guaranteed during the coming Area Council polls in Abuja.

The Resident Electoral Commissioner in the FCT Steven Many said there is high political apathy in FCT because the electorate have lost confidence in the parties and the politicians. "Less than ten per cent of the electorate voted in Abuja in the previous election". He said there will be no electoral malpractice during elections.

## Kano 2011: Kofar Mata unveils decision on guber race soon

From Auwalu Umar, Kano

DIRECTOR-GENERAL of Kano State Pilgrims Welfare Board Alhaji Sani Lawan Kofar Mata, believed to be one of the key contenders for the 2011 governorship race in the state, has said he will soon make his position known as regards the contest.

Kofar Mata told newsmen in Kano yesterday that he would not disappoint the people prevailing on him to contest the plum seat, saying the state needs a capable person who would continue from where Governor Shekarau would stop.

The Director-General also said he was studying with keen interest the current political atmosphere in the state, especially the purported coming out of some key political actors eyeing one elective position or the

other.

He said it was time for him to inform his supporters, admirers and the entire people of Kano of his political stand, saying he had made wider consultations on the 2011 governorship race.

"I would want to assure all my supporters and admirers that I would soon meet with them to make public my stand on the forthcoming 2011 governorship race", he said.

Kofar Mata who contended that the ruling ANPP in the state would continue to rule beyond 2011, however said all hands must be on deck for the party to retain power.

He expressed appreciation for the support and cooperation accorded Governor Shekarau's administration, saying ANPP would not afford to lose Kano in 2011.

## Political parties to sign MOU ahead FCT council polls

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

ALL political parties participating in the FCT Area Council elections coming up in April will sign a Memorandum of Understanding for peaceful election, Resident Electoral Commissioner of the FCT, Dr. Stephen Many, has said.

The INEC boss who disclosed this yesterday in his office, said the election, slated for April 10th would be conducted on a level play ground.

Dr. Many said he would ensure that the 16 political parties taking part in the election give their maximum corporation by endorsing a peace accord document which will guarantee their commitment to peaceful conduct during the polls.

He revealed that he adopted the same procedure while he was Resident Electoral Commissioner in Oyo State during April 14, 2007 election and recorded the most peaceful, transparent and violence free election ever held in the state since 1959.

## Group faults NLC over Iwu

By Abbas Jimoh

THE Rights Monitoring Group (RMG) has accused the President of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), Comrade Abdulwaheed Omar, of acting a political script by calling for the removal of chairman of the of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Prof. Maurice Iwu.

National coordinator of the group, Olufemi Aduwo, told our correspondent in Abuja yesterday that it is wrong for Omar to make such calls because of the recent Anambra governorship election, which his preferred candidate lost.

"You cannot be a judge in your case. Nobody would care if Omar in person joins Labour Party to demand for a redress in his vested interest, but using NLC for this purpose is a breach of public trust. What should Nigerians make of NLC as an observer in the last Anambra election and its infamous endorsement of a candidate in that election?"

"What should Nigerians make of the leadership of the NLC when individuals and groups commended INEC and Nigerians for the election, but NLC chose to undermine the progress recorded by mobilizing for the removal of INEC chairman," Aduwo said.



**MINISTRY OF LAND AND PHYSICAL PLANNING,  
KANO STATE**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform the general public that the certified true copy of Certificate of Occupancy No. COM/86/209 dated 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2009 and collected by one Alhaji Tijjani Yahaya Baliya is hereby cancelled.

**Signed:  
Management  
(Ministry of Land and Physical  
Planning, Kano State)**

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2. **VACANCIES** for field staff focusing primarily on deposit mobilization at the micro-level within the Federal Capital Territory.

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If you are interested in any of the above slots, kindly e-mail your curriculum vitae in ms-word to: [Ismail@vhassociates-ng.com](mailto:Ismail@vhassociates-ng.com) OR submit by hand at: Suite A-13, First Floor, Umami Plaza, off Zaria Road, Opposite House of Assembly, Kano.

Submissions received after 5.00pm, Thursday, March 18, 2010 will be rejected.

**TRUST CLASSIFIED**



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**Abd-ru-shin**  
Grail Centre Madalla, Madalla Suleja Road 08054183304

**LOSS OF LAND DOCUMENT**

This is to notify the public that the Original Land Document with Old File No. OY 2462 and new File No. OY 21484 belonging to Mrs Olayinka Mutiat Oladipo is missing, all efforts to trace the document proved abortive. FCTA and AGIS please take note.

**LOSS OF DOCUMENTS**

This is to inform the general public that the Original Land application forms with ref number: MFCT/LA/002/AN6597, dated 21/11/02 belonging to Mrs. Petronilla Chinwe I. of N.Y.S.C state secretariat, Port Harcourt, Rivers State is missing along with the receipt of payment with number, 000670620. All efforts to trace these documents have proved abortive. Please if found return to the nearest police station.

FORMERLY MISS HUSSAIN SAIDAT KOFOWOROLA NOW WISH TO BE ADDRESSED AS MRS NURUDEEN SAIDAT KOFOWOROLA. ALL FORMER DOCUMENT REMAIN VALID. TASUED, NYSC AND GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE

**VULNERABLE PERSONS EMPOWERMENT 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. Mrs. Florence Egimi Ochelle (Chairman)
  2. Michael Ochelle
  3. Tina Ochelle (Miss) (Secretary)
  4. Elizabeth Ochelle (Miss)
  5. Franka Ochelle

**Aims and objectives:**

1. To eradicate poverty, child abuse and all forms of discrimination in rural areas.
2. To provide basic social amenities to underprivileged women and children particularly the grass root level.
3. To create awareness and empowerment of women and children in rural areas.

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

**ISLAND ALL STARS SPORTS CLUB**

This is to inform the general public that the above named Club has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

- The trustees are:**
1. Chukwuma Ukaere
  2. Uchenna Nwachukwu
  3. Benedict Azuh
  4. Chukwumeka Maduka
  5. Ugochukwu Ezekwem

**Aims and objectives:**

1. To promote and develop sport skills in Nigeria.
2. To provide humanitarian services to less privileged in the society.
3. To enjoin and promote peaceful co-existence among the members of the club and other members of the community.

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. Agbo Adaeze May

Former AKOLADE OMOWUNMI ISLAMIAT, now wish to be known as IBRAHIM OMOUNMI ISLAMIAT, all former document remain valid and general public to take note.

