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**NPP tells Jonathan
dissolve FEC**



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unrests - Minister**



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Senate will not impeach Yar'adua

Muhammad-Rahman Abubakar,
& Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

The Senate is not contemplating the impeachment of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua or Vice President Goodluck Jonathan over the president's prolonged absence from the country to ill health, its spokesman Senator Ayogu Eze [Enugu North] said yesterday.

The Senate leadership reacting to reports that plans to commence impeachment process and President Yar'adua to comply with its motion of last week, asked him to translate letter to the Senate medical vacation to

enable the vice president to be sworn-in as acting president.

Eze, who is chairman of the Senate's Information and Media Committee, said, "Let me there-

“The Senate believes that impeachment is a fractious process

fore restate for emphasis that there is no attempt to impeach the president or his vice. There is equally no motion known to the Senate on the matter. The Senate believes that impeach-

ment is a fractious process that will end up dividing the country and heating up the polity.

“Our resolution urging the president to do us a vacation notice is enough to produce the desired result, more so when our call has been backed by former presidents and the cream of Nigeria's elder statesmen as well as the international community. What the Senate has done was to advise the president to transmit a letter informing the National Assembly that he is on medical vacation, as a way of bringing down tension in the polity and finding a way around a knotty constitutional lacuna.”

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Three wins in a row

PHOTO: AFP



KAMEL Ahmed Hassan, captain of Egypt's national football team, holds up the African Cup of Nations trophy after winning their final match against Ghana 1-0 at the November 11 stadium in Luanda, Angola, yesterday.

Boy poisons father's food in Katsina

Muhammad Ibrahim, Katsina

A SEVEN year old Abubakar Buhari of Katsina village in Rimi Local Government Area of Katsina State at the weekend killed his father by poisoning his food.

The boy told the police he killed his father because he maltreated him. Our correspondent gathered that the suspect poured some poisonous substances into his father Malam Buhari's food. He said Malam Buhari had been maltreating him since he divorced

his mother.

Spokesman of the Katsina State Police Command ASP Alasan U. Kimba, who confirmed the incident, said Malam Buhari was confirmed dead at the Rimi General Hospital where he was rushed to shortly after

eating the poisoned food. He said the suspect had already confessed to the crime. Speaking to our correspondent, the alleged killer Abubakar Buhari said he tricked his stepmother into giving him his father's food, saying his

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Inside Today's Daily Trust

Governors responsible for unrests - Minister

From Sharafa Dauda & Yayaha Ibrahim, Maiduguri

NIGERIA is witnessing incessant religious and ethnic crises because of neglect by state governors, Minister of Interior Dr. Shettima Mustapha has said.

Speaking on Al'amuran mu na yau, a Hausa current affairs interview and call-in programme on Peace FM, Maiduguri at the weekend,

the minister said their refusal to tackle security problems in their states had caused the nation a lot.

Dr. Mustapha said the constitution was explicit on the responsibilities of each tier of government. "The Nigerian constitution spells out clearly what the federal, state and local governments should do. When you look at all the crises, you will find out that state gov-

ernments have not been taking prompt and strategic actions on security reports submitted to them.

And the Federal Government whose responsibility it is to protect Nigeria against internal and external threats can only ask the military to move in and take charge of security of lives and property in affected states when situation gets out of control, like

the cases of Boko Haram, Kalla Kato, as well as the Jos crisis," he said.

He maintained that ordinarily, the police and other security agencies in the states should have taken steps to curb such occurrences, saying in all the crises like the Boko Haram and Kalla Kato, security reports were submitted long before they occurred.

"The activities of these

religious sects were known to the government and the public. Government was aware of the actions of the sect members, religious organizations, educational groups and their leaders.

The state governments should have taken stern measures to protect the lives and property of citizens.

But they did not act until lives and property were lost", he said.

FRSC raises alarm on Epe-Ibeju road

THE Federal Road Safety Corps [FRSC] yesterday in Lagos raised an alarm over what it called the deplorable state of the 17-km Epe-Ibeju in the state. FRSC's Unit Commander in Epe Mrs Vivian Aladegbami told newsmen that the road was fast becoming a death trap.

"Some bad portions of the road had caused serious accidents with the last incident on Jan. 22 claiming 22 lives. We urge the relevant state authorities to repair the bad portions," she said.

According to Aladegbami, the commuter bus in which the 22 victims were travelling collided with a truck while trying to avoid potholes.

"From all indications, the cause of the accident, just like the previous ones on the road, was due to the bad state of the highway and recklessness of the drivers. It is a busy road with the movement of trailers and trucks carrying gravel and sand from Ijebu-Ode in Ogun to construction sites in Ibeju-Lekki and Eti-Osa in Lagos," she said.

Aladegbami commended the initiative of Ibeju-Lekki Local Government for erecting signs on the road to caution drivers. (NAN)



OSITA Chidoka, FRSC Corps Marshal



REGISTRAR, Kogi State University, Mr Joseph A. Zhizhi (left) and the vice chancellor Prof. Hassan Isah (right) decorating the Obi of Onitsha and Chairman, Diamond Bank Plc Igwe Nnaemeka Achebe as the 1st Chancellor of the university at the Anyigba Campus at the weekend.

80 yr-old found dead on disputed land

From Leye Adewumi, Akure

AN 80 year old man, Pa Moses Ijashina, was at the weekend found dead in his farm which is part of a piece of land that has generated a protracted dispute between the Oyinmo Community in Ikare in Akoko North-East and Akungba Community in Akoko South-West of Ondo State.

Our correspondent learnt at the weekend that some unknown people killed the man in his farm on the disputed land.

The first son of the deceased, Mr. Bolorunduro Idowu Ijashina,

alleged that his father was killed by people from a rival community.

"They removed his two eyes, his teeth, broke his head, shot him and cut all his body with cutlass", he said. It was gathered that in the morning of that day, when the deceased returned home from a prayer session, he gave some money to his son's wife to prepare him a meal.

He told the woman that he was leaving for the farm and would take the meal when he returned.

"At about 6.00pm, we went to look for him but we could not find

him because it was already dark. We only found the clothes which he wore to the farm, his cutlass and some kola nuts he harvested. When we came back home, we informed the chiefs in our quarters that our father went to the farm but had not returned. In the morning of the following day (Saturday) we went to the farm again and found his dead body at the foot of a hill. He was killed on the hill top and brought down to the bottom. We went back home and reported to the chiefs that our father had been killed", the son said.

According to him, the matter was reported at Akungba Divisional Police headquarters. Police carried the corpse to the mortuary of Federal Medical Centre, Owo for autopsy.

When the Akungba youths learnt of the killing, they wanted to stage a protest but the chiefs appealed to them not to take the law into their hands, adding that the police and government had intervened.

It was learnt that the boundary dispute between the two communities had been reported to National Boundary Commission whose report is being awaited.

Police mobilise 23,230 for Anambra guber

THE police say 23,230 officers mobilised for the Anambra February 6 gubernatorial election would start arriving in the state on Wednesday.

The Anambra Police Command's Public Relations Officer

Emeka Chukwuemeka disclosed this in Awka at a workshop on "Violence-Free Election," organised by the command for the forthcoming gubernatorial poll. Chukwuemeka explained that each polling station would be

manned by five policemen.

He reiterated the commitment and preparedness of the command towards ensuring a hitch-free gubernatorial contest on February 6.

The spokesman warned trou-

blemakers to stay away from Anambra. Also speaking, Chairman of the Ohaneze Ndigbo committee on free and fair election in the state, Chief Sam Nweke, urged the youth to shun violence and thuggery during the poll. (NAN)

SERAP wants ICC probe into Jos killings

By Sunday Ejike Benjamin

THE International Criminal Court (ICC) has been urged to investigate allegations of unlawful killing of at least 326 people and perpetration of other crimes under international law during the recent violence in Jos, Plateau State.

Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP) said this in a petition titled: "Request to investigate allegations of crimes against humanity committed against the Nigerian people in Jos, Plateau State of Nigeria."

Also in the petition, dated Jan. 29, 2010, SERAP urged the Prosecutor of ICC at The Hague, Luis

Moreno Ocampo, to investigate the allegations that the military and police used excessive force against both Christians and Muslims in responding to the violence.

"The Plateau State Police Command said that at least 326 people were killed during the violence. Tens of thousands are displaced, and denied access to humanitarian assistance and basic necessities of life such as food and medical care. Many have not been assisted to return to their homes and land, or provided with alternative accommodation," SERAP's counsel Femi Falana said.

SERAP said: "Those who are suspected to be responsible for the

latest violence and previous outbreaks of deadly violence in Jos have not been arrested let alone brought to justice because the government has shown itself to be too weak to act, contrary to its international legal obligations.

"The government usually response to outbreaks of violence in many parts of the country by setting up commissions of inquiry, but few of them have ever published their reports, and even when they have, their recommendations have rarely been acted upon or led to prosecutions," it added.

SERAP also argued that: "In effect, the government has shown itself unwilling or unable to trans-

parently and effectively investigate and prosecute allegations of crimes under international law committed in the context of the outbreaks of violence in Nigeria, including the latest violence in Jos. This situation amounts to a denial of the victims' access to a fair, effective and prompt system of justice. The denial of justice to the victims of violence also violates the Security Council (SC) Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security (October 2000), which emphasises the 'responsibility of all States to put an end to impunity and to prosecute those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.'

FEC resolution divides PDP NWC members

By Muideen Olaniyi

LAST week's resolution of the Federal Executive Council (FEC) which gave ailing President Umaru Musa Yar'adua a clean bill of health has divided the National Working Committee (NWC) of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

Daily Trust got the clue on this development at a meeting summoned by the national leadership of the PDP with the leadership of the National Assembly and some key Ministers in the Yar'adua government.

The meeting, which held at the residence of the PDP National Chairman Prince Vincent Ogbulor, was attended by Senate President David Mark, Deputy Senate President Ike Ekweremadu and the House of Representatives Speaker Dimeji Bankole.

Also at the meeting were Justice Minister and Attorney General of the Federation Mike Aondoakaa; Minister of Agriculture Abba Sayyadi Ruma and the Chief Economic Adviser to the President Dr. Taminu Yakubu.

A reliable source at the meeting said Senate President David Mark voiced concern over the party's reaction to Senate's resolution on Yar'adua. Three NWC members also spoke against the statement issued by the party on Thursday, pointing out that the issue raised was not discussed during their Wednesday's weekly deliberation.

According to the source, the members dissociated themselves from the content of the statement, which they said, could create imaginary enemies among party members after the logjam might have been resolved.

Daily Trust learnt that the party agreed on the need to visit President Yar'adua in Saudi Arabia in order to inform him on the concern his inability to transmit vacation letter to National Assembly is generating among Nigerians and the National Assembly members.



GOVERNOR Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu of Niger State (right) with retired Chief Justice of Nigeria Justice Idris Kutigi, during a welcome home reception organised by Niger State government for the retired Chief Justice in Minna on Saturday.

CNPP tells Jonathan to dissolve cabinet

By Abbas Jimoh

THE Conference of Nigeria Political Parties (CNPP) has asked Vice President Goodluck Jonathan to dissolve the Federal Executive Council (FEC) and reconstitute same to include vibrant Nigerians with the task of reviving the nation.

CNPP said its position is based on the conviction that Jonathan can now begin the task of building Nigeria in line with court rulings and the statement by Attorney General of the Federation, Michael Aondoakaa, that he is already 'exercising full presidential powers.'

Secretary General of CNPP Chief Willy Ezugwu said yesterday in Abuja that dissolving and re-constituting the cabinet will immediately ensure that Nigeria gets back on track.

He said "working with the cabinet as presently constituted will leave the Vice President with credibility problems since Nigerians are very much aware of the roles played by some members of the cabinet in perpetrating the confusion that is now threatening to tear the nation apart."

CNPP also said that it is obvious Nigeria has grounded to a halt since President Umaru Yar'adua left Nigeria for health

reasons over two months ago.

Ezugwu wonders why the Vice President that had exercised the power of Commander in Chief by deploying troops to quell the Jos crisis, received letters of credence from foreign envoys with the full accoutrement of military guards, is not acting to save the country.

He berated the People's Democratic Party (PDP) for perpetrating illegality and corruption by choosing to go with members of the Executive Council of the Federation when Senators, even those in PDP, have unanimously asked the ailing president to hand over to Jonathan.

Kidnappers abduct bank official in Abuja

By Misbahu Bashir

AN official of Skye Bank, Abdulrahman Umar Sa'id, was Saturday night abducted at about 10pm from his home in the Utako District of Abuja.

Sa'id lives in the house alone with his private security guard. His abductors, who came in a vehicle, gave the guard the impression that they were Sa'id's friends, so he allowed them in.

A police source confirmed the story and told *Daily Trust* that the kidnap was reported late on Sunday and detectives have commenced gathering facts on how to rescue the victim.

"Detectives are combing places in Abuja to rescue the victim," he said, adding that the matter was reported to the police when Sa'id was nowhere to be found by his friends, including the son of a highly placed government official.

He said the police are yet to ascertain the motives of the kidnap because no ransom was demanded by the abductors for his release.

The police officer also said that the force is working to determine whether Sa'id was really abducted.

Yar'adua's ill health puts bank reforms at risk

NIGERIA'S fiscal and bank reforms could stagnate amid uncertainty over the future of President Umaru Yar'adua, particularly if any successor fails to give the central bank the political backing it has enjoyed so far.

Yar'adua has been in Saudi Arabia for more than two months receiving treatment for a heart condition but has not formally transferred power to his deputy, leading to questions over the legality of government decisions in his absence.

Whatever the outcome of his medical trip, few expect him to run for a second term in 2011 elections and no clear candidate to replace him has yet emerged, clouding the country's policy outlook and causing investment decisions to be put on hold.

Yar'adua's support for Central Bank Governor Lamido Sanusi helped push through the boldest bank reforms in the nation's history last year, a 600 billion naira (\$4

billion) bailout which took down some of Nigeria's biggest financial executives.

The drive to clean up the banking sector won praise from foreign investors but also won Sanusi powerful enemies, among them politically influential figures with interests in some rescued banks who could seek to undermine reform, analysts say.

"If Yar'adua is not there, the new administration could scuttle

the reforms," said Wole Famurewa, head of research at Lagos-based PHB Asset Management.

One Nigerian analyst said that should Yar'adua not return from Saudi Arabia, or be replaced, that in itself could trigger a downgrade of recommendations on Nigerian bank stocks.

Nine banks, five of which accounted for 40 per cent of the total lending market in sub-Saharan Africa's number two economy,

were given a liquidity injection and effectively remain on life support from the central bank while new investors are sought.

Eight bank chief executives were fired after central bank auditors found lax governance had left their institutions so weakly capitalised that they posed a systemic risk.

Many analysts believe the bank reforms have gone too far to be rolled back.

Business Daily Africa.com



FROM left: Anambra State Director, National Orientation Agency (NOA), Sir Geoffrey Ogbalu, Director General, NOA, Alhaji Idi Farouk, Executive Director, Political and Civil Education, (NOA), Dr. Lanre Adebayo and Resident Electoral Commissioner Anambra State, Mr. Josiah Uwazuronye, during the executive members of NOA visit to Anambra State on the state's forthcoming 2010 gubernatorial election, in Akwa, Anambra State at the weekend.

Yar'adua: CNPP commends elders, international community

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

CONFERENCE of Nigeria Political Parties (CNPP) yesterday commended the Eminent Elders Group and the international community for asking ailing President Umaru Yar'adua to officially handover to Vice President Goodluck Jonathan.

CNPP said President Yar'adua should formally issue the necessary communication that will enable the Vice President to act in accordance with Section 145 of the 1999 Constitution as soon as possible.

CNPP National Publicity Secretary, Osita Okechukwu, said in a statement that Nigeria is going through a period of uncertainty because of the prolonged illness of President.

He also saluted the "profound calls which

invariably reinforces the strident call of G53, Save Nigeria Group, Nigeria Bar Association (NBA), Senate and other patriots who have been urging President Yar'adua to avail himself as a matter of urgent national importance of section 145 of the 1999 Constitution.

Osita challenged the leadership of People Democratic Party (PDP) to immediately extract a letter from President Umaru Yar'adua and transmit it to the National Assembly in order to restore the fledgling democracy from sliding into quasi-dictatorship.

He maintained that Section 145 is the safety-net and the common ground that will allow President Yar'adua to fully recuperate without distraction which will empower the vice president to exercise his powers before he resumes duties.

Fuel scarcity worsens nationwide

By Hamisu Muhammad

PETROL scarcity continues to bite harder in many parts of the country as the queues in filling stations are getting longer by the day.

Almost three weeks after the petroleum industry stakeholders meeting in Lagos to find a lasting solution to the fuel scarcity, no sign of relief was witnessed in the petrol supply chain.

This is coming even as Minister of Petroleum Resources Rilwan Lukman

said in Abuja that the government is working with other stakeholders to end the long queues occasioned by fuel scarcity.

Reports from Lagos, the hub of the nation's commercial activities, indicated that the city recorded serious hardship as a result of the scarcity of fuel throughout last week.

In Abuja, the federal capital, long queues continue to characterize filling stations where the products are being sold. Motorists spend longer hours

waiting to buy fuel.

Meanwhile, many small businesses that rely on oil-powered electricity generating sets in Abuja and environs are closing shop while others resolved to wait for the epileptic power supply from the PHCN to do business.

Our reporter visited some shops at Aminu Kano Crescent, Wuse II, Abuja, and discovered that many business centers were not using their generating sets due to the high cost of petrol.

Onovo sets 3 point-agenda for police

MR Ogbonna Onovo, the Inspector General of Police, has set a three-point Agenda for the Nigerian Police Force.

This is contained in Onovo's blueprint published in Abuja yesterday.

According to the blueprint, the agenda include the implementation of government's white paper on police reform and renewed commitment to combating violent crime and other forms of criminality.

It also includes enhancing police image and improving personnel welfare.

According to the blueprint, the agenda borders on the roadmap for taking the Nigerian police to the next level, training and re-training for professionalism, and confidence building.

It is also targeted at building institutional and individual capacities as well as intelligence-led policing including community policing,

consultative and strategic partnership.

The agenda is also aimed at developing the professional capacities of individual police personnel, zero tolerance for corruption and corrupt practices.

"Moral re-orientation and ethical re-orientation as well as recognition and reward for outstanding performances including accommodation for men and officers of the Force," the statement said. (NAN)

Group faults redeployment of Plateau Police Commissioner

By Yunus Abdulhamid

THE Plateau State Indigenous Development Association (PSIDA) Abuja has condemned the redeployment of the former Plateau State Commissioner of Police following four days of sectarian crisis in the state, last month.

The group in a communiqué signed by its Secretary, Board of Trustees, Gideon Amuga, said similar action was taken in 2008. "This creates a situation where security operatives who are at sites of crisis, have difficulty in speaking the truth."

Following the orgies of violence in January 17, which led to the killing of hundreds in Plateau and destruction of the proper-

ties, the state Police Commissioner was redeployed by the Police High Command to Abuja and replaced with another one, citing unprofessional public comments by him.

The Commissioner had said few hours after the eruption of violence that a group of Muslims attacked Christian worshippers in a Church without provocation. The Police authorities later said that his comment was hasty and without investigations.

PSIDA described the takeover of security in the state by the Army as "a coup on the state," insisting that "the use of military weapons in crisis situations in Plateau State calls for a disarmament programme similar to the actions in the Niger Delta."

Son poisons father's food in Katsina

Continued from page 1

father sent him to collect it. He added that it was after collecting the food that he poured poisonous substances into it. The suspect is now in police custody in Katsina.

No move to impeach Fashola, says AC

By Muideen Olaniyi

THE Action Congress (AC) yesterday dismissed media reports suggesting a plot to impeach Governor Babatunde Raji Fashola of Lagos State by the state House of Assembly over allegation of financial impropriety as false and ridiculous.

AC National Publicity Secretary, Alhaji Lai Mohammed also described media reports accusing ex-governor Bola Ahmed Tinubu of Lagos State of being the brain behind a two-page advert, published in a national daily on January 28, making allegations of financial recklessness against Governor Fashola as baseless.

Mohammed said there was no crisis between Tinubu and Fashola, noting that it was illogical for Tinubu to be the one behind an advert that sought to damage his own reputation and that of the party he had expended so much time, energy, intellect and resources to build.

He said: "The AC finds this allegation absolutely baseless and irresponsible because the advert in question, placed by a faceless group, made reckless allegations, not only against Governor Fashola but also attempted to tarnish the image of Asiwaju Tinubu, members of the Lagos State House of Assembly and indeed the members of our great party in Lagos State as a whole.

"Both respected leaders of our party have issued widely publicised statements debunking these reports of any disagreement between them and as a party we affirm that the Lagos State chapter of our party remains harmonious, solid and utterly impregnable to mischievous political opportunists. It is only natural that fifth columnists will try to penetrate the ranks of our party, instigate crises, and cause disaffection in order to destabilise the AC in Lagos State, as well as impede the tremendous progress made in the state over the last decade."

He added that those who were sponsoring negative media reports in a bid to factionalise and weaken AC were only wasting their time, saying Lagos State remained the most solid bastion of progressive politics and governance in Nigeria.



NATIONAL President, Coalition of National Youth Leaders Emeka Okoroji (right), member of the Coalition Theophanous Nduka (left) and Bala Ali during a press conference on the health of President Umaru Yar'adua, held in Abuja yesterday.

Miscreants burn church, mosque in Gombe

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

JUST as normalcy is returning to Jos and environs after religious crisis in Plateau State, the Evangelical Church of West Africa (ECWA) and a mosque at the Government Science Secondary School in Gombe were yesterday torched by youths.

Though no life was lost in the crisis, security was tightened across the state in order to stop it from spreading. The state government has summoned an emergency security meeting with

all stakeholders to find a lasting solution to the conflict.

Reverend Sabo Buba told BBC Hausa Service that the school's four classrooms and desks were all burnt to ashes by the miscreants who tried to disturb the peace and tranquility being enjoyed by the people of the state.

While describing the development as disheartening, he appealed to the Christian youths to remain calm especially as no life was lost. He said what they want and have been advocating for is peace among all the people

of the state.

On his part, Muslim leader Utaz Tijjani Ahmad, an Islamic preacher in the state, urged the government to take serious measures because the school (GSSS) has been turned into be a center of misunderstanding, stressing that no religion condones violence, killing and burning of property.

He said usually whenever something similar to this happens, leaders do not get involved. He blamed the development on some few individuals who are the

enemies of peace.

The Islamic preacher said they used to have wider consultations among themselves in order to find a lasting solution to crisis and asked those maltreated to forgive and forget.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) DSP Abdullahi Kamba confirmed the skirmish. He said the police have taken drastic measure to stop the spread of the crisis by sending officers to maintain peace, adding that investigation is going on to fish out the culprits.

Senate won't impeach Yar'adua

Continued from page 1

Eze said the Senate resolution on the matter is only advisory as "given the way section 145 of the 1999 constitution is, there is nothing anybody can do to compel the president to issue the letter. However, as elder statesmen and representatives of the Nigerian people, we felt we had a duty to speak up in support of the right thing being done, even if the constitution had glossed over its necessity."

Describing insinuations that the Senate is mulling over impeachment of the President as mischievous, Senator Eze said "at no time did the issue of impeachment arise in the Senate either

when the matter was taken in plenary or in closed sessions. We are responsible and patriotic enough to know that we cannot contemplate criminalising ill health. Anybody can fall sick at anytime. The issue of health lies with God. It is therefore mischievous to allege that the Senate leadership was in favour of impeaching the president and his vice. This was never discussed and was never contemplated."

He called on rumour mongers and those "planting these fabricated stories in the press, knowing same to be false" to desist from the act, otherwise they "shall reap the fruit of their misadventure. My faith teaches me that no evil

or malice committed against fellow human beings knowingly ever goes unpunished."

In a related development at the weekend, Emir of Daura Alhaji Faruk Umar Faruk said President Umaru Musa Yar'adua will soon return home to complete his first tenure in office and run for another term in 2011.

The emir was speaking at his palace on Saturday at a reception organised by the emirate to honour the Permanent Secretary in the state Ministry of Women Affairs, Hajiya Talatu Nasir, on her appointment. The emir said he was confident that the president would soon return home to complete his term in office.

Emir Faruk, who urged the Chief Imam of Daura central mosque to offer a special prayer for the president and three past emirs of Daura, prayed for his speedy recovery to come back home.

He said the president brought unprecedented progress to the emirate during his reign as governor of the state as well as president, and the people of the emirate would not relent in offering prayers for his return. Those who spoke at the occasion described the permanent secretary as a very religious and committed woman who dedicated herself to her duties.

NEMA tasks Nigerians on fire prevention

THE Abuja zonal office of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) on Sunday in Abuja called on Nigerians to take adequate measures

to prevent fire outbreak in order to save lives.

The zonal coordinator, Mr Ishaya Chonoko, who made the call, noted that many lives

and property worth billions of naira had been lost to fire recently.

"Efforts should be concentrated on measures and pro-

cedures for stopping outbreak of fire, early detection and prompt response order save lives and minimise losses.

"The best fighting tech-

niques is prevention and the best way to prevent a fire is to create a culture of safety consciousness among individuals and communities. (NAN)

Sharia commission to check religious violence in Niger

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

THE Niger State Sharia Commission says it would explore all available means to sensitize people of the state against reli-

gious violence.

This was contained in a statement signed by the Secretary of the Commission Barrister Mohammed Awal Bida yesterday in Minna. He called on Muslims to imbibe the spirit of

tolerance and eschew acts capable of causing violence.

The commission while commiserating with the Plateau State government over the recent Jos crisis, advised the people of the state to live

in peace, saying the frequent tension in Jos was affecting the entire country.

"The recent crisis in Jos which led to loss of lives and property is a source of concern to all well meaning Nigerians.

The crisis which has displaced many people has also created a refugee crisis and caused tension and anxiety in other parts of the country. We hope that such a situation will never occur again", the commissioner said.



GOVERNOR Danjuma Goje of Gombe State (left) and Secretary to the State Government Alhaji Abubakar Sule Bage (right) decorating Superintendent of Police Suleiman Madigawa with his new rank at a ceremony in Gombe recently.

Jos: Displaced people need medical facilities

From Mahmud Lalo and Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

PEOPLE displaced as a result of the recent crisis in Jos, Plateau State, are in dire need of medical facilities in their camps.

An official of the Jamatu Nasril Islam in charge of women and children, Hajiya Khadija Gambo Hawaja, told newsmen yesterday in Jos that there were 52,000 displaced persons, 80 percent of

them women and children. She added that they also need food, shelter, water and clothing. Hajiya Khadija who is the chairperson of the Hausa/Fulani Muslim Women Forum in Plateau State said, "There are people who sustained various degrees of injuries here. Some were shot in their eyes and we don't have money to take them to the hospital. We are only giving them first aid treatment. Only yesterday, a boy was brought here with a bul-

let in his neck. Apart from money, we don't even know the hospital to take them to because some of them were left unattended to at the Jos University Teaching Hospital. We took a boy with a cut on his head there and they kept him for a week without any attention. There is another orphan who sustained burns, his mother, father and twin brother were killed in the crisis, yet he was left unattended to", she added.

She commended the Plateau government for its efforts, but added that more needed to be done to assist the people. Some of the displaced persons who spoke with our correspondent, Sani Bello and Hagar Adanu, said their houses were destroyed by rioters who attacked their area, saying, their major problem was getting clothes to cover themselves. They appealed to the government to assist them.

Bauchi Assembly to ensure separate budget for maternal health

From Muhammad Abubakar, Bauchi

THE Speaker of the Bauchi State House of Assembly Alhaji Abubakar Ahmed Faggo has assured of a separate and adequate budget for maternal health programmes in the state. The Speaker who gave the assurance when the Bauchi State Maternal Health Advocacy team led by their team leader, Ahmed

Hamza, paid him a visit at the weekend said the state government was ready to partner with the development Research and Project Center (dPRC) Kano and the Planned Parenthood Federation of Nigeria (PPFN) to improve maternal health care in the state.

He said the partnership and budgetary allocation to the sub-sector became necessary in view of the recent 2008 Nigeria Demo-

graphic and Health Survey report which provided information on the situation in the state. Earlier in his address, Ahmed Hamza said according to the 200 demographic and health survey, only 48 percent of women received any form of antenatal care in the entire North-east region. He said though the state government had since introduced the free maternity and under-five children's medical and nutrition services

in the state, there was a need for all hands to be on deck to reduce maternal mortality.

He said the team had paid similar visits to religious leaders, including the chief imam of the Bauchi Central Mosque, the state CAN chairman, as well as the state commissioner for health and the state chairman of the Primary Health Care Development Agency, all in an effort to fight maternal mortality in the state.

...As gov. warns fanatics

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

FOLLOWING the panic in Niger State Friday over an alleged plan by some people to cause trouble, Governor Babangida Aliyu has warned that anyone caught disturbing the peace would be made to face the law. "Let me warn seriously those who have sent text messages insinuating that Fridays and Saturdays are targeted periods to engage in religious violence in Niger State that I take security issues in the state very seriously and will not fail to deal decisively with anyone caught", he said.

The governor spoke Saturday in Minna at an occasion in honour of retired Chief Justice of Nigeria Justice Legco Bitingi and retired President of the High Court Justice Abdulsalam Mustapha. Aliyu urged residents of the state to report any act that may jeopardise peace, saying it was the responsibility of all to prevent crisis in the state. He maintained that the masterminds of the planned violence in the state were trying to use religion to cause problems, saying the Jos carnage was only given religious coloration as it was purely ethnic.

Zamfara legislator loses seat

From Abdulfatai Abdulsalami, Sokoto

AN Appeal Court in Sokoto has nullified the election of a legislator in the Zamfara State House of Assembly, Alhaji Yahaya Giwa of the

ANPP, who represents Maradun 1 constituency. The court has ordered fresh election in the constituency within three months. Delivering judgement Friday on an appeal filed before it challenging the decision of the election tribunal which had earlier nullified the election of the lawmaker, the presiding judge, Musa Dattijo Muhammad, affirmed the decision of the tribunal and therefore dismissed the appeal.

It would be recalled that the PDP candidate, Alhaji Faruk Musa Dosara, challenged the election of Alhaji Yahaya Giwa at the Zamfara State Election Tribunal over non display of his party's symbol on the ballot papers during the election.

Labour protests new tax regime in Nasarawa

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

ORGANIZED labour in Nasarawa State is protesting the planned increase in the Pay as You Earn (PAYE) tax and has directed workers in the state to reject their January salaries if it is less than expected. Consequently,

the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) which had signed a joint statement alongside the Trade Union Congress (TUC) and the Joint Public Service Negotiation Council, is expected to hold an emergency congress in Lafia today to discuss the issue, the state council chairman Comrade

Asoloko Maku told our correspondent yesterday.

A week-long negotiation between the state government which was led by the Head of Service Alhaji Usman Dubagari and the organized labour was deadlocked when each party refused to budge. While the state

government team insisted on the upward review and implementation of the planned tax deduction, the unions insisted that the government had no good reason for the increment other than to make life unbearable for workers and their families.

Efforts to get the state gov-

ernment to speak on the matter proved abortive as they refused to comment, but the state NLC Chairman Comrade Maku told our correspondent at the weekend that the planned upward review of the taxes would be over 600 per cent, describing the decision as insensitive.



PIC: NAN

FROM left: Governor Ibrahim Gaidam of Yobe State, Emir of Bade, Alhaji Abubakar Suleiman and Secretary to the Government of the Federation Alhaji Yayale Ahmed, at a wedding ceremony in Gashua, Yobe State, at the weekend.

Niger to get Maryam Babangida centre for women

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

THE Niger State government has decided to establish a centre for dialogue on African women in honour of the late former first lady, Maryam Babangida.

According to the state Commissioner for Information Alhaji Aliyu Baba Barau at a news conference at the weekend in Minna, the centre will operate within the confines of Hajija Maryam's proposal for Better Life for African Women to better the lives of African women through conferences and women advocacy programs.

Baba Barau said already the state government was working on a list for the steering committee for the centre, adding that Professor Ibrahim Kolo, the Vice Chancellor of the Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University, is to chair it while Mr Daniel Shashare is to be its secretary pending the approval of members.

"The mandate of the steering committee is not only to immortalize the former first lady, but to champion the cause of women in Africa to ensure that the continent is rid of poverty, especially among the female gender. The centre is to be located in Minna, as the Niger State capital is strategically accessible", he said.

'Why Kogi students fail WAEC, NECO exams'

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

THE Kogi State chapter of the Academic Staff Union of Secondary Schools (ASUSS) has attributed students' poor performances in examinations to the poor state of education in the state.

Chairman of the union in the state Comrade Ojo Ranti Mathew who spoke at the 2010 first quad-

rennial delegates conference in Lokoja lamented that students' mass failure in the last WAEC and NECO examinations did not justify the huge money paid by the state government for the examinations.

He said the situation was not unconnected to the negative attitude of students to learning, the high rate of students' indiscipline/

truancy in schools, inconducive learning environment in form of inadequate learning materials and infrastructure in schools, shortage of qualified teachers and incessant and protracted industrial actions by teachers.

Commending Governor Ibrahim Idris for implementing the 27.5 per cent salary increment for secondary school teachers in

the state, the union leader urged the government to among other things, pay the salaries of staff who had not been paid since 2009, when the staff audit was conducted, release funds for the approved 12.5 per cent implementation for non-professional teachers, recruit more male teachers and provide learning materials/facilities to all the schools in the state.

Fire razes Kano's Societal Re-orientation office

From Auwalu Umar, Kano

FIRE at the weekend razed a portion of the office of Kano State Societal Re-orientation Agency known as A Daidaita Sahu. The fire was only limited to the control room of the office's media unit with equipment worth hundreds of thousands of naira burnt.

The State Fire Service Depart-

ment and Director-General of the agency Dr Bala Muhammad confirmed the inferno, saying no one was injured in the incident.

The director-general attributed the fire to a power source which according to him destroyed the control room. "Friday night's surge of power caused the fire in the A Daidaita Sahu studio control room. Equipment worth

hundreds of thousands of naira were burnt to ashes", he said. Muhammad however dismissed reports that the fire spread to the main studio and editing room. He thanked God that no one was injured. He said timely intervention of fire fighters from the state fire service saved the situation and he commended them for the effort.

Kano NUJ urges prosecution of perpetrators of Jos crisis

From Lawan Danjuma Adamu, Kano

THE Kano State council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists has called on the government to ensure that those behind the Jos crisis are brought to book. The call was contained in a communiqué issued at the end of the union's monthly congress at the weekend in Kano. The communiqué was signed by the council Chairman

Isma'il Ammai Maizare and its secretary Adamu A. Gambo.

The union also charged the National Inter-Religious Council (NIRC) to be more active at the grassroots, saying it would curtail hostilities between members of different religions. It also commended the Kano State government and religious leaders for taking steps to ensure that the Jos crisis did not spill to the state.

Inadequate funding bane of universities – Obi of Onitsha

By Isiaka Wakili & Sam Egwu, Lokoja

THE Chancellor of the Kogi State University, Anyigba and Obi of Onitsha Igwe Nnaemeka Achebe has identified inadequate funding as the major challenge confronting the nation's university education.

Achebe who spoke at the weekend at a special convocation ceremony of the university in Anyigba said the proliferation of universities in the country had placed great pressure on the available facilities. He noted that the management of universities were faced with prob-

lems like generation of funds and were unable to concentrate on the generation and preservation of knowledge.

He said there was a need to separate funds generation and management from the critical role of academic leadership, adding

that to focus on the revenue drive, the business or development office of universities should be manned by staff of proven managerial competence and headed by an equivalent of a deputy vice chancellor. Governor Ibrahim Idris reiterated his administration's commitment

to the development of education in the state.

The Vice Chancellor of the university Professor Hassan Isah said the university would require about N30 million for the rehabilitation of some of its structures and operations.



AN accident scene where lives were lost in a saloon car along Area One – Berger junction in Abuja at the weekend.

PIC: NAN

Ulama council blames Jang for Jos crisis

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

THE Council of Ulama's in Plateau State has blamed Governor Jonah Jang for crises in the state.

Speaking yesterday at a news conference, the council through its Secretary Barrister Muhammad Lawal Ishaq, said the governor had "consistently displayed bad leadership skills by refusing to cooperate to find a lasting solution to crises in the state". The council added, "His flagrant confrontation with the Federal Government and refusing to accept the panel set up by the House of Representatives and the Absolve panel clearly shows who he is. It is for this same reason that long before now, the Council of Ulama's concluded that Jang was not capable of being an unbiased umpire".

Barrister Ishaq further alleged that after a thorough investigation by the council, they discovered that the renovation of the house which was burnt during the previous crisis was used as a smokescreen. "It was a trigger to a planned attack on unsuspecting Muslims," he said.

Barrister Ishaq also added that the acting commissioner of police should have contacted the council since they were stakeholders in the matter, adding, "We hereby take exception to his denial of the death toll in Kuru when he never invited us to submit evidence at our disposal. We should have been contacted since our doors are always open. The irony in all these is that the casualties are not the Hausas claiming ownership in Jos. They are not the people renovating their homes at Dutse Uku, they are innocent Muslims killed because of their faith".

He called on human rights groups and the International Criminal Court to investigate the crisis with the aim of bringing perpetrators of the act to book, adding that, "For this crisis to be resolved, a neutral body interested in resolving conflict must be involved".

Health, LG workers give ultimatum on new pay

From Ibrahim Muhammad, Yola

HEALTH workers and local government employees in Adamawa State yesterday gave a 14 day ultimatum to the state government to address the non-implementation of the HATISS IV or face an indefinite industrial

action.

It would be recalled that the state government earlier promised to meet the demands of the union after a warning strike over improved welfare package by the workers last year, as it also embarked on a verification exercise at local government level to

ascertain the beneficiaries. A communiqué issued at the end of joint state executive council meeting of NULGE and the medical and health workers union in Yola said the workers would resume the suspended strike if the government failed to take appropriate action to address

the issues affecting the workers.

The joint SEC resolved that the state House of Assembly as a matter of urgency should review the statutory deductions from local government allocations as such would ease the lingering problem of salaries at the local government.

Commasie urges caution on Yar'adua

From Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

FORMER Inspector General of Police Ibrahim Commasie has called on Nigerians to be cautious in their acts and utterances against President Umaru Yar'adua. Speaking to *Daily Trust* in Katsina at the weekend, the former police boss said sentiments and politically inspired demonstrations would not help the situation.

"It looks like the president was rushed abroad, so the question of sick leave, handover or delegation of power does not arise. So why the call for his resignation

when it is clear that he cannot do what they are asking him to do. I think we should keep praying for him until he is in a position to take such a political decision" he said. Commasie advised people to do things that would promote unity, rather than disintegrate the country, describing the Soyinka rally as politically inspired.

On the FEC's stand on Yar'adua, Commasie said their decision could not be faulted since they had a better knowledge of Yar'adua's health. He commended Vice President Goodluck Jonathan for keeping his cool despite pressures from several quarters.

FG to distribute 63m mosquito nets

From Muhammad Abubakar, Bauchi

THE Federal Government will distribute over 63 million treated mosquito nets across the country between January and December 2010 in an effort to eradicate malaria from the country, Minister of Health Professor Babatunde Osotimehin has said.

The minister said this in Bauchi at the flag-off ceremony of the Roll Back Malaria and distribution of 1.5 million treated mosquito nets to local government councils in the state. The programme was organised by the Bauchi State Agency for the Control of HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (BACATMA). He pointed out that the fight against malaria was the responsibility of all and appealed to the public to join hands with the Federal Government in the fight. Bauchi State Governor Isa Yuguda said malaria accounts for 30 percent of death of pregnant women and children in the state. He reiterated the commitment of his administration to eradicate the disease in the state and urged the people to ensure effective use of the nets.

INEC drafts 4000 corps members for Anambra polls

By Abbas Jimoh

THE Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) is drafting 4,000 National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) members to work as Poll Clerks in the upcoming gubernatorial election in Anambra State.

The immediate past Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) in the state Chief Rowland A. Uwa said this at the weekend in

Asaba, Delta State.

This is in addition to the 14,307 INEC staff billed for the election as announced by the commission's Deputy Secretary, Publicity and Election Monitoring, Mr Steve Osemeke, to man the election in the 21 local governments of the state.

Uwa, who was recently redeployed to Delta State, while speaking at a one-day Workshop on Electoral Reform in Asaba,

organized by the BTT Consulting, in collaboration with the INEC, said that the commission has more confidence in the youth corps members than in the ad-hoc staff used for previous elections.

He, however, warned that the corps members would be under very close watch adding that any of them found wanting during the election, would have themselves to blame as their discharge cer-

tificate would be seized at the end of the service year.