**LOSS OF DOCUMENTS**

This is to inform the general public of the Loss of the following documents:-

1. Loss of Land documents with title Love Garden & Home Ref: No. MFCT/ZA/AMAC/APHS MF551 and Solomon Initiation Ltd Ref: No. MFCT/ZA/AMAC/AP HS MF552 for Army Post Services Housing Scheme Kurudu Layout.
2. International Passport issued to him in Minna, Niger State, which are belonging to Mr. John Sani Usara got missing and all efforts to trace the said documents proved abortive. If found contact any Police Station.

**MISSING DOCUMENTS**

This is to notify the general public that the original land documents (the RIGHT OF OFFER and the AGIS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT) in respect of Plot 370, Dawaki Extension (Relocation) Abuja, bearing the name UMEH CHINEDU but belonging to his attorney - CHIJOKE UDEH got missing since 12th February, 2010. Any person with useful information about these original documents should contact:

MR CHIJOKE UDEH - 08035960359 OR  
BARR F.N. ONUOHA - 08035971345 OR The nearest Police Station in Abuja. The general public should please take note.

**SALT OF THE EARTH 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. Ituah-Olajide Ighodalo
  2. Omolewa Elizabeth Ogunlesi
  3. Oladapo Jude Oduwole
  4. Roselyn Oduyemi
  5. Bolanle Rasheedat Makanju

**Aims and objectives:**

1. To preach the unadulterated word of God.
2. To reach out to commercial sex workers and their patrons with the message of salvation.

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

# TRUST CLASSIFIED

## COSTAIN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, (CAC) for incorporation under the Companies and Allied Matters Act No. 1 1990 under part 'C'.

### The Trustees are:

1. Engr. Ibrahim Hamisu
2. Engr. Sulaiman Muazu Ahmad
3. Hamza Abubakar
4. Dahiru Moh'd Baba
5. Musa Dagari
6. Nura Hahayatu

### Aims and Objectives:

1. To promote unity, peace and progress.
  2. To empower the youth by providing job opportunities.
  3. To assist orphans and less privileged.
  4. To ensure maximum security of lives and properties
  5. To provide Education (Computer knowledge inclusive)
- Any objections to the above should be forwarded within twenty eight (28) days from the date of this publication to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission plot 420 Tigris Crescent Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, P.M.B 198, Abuja.

Signed:  
Engr. Sulaiman Muazu Ahmad  
For: Secretary - General

## UMU ZAKAT AND SADAQAH FOUNDATION

This is to inform the general public that the above named initiative has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) for registration under part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act No.1 of 1990.

### The trustees are:

1. Rasheed Hafsat Jumoke
2. Jimoh Shukurah Adekemi
3. Raji Rodiat Adefunke
4. Olanrewaju Majeedat Folashade

**Aims and objectives:** To give scholarship to indigent Islamic scholars.

Signed: Odianah Sally  
SCRIBES & LEGALS  
08023229785, 08035463185, 07028100785

## HOPE FOR HOPELESS INTERNATIONAL 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. Mrs. Anne Abal Asachaya    | - | President/General Overseer |
| 2. Mr. Nathaniel Barminas     | - | Secretary                  |
| 3. Mr. Daniel Doya Wumty      | - | Member                     |
| 4. Dr. Helen Ray              | - | Member                     |
| 5. Rev. Peruel Dabatu         | - | Member                     |
| 6. Barr. Mahmud Akawaya Bello | - | Member                     |
| 7. Mr. Abel Asachaya          | - | Member                     |

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. To provide an opportunity for the hopeless to understand the purpose God for their lives.
2. To give hope to the physically challenged person (s) with rehabilitation facilities.
3. To give hope to the hopeless through the establishment of skills acquisition centers.
4. To give love and hope to HIV/AIDS, Cancer victims etc in our societies

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

## PUBLIC NOTICE DONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL

This is to notify the general public that the above mentioned club has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for the change of its trustees. The trustees to be changed are: Don. Emeka Wilson, Don. Sunday Odabe, Don. Edwin Ezech, Don. Ogochukwu Okpara and Chief Vincent Ezeokoli. They are to be replaced by the following trustees: Comrade Innocent Anaedo, Don. Aloy Ofor, Don. Emmanuel Ibeke, Don. Obinna Igbozurike, Don. Joel Ugwuoke, Don. Anayo Nwoye, Don. Mboru Nchekwubechukwu, Don. Chukwuma Nwachukwu, Don. Benjamin Okeke and Don. Fidelis Agodi.

Any objection to this application for the change of trustees shall be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Wuse Zone 5 Abuja not later than 28 days of this publication.

Signed:  
J.N. EGWUONWU ESQ. 08037047920, 08056488088

## LOSS OF ORIGINAL LAND DOCUMENTS

This is to inform the general public of the loss of land allocation paper in respect of Plot No. 65 measuring 1200 sqm at Enugu Street Garki II, FCT-Abuja by Abuja Municipal Area Council, belonging to MASSI ZAZHIWO but late now. All effort to trace the documents proved abortive. If found contact any nearest police station. AGIS, FCT, FCDA please note.

## LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to notify general public that the original certificate of occupancy no. BO/28555 Original held by ALHAJI BAKO GONI IBRAHIM and now assigned to ALHAJI ABBA KYARI is hereby declared missing. Any boby that comes across it should contact the Deed Registrar, Ministry of land and survey Maiduguri or Mussawa Chambers no1 Kano Road Maiduguri, Tel. 08036060404, 08056060404

## THE TRUTH CHRIST GLORIOUS INTERNATIONAL CHURCH

26 Adekunle Farley Street, Amoloso, Abeokuta, Ogun State

This is to notify 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, 1990.

### THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Rev. (Dr.) Mrs. Quadri Elizabeth Olusola
2. Pastor Samuel Oluwafemi Kojitilo
3. Pastor Samuel Oluwaseyi Quadri

### THE PRINCIPAL AIMS AND OBJECTIVES ARE:

1. To preach the gospel of our lord Jesus Christ.
2. To teach and preach all Bible doctrines.
3. To endorse and all the teaching of the Bible
4. To offer that will lift up the glory of God in the life of members.
5. To conduct deliverance services for members and the public at large.
6. To organise or join desiring couples in marriage.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to The Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days (twenty-eight) of the date of publication.