"On the issue of Anambra State election, as at now, we are going to use about 4,000 NYSC members. They are going to be sourced from different states, they will become ambassadors of those particular states they are migrating from and therefore, must be well behaved.

"We are no longer working with politicians in leopard's skin, who carry ballot boxes and start

chasing electoral officers who are there working with them.

He said the commission decides to use youth corps members because they are not politicians and are committed. He (corps member) has a National Service and just for one little thing, only for about 24 hours, you lose the certificate that has taken you one year to work for. That is why we decided to use corps members."

Jos: Group wants FG to investigate

By Abbas Jimoh

THE Federal Government has been urged to as a matter of urgency set up modalities for the investigation of the past and last ethno-religious crisis in Jos, Plateau State.

Executive Director of the Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) Auwal Musa Rafsanjani made the call yesterday in Abuja.

He also called for the involvement of international bodies in finding a lasting solution to the perennial crisis due to what he described as the "lack of confidence" of the citizens about the sincerity of government to get an unbiased report on this matter.

Rafsanjani said the Plateau State government had concluded its probe of the 2008 crisis that started over a local government Chairmanship tussle but up to date, no one person or group has been held accountable for the massacre and waste of precious human lives.

He said the Federal Government probe of the same event is ongoing, "but do we expect any different result from the other committees set up for the same purpose?"

The group said it believes the recent violence in Jos is by no way tribal or religious, saying that it is motivated by selfish politicians who want to have their ways by all means using religion and ethnic sentiments or settlers versus indigene notion.

Rafsanjani described the trend of discrimination against non-indigenes was a time-bomb that must not be allowed to explode again, adding that it should have the responsibility to protect all the people living in the state, be they indigenes/settlers or visitors irrespective of the religious believe and ethnic background.

Senate to review double taxation policy

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

THE Senate has said it will soon commence legislative process aimed at repealing the existing double taxation policy on goods and products in the country.

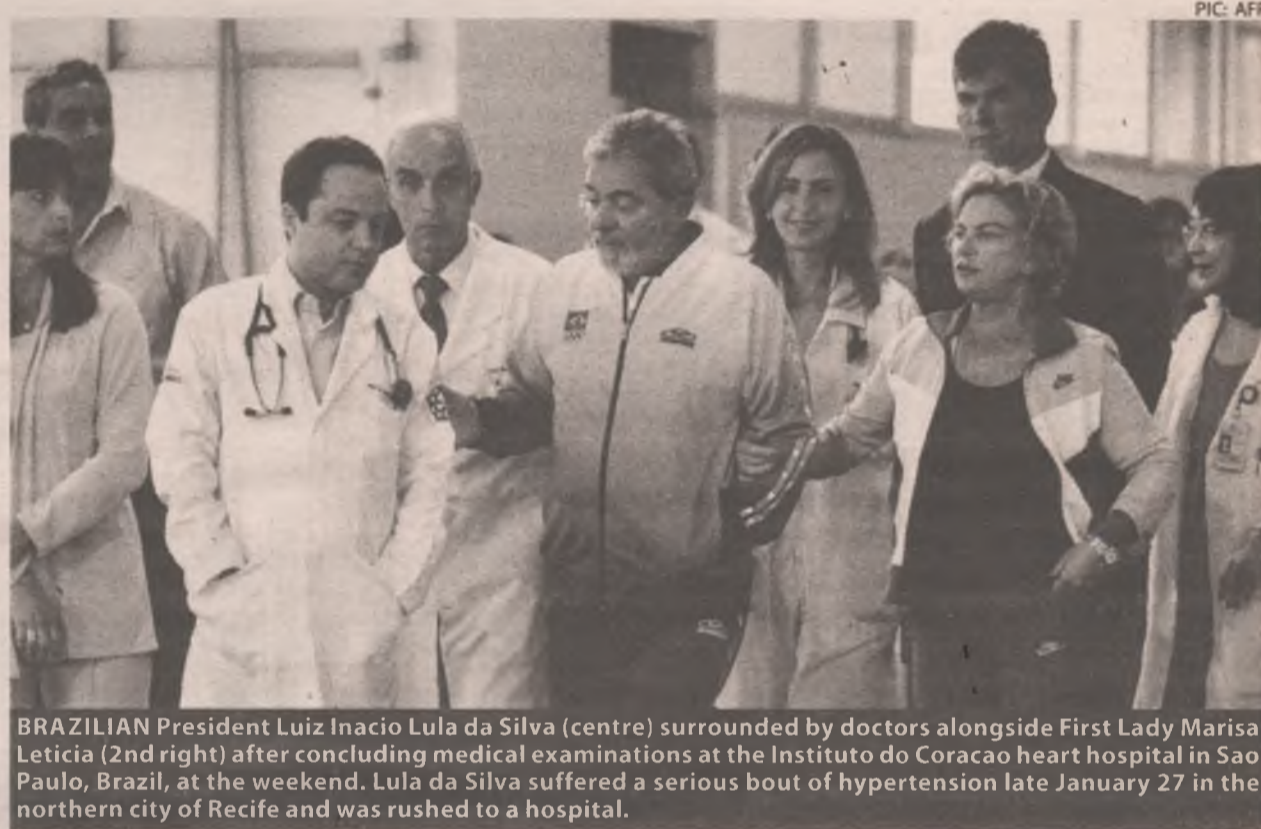
Speaking when he received the Ambassador of the Peoples Republic of Korea, Mr. Young-kuk Park Deputy Senate President Ike Ekweremadu assured the business community in the country that the double tax regime will soon be over.

According to him, the National Assembly will support all efforts at attracting investments into the country, especially from countries that exemplified progress over adversity.

Senator Ekweremadu noted that South Korea has emerged from being a poor nation thirty years ago to a strong economy that "will this year host the summit of the group of twenty world biggest economies."

He said the Double taxation Agreement which is being processed at the National Assembly will take care of the concerns of countries whose investments are in Nigeria.

Earlier, Mr. Park who was accompanied by the Chairman of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in South Korea, Mr. Yucee Uwah and other staff of the embassy had outlined the development projects which the South Korean government is undertaking in Nigeria including primary school buildings in parts of the country and rice processing plant in Enugu.



BRAZILIAN President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva (centre) surrounded by doctors alongside First Lady Marisa Leticia (2nd right) after concluding medical examinations at the Instituto do Coracao heart hospital in Sao Paulo, Brazil, at the weekend. Lula da Silva suffered a serious bout of hypertension late January 27 in the northern city of Recife and was rushed to a hospital.

Niger Delta women want Yar'adua to handover

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

THE Niger Delta Women Forum has called on the National Assembly to invoke relevant sections of the Constitution to compel President Umaru Musa Yar'adua to handover to Vice President Goodluck Jonathan to act as president.

A statement by the forum signed by its National Coordinator/President, Mrs. Esther Uduehi said the legislature must eschew sentiments in the matter

to allow the vice president assume duties as acting president.

According to the forum "The National Assembly should put partisan politics aside and rise to save the democratic existence of Nigeria by invoking the various sections of the Constitution and taking immediate action to transfer power to the Vice President by ordering the swearing in of the Vice President as Acting President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Commander in Chief of the Armed forces."

The Niger Delta women wondered how a simple matter of transmitting power between the president and his vice has resulted into a political crisis.

It appealed to the Senate President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and all members of the National Assembly to "rise above personal, parochial and ethnic interests and cease this opportunity to save the Country and write their names in Gold in the Political history of Nigeria by acting now."

Insurance firms given ultimatum to clear premium

THE National Insurance Commission (NAICOM) said on Sunday that insurance companies would be given six months to clear their outstanding premium.

The Commissioner for Insurance, Mr Fola Daniel, made this known in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abuja.

He said that the "huge outstanding premium" was a problem self inflicted on the industry by practitioners.

"This huge outstanding premium is a problem that is self inflicted by practitioners. If we continue to hold them and they continue to hatch them one

day some insurance entities will not be able to pay a claim of N1 million.

"So we don't have a choice, in fact allowing 12 months outstanding premium is unnecessary indulgence.

"If we continue as a regulator we will be culpable and it will collapse because you cannot pay claims with debt, but cash.

"So for 2010, they will not have the luxury of 12 months, it will be six months," he said.

He said that insurance companies should ensure that they operated according to the dictates of the law as the commission would ensure sanction

on any misconduct.

He said countries like Kenya and India that practiced "no premium no cover" never witnessed huge outstanding premium.

Daniel said that while analysing some of the audited account of insurance companies it was observed that more than what they had as premium was outstanding premium.

"In 2008, analysing the 2007 account, we saw that in many insurance audited account of about N2 billion premium, one out of the two billion supposedly written was outstanding premium. (NAN)



By Alinnor Arinze

Religion and Nigerians

Nigeria is about the most religious nation in the world. Every second, minute, hour, or day there is prayer going on somewhere in the churches or mosques. The people also depict that they are very spiritual, and it is prayer that is still holding the country together from disintegration. Every now and then you would hear someone saying in the print or electronic media that all we need is divine intervention; more prayers. But I do wish to say that the more developed nations and the ones developing do not engage in this 'Spiritual' exercise like we do and yet they are moving forward as a people. Something is wrong somewhere.

I was discussing with a close friend not long ago and he made a comment. He said everything is not physical and everything is not spiritual. He said everything has been spiritualized and demonized in this part of the world that left him wondering whether all the agents of the devil incarnated here. I only remarked that the elite in this part of the world picked religion and ethnicity as the major tools to manipulate the people and firmly establish their stronghold. Someone remarked that it is not even prayer that is holding us

take the position of complainant and that of the judge in this 'spiritual' court. And at the end of each court session you hear comments like, 'God why?', 'why me?'. Nobody wants to take any responsibility for actions or inactions; God caused all to happen. But I do believe that where we are is the product of our choices, decisions, actions or inactions and whatever we are doing is taking us to where we are going or away from it.

I believe that we lack virtues because of religion or worship without impact. This lack emanated from erosion of family values and rot in the educational system. But we cannot exonerate religious leaders from these entirely all the same. We have had flatterers and self-centred people as preachers in different religious organizations. Sir Walter Raleigh said that flatterers are the worst kind of traitors, for they will strengthen your imperfections, encourage you in all evils, correct you in nothing but so shadow and paint your follies and vices as you shall never by their will, discover good from evil, or vice from virtue. Some kind of cloning is even going on in different parts of the country and in different religious organizations unnoticed. Many of the religious leaders are no longer messengers but the message.

The heart of the matter is a matter of the heart. The message of every religion or religious organization should be able to move or prick the heart of man. Preachers are meant to deal with the imagination - arguments in the minds of men which keep them from the truth. They are meant to penetrate and breakthrough ignorance and strongholds that prevent men from receiving and walking in the truth. Where is the place of polemic preaching in Nigeria? There is little or no room for polemic preaching because everybody wants to be uniform. Many preach only to draw attention and get the powers that be to come for 'special' prayers; preaching for the stomach. No wonder fraudsters and looters of public treasuries all go to the churches and mosques and are very comfortable there; flies are now perching and sitting comfortably on 'hot' stove without getting hurt.

"If you think very deeply, you will see that football is life. The way we have played and administered football has not been different from the way we have managed elections and national life. We have reached dizzying heights of success in Atlanta and won the Gold medal in the 1996 Olympics but we have failed to install plans to sustain our sometimes lucky successes. We have worked and planned little, and prayed to God plentifully, expecting that we will get divine victory over a team that has worked very hard and is also praying very hard. Can it be just for such a team to lose to us? Can that be fair? Is our God an unjust and unfair God? In the aftermath of Ghana's victory, a news report was credited to their President, 'thanking Nigeria's prayer warriors for praying for the Ghanaian team to win'. If it is true, I detect some smugness in victory there. Nigerians pray for success, Ghanaians play for success.

To be concluded.

Arinze wrote from Lagos; he can be reached at (arinze198@gmail.com)

Where is the place of polemic preaching in Nigeria?

together as a people but the corruption the politicians and the elite do share in common. Do you believe that it is not prayers in the churches and mosques that is binding us together but corruption?

In a leadership conference not long ago Sunday Adelaja said something. He said that Nigeria is blessed with human and mineral resources that even the blind cannot doubt. But that a nation does not grow or move forward by the virtue of her wealth rather she grows or moves forward by the wealth of her virtues. I realized that the state of our nation shows we lack virtues.

The institutions that are supposed to help produce these virtues in people are either in deep slumber or comatose. Our family system, educational system, the churches and the mosques are in short supply of these virtues that would move us forward as a nation. I do not know if by ceaseless prayers God would move those virtues into the lives of Nigerians without the afore-mentioned institutions.

Someone jokingly told me that in Nigeria, God is expected to come down and do virtually everything including spoon feeding them, using their heads for them and even sleeping with their spouses for them. He said that many are blaming God continually for His inability to perform these functions. He said that prayers over here are completely conceptualized to look like allegations against God in a spiritual court. They



By Ahmed Haruna

Trying to compel Nigerians: What next?

The banner headlines read 'OBASANJO ASKS YARADUA TO RESIGN', and 'HAND OVER TO GOODLUCK JONATHAN: OBASANJO', etc. For Nigerians, the time has come to learn the correct lessons from history when it repeats itself. Was it not the former military head of state Obasanjo who once queried what former military head of state Yakubu Gowon wanted to return to do as President, only for him (Obasanjo) to 'accept' to return as President for the two most disastrous terms the country has ever been through in its history under non-military governance? Are we today not discussing comments by the same Obasanjo who was sent, to our amazement, to the DR Congo by Ban Ki Moon, the UN Secretary-General as the UN's representative to sort out a looming mess between that country's government and a rebel group, and Obasanjo decided instead, to relate only with the rebel group for a fistful of diamonds? This is aside from a previous incident from the same region during which, it was historically alleged, as a result of Obasanjo's duplicity, Africa's foremost nationalist, Patrice Lumumba paid with his dear life. It may be remembered that the rebels nominated Obasanjo as their representative in negotiations with the DR Congo's legitimate government.

Even the National Assembly, which had earlier announced plans to send a group of its own to Saudi Arabia

Should anyone be surprised, therefore, to learn that Obasanjo, who is currently in desperate need of attention, is clumsily claiming self-righteousness in asking President Umaru Musa Yar'adua to resign, unconstitutionally though that step might be? Why would a former military head of state and two-term civilian president not even wince at the suggestion that he illegally forced a successor on a country he professes to love, and even goes ahead to explain details about a clean bill of health certificate from Yar'adua and the role played by 'experts' before finally declaring that he did no wrong?

The irony of such clumsy attempts at self-exoneration by the former president is that it has been largely politely ignored by even the self-styled political opposition. I am inclined to suggest that other Nigerians should do the same, as paying further attention to this geriatric delinquent who saw no wrong in even prostituting his own son's wife, would tantamount to according him undeserved honour.

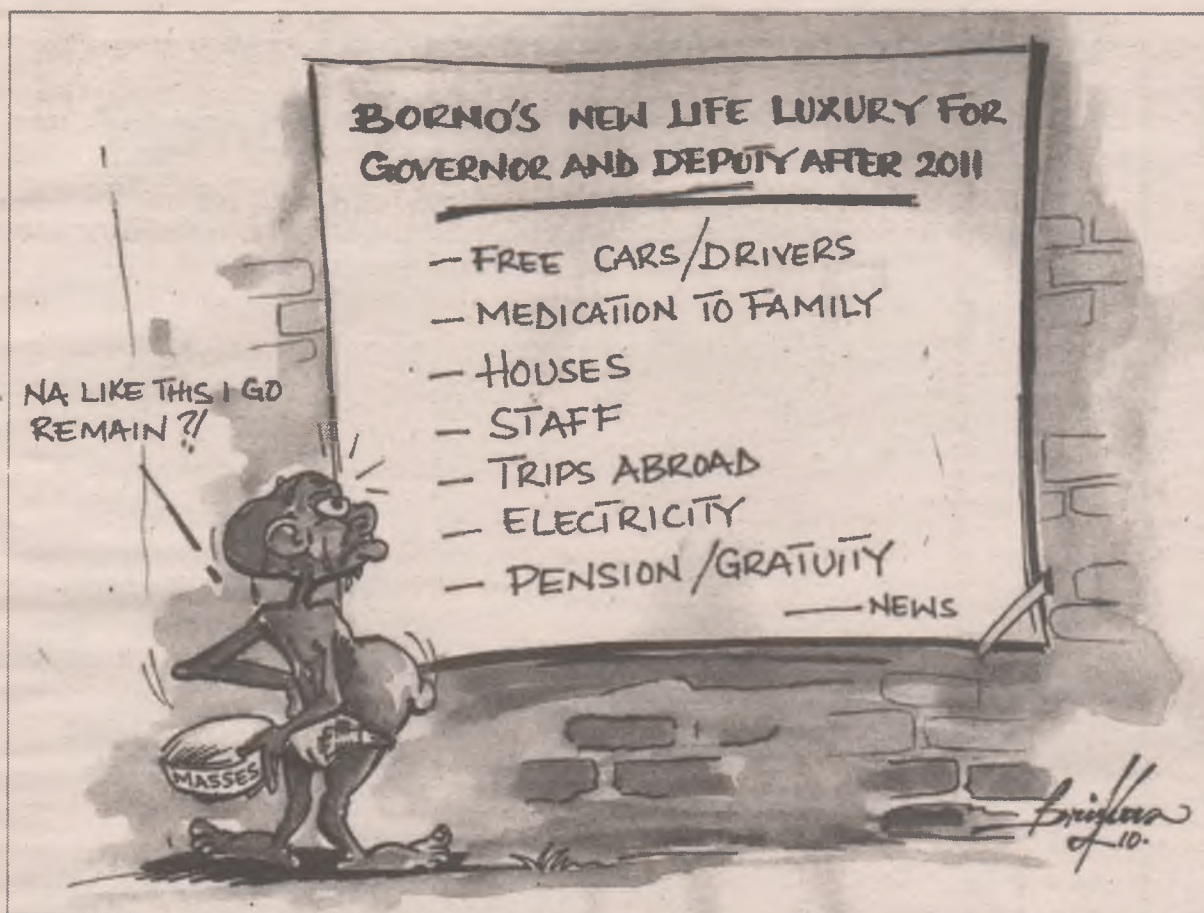
The title of this write-up is a re-ordering of Timawus Mathias' arti-

cle: Trying to Compel Yar'adua: Hasn't it Come to Naught?, earlier published in the *Daily Trust* newspaper in which the subject of the rally held not so long ago by a group calling itself Save Nigeria (SN) was discussed. Persons who would, ordinarily, be regarded as serious leaders of a country in other parts of the world for the roles they had played in the country's history, in complete abandonment of self-esteem embarked on a meaningless charade to compel President Yar'adua to needlessly do the unconstitutional: resign from office for being hospitalised. The motley of selfish interest groups that came together under the SN to force the president's resignation managed, in the words Mr. Mathias, to '...demand that a team of 15 credible persons visit Saudi Arabia in order to ascertain the condition of President Yar'adua and determine his fitness to continue in office as president'. So what next, what happens after that? What happens when this team of credible persons visits the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and returns with a verdict that Mr. President is fit to continue in office as President? In any case, what unanimously acceptable criteria will be deployed, or where in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria did it prescribe guidelines for the selection of this team of credible persons under the circumstances? Even the National Assembly, which had earlier announced plans to send a group of its own to Saudi Arabia, appears to have shelved the plan.

During the Abuja rally, the SN failed to explain the rationale behind their call for Mr. President's resignation from office. In listening to the widely broadcast demands, which they appear to have followed up recently with print media advertorials, Nigerians wondered just what Mr. President's singular personal absence from the country was stopping from happening in government work, especially after Justice Dan Abutu's legal pronouncement on the Vice President's eligibility to continue from where Mr. President left. The SN needs to explain to Nigerians what may be so special, so extra-ordinary about our situation that warrants setting aside the provisions of the country's Constitution and the rule of law. Considering the calibre of Nigerians calling for Mr. President's resignation, might it be any wonder then that this country, weighed down by the yoke of corruption and self-interest for so many decades, might continue to be so encumbered for longer unless focused leadership should become the norm? The sad truth is that Yar'adua's illness has become the latest straw that a desperate band of drowning intellectuals and debt-ridden intelligentsia have found to clutch, in the face of a seeming, unprecedented exposés by the CBN and EFCC.

To be concluded.

Haruna contributed this piece from Abuja.



Your Letters

At Kuru Karama, Busstop was also killed

Good old Busstop, one now hears with shame, was one of the victims of the senseless mayhem at Kuru Karama in the recent Jos communal crisis.

Busstop was a friend to every one who has ever patronized

Hajiya Amina's popular eatery at the Bukuru Fire Service Restaurant. Our friend who we all fondly called Busstop, a simple happy and harmless jester, was a retired Nigeria Airways handler who worked in Jos for many years, and is believed to have personally served prominent personalities of Plateau State.

His hangout was the Fire Service Restaurant where he volunteered to work as chaperon, protocol, and forced company unless settled. He was a smart wise cracker

in Hausa, with a double-edged sword for a tongue, which made people settle him before he tipped over to being sweetly caustic and vulgar. Busstop was a hunchback and suffered polio-related walking challenges, but was an impeccably clean dresser. It is such an irony that such a peace loving jester has lost his life to this violent world of diminishing values. May his soul and indeed, the souls of all victims of the Jos crisis find peaceful rest in heaven, Amen.

Timawus Mathias, Jos.

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

No way to manage crisis

SO the Bauchi State House of Assembly wants Plateau indigenes to leave Bauchi. Let me ask Hon Aminu Tukur who asked for a resolution on that. Are you serious? Do you not realise that Bauchi indigenes are living elsewhere? **RABIU Datti, Azare, Bauchi State 08036348721.**

Typical

IT was reported that the religious group, CAN, condemned the recent redeployment of the Plateau State Commissioner of Police. Of course no one expects anything less from that quarter. **US Faruk, 08025725413.**

Don't apply Mosaic Law

MUSLIMS the world over should,

as a matter of principle, not retaliate or return evil for evil, for what took place in Jos. The hatred of the wicked should not justify hostility on the part of any Muslim. We may have to fight and put down evil, but never in a spirit of malice or hatred, but always in a spirit of justice and righteousness. Bauchi state Assembly is on the wrong track on this issue. **AHMED, S. Mohammed, Uni-Jos, 08065612963.**

Everything scatter

NIGERIA jaga jaga, Super Eagles scatter scatter, Aso Rock yama yama, Niger Delta, kata kata, everything gbosa gbosa. My God! Who'll save the problems of this country called Nigeria? **ABBA Usman, Nguru, Yobe State, 08036808284.**

'Yan kalare again?

ON Wednesday January 27, at about 10:45pm a gang of suspected kalare operated in Shamaki, east of Gombe, destroying cars, shattering glasses of houses and made other destructive forays in large swathe of the area. The authorities concerned should please intervene to protect lives and property. **ABDULQADIR, 07030354954.**

Who's complaining?

COACH Amadu Shuaibu has done very well, considering nobody gave him a chance. Nigeria was regarded as underdogs but they did beat favourites Cameroun and Cote d'Ivoire. **08036431976.**



By Ummal-fadal Babagirei

Helping students conquer exam phobia

Examination is the formal test of someone's knowledge or ability in a given subject, especially by means of written questions or practical tests. However, the fact is the very nature of testing ensures that some people will pass while others will fail.

As to why students fail, I do not really have a definite answer but I can provide or offer students with advice as to how to make it at examinations and avoid examination malpractices.

Exam malpractice in Nigeria has attained a frightening proportion and it has become virtually institutionalized. This trend has been noticeable right from secondary level when parents who have full knowledge of their children's academic shortcomings pay huge sums of money for them to pass. These categories of student are those who find it difficult to penetrate through their lecturers in the university.

There are a lot of reasons why students fail in exams. Majority do not study at all. I spoke with an English department student of University of Maiduguri, who said that she failed her papers when she did not study at all.

For some students, anxiety over the exams causes sleepless nights and exam fever from the mere thought that an examination awaits them, while others study really hard but cannot understand what they have read.

As much as I know, some of us do not study until at the dying minutes, when examination timetable is out or a day or two to the examination; we photocopy other students' notes and give it a "crash" or "fire brigade" method. How do we expect to understand each and every topic within that short period of time and expect to pass?

I asked a friend of mine in the nursing department why she thought some students had problem with exams. Her response was that some of these students were very brilliant; but challenged with some emotional distress, they found it difficult to get things straight.

Heartbreak indeed is one of emotional pressures that can destabilize a very intelligent person. A victim can hardly pick up his/her material, let alone read it. And if they do pick up a book, reading is becomes an uphill task; the mind is concentrated somewhere else.

Students these days are lazy, always looking up to the lecturers to provide areas of concentration (AOC) and where the lecturer refuses, we focus all our attention on specific topics that catch our fancy. Now is this not a big problem; what if your area of concentration is not the lecturer's area of interest?

However, I am not going to put all the blame on students alone, some of who study hard but eventually fail. There are some courses that students would be very sure of getting at least a 'C', but ends up failing the course. Where is that problem coming from?

The little diversion I am taking from the student is to the lecturers. Some lecturers deliberately make exams difficult for students or the marking scheme would be set above the students' standard. Some lecturers do not go to class to teach or lecture; they end up giving out handouts (for a stiff fee) to students to read on their own. For crying out loud, how are these students expected to understand everything and give the lecturer what he wants at exam time? There are also some lecturers who give out booklets to some unqualified people to mark. The truth is, what if your booklet happens to be marked by someone who has grudges with some student?

I believe that no child is born dull. It is the responsibility of parents to give their children a solid educational background. Though I know all parents want the best for their kids, but for financial limitation.

Students, especially those in institutions of higher learning must realise that they are in a world of challenges that demand productive knowledge for life and survive. They cannot afford to be victims of failures, exam malpractices, or to be graduates with unimpressive grades, outcomes that could entirely of their own making. Education is the power that will unlock their future, and make the nation better.

The reading culture among students must improve. Students should strive to reads books; not only books but meaningful books. That way, they broaden their knowledge, and exam ceases to be the monster that they perceive, and becomes a passport to better life for themselves and solid development for their country.

Babagire wrote from Department of Mass Communications, University of Maiduguri.

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As Anambra electorate choose governor

This Saturday, February 6, registered voters in Anambra State will cast their ballots in the governorship election that holds that day. The procedure and outcome of the polling will be keenly watched, not only by people of Anambra State, but by the rest of the country, for good reason. The Anambra exercise will be a test of what we should expect, in terms of logistics and security, in the general elections that follow in 2011 or, as is being speculated, later this year.

The signals are foreboding. The struggle for control of the levers of political power in the state has approached the proverbial do-or-die level, with the Nigeria Police raising fears of probability of violence on Election Day or after.

To assure that the citizens exercise their civic duty in safety, the Inspector-General of Police, Mr Ogbonna Onovo recently summoned a stakeholders' meeting in Abuja, where he berated some Anambra politicians some of who he accused of stockpiling arms and plotting violence in the state. Similarly, during a radio programme, the Anambra state commissioner of police, Mr Philemon Leha, requested fresh supplies of bullet-proof vests to enable security personnel provide security during the exercise. We appreciate these proactive measures, but we ask that the police go a step farther in identifying and arresting those involved in stockpiling arms. The police must not shy away from neutralising threats from persons, no matter their status in Anambra society. The Independent Electoral Commission (INEC) will assuredly be under intense scrutiny in the manner it handles this election and its aftermath. It cannot afford to get things wrong this time. The stakes are high; no wonder allegations of vote rigging have already surfaced. No single complaint must be left unattended to; no single infringement should go unpunished. It is vitally important that INEC convincingly exonerates itself of persistent accusation that it favours one candidate over the others in the election.

The candidates for governor of all the political parties have a great role to play in ensuring that not the election takes place, but that it does so in an atmosphere devoid of violence and rancour. They have a greater stake in averting disaster in Anambra State. Since the return of democratic rule in 1999, no other state has experienced so much electoral violence and high gubernatorial turnover that would have been comical were the circumstances not so tragic. It was in the state that a serving governor was almost abducted; the Governor's Office set ablaze, while twice, the court reversed election results. With this dubious record, we hope time has come for all stakeholders in this weekend's election to vote for peace and progress of Anambra state and thus strengthen democracy in the country. We must express our profound disappointment at supposed senior citizens of Anambra who of late have been beating drums of war if they cannot have their way in this election. They cannot be above the law; if they persist in their misguided jingoism, they should be reminded in no uncertain ways that the law is no respecter of persons.

With the election coming at a time the nation is passing through many challenges, we call on INEC, all the gubernatorial candidates, and security agents to cooperate to ensure that the exercise is free and fair. To achieve this, we advise that all candidates in the race to sign undertakings that their supporters would not in any way disturb the peaceful conduct of the election, otherwise they would be held responsible for any breakdown of law and order. Similarly, the electoral body should realise that with the unresolved controversies surrounding results of previous re-run governorship elections held in some states and the on-going trial over the April, 14, 2007 polls in Osun state, its credibility is still at stake. It has much to gain or lose in the election; this is the time to regain public confidence. While urging the police not to see the Anambra election as a battlefield where they need additional bullet-proof vests, we call on the electorate to cooperate with security agents and report any suspected trouble maker to appropriate quarters. They should also be on alert and ensure that their votes count at every polling centre in the state.

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Women and politics: Whence then the difference?

Few participants at the well attended 7th Annual Trust Dialogue of January 21st recall that the theme of this year's round table was: "The African Woman and Politics". No thanks to organizational/ conceptual crisis that tends to obliterate our rich memory. The organizers of the Dialogue certainly stretched the word: moderation to its limit. You don't privilege an ever conflicted/ disputant former President Olusegun Obasanjo as a moderator/ chairman of intellectual reflections by four tested female presenters, namely legendary anti-apartheid fighter Mrs. Winnie Madikizela Mandela, Senator Kofoworola Bucknor-Akerele, Hajiya Naja'atu Mohammed and Ms Samia Nkrumah, the daughter of the late great Kwame Nkrumah.

True to expectation of discerning observers, OBJ had a free day to do what he is notorious for: dictatorship! Without consultation he cheekily dictated 15 minutes to each presenter despite his displayed poetic licenses for umpteenth time. It was a delight seeing Senator Kofoworola, Samia and Naja'atu following in Winnie's footsteps who elegantly liberated herself from an arbitrary time box (reminiscent of the dictation of the racist Boers' warders on Robben Island prison whenever she visited Mandela).

OBJ definitely did not moderate the four well-thought out presentations which offer refreshing perspectives on crisis of governance in Africa. Worse still, we all unexplainably acted the legendary Zombies beaten in line to his dictatorial unwritten orders: debating his predictable diatribes and sheer abuse of chairmanship while we intolerably push to the margins written thoughts of the great four eminent African women.

Yours sincerely searches in vain for the full texts of the four presenters. Yet the Nigerian print media of varying hues and persuasions uncritically led with OBJ's impulsive vengeful gigantic lies (ask Amadu Ali) as "stories", even verbatim reported sundry unhelpful outbursts of the "moderator" while they stepped down the reasoned thoughts of the four presenters.

After the media "coverage" of 7th Trust Dialogue, I bear witness that what Nigeria media need urgently is not Freedom of Information (FOI) bill but Management of Information seminar. How on earth could Winnie Mandela's formal thank you scoop to Nigeria for her historic contribution to dismantling of apartheid as a frontline state (which Thabo Mbeki denied through his tenure) be accorded media tokenism while OBJ's casual and unstructured statement that diminishes us as a nation assumes such outlandish prominence?

Winnie is right on target to demand that "women should rise up to the challenge of their marginalization in male-dominated society". She also says it all: women are their own liberators. Her quotable quote: "Nothing about us without us" is as apt for women demanding for participation, as it is for Nigerian citizens demanding for free and fair

Issa Aremu, mni
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elections. Of special importance is her perspective that, that there exists a long road to freedom! Naja'atu says as much bringing to bear her experience in students' and national politics to conclude that no Nigerian women should expect to get power on a platter of gold.

The life and times of Winnie Mandela practically show that it is the commitment, courage, integrity and determination that women and men bring to the political arena that matter not necessarily their gender. As far back as October 1958 Winnie featured in anti-pass demonstration. She was banished and exiled to Brandfort in the 1970s, after eviction from her Soweto home. She was

in Liberia", "Age of Women", "Women are coming", ad infinitum.

Of course Mrs. Ellen Johnson is a woman and a proud mother of four and grandchildren too. But the obsession with gender dimension of Johnson's Presidency points to our readiness to undervalue Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf's democratic victory was a product of her direct political engagement of trial and error spanning decades, political contestation and cooperation, imprisonment and exile, national commitment and international exposure rather than her maternal credentials.

Samia Nkrumah's great contribution is useful here. According to her, she came not because she was Nkrumah's daughter or because of her gender but because of what she has on offer for a continent begging for leadership after the exit of vision-

“After the media “coverage” of 7th Trust Dialogue, I bear witness that what Nigeria media need urgently is not Freedom of Information (FOI) bill but Management of Information seminar.”

the most intimidated, watched and brutalized political activist by the apartheid regime of terror. Behind today's triumphant clenched fist of this great African woman (Winnie Mandela) was (and still is) tenacity, staying power and unquantifiable sacrifices. Paradoxically this fact of earned position of the likes of Winnie is missing in top-down official discourse of women involvement in politics. First Ladyism and UN's allotted quota representation (which seems to inform the presentation of the former Deputy Governor of Lagos State Senator Kofoworola Bucknor-Akerele) distort an appropriate evaluation of women's role in politics. We are for instance told that OBJ's regime accorded more women representation. The critical question is: do the female Ministers under any regime for that matter earn their respective positions or not? We need to interrogate the idea of "giving it" to "them" (women) as if women are inferior citizens in our constitution. The likes of Aisha Ismail and Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala eminently deserved their positions for a long as that dispensation lasted not because they are women or a gratuitous man deemed it right to so appoint them. I agree with Winnie that women need not be limited to "the business of politics", but should be conscious of "the politics of business". One disempowering politics of business is to assume that what women legitimately earn is given to them out of pity.

A visitor from the outer-space in 2006 reading the global print media coverage of the inauguration of the Liberian President elect, Ellen-Johnson-Sirleaf would have been misled to think that it was some elitist power shift formula in which a grandmother in Monrovia was a beneficiary. The misleading and patronizing headlines; "First female President in Africa", "The Iron-Lady takes charge

ary leaders of the post independence which included her father Kwame Nkrumah. Samia tasks us on Africa's renaissance envisioned by the late, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah and poses the critical issue: female involvement politics is only the means, the end is development of the continent for which women must make a difference. Interestingly Winnie also tasks women on continental development agenda. Samia, a member of the Ghanaian parliament, show cases her achievement through an initiative on constituency based private company initiative to run a micro-credit scheme that gives give cheap credit to women to begin small-scale businesses and scholarship schemes. How many female politicians have made a difference like her?

The politics of business of women is disappointingly like their male counterparts in Africa. Helen Johnson in Liberia just broke a singular historic promise not to re-contest unlike Nelson Mandela who upheld his promise. Speaker Etteh in Nigeria was a metaphor for the same rot in Nigeria's parliament. Benue Speaker, House of Assembly Mrs Icheen honorably commendably resigned (first of such in this dispensation) amidst male-mob political misgiving and intimidation. Mrs Bucknor-Akerele, former deputy Governor of Lagos State, a guest speaker cultivated same discredited macho-image until her belated resignation (or is it sack?).

Former Minister for Women's Affairs, Hajiya Aisha Ismail reportedly once promised 'fire for fire' like their male politicians. By the way where was Winnie's loud voice during the xenophobia attack of the recent times in South Africa? These are some questions begging for answers if 7th Trust Dialogue had a moderator.

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GOVERNOR Isa Yuguda of Bauchi State

Assembly wants Plateau indigenes to leave Bauchi

THE influx of such a high number of refugees from Plateau State will no doubt tell on the economy of Bauchi. The logical thing to do is to make the about 50,000 indigenes of Plateau residing in Bauchi presently go back to their state and let the refugees from Jos take their place.

Umar Abubakar
dearumar@hotmail.com

Malam Tukur, this is the most ridiculous thing I have heard and read. I must say I am surprised that there are Plateau indigenes in Bauchi who also are employed in the state's civil service. You see, you just spoke for them as we have never heard them lay claims or make any trouble or noise in the state. Can you say the same for your Bauchi indigenes living in Jos or don't we have Bauchi indigenes in Jos? I think what you should be doing is using your good office to preach peace and tolerance in the region.

Azzo
omadichie@yahoo.co.uk

Allow the people of Bauchi share their state with fellow citizens who are also their neighbours.

mustapha dewu
muhddewum@yahoo.com

Very good move by the Bauchi lawmakers. Let other states follow suit.

Abu firdaus
abufirdaus69@yahoo.com

Hon. Aminu Tukur, your suggestion to the House was very hard. Other innocent citizens of Plateau living elsewhere should not be victims of the crisis. We should advocate good governance and respect for each other's religion and tribe.

Babayo El-Nafaty
babayoelnafaty@yahoo.com

Gowon, Shagari ask Yar'adua to hand over

OUR past leaders have spoken in the interest of this great nation. Long live the Nigerian masses.

Long live Nigeria as a sovereign nation.

Yahaya Ibn Idris Abu
ibnidrees@gmail.com

This is not the first time the duo are interfering in our national politics to rubbish and abuse our conscience. General Gowon is from Plateau State, but cannot comment or call his governor to order, yet has the courage to call for yar'adua's resignation. Shagari on the other hand was in Kano dining and enjoying himself at the coronation of Ibrahim Shekarau as Saraduna while the killings and destruction of innocent Nigeria was on in Jos. It is time to let these men understand that the respect they had in Nigeria has long been eroded by their actions.

Abdu Isa Kofarmata
kmatagigi@yahoo.com

What an elder sees while squatting, a child on the peak of a mountain will not be able to see. Wisdom, the bible says is profitable to direct. I pray this call by our elder statesmen will be taken in the interest of peace, stability as well as growth of this nation.

Angel
angelchubby4u@yahoo.com

So our eminent elder statesmen have woken up from their slumber. Although it is better late than



FROM left: Former Chief Justice of Nigeria Justice Idris Kutigi, former Chief Justice, Justice Alfa Belgore, Vice President Goodluck Jonathan and former President Shehu Shagari, after the elder statesmen met with the vice president at State House, Abuja, Thursday.

never, they should have spoken up much earlier. The problems in this country are being caused by we, Nigerians. As long as we continue with this system that makes individuals 'Lords' above the nation, as long as we assist our leaders in becoming monsters and dictators by deferring to their wishes all the

time and throwing accountability to the dogs, then our lamentations have just begun.

Ibrahim Garba
ignaijafoward@gmail.com

The supremacy of the constitution must prevail in the current political tension generated as a

result of President Yar'adua's ill health. Some unpatriotic Nigerians are the ones preventing the temporary transfer of power to the vice president in tandem with the constitution leaving the nation without a leader.

Musa Isyaku
kalamullah1@yahoo.com

Katsina replies Obj on Yar'adua

THESE people are ignorant, corrupt, primitive and opportunists. They are willing to bring more darkness, suffering and death to the people of Katsina and the country as long as the person in power is their man. The people of Katsina know who their true enemies are. Katsina and the north need people of integrity and morality, people

willing to speak the truth even when it is earns them enemies. Umaru Musa must hand over to Jonathan because that is what the constitution says. I call on my fellow Katsina State brothers and sisters to reject these primitive people. We must respect the constitution.

Dan Katsina
psayh@aol.com

Terrorism: 2 Nigerian students arrested in Malaysia

TO be frank, there are many of them that I know with very strong hatred for America and westerners in general. I am ready to help fight these ungodly people. The government of Malaysia

should also check INTI College and Nothimbria University at Semenye. They are real extremist there. I swear to this.

Prince of Ogoni
prince_akah@yahoo.com

Sultan: Jos crisis was genocide



SULTAN Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar

I am glad that the Sultan referred to the lovely times when our tribes and religions were instruments of unity and peaceful co-existence in Nigeria. Why should people wake up and start fighting follow Nigerians in the name of ethnicity or religion. I suggest that the misguided murderous killers that

masterminded this genocide in Jos be made to face the wrath of the law. That is the surest way of putting an end to the so called religious crisis in Jos and other parts of the North.

Abdullahi Ishaq
ishaqmako@yahoo.com

BASG hands over Specialist Hospital to FG

IT is a good gesture to donate infrastructure to the Federal Government to fast tract the take off of both a Medical faculty as well as a teaching hospital. How-

ever, I am deeply worried by the absence of any official statement on a replacement for the specialist hospital that has just been taken away from the state. This

is where majority of the people go to for medical care. Now that it has been converted into a teaching hospital, where would the masses go to when they are

sick. I think the Bauchi State government needs to say something about this.