Signed: Omoniyl Olanrewaju  
08023317670

## OGBECHIE DIABETIC 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 of 1990.

### THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Dr. LAWRENCE Odiaka Ogbechie
2. Dr. Gordy Odumah
3. Mr. Azubuku Ogbechie
4. Dr. Ndu Okonye

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. To promote the awareness of diabetes which is a major silent killer illness in human race.
2. To educate the public on the cause, detection, treatment, management and prevention of diabetes.
3. To create public awareness on the prevention and control of diabetes disease among people.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama Abuja, Within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:  
E.J. KACHIKWU Esq  
KACHIKWU-JGEN & CO

## GEORGE BAPTIST COKER TRUST 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 of 1990.

### THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Esther Otabisi Ogotuga
2. Olumuyywa Coker
3. Senti Williams
4. Efun Johnson
5. Simon Coker
6. Tokunbo Adewole

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. To provide welfare assistance to the less privileged.
  2. To foster social and recreational interaction among all members
  3. To safeguard, hold, maintain and enhance all physical assets and properties which belong to the late Mr. & Mrs. G.B Coker.
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama Abuja, Within 28 days of this publication.

SIGNED:  
ANTHONIA ADETAYO SHOMOYEN Esq  
A.A. SHOMOYE & CO

## CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

The General Public is hereby notified that the above named Organisation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for Registration under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

### THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. CHIEF ONOGHO JOSEPH ERHARHAGHEN JP.
2. PROF. MRS. ROSE AZIZIA
3. DR. KEHINDE OKUN OMO
4. MRS. OGHENERO DIKE ESQ
5. DR. BENSON UWAKATA
6. MR. JOHNSON ONOGHO

### THE AIM AND OBJECTIVE ARE:

1. To educate and create awareness on environmental degradation, pollution, global warming and climate change.
2. To carryout campaign against deforestation, desertification and reforestation.
3. To emphasize the importance of biodiversity conservation.
4. Create awareness and prevention of HIV/AIDS, Malaria and tuberculosis.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B. 198, Maitama, Abuja within Twenty-Eight (28) days from the date of this publication.

Signed: EUGENE UWANDI ESQ.  
(Solicitor).

## CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly known as SULAIMAN HAMZA YAKUBU Now wish to be called as SULAIMAN JIBRIN YAKUBU. All former documents remain valid N.S.C.D.C and General public take note.

I formerly MISS JANADA ABBA MEDUGU now MRS JANADA JAMES IJAFU, former document remain valid, N.Y.S.C. Madagali L.G.A. Adamawa State take note.

I formerly MISS VIVIAN CHINASA AGO OMOTU henceforth wish to be known and addressed as MRS VIVIAN CHINASA UZOUKWU former document remain valid, N.Y.S.C. and general public to note.

I formally known as FATIMA YAKUBU now wish to be known as FATIMA ABUBAKAR ZANNA. All former documents remain valid. University of Maiduguri and general public to note please.

I LADI CHIROMA JATAU wish to be called MRS. LADI MARK TENE. University of Maiduguri and general public take note.

I, formerly known as SAADATU DAHIRU wish to be known as SAADATU DAHIRU ABDULSALAM. General public and NYSC should take note.

I, formerly known as MISS REBECCA NKECHI ANI now wish to be known as MRS. AGBA REBECCA NKECHI. NYSC/ABU Zaria and general public take note.

I formerly known as ROSE ENEGOLE OKPE now wish to be called MRS ROSE ENEGOLE YASHAR. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and General public take note.

I formerly ADIKPE PATIENCE now wish to be PATIENCE ODAH ADIKPE. Former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public take note.

I known as FATIMA MAMMAN wish to be called MRS FATIMA ABDUL-AZIZ MU'AZU. NYSC to note.

I formerly MISS IBENYE CHIOMA TINA, now wish to be known as MRS. NDEZE TINA CHIOMA. former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public take note.

I, formerly known as LAWAL IFE DEBORAH, now wish to be addressed as MRS IFE DEBORA AREMU. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly addressed as MARUFAT IBRAHIM, now to be known as MRS MARUFAT IBRAHIM MUHAMMED. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public take note.

I, Formerly known as MISS PATRICIA WILLIAMS now wish to be address as MRS. PATRICIA SYLVESTER. All former documents remain valid. General public should take note

I, formerly known as MISS PLANGNAN DASHI now wish to be known as MRS. PLANGNAN CALEB DAWEN D.. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public should take note.

I, formerly known as UMUKAONYWE in Uguwawuru Autonomous in Umunneochi L.G.A Abia State, now wish to be known as UMUKACHUKWU IN UGUWAWURU AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY UMUAKU UMUNUEOCHI L.G.A Abia State, general public note.

I, formerly known as MARY OHUNENE OTONOKU, wish to be called MRS OHUNENE ANATE IBRAHIM. All former documents remain valid. General public note.

I, formerly known as MISS SANNI TAWALKALIT REMILEKUN, now wish to be called MRS AMUDA ABDULGAFAR TAWALKALIT. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public to take note.

I, formerly MR. OKACHI DEMIAN OTUJI, now wish to be called OKACHI SOLOMON OGAR. All former documents remain valid. General public to note.

I, formerly known as SALAMATU SALIHU AFEGBUA, now wish to be called MRS SALAMATU YAHAYA BELLO. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as OKAFOR ROSE NONSO CHUKWU, now wish to be known as MRS OBIKA ROSE NONSO CHUKWU. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as OJIUGO OFIADIBIA E, wish to be called as OJIUGO CHIDOZIE IHENACHO. General public take note.

# TRUST CLASSIFIED

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the general public and the Kaduna State Ministry of Lands and Survey that the Certificate of Occupancy (C of O) with registration No. KDL/65624 belonging to Alhaji Ali Commissioner Kawo was burn in a accident. The Kaduna State Ministry of Lands and Survey take note.

Signed:  
Mukhtar Bello Dabo

## CAVEAT EMPTOR

The Deed of Assignment between Mal. Abdullah Musa Gashash and Gashash Brothers Limited dated the 15<sup>th</sup> December, 1964 in respect of property covered by Certificate of Occupancy No. 11708 which instrument is registered at Page 123 No. 123 in Vol. 68 of the Lands Registry is missing. Please if found, kindly return to Director of Lands, Ministry of Lands, Survey and Country Planning, Kaduna.

Signed:  
Abubakar Gashash  
08033936646

## CAVEAT EMPTOR

The Deed of Assignment between Hon. Alh. Ibrahim Musa Gashash and Gashash Brothers Limited dated the 15<sup>th</sup> December, 1964 in respect of property covered by Certificate of Occupancy No. 12317 which instrument is registered at Page 189 No. 189 in Vol. 70 of the Lands Registry is missing. Please if found, kindly return to Director of Lands, Ministry of Lands, Survey and Country Planning, Kaduna.