Abdulkadir Jibril
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Banking Reforms in Nigeria: What Next After CBN's Intervention



SANUSI LAMIDO SANUSI
Governor,
Central Bank Of Nigeria



REMI BABALOLA
Hon. Minister of State, Finance



DR. MARIO BLEJER
Former Governor,
Central Bank of Argentina



BJÖRN CHRISTIAN STEIN
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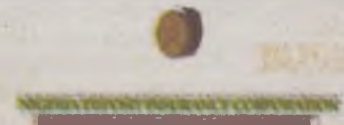
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Completed application forms should be returned to either New Horizons College Minna or Sunrise International School, Abuja along with the required documents no later than **February 20th, 2010.**

THE ENTRANCE EXAMS:
Saturday 27th February, 2010 for JSS1 APPLICANTS ONLY
 at New Horizons College, Minna. Arrival, 7:30am to 11:30am.

Saturday 20th March, 2010 for LATE APPLICANTS FINAL EXAM for JSS1 and TRANSFER STUDENTS (JSS2, JSS3, SS1)
 Arrival 7:30am to 11:30am. Admission on transfer is subject to vacancies. The College does not admit transfer students into SS2 & SS3. Admission lists and offers will be available on March 29, 2010 on our website, at New Horizons College, Minna and Sunrise International School, Abuja. Registrar



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INTERNATIONAL

**African Union
to consider**

**"land for
Haitians"
plan**

THE African Union (AU) agreed yesterday to consider a Senegalese proposal to resettle Haiti's earthquake homeless and possibly create a state for them in Africa.

The idea was first floated by Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade who said the history of Haitians as descendants of African slaves gave them the right to a new life on the continent. AU chairman Jean Ping told African leaders at its annual summit in Addis Ababa that they would discuss the proposal during the three-day event. The AU had opened an account for Haiti with the African Development Bank, he said.

"It is out of a sense of duty and memory and solidarity that we can further the proposal of Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade to create in Africa the conditions for the return of Haitians who wish to return after the effect of the disaster that ravaged Haiti," Ping said.

Wade said Senegal and other African states should naturalize any Haitians who sought new nationality, and he urged a mass adoption programme across the continent for orphans of the quake, feared to have killed as many as 200,000.

The idea for a new state is reminiscent of the 19th century creation of Liberia by freed U.S. slaves. The West African country is currently recovering from a 1999 civil war and is hoping to benefit from recent oil discoveries off its coast.

"We have attachment and links to that country," Ping said of Haiti. "The first black republic in 1804, that carried high the flame of liberation and freedom for the black people."

Malawi president takes over as AU president

MALAWIAN President Bingu wa Mutharika has been chosen to assume the rotating presidency of the African Union, Libyan leader Moammer Gaddafi, the body's outgoing president, said yesterday.

"My brother president of the republic of Malawi will replace me and take over," Gaddafi said at the opening day of a three-day summit in Addis Ababa.

Gaddafi's presidency of the

body has been marked by his efforts to promote his vision of a "United States of Africa" -- a project that has made little progress during his 12 months in charge. The veteran Libyan leader

said he would continue to push his dream of a fully integrated continent.

"There is no need for any title, I'll remain in the front struggling," he added.



MALAWIAN President Bingu wa Mutharika

Morocco sets up plans for stronger regional administration

By Charles Oumajou

THE King of Morocco, Mohammed VI has set up an Advisory Committee on Regionalization (CCR) with a view to enhance regional autonomy. In a document obtained by *Daily Trust*, the Morocco Sahara would be the first region to benefit from the

advanced regionalization.

According to the document, the effort in advanced power devolution to the Morocco Sahara is a re-affirmation of Rabat's national will and its attachment to the UN process aimed at finding what it called "a realistic political solution to the artificial conflict created around the Morocco Sahara".

The outline of the work of the advisory committee suggest that it would seek to bring creative answers to all major Morocco questions and is expected to recommend an original and credible regional autonomy. The committee is also expected to engage in a dialogue with all the "qualified actors". However, no reference was

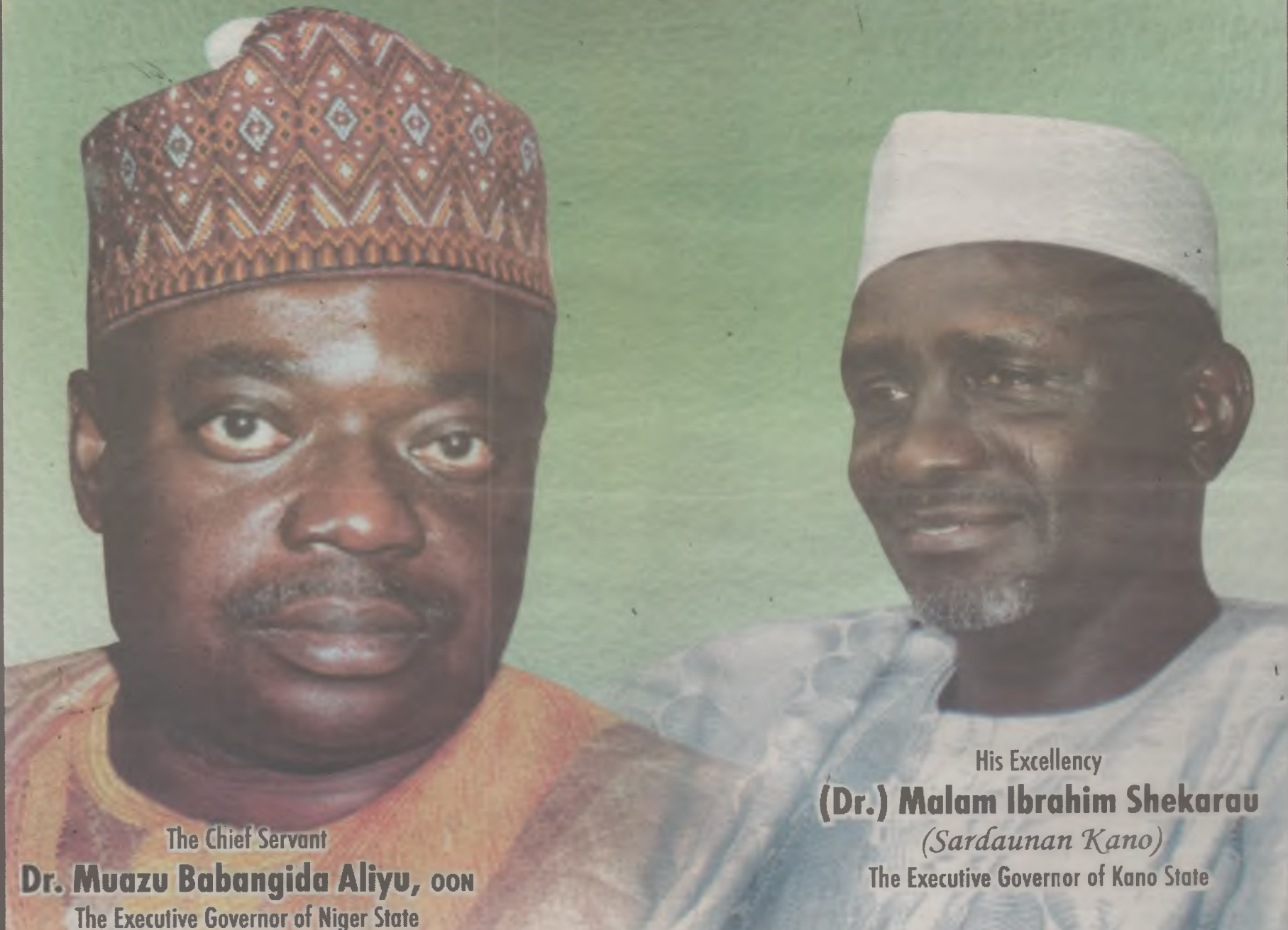
made to the polsario front, who vehemently contests the annexation of Western Sahara after Spain's abrupt pull out in 1976. The regional reform plan is however not expected to tackle any serious political question as the "large deconcentration", it envisages is only "with the framework of efficient territorial governance".

Ban slams Africa power-grabs as Gaddafi steps aside

UN chief Ban Ki-Moon yesterday criticised power-grabs in Africa in a speech to the continent's leaders as Libya's Moammer Gaddafi reluctantly handed over the presidency of the African Union to Malawi.

The build-up to the three-day AU summit in Addis Ababa had been dominated by the expectation that Gaddafi would try to extend his 12-month tenure as head of the 53-member body.

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His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Kano State

(Dr.) Malam Ibrahim Shekarau
(Sardaunan Kano)

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on you by His Royal Majesty, **Oba Okunade Sijuwade, Olubuse II**, the Ooni of Ife.

It's an honour well-deserved, we are proud of your diligence to work and your invaluable contributions to the growth of Niger State and the nation, you are an enviable symbol of excellence, may you continue to wear more crowns in the service of the nation and mankind.

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Signed:

Sule Ya'u Sule

Senior Special Assistant Media & Public Relations
to the Executive Governor of Kano State

International

Dubai police say Israel may have killed Hamas chief

THE police chief of Dubai said yesterday Israel's spy agency Mossad or others with a vested interest could have killed a top militant of the Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas in a Dubai hotel room.

"It could be Mossad, or another party," police chief Dhahi Khalfan told AFP. "Personally, I don't exclude any possibility. I don't exclude any party that has an interest in the assassination" of Mahmoud al-Mabhuh, Khalfan said.

"There were seven or more people holding passports from different European countries" in the group suspected of killing Mabhuh, he said.

He refused to name the countries, but added, "we are currently in contact with these European countries to verify the authenticity of the passports."

The hardline Hamas on Friday accused Israel of killing Mabhuh, who was found dead in his hotel room in Dubai on January 20, and vowed revenge.

Hamas has acknowledged that Mabhuh was in Dubai to buy weapons for Hamas in its struggle against Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories.

Mabhuh, born in Jabaliya in northern Gaza, was behind the capture of two Israeli soldiers, Avi Sasportas and Ilan Sadon, in separate operations in 1989. Both were later murdered.

Khalfan said that "it seems (Mabhuh) opened the door" of

his room, letting his killers in. "Mabhuh was suffocated," he said, adding that "strangulation is possible." According to Khalfan, Mabuh entered the United Arab Emirates (UAE) a day before his death using a passport that did not bear his family name.

"We were not informed by Hamas about the visit," he said. "It is strange that a person of his importance travelled alone." Khalfan met Palestinian consul general Hussein Abdul Khaliq in Dubai yesterday to discuss the murder, saying police would "work day and night" to track down the suspects, the official WAM news agency reported.

Israeli newspapers, meanwhile, hailed the killing, with the rightwing English-language Jerusalem Post calling it "another blow to the 'axis of evil'" that will make it harder for Hamas to get arms into its Gaza stronghold.

Yesterday, *The Times* of London cited unidentified Middle Eastern sources as saying Mabuh's body was found by staff at the luxury Al Bustan Rotana hotel. It said Mabuh was travelling on a false passport and on arrival in Dubai was followed by two men described by local police as "Europeans carrying European passports."

The hit squad injected Mabuh with a drug that induced a heart attack, photographed all the documents in his briefcase, and left a "do not disturb" sign on the door, *The Times* said.



MAHMUD Abdel Raouf al-Mabhub

Iranians celebrate ancient Persian fire fest

THOUSANDS of Iranians gathered at dusk against a snowy mountain backdrop to light giant bonfires in an ancient mid-winter festival dating back to Iran's pre-Islamic past that is drawing new interest from Muslims.

The weekend's celebration was the first in which the dwindling remnants of Iran's once plentiful Zoroastrian religious minority were joined by thousands of Muslims, reflecting a growing interest in the strict Islamic society for the country's ancient traditions.

The festival, known as Sadeh, celebrates the discovery of fire and its ability to banish the cold

and dark, and it is held in the frigid depths of winter.

Sadeh was the national festival of ancient Persia when Zoroastrianism was the dominant religion, before the conquest of Islam in the 7th century. Now it is mostly celebrated just in the homes and temples of Iran's 60,000 remaining Zoroastrians.

Recently, however, there has been an upsurge of interest among Iranian Muslims, more than 90 percent of the population, in their ancient heritage, when vast Persian empires held sway over much of central Asia and fought Greek warriors and Roman legions.

Jordan arrests dozens of extremists

MORE than 40 alleged Islamist extremists have been arrested in Jordan since a Jordanian blew himself up in Afghanistan in December, killing seven CIA agents, a security official said yesterday.

"More than 40 Jordanian jihadists, including ex-convicts, have been arrested following the Khost attack," the official told AFP. "They were arrested in several parts of Jordan for interrogation."

Humam Khalil al-Balawi blew himself up at a US military base in Khost near the Pakistani border on December 30, killing seven CIA agents and his Jordanian handler -- a senior intelligence officer and member of the royal family.

Yemen rejects rebels' cease-fire offer

YEMEN'S government yesterday rejected a cease-fire offer from the country's northern rebels and issued a fresh demand calling on the militants to pledged not to attack neighbouring Saudi Arabia. After more than five years of sporadic fighting with the rebels, Yemen has come under international pressure to quickly end the conflict to free up resources to confront a separate threat from an al-Qaida offshoot that has set up operations there over the past year.

At the weekend, the leader of the country's northern rebels, Abdel-Malek al-Hawthi, said he is ready to accept the government's original conditions for a cease-fire. That announcement came

days after the militants declared a unilateral cease-fire with Saudi Arabia.

Both declarations appear to signal an attempt by the rebels to seize on international pressure to end the conflict. Yemen's Supreme Defense Council on Sunday rejected that offer, but added that it was ready to halt military operations "under a certain framework."

The council said in a statement the rebels must first comply with the government's original cease-fire offer from September, which demanded the militants disarm, release captured soldiers and property, remove roadblocks, withdraw from strategic positions and abide by the constitution.

International

Thousands in Tokyo protest US military presence

THOUSANDS of protesters from across Japan marched at the weekend in central Tokyo to protest the U.S. military presence on Okinawa, while a Cabinet minister said she would fight to move a Marine base Washington considers crucial out of the country.

Some 47,000 U.S. troops are stationed in Japan, with more than half on the southern island of Okinawa. Residents have complained for years about noise, pollution and crime around the bases.

Japan and the U.S. signed a pact in 2006 that called for the realignment of American troops in the country and for a Marine base on the island to be moved to a less populated area. But the new Tokyo government is re-examining the deal, caught between increasingly adamant public opposition to American troops and its crucial military alliance with Washington.

On Saturday, labour unionists, pacifists, environmentalists and students marched through central Tokyo, yelling slogans and calling for an end to the US troop presence. They gathered for a rally at a park — under a banner that read “Change! Japan-US Relations” — for speeches by civil leaders and politicians.

Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama has repeatedly postponed his decision on the pact, with members of his own government divided on how to proceed. Last week he pledged to resolve the conundrum by May, just before national elections.

“The Cabinet is saying that it will announce its conclusion in May. For this reason, over the next few months we must put all of our energy into achieving victory,” Cabinet minister Mizuho Fukushima said at the rally, to shouts of approval from the crowd.

Fukushima — who has a minor post in the Cabinet and heads a small political party — wants the base moved out of Japan entirely. Hatoyama’s government must appease such political allies to maintain its majority coalition in parliament, and the public are increasingly vociferous on the US military issue, even outside of Okinawa.

“I’m against having troops here. I’m not sure we can get them all out, but at least some of them should leave,” said Seiichiro Terada, 31, a government tax collector who attended the rally. Terada said he travelled from his home in the central prefecture of Shizuoka, which hosts a Marine base at the foot of

Mt. Fuji.

The deal with Washington calls for the Marine base in a crowded part of Okinawa to be moved to a smaller city called Nago. But last week residents of Nago elected a new mayor who opposes the move, ousting the incumbent that supported a US military presence.



DEMONSTRATORS hold up anti-US bases slogans as some 6,000 people gather at a rally protesting against a US Marine base stationed on the southern island of Okinawa, in Tokyo.

China: Taiwan arms sales harm national interest

CHINA’S foreign minister warned that US plans to sell \$6.4 billion of arms to Taiwan will harm Chinese efforts to unify peacefully with the island, the ministry said yesterday, after China suspended US military exchanges and threatened unprecedented sanctions against American defense companies.

Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi said the planned weapons sales to self-governing Taiwan, which Beijing claims as its territory, were a “crude interference in China’s internal affairs” and would hurt its national security.

Beijing’s strong response to Friday’s US announcement of the weapons sales, while not entirely unexpected, was swift and indicated that it plans to put up a greater challenge than

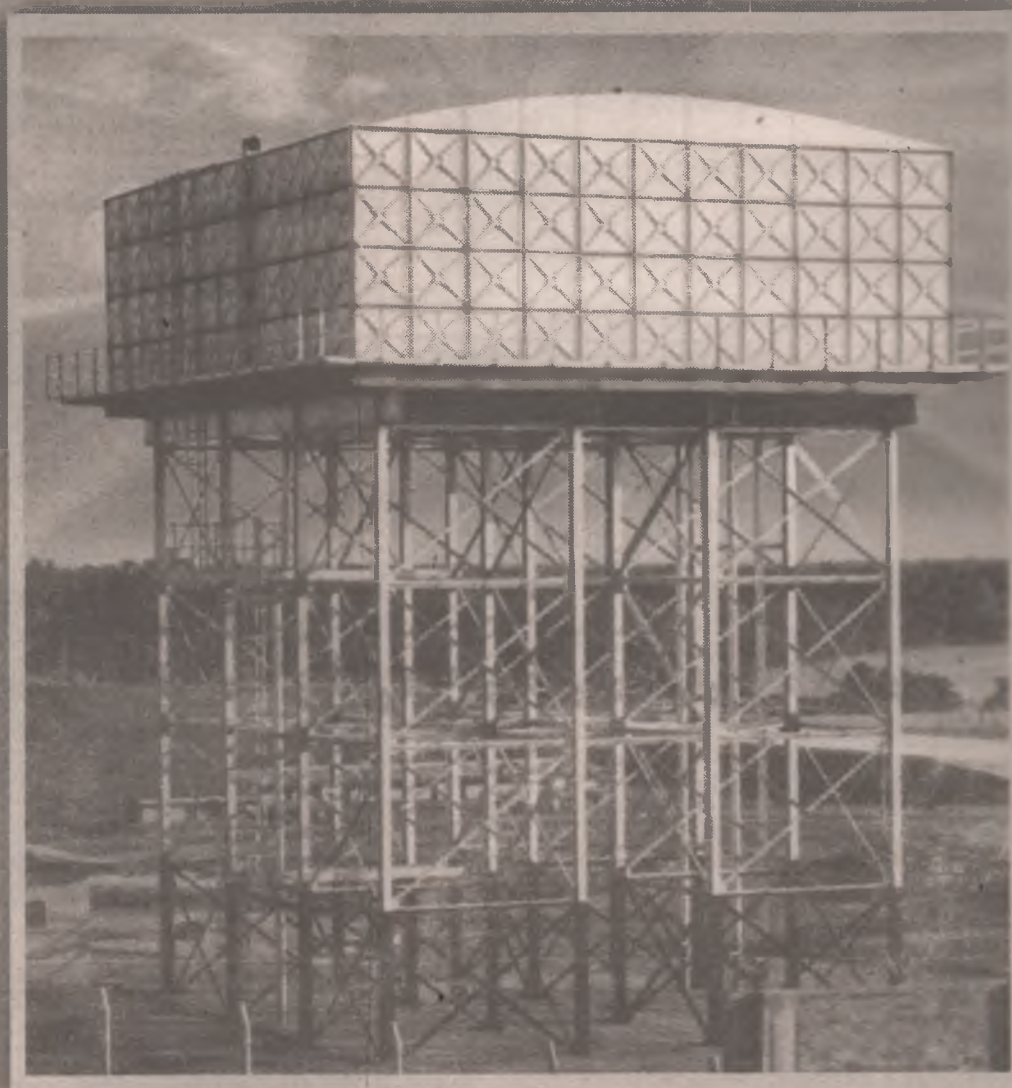
usual as it deals with the most sensitive topic in US-China relations.

“This is the strongest reaction we’ve seen so far in recent years,” said Stephanie T. Kleine-Ahlbrandt, northeast Asia project director for the International Crisis Group. “China is really looking to see what kind of reaction it’s going to receive” from President Barack Obama, she said.

China’s Defense Ministry said the arms sales would cause “severe harm” to overall US-China cooperation. Vice ministerial-level talks on arms control and strategic security were postponed.

Defense Ministry spokesman Huang Xueping said the Chinese military would fight any move to hurt the country’s sovereignty.