Signed:  
Abubakar Gashash  
08033936646

## CAVEAT EMPTOR

The Deed of Assignment between Mal. Mahmud Musa Gashash and Gashash Brothers Limited dated the 15<sup>th</sup> December, 1964 in respect of property covered by Certificate of Occupancy No. 11790 which instrument is registered at Page 5 No. 5 in Vol. 72 of the Lands Registry is missing. Please if found, kindly return to Director of Lands, Ministry of Lands, Survey and Country Planning, Kaduna.

Signed:  
Abubakar Gashash  
08033936646

## SOCIAL INITIATIVE FOR THE EMANCIPATION OF WOMEN AND YOUTHS IN NIGERIA

This is to notify the general public that the above named association has applied to Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under Part C of CAMA, 1990.

### THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. CHIDI ASIKA ENAHORO
2. VICTOR ENAHORO
3. ANENE EJKEME
4. ADA EJKEME
5. TARA ENAHORO

- ### OBJECTIVES
1. To provide advocacy for women and Youth Empowerment.
  2. To encourage social and moral values amongst women, children and youths.
  3. To provide a forum for addressing and redressing issues challenging the welfare of women and youths.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, P.M.B 189, Maitama Abuja, within 28 days of this publication.

SIGNED: C. ONYEMAIU Esq.  
ADAMU AHMED IBRAHIM & CO. 08035052889

## OGANIRU NDIKBO FOUNDATION PUBLIC NOTICE

The general-public is hereby informed that the above named Organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

### The Trustees are:

- |                             |             |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Patrick Ologbo           | Coordinator |
| 2. Kingsley Eze             | Member      |
| 3. Chikodili Spencer-Obiano | Member      |

### The Objectives are:

1. To create awareness and enlightenment on health, social and economic advancement on rural dwellers of Ndigbo and all residents of south eastern Nigeria.
2. To care for the needy and vulnerable groups by provision of food, shelter and other necessities of life.
3. To assist in the education of children from poor homes and to provide opportunities for skill acquisition for the orphans and youths in Ndigbo.

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420 Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama P.M.B 198 Garki-Abuja.

Signed  
Pepeola Grace Esq.  
For: Rose O. Ojako-Nwosu & Co  
Suite 943 Shakir Plaza Area 11 Abuja

## PHILLIPA HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION

This is to inform members of the public that the above NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION has applied for registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission Abuja under part C of the companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990

### The Trustees

1. Dr Phillipa Edafiohio
2. Alhaji Musa Bukar Sani
3. Dr. Patrick Erah
4. Dr. Peter Eseoghend Edafiohio
5. Ms. Ojemen Igbreh
6. Monsignor Christopher Ajala

### Aims and Objectives

1. To provide and provide health care for the poor and indigent
2. To promote youth empowerment
3. To provide health for widows and orphans living with HIV/AIDS

Any objection to this application should be forwarded to the Registrar General Corporate Affairs Commission P M B 198 Abuja within 28 days from the date of this publication

Mohammed Uthman Esq.

## EMWAI COMPANY LIMITED

3 Kanta Road, Turaki All House, P.O Box 9717 Kaduna.  
Tel: 080-33109180 E-mail emwaigroup@yahoo.com

## FOR SALE

### KAOLIN MINE

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emwai@nigeria.blackberry.com or  
emwaigroup@yahoo.com

Signed:  
IBRAHIM YAHAYA  
For: Emwai Company Ltd Kaduna

## HAUSA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF 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 decree of 1990;

### The trustees are

1. IBRAHIM MAHMUD
2. MUHAMMAD SANI UMAR
3. KABIRU AHMAD GWARZO
4. PROFESSOR LAWAN DANLADI YALWA
5. NASIRU GARBA AHMAD

### AIMS & OBJECTIVES

1. To understand the Hausa language in Nigeria for those that do not know.

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the registrar General Corporate affairs commission, wuse zone 5 Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

## CHRIST RULE MISSION WORLDWIDE

This is to notify the general public that the above named church has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

### THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Pastor Kevin Saint Bernard Okeoghene General Overseer
2. Pastor Mrs. Ronke Okeoghene
3. Deaconess Princess Okeoghene

- ### OBJECTIVES
1. To preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and forming the spiritual counsel of the God head through the in-depth teaching of the word of God.
  2. Entroning Christ in the hearts and mind of the people and making them acknowledge and proclaim Jesus as Lord.
  3. Bringing the gains of Christ Rule i.e righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost, to the kingdoms and nations of the world by the Covenant reign of the saints.
  4. Subdue and possess the kingdoms of this world for Christ through massive outreaches and global evangelism.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to The Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days (twenty-eight) of the date of publication.

Signed: Pastor Kevin Okeoghene

## COALITION FOR DEMOCRATIC SUSTANANCE

The following persons, Nigerians, Adult have registered their collective desires to be on the board of trustees of the proposed Non-Governmental Organization called COALITION FOR DEMOCRATIC SUSTANANCE to be registered at CAC Abuja.

### OBJECTIVES

1. Promotion of good governance at all levels by emphasizing the adherence to the rule of law by all with no exception.
2. Partnering with government in relevant areas of mutual interest.

### MEMBERS

- |                                |                           |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Maurice Yunoboki (FCA)  | 2. Chief Chris Odiele     |
| 3. Dr. Innocent Etang          | 4. Mr. Asunloye Bola Paul |
| 5. Alh. Aminu Mohammed Garba   | 6. Alh. Anas Sa'ad Ahmed  |
| 7. Mr. Charles Omotola         | 8. Mr. Reginald Inungba   |
| 9. Alh Dr. Bello Abdullahi     | 10. Mr. Adamu Danjuma     |
| 11. Mr. Pwa-Bieno Jeffrey Zara |                           |

Any objection to this application should be forwarded to the Registrar General Corporate Affairs Commission P M B 198 Abuja within 28 days from the date of the publication

Signed:  
(Chief) Barr. C. A. C. Oporum

## CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as AMAECHI OGECHI, wish to be known as NWADIKE OGECHI. General public to take note.

I, formerly known as MISS MARIA GORRETTI ONAH, now wish to be known as MRS MARIA GORRETTI IDAKWO. All former documents remain valid. General public to note.

I, formerly known as GEORGENIA OGADIMMA GOLDEN, now wish to be called MRS GEORGENIA OGADIMMA EKWO. All former documents remain valid. General public to note.

I, formerly MISS HASSANA SALIHU, now wish to be called MRS HASSANA ABDULLAHI. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and the general public to note.

My full name is AUDU AHMED ISIAKA but WAEC /GCE Nov/Dec. 2009 omitted AUDU from my name in the result issued to me. WAEC/GCE Authority and general public take note.

I, formerly MISS BASSEY NYONG, now wish to be addressed as MRS BASSEY NYAM. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS OLUWAYEMISI O. FATOGUN, now wish to be addressed as MRS OLUWAYEMISI OMOLARA SIJUWOLA. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public take note.

I, formerly known as MR PAUL OKON, now wish to be addressed as MR PAUL UKA EGWU. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS NWODO PEACE ODINKEMMA, now wish to be addressed as MRS OTU PEACE ODINAKACHUKWU OVAI. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as SOLOMON MARILYN NGUWASEN, now wish to be called MRS BEGHA MARILYN NGUWASEN. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

Formerly FOLASHADE PATIENCE ALABI, now wish to be known as FOLASHADE PATIENCE ONI. All former documents remain valid. FRSC, Nursing Council and the general public take note.

I, formerly MISS OJERINDE ABIODUN, now wish to be addressed as MRS. ALABI ABIODUN. All former documents remain valid. NECO and general public take note.

I, formerly known as INYANG BASSEY EYO, now wish to be known as INYANG EKAETE ODENIYI. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly NIMOT ODUNAGU SUBAIR, wish to be called MRS MURTALA SULIEMAN NIMOT. Former documents remain valid. General public note.

I, formerly OGBONNA OKECHUKWU, wish to be called OSORGU DONALD OKECHUKWU. All former documents remain valid. General public note.

I, formerly known as MISS ANTHONIA PIUS, now to be known as MRS AISHA ZAKARI YUSUF. All former documents remain valid. General public note.

I, formerly known as MISS RITA SANI BALA now wish to be known as MRS HAUWA AHMED. Former documents remain valid.

I, formerly ISMAILA TONY TUNDE henceforth wish to be called TONY OSAGIE TUNDE, former documents remain valid, general public to note.

I, formerly MISS HASSANA SALIHU now wish to be called MRS HASSANA ABDULLAHI. All previous document remain valid. NYSC and general public to note.

I, formerly known as MRS IFEOMA AGWU UGBAJA, now wish to be known and called MRS IFEOMA UGBAJA. All former documents remain valid. General public to note.

## NEXT GENERATION CHILDREN FOUNDATION

The general public is hereby put on notice that the above names organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under Part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

### The Trustees are:

1. Oluola Adewole
2. Otu Etuk
3. Olayinka Adebayo
4. Adegbenro Simon

### Aims and Objectives

1. To ensure next generation of Nigeria children are properly catered and brought up in schools that are well structured with adequate teacher training programme and well balanced feeding scheme.
2. To install electronics in schools, that is, computers, audio cassettes, air conditioners, that will further produced good learning environment.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed  
Lekan Ogunye Esq  
(Solicitor)

## SPORT

NFF confirm  
four friendly  
matches

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# NOC elections may hold March 31

By Ismaila Lere, with Agency reports

AN end may have finally come to the long awaited election into the board of the Nigeria Olympic Committee initially engulfed in crisis.

Chairman of the Nigeria Olympic Committee (NOC) Electoral Committee, Rev. Moses Iloh, whose body was set up to mediate on the electoral crisis that engulfed the body between Sports Minister, Sani Ndanusa and NOC President, Habu Gumel, finally revealed that the report of the panel which was binding on all

presented to the members of the executive board to pick a venue for the election as well as ratify other recommendations reached by the panel.

The executive board comprises all the Presidents of the Olympics sports in the country. Gumel and Ndanusa are the top contenders for the NOC Presidency.

Speaking yesterday at the secretariat of the NOC in Lagos, the former boss of the Nigeria Cycling Federation said the panel comprising himself, Ibrahim Galadima and Abimbola Thomas, would make public the detail of their submissions when the NOC President, Habu Gumel is presented with the report. He said the report is ready.

"The three of us have concluded our first job, vis-a-vis, the terms of reference that we were given, which primarily was to pick a date for the NOC elections. We have therefore proposed March 31.

"I must stress to you, that we did a thorough job in line with the mandate that was given to us at the botched Annual General Assembly in Dutse, Jigawa State which is also binding on all members of the Nigeria Olympic movement," he concluded.

“ He said the committee has fixed March 31 for the election.

members of the Olympic family to pick an election date is ready.

fixed March 31 for the election while awaiting the arrival of incumbent president Habu Gumel, who is in New Delhi.

He also said report will be



SUPER Eagles forward Obafemi Martins of Wolfsburg, front, battles for the ball with Rubin Kazan's Cristian Ansaldi during their Europa League match in Kazan, Russia yesterday.

## EFCC not investigating Hoddle's bribery claims

By Orkula Shaagee & Misbahu Bashir

THE Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) yesterday denied reports that it is investigating allegations made by Glen Hoddle, one of the coaches interviewed for the Super Eagles Technical Adviser's job last month that some Nigerian officials demanded a bribe of \$500,000 from him to offer him the job.

Kwara State Governor, Bukola Saraki had said that Hoddle complained to him that some officials demanded he inflate

his wage demands by \$500,000 because this would guarantee the Englishman the job to lead the Super Eagles to the 2010 World Cup.

EFCC spokesman, Femi Babafemi told Trustsports on phone yesterday that the agency has not received such report, and that is it investigating such a case.

However, Babafemi assured that the agency would not hesitate to investigate the case if brought to their notice, stressing that "it is the responsibility of EFCC to investigate such cases

and if brought to our notice, we will investigate it".

According to Governor Saraki, "My working with Hoddle was borne out of patriotism and my conviction that the right thing must be done. I met Hoddle, who complained that he was asked to part with \$500,000 out of his \$1.5 million (proposed salary) and that that was the only way to do business in Nigeria," said Saraki.

"He said some people asked him to quote \$1.5 million instead of the \$900,000 he asked for."

Football agent John Ola

Shittu, who worked with Hoddle for the Nigeria job disclosed that the country's anti-corruption body, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), is now investigating this scandal after Saraki and he complained to the head of the Presidential Task Force (PTF) for the World Cup, Rivers State Governor, Rotimi Amaechi.

"It is high time that criminals parading themselves as sports officials in Nigeria were brought to book," said Shittu.

Chairman of the technical committee of the Nigeria Foot-

ball Federation (NFF), Taiwo Ogunjobi, challenged Shittu to reveal the identity of the officials who demanded for this massive kickback.

"If he is sure of himself, let him reveal the identity of those who told Hoddle to inflate his salary," said Ogunjobi, who was on the interview panel to hire a new Nigeria coach.