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WATER STORAGE SYSTEMS



International

5-day Davos forum ends on note of humility

THE world's foremost gathering of business and government leaders wrapped up a five-day meeting yesterday with widespread agreement that a fragile recovery is under way but no consensus on what's going to spur job growth and prevent another global economic meltdown.

In a group of big egos and many power players attending the annual World Economic Forum, there was even some humility and a realization that overcom-

ing the first global financial crisis is uncharted territory.

The gathering of some 2,500 VIPs in this Swiss alpine resort saw much spirited debate on whether more regulation is needed for the financial industry, how to boost sagging global unemployment, and finding ways to ensure the nascent recovery is kept on course through 2010.

The atmosphere of doom and gloom that pervaded last year's forum, which took place at the

height of the economic crisis, was replaced this year by a feeling of some satisfaction that a modest recovery is under way but uncertainty about the way forward and how banks should respond.

Deutsche Bank chief Executive Josef Ackermann told an AP-sponsored closing panel that the worst of the financial and economic crisis had been managed "quite successfully" but decision-makers now had a tough choice: "Should we take

more risk, be a creative force for growth, or should we focus on security?"

Peter Sands, the CEO of Britain's Standard Chartered Bank, said at the panel that the right balance must be struck "between making a safer banking system and a financial system that can support the sort of dynamism and growth in job creation."

"Get it wrong one way and we risk a new crisis; get it wrong the other way and we'll take the

steam out of the recovery and reduce the chances of creating new jobs," he said.

At the same time, Sands said, everyone must have "a degree of humility about what we actually know, and how confident we can be, that the ideas we're going to put in place are going to have the consequences that we thought they were going to have." At Davos, the pendulum swings between a focus on the economy and other global issues.

Blair evidence leaves PM facing grilling on Iraq

TONY Blair's evidence to the Iraq war inquiry, notable for a lack of any apology, sets up an awkward appearance within weeks for Prime Minister Gordon Brown, ahead of a likely May election.

Blair's unrepentant testimony sparked fury among military families and criticism from the press, reviving memories of what many commentators see as the ruling Labour party's biggest blunder since taking power in 1997.

The former premier told the Chilcot inquiry that he accepted "responsibility but not regret for removing Saddam" -- prompting shouts of "liar" and "you're a murderer" from the public gallery.

Brown has talked little about his role in Blair's decision to take Britain to war in 2003 alongside the United States and he oversaw the end of the country's military mission in Iraq last year.

Former minister Clare Short, who quit after the invasion in protest, told the BBC yesterday that Brown "didn't oppose the war, but he didn't support it" before coming round in favour just before the invasion. However, Blair's ex-communications Chief Alastair Campbell told the inquiry this

month that Brown -- finance minister for a decade before taking over from Blair in 2007 -- was one of the "key ministers" his boss consulted at the time.

This could raise tricky questions about Brown's judgement and whether he tried to talk Blair out of launching into a war in which 179 British soldiers died, shortly before an election which opinion polls predict he will lose.

"It would have taken resignation by just a handful of ministers and officials to prevent this war," Polly Toynbee, a leading commentator on Labour, wrote in the Guardian newspaper Saturday.

"Whatever Chilcot opines, long after the election is over, this extraordinary public inquisition of the recent prime minister (Blair) has been a raw reminder of the defining error of Labour's foreign policy." Brown is likely to be questioned by the inquiry in late February or early March.

At least two government ministers have hinted the election could be held on May 6 and although informal campaigning is already well under way, the formal race would probably start in early April. Although the election



PRIME Minister Gordon Brown

seems likely to be dominated by the economy, Iraq could still play a role for some voters, according to experts. "It's not going to be a decisive issue but there's no doubt at all that it's now a background

hum in the build-up to the election and will reinforce certain impressions," political commentator Steve Richards told BBC television Friday. "If people think this government is full of liars,

that will be reinforced." Some key members of Blair's administration at the time of the invasion remain in power. As well as Brown, there is Jack Straw, foreign secretary in 2003 and now justice secretary.

Haiti detains Americans taking kids across border

TEN American Baptists were being held in the Haitian capital yesterday after trying to take 33 children out of Haiti at a time of growing fears over possible child trafficking.

The church members, most from Idaho, said they were trying to rescue abandoned and traumatized children. But officials said they lacked the proper documents when they were arrested Friday night in a bus along with children from 2 months to 12 years old who had survived the catastrophic earthquake.

The group said its "Haitian Orphan Rescue Mission" was an effort to help abandoned children by taking them to an orphanage across the border in the Domini-

can Republic.

"In this chaos the government is in right now we were just trying to do the right thing," the group's spokeswoman, Laura Silsby, told The Associated Press at the judicial police headquarters in the capital, where the Americans were being held pending a Monday hearing before a judge.

The children, some of them sick and dehydrated, were taken to an orphanage run by Austrian-based SOS Children's Villages, which was trying to find their parents or close relatives, said a spokesman there, George Willeit.

"One child, an 8- or 9-year-old, said she thought she was going to some sort of summer or vacation camp in the Dominican

Republic," Willeit said.

The Baptist group planned to scoop up 100 kids and take them by bus to a 45-room hotel at Cabarete, a beach resort in the Dominican Republic, that they were converting into an orphanage, Silsby told the AP.

Whether they realized it or not, these Americans -- the first known to be taken into custody since the Jan. 12 quake -- put themselves in the middle of a firestorm in Haiti, where government leaders have suspended adoptions amid fears that parentless or lost children are more vulnerable than ever to child trafficking.

The quake apparently orphaned many children and left others separated from parents,

adding to the difficulty of helping children in need while preventing exploitation of them.

Silsby, 40, of Boise, Idaho, was asked if she didn't consider it

naive to cross the border without adoption papers at a time when Haitians are so concerned about child trafficking. "By no means are we any part of that.

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International

Malaysian couple fined buffalo over affair

A tribal court in Malaysia's Sabah State on Borneo island has fined a man and his lover four buffalo and a pig for having an extramarital affair, a report said yesterday.

The pair were convicted by the Penampang Native Court after the man's wife lodged a complaint, the

Star newspaper said. The wife said her husband and the woman were living together and were caught in shorts and sarong when she confronted them.

Judge William Sampil said the court had found evidence of an intimate affair despite

their defence as being just "best friends." The judge ordered the man and his lover to pay compensation of four buffalo, a pig and a fine of 2,000 ringgit (586 dollars). Indigenous people make up less than one percent of Malaysia's 28 million population.

Pastor accused of pulling gun on son at church

THE son of a well-known Alcoa pastor has taken out an order of protection against his father, claiming he was threatened with a gun during an argument at a church over his lack of church attendance.

The order of protection was

filed by 32-year-old Michael Louis Colquitt against 60-year-old Joe Colquitt, pastor of St. John Missionary Baptist Church.

The younger man told police his father pulled out a handgun when they met at the church to discuss church attendance. He

told officers his father pointed the gun at him and threatened to kill him, his wife and family.

Joe Colquitt declined to comment when contacted by The Daily Times of Maryville. A Feb. 4 hearing was set in Blount County General Sessions Court.

Polish priest checks fingerprints for attendance

A Polish priest has installed an electronic reader in his church for schoolchildren to leave their fingerprints in order to monitor their attendance at mass, the *Gazeta Wyborcza* daily said at the weekend.

The pupils will mark their fingerprints every time they go to church over three years and if they attend 200 masses they will be freed from the obligation of having to pass an exam prior to their confirmation, the paper said.

"This is comfortable. We don't have to stand in a line to get the priest's signature (confirming our presence at the mass) in our confirmation notebooks," said one pupil, who gave her name as Karolina.

Chicken plays chicken with drivers on busy street

A chicken playing chicken? That's what's happening on a busy Glendale street where a black hen has been dodging cars, captors and coyotes for two months.

Officials say the bird has been

darting into traffic outside Glendale Community College since it was first reported November 20.

The chicken has drawn a growing crowd of photographers and journalists as animal control officers struggle to catch it.



A black hen is shown at Glendale Community College in Glendale, California.

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Invitation for Bids (IFB)

(STEP-B PROJECT)

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IFB No. STEP-B/FCEZ/CHL/NCB/G/01/2010

1. This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in Development Business, issue no. 591 of 2nd July, 2007.
2. The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has received a credit from the International Development Association toward the cost of Science and Technology Education Post Basic Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the Contract for the Supply of chemicals, reagents and equipment to Chemistry Laboratory, Federal College of Education, Zaria.
3. The Federal College of Education, Zaria participating in the implementation of the Science and Technology Education Post Basic Project, now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the supply of the following:

| Lot | Description | Quantity | Bid Security | Delivery period | Location |
|-----|----------------------|----------|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| 1. | Glassware/Apparatus | Various | At least 2.5% of bid price | 90 days | FCE,Zaria |
| 2. | Laboratory Equipment | Various | At least 2.5% of bid price | 90 days | FCE,Zaria |
| 3. | Chemicals & Reagents | Various | At least 2.5% of bid price | 90 days | FCE,Zaria |

Evaluation will be done on lot-by-lot basis and discount for one or more lots will be considered during evaluation.

4. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB), a procedure specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from: **The Project Manager, STEP-B Office, Federal College of Education, Zaria** at the address below and inspect the Bidding Documents from 11:00am to 4:00pm Mondays to Fridays, except on public holidays.
6. Qualifications requirements include:
 - * Evidence of previous supply of similar Chemicals and Reagents in the last 5 years.
 - * Audited Financial Statements for the last 3 years to demonstrate the financial capability of the Bidder in terms of Profitability and adequate working capital. A margin of preference for eligible national contractors shall not be applied; Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.
7. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee of N10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Naira) only or 84 USD (Eighty Four US Dollars). The method of payment will be Bank Draft in favor of STEP-B Project, Federal College of Education, Zaria. The Bidding Documents will be collected by the representative of the Bidder or by courier services on request.
8. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 2:00pm on 1st March, 2010. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. **Late bids will be rejected.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives, who choose to attend in person at the address below at 2:00pm on 1st March, 2010. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of at least 2.5% of the Bid Price in Naira or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.
9. The address referred to above is:

**The Project Manager,
Science and Technology Education Post Basic Project,
Federal College of Education,
Zaria,
Kaduna State
Nigeria.**
E-mail: stepb_fcoezaria@yahoo.com
Tel: 08032894966, 08057268404, 08033773604

Signed
STEP-B Project Manager

**KADUNA STATE UNIVERSITY**

(OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR)

**APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION INTO PRELIMINARY
PROGRAMME IN FRENCH AND ARABIC FOR THE
2009/2010 ACADEMIC SESSION**

Kaduna State University is organizing a one year preliminary programme in **French** and **Arabic** to prepare candidates for entry into the degree programmes.

Applications are therefore invited from suitably qualified candidates for admission into any of these two programmes.

1. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

French: Candidates must possess at least 5 O' Level credits in SSCE or NECO including English Language.

Arabic: Candidates must possess at least 3 O' level credits and two passes in SSCE or NECO.

- In addition to the above requirements, all prospective candidates are required to register and sit for the 2010 – 2011 Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (U.T.M.E).

2. METHOD OF APPLICATION:

Application for admission into either of these programmes will be conducted on-line through the KASU Website (www.kasu.edu.ng).

- The on-line application will be by the purchase of a **pin card** at Unity Bank Plc Bakori House Ahmadu Bello Way, Kaduna, Zaria and Kafanchan Main Branches at the cost of N2,100.00 only.
- Sales of forms on-line will commence on Monday, 1st February, 2010 and end on Monday, 15th February, 2010.

NB:

The University is not obliged to entertain any complaints or correspondence for the rejection of any application.

Signed:
Dr. S. Goje
Registrar



Small & Medium
Enterprises
Development
Agency of
Nigeria

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL VACANCIES ANNOUNCEMENT

The Small & Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) was established by an ACT of the National Assembly to coordinate, promote and facilitate the development of micro, small and medium enterprises in Nigeria. The Agency is hereby inviting applications from candidates suitable, qualified and competent for appointment into various positions as follows:

CATEGORY A:

THE POSITION: DIRECTOR (GL 17) ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE (ET&I)

JOB TITLE: Head (Engineering Technology & Infrastructure Department)

REPORTING TO: Director-General (SMEDAN)

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Programme implementation in respect of bridging technological gaps of micro, small and medium enterprise (MSMEs);
- Set objectives, goals, targets and plans for the department in line with the mandate of the Agency;
- Coordination of capacity building programme for entrepreneurs and sustainable skills acquisition and upgrading;
- Facilitation of access to infrastructure (cluster/industrial park, etc)
- Linking of MSMEs to Research & Development results.

BASIC QUALIFICATION:

- Candidates must possess a good first degree or its equivalent with a minimum of 2nd Class Honours (Lower Division) in Engineering, Post graduate training in any of the following field will be an added advantage, Production Engineering, Industrial Engineering, Manufacturing Engineering, Materials/Metallurgical Engineering and Agricultural Engineering

EXPERIENCE REQUIRED:

- Candidate must have a minimum of twenty (20) years post-NYSC cognate working experience and appreciable /verifiable experience in MSME development and / or related activities.
- Candidate should have full (Corporate) membership of Nigeria Society of Engineers (NSE) for a minimum of fifteen (15) years and should be registered by the Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN) for a minimum of ten (10) years.
- Must demonstrate understanding of the MSME sector.
- Candidates must not be above 50 years.

SKILLS AND COMPETENCES

Candidates should have Trouble shooting skills, Excellent project management skills, Strong numerical and technical ability, Good analytical and presentation skills, Understand the workings of relevant international organizations and must be Computer literate.

Application for Director Engineering Position should be forwarded to;

director@smedan.gov.ng

DIRECTOR (GL 17): ENTERPRISE PROMOTION AND MANAGEMENT

JOB TITLE: Head (Enterprise Promotion and Management Department)

REPORTING TO: Director-General (SMEDAN)

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Implementation of MSME development programmes, projects and schemes;
- Promotion of entrepreneurship and capacity building;
- Facilitation of Management consultancy, counselling and allied services for MSME promotion and development.
- Promotion of advocacy and operating environment issues.
- Promotion and facilitation of enterprise, linkages, cooperation/networking, clustering and credit delivery for MSME
- Promotion and facilitation of markets and marketing for MSME products;
- Provision of Information and business support services.

BASIC QUALIFICATION

- A good first degree or its equivalent in Social Sciences, Humanities, Management and other Sciences with a minimum of 2nd Class Honours (lower division).
- Relevant Post graduate degree will be an added advantage.

EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

- Candidate must have a minimum of 20 years post-NYSC cognate working experience;
- Excellent knowledge of local and global MSME dynamics, including familiarity with appropriate regulations, legislations, and operating environment;
- Experience in financial institutions operations and management/ micro and small business or consumer lending;
- A sound understanding of the MSME development strategies and comprehensive / effective support systems;
- Strong ability to think strategically and holistically and to appreciate the systemic impact of various economic policies, issues and solutions on MSME development;
- Demonstrate commitment to ethical standards and high level of integrity.
- Candidates must not be above 50 years.

SKILLS AND COMPETENCES

Excellent project management skills, Good analytical and presentation skills Understand the workings of relevant international organizations and must be Computer literate

Application for Director Enterprise Promotions Position should be forwarded to;

director@smedan.gov.ng

DIRECTOR (GL 17): PLANNING RESEARCH & COORDINATION

JOB TITLE: Head (Planning Research & Coordination Department)

REPORTING TO: Director-General (SMEDAN)

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:

- MSME Policy articulation, development and implementation;
- Planning / Coordination of Agency's Programmes and activities.
- Promotion of participation in sub-regional, regional and global initiatives and cooperation on MSME development;
- Sourcing and coordination of technical assistance and inter-Agency cooperation;
- Implementation of MSME sub-sectoral studies/surveys and promotion of private sector organizations, NGOs and trade groups;

- Preparation of SMEDAN mandatory reports;
- Custodian of Agency's Data/Statistics;

BASIC QUALIFICATION

Candidates must possess a good first degree or its equivalent with a minimum of 2nd Class Honours (Lower Division) in Social Sciences, Humanities & other Sciences. Post graduate degree will be an added advantage.

EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

- Candidate must have a minimum of twenty (20) years post-NYSC cognate working experience;
- Should possess the ability to drive unaided, a target based and policy driven planning department;
- Ability to interface with multi-lateral development partners for MSME development;
- Should be versatile in planning and must have hands-on experience in MSME development planning
- Must demonstrate understanding of the MSME sector.
- Strong ability to think strategically and holistically and to appreciate the systemic impact of various economic policies, issues and solutions on MSME development;
- Candidates must not be above 50 years.

SKILLS AND COMPETENCE

Understand workings of relevant international organizations, Excellent project management skill, Good analytical and presentation skill and must be Computer literate.

Application for Director Planning Research and Coordination Position should be forwarded to; director@smedan.gov.ng

DIRECTOR : (GL 17) INSPECTORATE

JOB TITLE: Head (Inspectorate Department)

REPORTING TO: Director-General

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- The candidates shall assist the Director-General in attainment of the objectives/mandate of the Agency
- Monitor and Evaluate Agency's programmes and performance;
- Compile reports from the various outreaches;
- Provide guidance, supervision and support to field officers;
- Ensure compliance of MSMEs, BDSPPs and other stakeholders to government regulations;
- Promotion of standardization and quality assurance;

BASIC QUALIFICATIONS

Candidates must possess a good first degree or its equivalent with a minimum of 2nd Class (lower Division) in Social Sciences, Humanities, Management & other Sciences. Post-graduate degree will be an added advantage.

EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

- Candidate must have a minimum of twenty (20) years post- NYSC cognate working experience;
- Ability to interface with multi-lateral development partners for MSME development;
- Must have hands-on experience in MSME project monitoring/evaluation;
- Candidates must not be above 50 years.

SKILLS AND COMPETENCE

Understand workings of relevant international organizations, Excellent project Management skill, Good analytical and presentation skill and must be Computer literate.

Application for Director Inspectorate Position should be forwarded to; director@smedan.gov.ng

DIRECTOR: (GL 17) FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS

JOB TITLE: Head (Finance & Accounts Department)

Reporting to: Director-General (SMEDAN)

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Oversee the Agency's financial management system and Accounts
- Budget preparation
- Investment portfolio Management
- Financial statement preparation
- Sourcing and disbursement of funds
- Revenue Management

BASIC QUALIFICATION

- Candidates must possess a good first degree or its equivalent with a minimum of 2nd Class /lower division in any of the following disciplines . Accounting, Social Sciences or Managements sciences;
- Relevant post graduate degree will be an added advantage

EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

- Candidate must have a minimum of twenty (20) years post NYSC cognate working experience;
- Must be a member of a recognized Accounting body;
- Must have knowledge/experience of public sector Accounting for not less than 10 years
- Must show ability to proactively manage the Finance and Account outfit.
- Must demonstrate understanding of the MSME sector.
- Candidates must not be above 50 years.

SKILLS AND COMPETENCE

Computer literacy, Excellent leadership and financial management skill.

Understand workings of relevant international organization, Donor Agencies and Ability to source and invest funds

Application for Director Finance & Accounts Position should be forwarded to;

director@smedan.gov.ng

DIRECTOR (GL 17): ADMINISTRATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES

JOB TITLE: Head (Administration & Human Resources Department)

REPORTING TO: Director-General (SMEDAN)

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Anchor administrative and Human Resources Management;
- Career development, Staff Welfare and Establishment matters.
- Provide operational requirements and other necessary support for programme and project implementation;
- Asset Management;

BASIC QUALIFICATION

- Candidates must possess a good first degree or its equivalent with a minimum of 2nd Class /lower credit in Social Sciences or Humanities;
- Relevant Post graduate degree will be an added advantage

EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

- Candidate must have a minimum of twenty (20) years post-graduation cognate working experience;
- Must be a member of a recognized management body;
- Must show ability to implement/process all necessary requirement for smooth execution of the Agency's programmes;
- Must have in-depth knowledge and understanding of Federal Civil Service Rules and Regulations.
- Must demonstrate understanding of the MSME sector.
- Should have minimum of 10 years Public Service experience;
- Candidate must not be above 50 years

SKILLS AND COMPETENCE

Computer literacy, Excellent leadership quality focusing on impact and result and Strong initiative taker with capacity to move complex processes forward.