Another official added: "We were very transparent in the process of engaging a new coach and the scores of all the coaches have been published in the media."

## TBI, HRG unveil travel packages for World Cup

Nahimah Ajikanle, Lagos

AS the 2010 world soccer fiesta holds in South Africa in June this year, Tour Brokers International (TBI) and the HRG Nigeria have announced their partnership to streamline travel process for Nigerians soccer fans individuals and corporate organizations that are traveling for the matches from the country.

Addressing a joint press conference to unveil their packages in Lagos, the Managing Director of TBI, Mrs. Uloma Egbuna said that the company had finished arrangements with South African Airways and Kenyan Airways to make flights available for its clients.

She explained that as a participating tour operator, TBI has been guaranteed by FIFA match tickets to TBI clients for all matches.

Egbuna noted that tickets would also be available for Nigerians who also wish to watch matches of other countries from Tour Brokers.

She added that each match ticket bought from TBI there is accommodation and arrangement in South Africa by FIFA for facilitation from the airport to the hotel and the venue of the match.

TBI boss stated further that arrangement is also in place for large group as FIFA will be providing charter flights for corporate organisations.

She said: "It might also interest you to know that South African tourism is supporting TBI in this. TBI is partnering with HRG Nigeria, our sister company and they are our partners in terms of the world cup packages to South Africa. Now is not just a TBI event, HRG Nigeria is also selling all inclusive packages to the 2010 World Cup."

Egbuna disclosed that FIFA has issued visa certificate to TBI as a participating tour operator for whereby it client will secure South African visa for free.



Arderlecht's Romelu Lukaku, left, and Hamburg's Joris Mathijsen challenge for the ball during the UEFA Europe League round of 16 match in Hamburg, Germany, yesterday. Hamburg won 3-1.

## PTF must stop funding NFF - Agari

A former board member of the then Nigeria Football Association, Ben Agari has charged the presidential task force to stop playing Father Christmas to the NFF.

Agari lampooned the NFF for allegedly seeking 2.7 million dollars to settle accommodation, cars and sundry expenses for Super Eagles coach, Lars Lagerback and his assistants.

He stated further in an explosive interview with *brilafm.net* that The Glass House must first account for the 280,000 dollars allegedly stolen from its coffers before going on a spending spree.

"It will be wrong for the PTF to go ahead to give out money to then NFF. It will be very, very wrong, because we need to get the true picture of money in the Glass House.

"We still have the issue of missing money in the Glass House and some people were arrested.

"The same people they accused, the people that police arrested, they took them to Angola for the Nations Cup. They should not be talking about getting money from the PTF again.

"We are talking about our indigenous coach they employed for the job. They wanted to

pay him N1.8 million but they couldn't pay and are still owing him. In three months they want to pay a foreign coach millions, and they are still asking for more. It is wrong.

"It is wrong that the NFF is still asking for money from the PTF. The chairman of PTF needs to ask questions. He should not just give out money like that," Agari advised.

## NBBF confident of hosting 2011 championship

NIGERIA Basketball Federation (NBBF) yesterday said it was confident of hosting the edition of the men's championship of the 2011 Africa Cup of Nations.

A letter of guarantee from the National Sports Commission (NSC) was submitted to the African governing body FIBA Africa at the weekend.

Tijjani Umar, NBBF President, said: "we have passed every mark set and would say at this time that we are very

confident that Nigeria will host Africa next year."

According to him, the submission of the letter followed elaborate discussions with the Secretary Dr. Alphonse Bile and some other executive members of FIBA.

"The discussion with the FIBA Africa governing body this time around, I will say was constructive and engaging," Umar said, adding that the federation also had government backing.

"We sincerely hope that the facility tour only becomes a mere

formality, as we are determined to host the competition at a very high level expected of the country," Umar said.

The continental body requires a letter of assurance from the government of any country bidding to host as proof of the country's firm interest in the hosting of the competition.

The FIBA officials are expected to visit Nigeria in a tour of facilities in a yet to be confirmed date.

Nigeria is in contention with Cote d'Ivoire and Madagascar as

host for Afrobasket 2011.

A FIBA executive meeting next week is expected to cut down the countries to just two before the final vote.

Nigeria is yet to host the event which the likes Angola, Egypt and Senegal have played as hosts many times.

In another development, the Federation's flagship competition, the DStv League billed to start across the nation on Saturday has been postponed and a new date is to be announced later.

Similarly, the Zenith Bank League for Women which had been announced to start in Kano next week is also to start at a later date just as the resuscitated Division One League billed for Ilorin has also been postponed.

Umar explained that the Federation was forced to take the measure due to unforeseen circumstances and appealed to teams and other stakeholders for understanding.



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# GALACTIC FAILURE

## Real's shock European exit

By Iain Rogers, Reuters

REAL Madrid were accused of throwing 250 million euros (\$339 million) down the drain yesterday after being dumped out of the Champions League by Olympique Lyon.

Real president Florentino Perez returned to the world's richest club by revenue for a second term last summer and brought in top players including Cristiano Ronaldo and Kaka in a bid to end five years of failure in Europe's elite competition.

However, Thursday's Spanish newspapers suggested the construction magnate's investment had been a waste and the nine-times European champions had focused too much on glamour and spectacle at the expense of sporting success.

"You don't buy titles, you win them," columnist Jose Samano wrote in daily El Pais following the last 16 exit.

"When the ball is in play it's the business of the players and Hollywood-style theatre is irrelevant," he added. "Everything is possible in sport except for those who consider the pitch a stock market."

Real's elimination by Lyon, 2-1 on aggregate following Wednesday's 1-1 home draw, ended Perez's dream of winning a 10th European title at the club's Bernabeu stadium, where May's final is to be held.

Real were also humiliated by third-tier Alcorcon in the King's Cup in November and the domestic league is their only remaining chance of silverware this season.

"The catastrophe suffered by



DOWN and out... The early ouster of Real Madrid and Cristiano Ronaldo from Champions League has brought considerable pressure to the team.

this pharaonic Madrid team is as if an earthquake had destroyed the Valley of the Kings," Orfeo Suarez wrote in El Mundo.

"Watching the competition to which they owe their legend from the sidelines will be their penitence and torment."

"Sixth galactic failure" and "More than 250 million euros down the drain" were the head-

lines in conservative daily ABC, and columnist Julian Avila said Real were left looking for answers despite their "stratospheric spending."

"The jewel in the crown, Cristiano Ronaldo, Champions League finalist in the past two seasons, is out of the tournament at his first attempt in a white shirt," Avila noted.

Carlos Marcote, writing in daily El Periodico, said Perez had failed in his attempt "to bulldoze Madrid back to the summit of world soccer."

"Not even winning the league ... will remove such a scandalous stain, the worst in the recent history of Madrid given the such lofty heights they were obliged to reach."

## Milan do not need shaking up, says Leonardo

By Paul Virgo, Reuters

AC Milan's squad does not need a shakeup despite their Champions League battering by Manchester United, said coach Leonardo.

"We must embrace the certainties we have and not let ourselves be conditioned by this result," the Brazilian told reporters after United cruised to a 4-0 victory at Old Trafford on Wednesday to win the last-16 tie 7-2 on aggregate.

"This team doesn't need transforming. We just have to be smart not to allow this fall to affect our goals in Serie A."

"We are still second in the league, four points behind Inter Milan," added Leonardo who is in his debut season in the dugout.

The general feeling in Italy was the Milan coach received a tactical masterclass from United counterpart Alex Ferguson.

"We think Italian teams are at an advantage when it comes to tactics but this time Ferguson got

every move right," former Italy keeper Luca Marchigiani told Sky television.

"Those moves mark the difference between a coach and a great coach."

Giving the tireless Park Ji-Sung the task of keeping tabs on Andrea Pirlo stifled much of Milan's creative thrust while United stalwart Gary Neville was equally effective in marking Ronaldinho.

Leonardo also fielded an imbalanced team. He used two out-and-out strikers in Marco Borriello and Klaas-Jan Huntelaar while David Beckham, the player best suited to supply the pair with crosses, was on the bench for much of the match.

"Leo got everything wrong," said the front page of La Gazzetta dello Sport.

Wednesday's result aside, the Brazilian has performed well after a poor start to the season.

He does though need to accelerate the learning curve especially with his preparation for big

matches, having also been out-thought in two derby defeats this season by Inter Milan coach Jose Mourinho.

"Leonardo has accompanied this team with some fascinating and brave experiments and, sometimes, with some naive and reckless decisions," said La Repubblica.

"It's not a foregone conclusion he will remain as coach next season."

Italy is now looking to Mourinho's side for salvation, with Inter getting ready to defend a 2-1 first-leg lead at his former club Chelsea in their last-16 tie on Tuesday.

If Inter fail, the country will have no quarter-final representation and that would raise the possibility of Italy losing their fourth Champions League qualifying spot to Germany from 2011.

"We are on the borderline," read an editorial in Gazzetta. "There's our UEFA ranking to defend tooth and nail."

"Maybe closing their eyes and

holding their noses, Milan and Juventus fans and others will be forced to support Inter. Now like never before Inter means Italy."



LEONARDO

## Hiddink wants to end Russia contract

OUTGOING Russia coach Guus Hiddink wants to end his contract with the Russian FA as soon as possible so he can consider an offer to coach Ivory Coast at this year's World Cup, his adviser said yesterday.

"I hope his contract situation would be settled before the end of this month or even sooner," Cees van Nieuwenhuizen told Reuters by telephone from Amsterdam.

Hiddink's contract with Russia expires on July 15, and he is set to start as Turkey's new coach from Aug. 1.

Van Nieuwenhuizen confirmed that Hiddink had been approached by Ivory Coast to lead the African team at this year's World Cup but the Dutchman must first release himself from his obligations with the Russian FA (RFU).

"We must be fair to the Ivory Coast and give them a definite answer in the next couple of

Hiddink's contract with Russia expires on July 15.

weeks," van Nieuwenhuizen said. "But we can't do anything until we sort out Russia's contract."

Media reports say Ivory Coast, who sacked coach Vahid Halilhodzic last month, have offered Hiddink a two-month contract, starting on May 15.

"We have their offer but it doesn't mean Guus will take it even if he was freed from his Russian contract. But at least, he could make his own decisions then," van Nieuwenhuizen said.

However, RFU president Sergei Fursenko has insisted that Hiddink must fulfil his contract obligations to the very end despite the fact that he has not been paid since January.

The National Academy Fund (NAF), sponsored by Chelsea's billionaire owner Roman Abramovich, was paying Hiddink's 7-million-euro (\$10 million) salary through the end of last year under the agreement with former RFU president Vitaly Mutko.

Fursenko, who succeeded Mutko as RFU chief last month, last week said "no comment" when asked by Reuters if he intended to pay Hiddink's salary this year.

"It's true my client hasn't been paid since January but right now I'm not going to put any legal pressure on the Russian FA to pay up, there's still time to solve that problem," said van Nieuwenhuizen.

## GUEST COLUMNIST

### By Matthew Hassan Kukah

# Ibrahim Tahir and Bashir Ikara: A personal tribute

Ibrahim Tahir. The name has a ring and conjures up some kind of resonance and rambunctiousness. Dr. Tahir had class, poise and presence. In a room, he had a way of filling up whatever little space was left by his huge frame with a voice that rang with an exuberant echo. He spoke with such measured elegance, chose his phrases and stitched his words with the precision of a Saville Row tailor. I loved the man, his words and the sheer breath and depth of his intellect. He had a flawless grasp of intricate issues of various sciences and fields of knowledge and had a way of pulling various threads from religion, sociology, economics, journalism or politics to weave and convey and idea, Dr. Tahir had the capacity to make every encounter engaging and exciting. He was a combative, incisive and an avuncular debater on almost any and every subject.

News of his death hit me while I was in a stupor following the death of my best friend, Charles Garba Ali Madaki. I do not remember precisely when Dr. Tahir and I first met formally in the mid 80s. I recall however, that the sentiments of appreciation and affection were mutual and we quickly hit it off. We all admitted a mutual longing for a meeting, an admiration for the intellectual capacity of one another and I was personally humbled to hear him speak about his appreciation of my interventions. *I like to listen to you or to read you because your comments are always incisive, measured and balanced*, I remember him saying to me. He was taken aback when I told him that I had read *The Last Imam* almost at one sitting and that his PhD thesis had held me bound in the library for the better part of a week. *How did you get to read my thesis*, he asked as if I had broken into his personal safe. *Well, it was in the course of my research at the School of Oriental & African Studies*, I said to him. *Oh*, he said rather fondly, *you went to SOAS? Ah, that is a great school. Fantastic archives and Library*, he repeated.