Application for Director Administration & Human Resources Position should be forwarded to; director@smedan.gov.ng

CATEGORY B:

JOB TITLE: DEPUTY DIRECTOR (GL. 16)

DEPARTMENT: ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- The candidates shall assist the Director (Engineering Technology & Infrastructure) in the general administration of the Engineering, Technology and infrastructure department.
- Take charge of leading and supervising team/division as he /she may be so assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- Candidates must possess a good first degree or its equivalent with a minimum of 2nd Class /lower credit in any of the following fields: Mechanical/Production Engineering, Electrical/Electronic Engineering, Civil Engineering, Materials/Metallurgical Engineering, Agricultural Engineering;
- A minimum of eighteen years (18) post-NYSC cognate working experience required;
- The candidate is expected to be registered with the Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE) for a minimum of ten (10) years and registered by COREN for a minimum of eight (8) years;
- Must be computer literate.
- Candidate must not be above 50 years.

Application for Deputy Director Engineering should be forwarded to;

deputydirector@smedan.gov.ng

JOB TITLE: DEPUTY DIRECTOR (GL. 16)

DEPARTMENT: ENTERPRISE PROMOTION AND MANAGEMENT

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- The candidate shall assist the Director (Enterprise Promotion) in the general administration of the department.
- Take charge of supervising team/division as he /she may be so assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- Candidates must possess a good first degree or its equivalent with a minimum of 2nd Class / lower credit in the following disciplines:
- Social Sciences, Humanities, Management and other Sciences;
- Possession of relevant post-graduate degree would be an added advantage;
- A minimum of 18 years post-NYSC cognate working experience required;
- Candidates must be computer literate;
- Candidate must not be above 50 years.

Application for Deputy Director Enterprise Promotion should be forward to;

deputydirector@smedan.gov.ng

JOB TITLE: DEPUTY DIRECTOR (GRADE LEVEL 16)

DEPARTMENT: INSPECTORATE

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- The candidates shall assist the Director (Inspectorate) in general administration of the department.
- Take charge of leading and supervising team/division as he/she may be so assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- Candidates must possess a good first degree or its equivalent with a minimum of 2nd Class / lower credit in the following disciplines:
- Social Sciences, Humanities, Management/other Sciences;
- Possession of relevant post-graduate degree will be an added advantage;
- A minimum of 18 years post- NYSC cognate experience required;
- Candidate must be computer literate.
- Candidate must not be above 50 years.

Application for Deputy Director should be forwarded to; deputydirector@smedan.gov.ng

CATEGORY C

JOB TITLE: CHIEF X OFFICER (GRADE LEVEL 14)

- i. Accounts
- ii. Administration

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE:

- Candidates must possess a good first degree or its equivalent with a minimum of 2nd Class (lower Division) in the following disciplines:
- Social Sciences, Management Sciences and Accounting
- Membership of a relevant professional body and possession of a Master's degree would be an added advantage

- A minimum of 14 years post NYSC cognate experience required
- Candidates must not be above 45 years.

Application for Chief Position should be forwarded to; chief@smedan.gov.ng

JOB TITLE: ASSISTANT CHIEF X OFFICER (GRADE LEVEL 13)

- i. ICT, ii. Enterprise, iii. Administration

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE:

- Candidates must possess a good first degree or its equivalent with a minimum of 2nd Class Lower in the following disciplines;
- Computer Science/Computer Engineering, Social Sciences, Humanities and Management Sciences;
- Membership of relevant professional body and Master's Degree would be an added advantage;
- A minimum of 12 years post graduation required;
- Candidates must not be above 40 years.

Application for Assistant Chief Position should be forwarded to;

asstchief@smedan.gov.ng

PRINCIPAL X OFFICER (GRADE LEVEL 12)

- i. Enterprise ii. Administration iii. Accounts iv. Engineering v. Information

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE:

- Candidates must possess a good first degree or its equivalent with a minimum of 2nd Class lower in the following disciplines:
- Social Science, Management Science, Humanities, Accounting, Mass Communication and Engineering;
- Membership of relevant professional body and possession of Master's degree would be an added advantage.
- A minimum of 9 years post- NYSC cognate experience required
- Must be computer literate.
- Candidates must not be above 40 years.

Application for Principal X Officer Position should be forwarded to;

principal@smedan.gov.ng

JOB TITLE: SENIOR X OFFICER (GRADE LEVEL 10)

- i. Enterprise ii. Engineering iii. Accounts iv. Administration v. Stores

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE:

- Candidates must possess a good first degree or its equivalent with a minimum of 2nd class lower division in the following disciplines:
- Social Science, Engineering, Management Sciences, Accounting and Humanities
- A minimum of 6 years post graduation required
- Must be computer literate.

Application for Senior X Officer Position should be forwarded to;

senior@smedan.gov.ng

JOB TITLE: X OFFICER I (GRADE LEVEL 09)

DEPARTMENT:

- i. Enterprise ii. Engineering iii. Accounts iv. Administration v. Library vi. Legal vii. Information

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE:

Candidates must possess a good first degree or its equivalent with a minimum of 2nd class/lower in the following disciplines:

- Social Science, Engineering, Management, Accounting, Humanities, Mass Communication, Journalism, Library Science, LLB/BL
- A minimum of post call-to-bar for legal Officer I and 3years post-NYSC cognate working experience for other positions;
- Must be computer literate.

Application for Officer I Position should be forwarded to; officers@smedan.gov.ng

JOB TITLE: CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY (CS)

Position:

CS I grade level 09 and CS II grade level 08

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE:

- HND in Secretariat Studies at lower credit level from a recognized institution.
- A minimum of 3 years post graduation is required for grade level 09 while post NYSC is required for grade level 08.
- Must be Computer Literate

Application for CS I and II Position should be forwarded to; officers@smedan.gov.ng

JOB TITLE: X OFFICER II (GRADE LEVEL 08)

- i. Enterprise ii. Engineering iii. Accounts iv. Administration v. Information

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE:

- Candidates must possess a good first degree or its equivalent with a minimum of 2nd class (lower Division) in the following disciplines:
- Social Sciences, Engineering, Management Sciences, Accounting, Humanities and Mass Communication.
- A minimum of post-NYSC required

Application for Officer II Position should be forwarded to; officers@smedan.gov.ng

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

- The tenure for the position of Director is for a maximum of 8 years in line with Federal Government Policy.
- Successful candidates could be posted to any part of the Country.
- Remuneration is as obtained in the Federal Public Service.

CANDIDATES ARE TO NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

- Curriculum Vitae and application should be forwarded to the e-mail applicable to each position using Micro-soft Word.
- Applicants who may not be able to apply on line should send their application and Curriculum Vitae to:
The Director General
Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency
of Nigeria (SMEDAN)
35 Port-Harcourt Crescent,
Off Gimbija Street,
Area 11, Garki II,
Abuja.
- Applicants should not submit more than one application to avoid disqualification.
- The closing date for applications is six (6) weeks from the date of this publication.
- Under no circumstances will applications be accepted after this date.
- The Agency reserves the right to verify claims and documents submitted.

Signed:
Management

PHILLIPS CONSULTING

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| LAGOS OFFICE | | MANAGEMENT COURSES | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--------------------|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT | | DAYS | FEE | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEPT | OCT | NOV | DEC |
| Essential Management Skills | 2 | 80,000 | | | | 7-8 | | | 12-13 | | 9-10 | 6-7 | | | |
| Advanced Management Skills | 3 | 105,000 | | 1-9 | | | | 10-12 | | | 3-5 | | | 9-11 | |
| Five-Part Professional Development | 3 | 105,000 | | 8-10 | | | | 5-7 | | | 10-12 | | | 3-5 | |
| Developing Leadership Competencies | 3 | 130,000 | | | | | 13-15 | | 7-9 | | 30-1 | | 19-21 | | |
| Taking on Greater Responsibilities | 3 | 101,000 | | | 1-3 | | | | 9-11 | | | 1-3 | | | 1-3 |
| Effective Business Writing Skills | 2 | 80,000 | | 2-3 | 17-18 | | | 18-20 | | 1-2 | | 21-22 | | 25-26 | |
| Effective Presentation Skills | 2 | 85,000 | | 15-16 | 10-11 | | | 4-5 | | 8-9 | | 23-24 | | | 7-8 |
| Labour Relations Programme | 2 | 85,000 | | | | | | | 21-22 | | | 14-15 | | | 6-7 |
| Graduate Trainee Scheme | 4 | 150,000 | | | | | 6-9 | | | | | | 12-15 | | |
| Teamwork & Interpersonal Skills | 2 | 85,000 | | | 4-5 | | | 27-28 | | 1-2 | | | 7-8 | | |
| Partnering with your Boss | 2 | 85,000 | | | 29-30 | | | | | | | 28-29 | | | 13-14 |
| Personal Effectiveness & Mastery | 3 | 105,000 | | 24-26 | | | | 24-26 | | | 16-18 | | | | 8-10 |
| Getting the Best Out of People | 3 | 105,000 | | | 8-10 | | | | 30-2 | | | 27-29 | | | 13-15 |
| RECRUITMENT BASED COURSES | | DAYS | FEE | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEPT | OCT | NOV | DEC |
| Recruitment & Selection | 2 | 85,000 | | | 18-19 | | | | 14-15 | | | 16-17 | | | |
| Behavioural/Competency Based Interviewing | 1 | 50,000 | | | | 21 | | | | | 10 | | 6 | | |
| SALES & MARKETING | | DAYS | FEE | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEPT | OCT | NOV | DEC |
| High Impact Relationship Management | 3 | 105,000 | | 9-11 | | | | | 28-30 | | | | 13-15 | | |
| Branding A-Z | 3 | 150,000 | | | 2-4 | | | | | 27-29 | | | | 24-26 | |
| Marketing & Selling Essentials | 3 | 105,000 | | 17-19 | | | | | 16-18 | | | | 6-8 | | |
| CUSTOMER SERVICE | | DAYS | FEE | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEPT | OCT | NOV | DEC |
| Quality Customer Service | 2 | 85,000 | | | 15-16 | | | 27-28 | | | | 8-9 | | | |
| Total Quality Management | 3 | 120,000 | | | | | 27-29 | | | | 25-27 | | | 17-19 | |
| Supply Chain Management | 3 | 150,000 | | | | | | | 8-10 | | | 20-22 | | | |
| Customer Relationship Management (CRM) Rollout | 3 | 130,000 | | | | | 18-21 | | 23-25 | | | | 12-14 | | |
| HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT | | DAYS | FEE | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEPT | OCT | NOV | DEC |
| Project Management for HR Professionals | 3 | 105,000 | | | 15-17 | | | | 29-1 | | | | 20-22 | | |
| Personal Mastery for HR Professionals | 3 | 105,000 | | 10-12 | | | | | 2-4 | | | 7-9 | | | |
| Accounting for HR Professionals | 2 | 85,000 | | | | 15-16 | | | | | | 21-22 | | | |
| Workforce Planning | 2 | 85,000 | | | 2-3 | | | | | | | 16-17 | | | |
| Diversity & Conflict Management | 2 | 85,000 | | | | | | | 3-4 | | | | | 8-9 | |
| Managing the HR Function | 3 | 150,000 | | 23-25 | | | | 12-14 | | | 18-20 | | | | 6-8 |
| Strategic HR Management | 4 | 200,000 | | | | | 12-15 | | | | 3-6 | | | 22-25 | |
| GOVERNANCE & FINANCE | | DAYS | FEE | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEPT | OCT | NOV | DEC |
| Business Process Mapping | 3 | 150,000 | | | 10-12 | | | | | 5-7 | | | | | |
| Introduction to Balanced Scorecard | 3 | 150,000 | | | 29-31 | | | | | | 25-27 | | | 10-12 | |
| Finance & Accounting for Non-Finance Professionals | 3 | 155,000 | | | | | 28-30 | | | 14-16 | | | 27-29 | | |
| Essentials of Budgeting | 3 | 105,000 | | | | | 8-9 | | | | 11-12 | | | 4-5 | |
| Financial Modelling & Forecasting | 3 | 250,000 | | | | | | 4-6 | | | | 28-30 | | | |
| Strategy & Finance | 3 | 150,000 | | | 10-12 | | | | | | 30-1 | | | | |
| Enterprise Development-A Business Planning Approach | 3 | 120,000 | | | | | 8-9 | | 7-8 | | | 1-2 | | | |
| Accounts Reconciliation Programme | 2 | 85,000 | | | | 12-13 | | | | | | 6-7 | | | |
| Credit & Operational Risk Management | 2 | 85,000 | | | 1-2 | | | | 1-2 | | | | 4-5 | | |
| Managing with Numbers | 2 | 100,000 | | | | | | 6-7 | | | | | | 1-2 | |

| LAGOS OFFICE | | TECHNOLOGY COURSES | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----|--------------------|-----|-------|-------|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| PROJECT & PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT | | DAYS | FEE | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEPT | OCT | NOV | DEC |
| Effective Project Management | 4 | 150,000 | | 23-26 | | | | | 1-4 | | | | 19-22 | | |
| PMACE2™ Training & Certification | 5 | 373,400 | | | 8-12 | | | 10-14 | | 12-16 | | 13-17 | | 22-26 | |
| Project Management Professional (PMP)® Training | 5 | 200,000 | | | | | 12-16 | 10-14 | | 16-20 | | | | 8-12 | |
| PM Project Hands-On | 2 | 80,500 | | | 18-19 | | | | | | 5-6 | | | | 9-10 |
| Managing Successful Programmes (MSP) | 5 | 373,400 | | 1-5 | | | | | 14-18 | | | | 25-29 | | |
| Advanced MS-Project | 3 | 150,000 | | | | | 28-30 | | | | 25-27 | | | | |
| RISK MANAGEMENT & BUSINESS ANALYSIS | | DAYS | FEE | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEPT | OCT | NOV | DEC |
| Enterprise Risk Management | 3 | 320,000 | | | | | 21-23 | | | | 2-4 | | | 1-3 | |
| Management of Risks (MOR) Training & Certification (Foundation & Practitioner) | 5 | 396,600 | | | | | | 17-21 | | | | | | 15-19 | |
| Fundamentals of Business Analysis | 3 | 320,000 | | | | | | | 23-25 | | | | 6-8 | | |
| Business Analysts Boot Camp | 5 | 320,000 | | | | | | | | 19-23 | | | | 1-5 | |
| Business Intelligence & Data Mining | 3 | 182,500 | | | | | | 24-26 | | | | | 27-29 | | |
| IT MANAGEMENT & GOVERNANCE | | DAYS | FEE | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEPT | OCT | NOV | DEC |
| Business Management Skills for Technology Professionals | 3 | 120,000 | | | | | 7-9 | | | | 11-13 | | | 17-19 | |
| ITIL IT Service Management v3 Foundation | 3 | 145,000 | | | | | 26-28 | | | 21-23 | | | | 29-1 | |
| ITIL Manager (Service Delivery & Service Support) | 10 | 630,000 | | | 8-19 | | | | | | | | | | |
| IT Strategy & Innovation | 3 | 120,000 | | | | 6-8 | | | | | | 13-15 | | | |
| IT Cost Optimisation and ROI Management | 3 | 180,000 | | | | | | 17-19 | | | | | | 22-24 | |
| Nurturing Green IT | 2 | 150,000 | | | | | | 20-21 | | | | | | 25-26 | |
| Aligning IT to Business Strategy | 3 | 150,000 | | | | | | | 14-16 | | | 20-22 | | | |
| IT Governance and Information Security Strategy | 2 | 120,000 | | | | | | | 17-18 | | | 23-24 | | | |
| IT PROCESSES & TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT | | DAYS | FEE | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEPT | OCT | NOV | DEC |
| Forensic Response and Incident Management | 3 | 180,000 | | | | | | | | 5-7 | | | | | |
| Identity and Access Management | 2 | 120,000 | | | | | | | | 8-9 | | | | | |
| Information Security Management System (ISMS) | 3 | 180,000 | | | | | | | 7-9 | | | | | | |
| Virtualisation Benefits and Security Requirements | 2 | 120,000 | | | | | | | 10-11 | | | | | | |
| Security Monitoring and Log Analysis | 2 | 120,000 | | | | | | | | | | 6-7 | | | |
| Microsoft Office Suites (Excel, Word, PowerPoint) | 5 | 175,000 | | | | | 26-30 | | | | 9-13 | | | | |
| E-Mail Essentials for Business | 2 | 40,000 | | | | | | 4-6 | | | | | 11-13 | | |
| Attracting and Retaining Technology Staff | 3 | 320,000 | | | | | | | | | | 8-10 | | 11-13 | |
| IT AUDIT | | DAYS | FEE | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEPT | OCT | NOV | DEC |
| ACL 305: Foundations of ACL Concepts & Practices | 3 | 120,000 | | | | | | 10-12 | | | | | | 22-24 | |
| ACL 201: Data Analysis Techniques (Workshop) | 2 | 90,000 | | | | | | 13-14 | | | | | | 25-26 | |
| ACL 303: Advanced ACL Concepts & Techniques | 3 | 180,000 | | | | | | | | | | 1-3 | | | |
| ISO 27001 Lead Auditor Training | 5 | 392,000 | | | | | 19-23 | | | | | | | 1-5 | |
| INFORMATION SECURITY AND ASSURANCE | | DAYS | FEE | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEPT | OCT | NOV | DEC |
| (ISC)² CISSP CBK Review Seminar & Training | 5 | 51,995 | | | 22-26 | | | | | | | | 11-15 | | |
| Ethical Hacking & Counter Measures (CEH) | 5 | 325,000 | | | | | | 24-28 | | | | | | 1-5 | |
| Computer Hacking Forensic Investigator (CHFI) | 5 | 325,000 | | | | | | | | 26-30 | | | | 29-3 | |
| Disaster Recovery & Business Continuity Management | 5 | 325,000 | | | | | | 17-21 | | | | | 25-29 | | |
| Business Continuity Management | 2 | 80,000 | | | | | | | | | 30-31 | | | | |
| E-BUSINESS IMPLEMENTATION | | DAYS | FEE | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEPT | OCT | NOV | DEC |
| E-Business Design and Implementation (Boot Camp) | 5 | 325,000 | | | | | | | | 19-23 | | | | 22-26 | |
| E-Payments Product Development | 3 | 170,000 | | | | | | | | | | 15-17 | | | |
| Security & Quality Implementation in Web and Internet Solutions | 3 | 150,000 | | | | | | | 28-30 | | | | | | |
| Applying PCI-DSS to minimise risks | 2 | 150,000 | | | | | | | | | | 16-17 | | | |
| Web 2.0 and Developers Security | 3 | 180,000 | | | | | | | | | | 18-20 | | | |

| ABUJA OFFICE | |
|---|--|
| LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT | |
| Essential Management Skills | |
| Advanced Management Skills | |
| Five-Part Professional Development | |
| Developing Leadership Competencies | |
| Taking on Greater Responsibilities | |
| Effective Business Writing Skills | |
| Effective Presentation Skills | |
| Labour Relations Programme | |
| Graduate Trainee Scheme | |
| Teamwork & Interpersonal Skills | |
| Partnering with your Boss | |
| Personal Effectiveness & Mastery | |
| Getting the Best Out of People | |
| RECRUITMENT BASED COURSES | |
| Recruitment & Selection | |
| Behavioural/Competency Based Interviewing | |
| SALES & MARKETING | |
| High Impact Relationship Management | |
| Branding A-Z | |
| Marketing & Selling Essentials | |
| CUSTOMER SERVICE | |
| Quality Customer Service | |
| Total Quality Management | |
| Customer Relationship Management | |
| HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT | |
| Project Management for HR Professionals | |
| Personal Mastery for HR Professionals | |
| Accounting for HR Professionals | |
| Workforce Planning | |
| Diversity & Conflict Management | |
| Managing the HR Function | |
| Strategic HR Management | |
| GOVERNANCE & FINANCE | |
| Business Process Mapping | |
| Introduction to Balanced Scorecard | |
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BUSINESS

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L-R: Director-General of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Ms. Arunima Oteh, welcomes the President of the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) Alhaji Aliko Dangote to her office, when Dangote paid her a courtesy visit Thursday in Abuja.

Utomi attributes fuel scarcity to bank loans

FROM Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

CHAIRMAN of the Lagos Business School Prof Pat Utomi has attributed the current scarcity of fuel in the country to the stringent measures by banks to grant loans to oil marketers.

Utomi, who spoke to *Daily Trust* in Lagos yesterday said the banking reform has enabled some marketers to import product with caution while some have since suspended same.

According to him, the current regime does not pave way for the marketers to bring in product as well as recoup their investment.

The Federal government through the Petroleum Products Pricing Regulatory Agency (PPPRA) had penultimate week announced that it disbursed the sum of N300 billion as subsidy to oil marketers in the country between August 2009 and January this year. The agency also promised to disburse the outstanding N27 billion to the marketers soon.