For some strange reason, from then on, we tended to share the same platform at Arewa House and a few other places where issues of the North and Nigerian politics were being debated. The last platform we shared was a memorial event organized by the family of the late Alhaji Abdurahaman Okene at Arewa House and chaired by Professor Jubril Aminu, another prominent star in the intellectual galaxy. Dr. Tahir and I always tended to have similar diagnosis of the problems of our nation but would often disagree on the prescriptions and the conclusions. But whatever the issues were, you could hardly fault the soundness of Dr. Tahir's position on almost every debate about *Power, Religion, Justice, Equity* the North and Nigeria.

I picked up the news purely by accident that Dr. Tahir had been at the National Hospital, Abuja for almost a year! Much later in the day, I decided to drive to the National Hospital in search of him. I was not sure where to find him but I knew I would find him. I had a rough idea of what part of the Hospital he might be in.

After asking around, I finally found the wing of the Hospital where he was staying. I met a very nice nurse who welcomed me but told me that Dr. Tahir was resting. I pleaded with her that I had to return to Kaduna early the next morning and that I might not be able to see him before my departure. She suggested I leave a note, but I persisted. To press my case further, I decided to draw from my account of clerical privileges. *But Madam*, I said to her, *I am not aware of any hospital turning back a priest who wishes to visit a patient. What is more, every patient needs some prayers*, I said, sensing that this would obviously qualify for spiritual blackmail. But the nurse did not relent. *Dr. Tahir is a Muslim*, she said, *and you are a Catholic priest. You are not an Imam*. I saw from her face that some bone of kindness had shifted. *Ok, I am a Catholic Imam*, I said to her. She laughed and caved in. *Ok, let me see if he is awake*. She returned with a huge smile to say that Dr. Tahir was ready to receive me. *I give you five minutes*, she said with medical kindness.

As soon as I entered his private hospital room, Dr. Tahir strenuously struggled to move the whole of his over two hun-

dred pounds of flesh from the bed. Even the mattress seemed to smile at me in appreciation of being relieved of its burden. My goodness, he exclaimed. Fr. Matthew, my good friend, how did you find me here? Who told you I was here? You are a real brother and God will bless you, he said with his characteristic warmth. He gave me a warm Goliath and David embrace. We chatted about the usual problems of Nigeria.

I looked at Dr. Tahir with a sense of pity. For a man of his stature, I sensed that the system had not been fair to him. Was this not supposed to be one of the precious scions of the Northern ruling classes? Was this not the Talban Bauchi, supposedly a player in the first eleven of the North? I shook my head and concluded that indeed, there are Northern Princes and there are Northern Princes. I looked at his diabetic condition and personally feared that he would not make it or that in the end, he might have his legs amputated or so. Looking at him, a wave of despondency swept over me. I thought about Dr. Tahir the man, the one with the swagger who walked with the measured confidence and elegance of a prince.

I took one look at him and felt a pang of personal pain. Dr. Tahir looked quite ill, but I was also worried as to how a man of such panache had seemingly fallen into a state of nigh physical disrepair. Is it that no one could do anything earlier for Dr. Tahir? I had somehow sensed that Dr. Tahir's life had taken a downturn a few years earlier. I had noticed in the 90s that the swagger had slowed down and even in appearance; Dr. Tahir had begun to look like a cross between a Sufi mystique and his radical mullah. He seemed to have become overtly religious or at least externally sought to convey that appearance. Was he taking refuge in religion, I thought, given that in politics, he obviously had become sidelined by the same Northern ruling class that he had defended and served so fervently?

Mohammed Haruna's had rightly described Dr. Tahir as a radical conservative. The description was apt but it was also seemingly the root of his problems. Although I had known of Dr. Tahir in the 80s, most of what one often heard from his critics were stories of a radical who had sold his ideological soul and crossed over for the pottage of power. My respect and admiration for Dr. Tahir grew when I read *The Last Imam* purely. I had actually read the book almost at a sitting. After I read the book, I remember telling my friend, the late Dr. Tajudeen Abduraheem about it. He found my obsession with Dr. Tahir's brilliance a bit disturbing, reminding me that the man was a renegade comrade. But, Tajudeen said, give it to him, that character (the word Taju loved to use for people he had reservations about) is brilliant. You should read his thesis on Sufism. Using the Inter University Library Lending facilities, I obtained a copy of the thesis from Cambridge University. For five or so days, after it arrived, I was often one of the first to enter and leave the library. That thesis definitely will go down in history as one of the most thoroughly well researched pieces of work on the subject.

I kept encouraging Dr. Tahir to publish his thesis, but the subject did not interest him. He told me that actually, the *Last Imam* had been a much longer book and that the publishers had thrown away more than half of the manuscript. He kept telling me he would do a sequel to the book. However, I sensed that he might have begun to see the intense critique of Sufism in his thesis as capable of costing him a seat at the table of power. For the better part of the last nine years, each time we met, he would often say to me, *You and I must do something together*, he always said to me. Exactly what the subject of his conspiracy was, he never really told me. Tahir is gone, but he will be remembered long after he has gone. Even in sheer size, they don't make them like Dr. Tahir anymore. He will be missed but sadly, the North which pays lip service to its children, allowed this meteor to fly inexorably into the sunset. Good night my friend and brother.

To be cont'd.

Kukah is Parish Priest, St. Andrew's Catholic Church, Kakuri, Kaduna.

## SPORTS REPORT



LARS Lagerback, Eagles coach

### NFF confirm four friendly matches

Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) have confirmed they will play four friendly matches in the warm-up to the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

New Super Eagles coach Lars Lagerback is keen to put his side through their paces as often as possible and will be pleased that the NFF have moved quickly to secure the matches against North Korea, Paraguay, Colombia and Ukraine.

The match against

the North Koreans (April 14) will be played in Pyongyang, while the remainder will be in London, where the team will prepare for the tournament before travelling to South Africa.

They face the Paraguayans on May 15, Colombia on May 26 and Ukraine on May 29.

Nigeria are preparing to meet Greece, Argentina and South Korea, so have gone for a mix of Asian, South American and European footballing styles in their friendly selection.



RAFA Benitez, Liverpool manager

### Liverpool slump to defeat at Lille

Liverpool manager Rafa Benitez remains under pressure after his side lost 1-0 at Lille in the first leg of their Europa League last 16 tie yesterday.

German side Hamburg SV eased to a 3-1 victory at home to Anderlecht while Rubin Kazan drew 1-1 with VfL Wolfsburg and Atletico Madrid versus Sporting finished goalless.

Liverpool, whose only chance of a trophy this season is in Europe's second-tier competition, started with an attacking lineup of Fernando Torres, Ryan Babel, Dirk Kuyt and Steven Gerrard while Lille were without their top striker Gervinho.