But the former Presidential aspirant told our correspondent that subsidy will not solve the perennial fuel scarcity in the country.

He therefore advised the government to encourage the establishment of more refineries in the country to shore up the operation of the four existing refineries.

The current production capacity of the refineries, according to the report of the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR), is 6.6%.

Utomi said one of the best measures to encourage private investors in refinery is for the Federal government to give them tax holiday.

'Nigeria may run out of oil soon'

By Hamisu Muhammad

THERE are fears that Nigeria may run out of oil and may be delisted from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), although Petroleum geologists assured that the country's 30 billion barrel oil reserves will be exhausted in 29 years time.

But General Manager, Planning, National Petroleum Investment Management Services (NAPIMS), an arm of the NNPC, Victor Briggs warned on Friday that without new investment, "Nigeria will run out of oil soon. We will no longer be on the list of OPEC members because we will not be exporting crude anymore".

He explained that at the moment Nigeria is not investing in new oil discoveries whereby all the revenues from oil goes to the federation account directly without reinvesting into oil fields.

He said the future of Nigeria's oil lies on three major factors which are: early passage of PIB, continued investment in new oils and improved security in the Niger Delta region.

He said: "If the price of crude oil falls to \$30 per barrel and production reduces to about 1.5 million per day that means government will not be able to pay cash calls.

"On the other hand if the current security environment is sustained and even improved and we are able to increase our production to about 2.5 million bpd and the price goes to US\$100pb we should be looking at about \$62 billion revenue which means we will be able to pay the cash calls and even keep some monies for investment".

He also said if passed into law, the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) will up the nation's oil revenue by at least US\$3 billion (about N450 billion) annually.

"The PIB if passed immediately will add a minimum of US\$2 billion to the

national treasury. The benefit can even hit US\$3 billion", he said.

Briggs who was speaking at the workshop organised for the Members of the Federation Account Allocation Committee (FAAC) on the activities of the oil and gas industry said if the current crude oil production is sustained with oil prices at \$60 a drum, Nigeria's oil revenue will increase from the estimated US\$25 billion to US\$27 billion, when the Bill is passed this year.

He said: "If we were to restore our shut productions and actually grow production the time to invest is now".

The Minister of Petroleum Resources Dr. Rilwan Lukman said the sooner the passage of the new law the greater the revenue to the nation's coffers.

He said what the proposed law is trying to achieve is to minimise cost of production and maximise revenue like in any other corporate entity.

Trust Index

| | | |
|------------------------|---|---------------|
| Inflation | → | 12% |
| GDP | → | 6.90% |
| Budget | → | N3.1tr |
| External Reserves Acct | → | \$42.47bn |
| Excess Crude Acct | → | \$6.7bn |
| Poverty Ratio | → | 54.4% |
| Interest Ratio | → | 6% |
| Banks | → | 24 |
| Oil Price | → | \$74 a barrel |
| Power Supply | → | 3,700MW |
| Oil output per day | → | 1.9mbd |

| CBN EXCHANGE RATES | | | | BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES | |
|--------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---|------|
| | Buying (NGN) | Central (NGN) | Selling (NGN) | | |
| CFA | 0.2996 | 0.3096 | 0.3196 | BUYING | |
| DANISH KRONER | 27.9142 | 28.0088 | 28.1033 | DOLLAR..... | N151 |
| EURO | 207.9073 | 208.6115 | 209.3156 | EURO..... | N208 |
| POUNDS STERLING | 237.9648 | 238.7708 | 239.5767 | POUNDS..... | N249 |
| RIYAL | 39.368 | 39.5014 | 39.6347 | SELLING | |
| SDR | 230.3072 | 231.0873 | 231.8673 | DOLLAR..... | N152 |
| SWISS FRANC | 141.2322 | 141.7105 | 142.1888 | EURO..... | N210 |
| US DOLLAR | 147.63 | 148.13 | 148.63 | POUNDS..... | N252 |
| WAUA | 229.9356 | 230.7144 | 231.4931 | Source: S&J Bureau de Change, Wise Zone 4, Abuja. | |
| YEN | 1.6456 | 1.6512 | 1.6568 | | |

| Stock Market Index | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Date: | Friday, January 29, 2010 |
| Index: | 22,594.90 |
| Deal: | 6,482 |
| Volume: | 489,175,361 |
| Value: | N 2,895,593,161.56 |
| Cap.: | N 5,441,587,631,842.03 |

Business/Agric

'2.1 million people killed by contaminated food annually'

CONTAMINATED foods have been proven to be the cause of death of at least 2.1 million people globally and according to the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Ibadan, developing countries lose billions of dollars annually to a particular type of food contaminant known as Aflatoxin which experts say they are about to phase out because of the development of a biocontrol drug by IITA known as Aflasafe. In this interview, Mr. Ranajit Bandyopadhyay, a pathologist with the institute speaks on the journey that led to the development of Aflasafe and how to end Aflatoxin contamination in Africa among other issues.

By Tina A. Hassan

TELL us about your work at IITA

I am a plant pathologist, and one of my main responsibilities is how to manage plant diseases. The other is to ensure food safety. This is so because 2.1 million people die by contaminated food every year.

What about your work on bio-control?

This is one of the most exciting projects that I have ever had. The work on biocontrol is on a toxin found on maize and peanuts called Aflatoxins. The toxin causes a lot of harm to people's health and also makes farmers sell their products at lower prices. So, the losses are both in terms of health and trade. What I am trying to do is to manage the Aflatoxins using a holistic approach, such as using resistant varieties, better crop management practices, and also the biological control method.

What is unique about your bio-control work?

One thing that is unique is that we are using the natural resources from Nigeria to manage an economic and medical problem. We are making use of nontoxic fungi to eliminate the harmful fungi (Aflatoxins).

What are Aflatoxins?

Aflatoxins are harmful chemicals that are produced by a fungus

called *Aspergillus Flavus*.

The fungi produce toxins in maize, peanuts, and generally grains. When people eat them, it harms them and causes diseases such as liver cancer and kwashiorkor, among others. Worst still, farmers cannot sell their products at the premium price.

What makes you keen about bio-control?

It is one of the strongest components of the holistic approach. If we can have the biocontrol approach adopted by farmers, most of the problems concerning Aflatoxins which they face during postharvest will be greatly reduced.

Do you see IITA in the position to offer the biocontrol option to farmers?

Absolutely yes. The reason is that we actually started with good science and that science has given birth to a new product which the farmers are willing to use.

Tell us about this product.

The product is "Aflasafe". We coined the name Aflasafe. When farmers use the product on their farms, they would produce grains that are free from Aflatoxins.

Did you face any challenge in developing the product?

The first challenge was developing the product itself. The fresh challenge now is how to get a large manufacturing firm to begin mas-



sive production, advocacy, and awareness so that it gets to the farmers.

Have any of them show interest so far?

We made a presentation to the Minister of Health, Prof. Babatunde Osotimehin, and he was so excited about the product. We also did a field deployment and the farmers were also very happy about it.

Who are your partners in this work?

Many organizations and people were involved in this work. They include the African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF), National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control, farmers, United States Department of Agriculture, US Agency for International Development, Prof Peter Cotty, Dr Joseph Atehnkeng, and several others.

How were you able to handle these partners?

Every partner is a unique entity but one thing important is to build trust. Once that is done, the partnership gets smooth.

Research wise, what are your future plans?

My future plan is to get this product used on at least one million hectares. I intend to put all my efforts to see that this product is used for the benefit of the farmers in general and women and children who are more vulnerable to Aflatoxins.

Kano gets N1bn fish market

From Ruqayyah Yusuf Aliyu, Kano

GOVERNOR of Kano State Malam Ibrahim Shekarau has laid the foundation of a modern fish market at Unguwa Uku in Kano metropolis. The market is estimated to cost N1 billion.

Speaking at the ceremony, Shekarau said the fish market, whose project is based on a Public Private Partnership in which the state government provided the land while an indigenous company, Nigerian Brick and Clay Products will put in place the structure, is aimed at providing a conducive atmosphere for fish business in the state.

The market, he said, will be in

tune with modernity as all facilities such as shops, cold rooms, a fish pond, public conveniences and utilities, a bank, Police outpost, a restaurant, parking lot, conference hall, a mosque and an administrative block will be put in place.

Shekarau said his administration is determined to boost commercial activities by creating the enabling environment and improving internally generated revenue in the state.

Also speaking, the state's Commissioner for Commerce, Industries and Cooperatives Alhaji Ahmad Ibrahim Yakasai said the market which is the first of its kind in the country is to be

completed within 15 months.

Yakasai further said the market when completed will bring together all categories of fish retailers as well as other related trades which are now scattered around Galadima road and other locations within the metropolis.

On his part, Chairman of the partnering company, Kano Bricks and Clay Products Ltd, Alhaji Ahmad Rufa'i Muhammad said the project will be funded with a bank loan after which the 2,244 shops would be leased or sold to fish business persons in the state. He pledged a qualitative work and timely completion of the project.

Rubber farmers seek collaboration with Delta govt

MR Emmanuel Onosayohwo, Chairman, Rubber Farmers Association, Delta Chapter, has appealed for more collaborative efforts with the state's Ministry of Agriculture to boost rubber farming.

Onosayohwo told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Asaba that members of the association were in possession of more than 1,000 hectares of cultivatable land for the 2010 planting season.

He said that rubber farmers in Delta were ready to partner with the state government to resuscitate rubber farming.

The chairman appealed to the

Delta Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources to assist the association with subsidised rubber stumps.

Onosayohwo also said that rubber farmers in Delta required access to loans and vehicles.

According to him, small farm holdings are vital to the development of any agricultural project in any nation.

He said that the abandonment of small rubber holdings due to the oil boom quickened the collapse of the rubber industry.

He said that the rubber industry was a major employer of labour in the 1950s and 1960s in the area. (NAN).

Business/Finance

Micro banks, macro problems

By Jibrin Abubakar

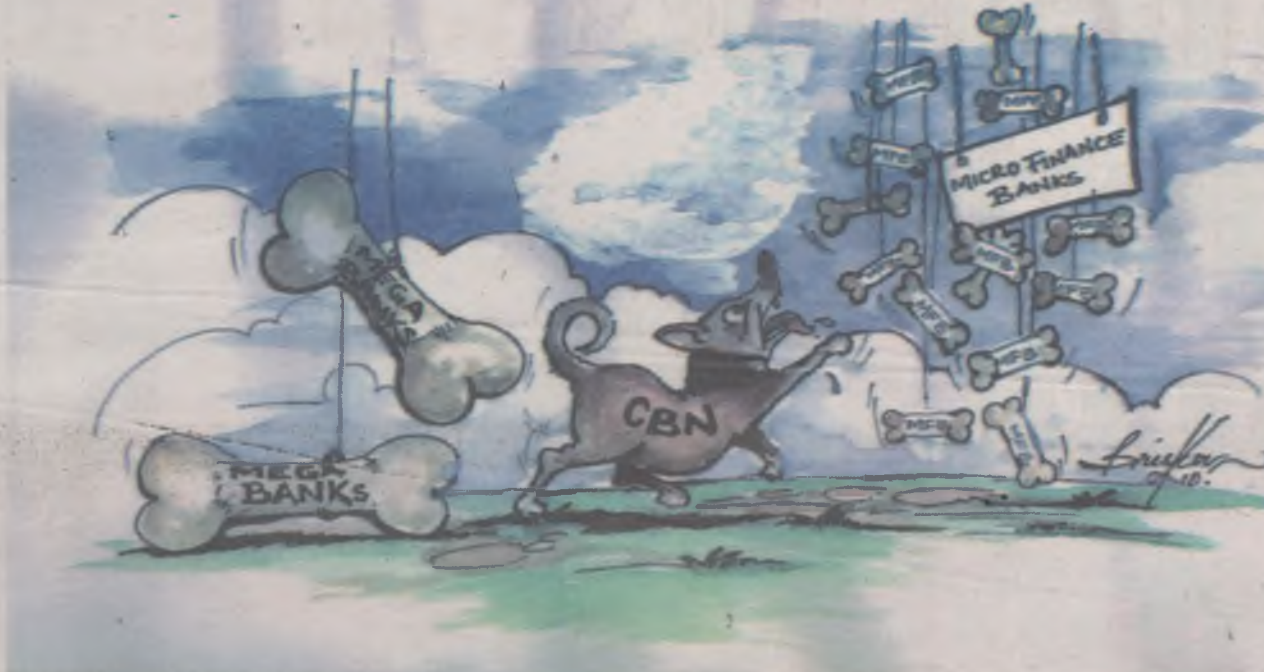
WHAT is happening to the N50 billion funds pumped into the Micro Finance Banks by the Federal Government? What is happening to the \$8.4million grant to the sector by the World Bank? What is happening to the 1.0 per cent funding requirement of the MFBs from the annual budgets of the three tiers of government? Why are small banks charging high interest rates like those in the universal banks and why are they also asking for collateral in contravention of the policy?

The policy was introduced by the then President Olusegun Obasanjo government on December 15, 2005 and became operational on January 1, 2008. Today there are over 800 micro banks in the country, including unregistered ones, with the South West having the largest share of 40.5 per cent. Others are: South South 14.3 per cent, South East 21.2 per cent, North West 6.9 per cent, North Central 12.9 per cent and North East 4.1 per cent.

It would be recalled that to stimulate the flow of financial services to Nigeria's rural areas, government had introduced different credit programmes and policies targeted at the poor. Some of these policies were: Rural Banking programme, Sectoral Allocation of Credits, concessionary Interest Rate, the Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme (ACGS), the establishment of the Nigerian Agricultural and Cooperative Bank Limited (NACB), the National Directorate of Employment (NDE), the Nigerian Agricultural Insurance Corporation (NAIC), the Peoples Bank of Nigeria (PBN), the Community Banks (CBs) and the Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP). In the year 2000, government merged the NACB and the PBN to form the Nigerian Agricultural Cooperative and Rural Development Bank Limited (NACRDB). It also created the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) with the mandate of providing financial services to fight poverty in the country.

All these poverty eradication related policies, commentators say have not produced the desired result as they suffer weak institutional capacity, weak capital base, huge un-served markets and could not generate employment for the poor. For instance, successive governments were aware that there exists a huge untapped potential at the rural levels and that the community banks designed to fill the gaps have failed because of the problems of low capitalization and isolated mode of operation.

Therefore, the new micro finance banks were crafted to get enough funding and to disburse same at ease to the micro entrepreneurs. But three years down the line, the operators of the scheme are complaining of being stifled of funding by the government. They say the N50 billion earmarked by the Umaru Musa Yar'adua administration has not reached some



NIGERIA has 910 Micro Finance Banks

of them. They say only six banks are currently benefitting from the \$8.4million World Bank grant. These six banks are said to have up to 800,000 active clients, including 50,000 active borrowers; ditto the 0.1 per cent funding by the federal, states and the local governments.

Consequently, the three features of simplicity of operation; absence of asset based collateral and smallness of loans advanced which distinguish MFBs from other financial products are gradually being eroded.

Perhaps more worrisome is the fact that regulators are unable to locate some of the micro finance banks. Recently the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) raised alarm that it is overwhelmed by the number of MFBs in the country, a situation which has made the supervision of the subsector very difficult.

A Deputy Director in NDIC Mr. Jacob Afolabi said in Kaduna that unlike the regular deposit money banks, the NDIC does not know the location of all the existing microfinance banks, a situation that has made monitoring and supervision difficult.

He said: "Even when we write them letters, some of the mails are returned undelivered. We cannot locate some of these microfinance banks because of their wide spread across the country." He decried the low compliance with regulations by operators in the sector.

According to him, the NDIC is supposed to conduct off-site monitoring on a monthly basis to regulate developments in the sector, but that only 50 per cent of operators comply with regulations that make that possible.

In order to safeguard the interest of depositors, he said NDIC is working on a system of identifying functional and non-functional microfinance banks.

Another problem bedeviling the MFBs is the proliferation of unlicensed banks who fleece the unsuspecting public. Last year, the Central Bank of Nigeria, on a tip off, was able to detect some in Lagos and the perpetrators are being brought to book.

But the CBN has assured that it would soon focus its searchlight on the operators to avert impending collapse of the system.

But industry players have warned that if the CBN were to adopt the same yardstick it used for the universal banks to MFBs, the sector may eventually collapse because of the unprecedented level of rot.

Nigerians are beginning to develop cold feet in their relations with MFBs. This is because they now look like community banks. In Kaduna, recently, depositors of Integrated Micro Finance Bank invaded the bank over their deposits but the bank could not pay so it closed shop temporarily and its managers took to their heels.

The problem of liquidity and the non-repayment of loans by customers has been a major threat to the sector. Poor and economically active people are also complaining that they have not been able to access loans from these small banks. They say they are being asked of collateral as those in the universal banks.

Managing Director of Future Growth MFB Mr. Peter Edoki said that some customers may be denied access to credit facilities if the via-

bility of the business proposal for which the loan is meant for is questionable. In the same vein, Managing Director of Opengate MFB Mr. Nurain Yusuf said that the notion that MFBs charge high interest rate and lay emphasis on collateral is false. "We emphasize on trust and confidence, rather than collateral. Our interest rate is negotiable and competitive."

But another operator who sought anonymity told this paper that because the level of defaulting some micro finance banks have started asking for collateral on loans that are up to N500,000.

Meanwhile, Managing Director of Hasal Micro Finance Bank Rogers Nwoke said another problem of the sector is lack of skilled manpower. He said most of the players are not trained. He therefore advocated for a training institution for operators to enable them shore up their skills and knowledge of micro financing.

The good news perhaps is that the CBN Governor Sanusi Lamido Sanusi announced at the banks' fourth Micro Finance Conference penultimate week in Abuja that training and examinations are under way for the MFBs' chief executives, warning that any of them who fail the CBN exam will be shown the way out. He revealed that the apex bank had begun the review of the microfinance policies as well as an audit of the banks.

The Governor observed that the micro banks were already facing challenges on inadequate funding, poor corporate governance, poor risk management and investment mismatch.

Perhaps the mother of all obstacles confronting efforts to revive the

micro credit scheme and growing small businesses has been identified by the CBN Governor himself when he appeared before the National Assembly before his confirmation. The Governor had said: You create new industries with power. The small scale industries we are talking about cannot survive without power. All of us grew up in villages where people have grinding machines, in a village where a woman has deep freezer and by simple selling ice water; she is able to pay electricity bills and pay freed herself and her family. We are reducing poverty rate, no cottage industry can survive without power."

The set target of the micro banks is to among other things cover the poor which constitutes the majority of Nigerians. Currently, the formal financial sector provides services to about 35 per cent of the economically active population while the remaining 65 per cent are excluded from access to financial services. Hence, the process, according to its exponents, will lead to reduced unemployment and poverty; increase the share of micro credit as percentage of total credit to the economy from 0.9 per cent in 2005 to 5 per cent to 20 per cent in 2020, and the share of micro credit as percentage of GDP from 0.2 per cent in 2005 to at least 5 per cent in 2020; enhance women access to financial services by 5 per cent annually; and promote the participation of at least two thirds of state and local government in micro credit by 2015.

But given the problems facing the sector, observers doubt if the objectives of establishing the Micro Finance Banks can be achieved by 2020. For now the chorus among Nigerians is that the benefit of the programme is yet to trickle down. Experts fear operators and regulators might have lost the script. Yet, they say the CBN's effort to reform the policy and policing the reforms is in the right direction.

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Star Feature

No help for Nigeria's 300,000 child stammerers

Nigeria has the highest population of stammerers in West Africa. There are over 300,000 such children under the age of five in the country, but only few speech therapists to attend to them.

By Lami Sadiq

IT was in 2003 and an election semester at the Obafemi Awolowo University. Ibrahim Olajide was one of the contenders that year vying for the post of public relations officer (PRO) in his department. As a third year English student, it was important to go down all the different levels and deliver a manifesto. So on a Monday morning Ibrahim set out with a few of friends and classmates. They decided to start with the most junior class in the department, the 100 level class or the Jambites, as they were often called. Dressed in his clean trousers, shirt and polished shoe, he stepped into the class. The students were already used to one or two senior students coming to seek their mandates with all sorts of promises, so they were prepared for Ibrahim, and even knew what to expect as his posters had already decorated the school campus since the beginning of the semester, welcoming students back from the long break. He stepped in front of the class and started making his speech. Everything was going well, until he noticed the stare directed at him. Then he began to panic and before he knew it, he was babbling and the stutter came in full force. "We are trytrytry-trying to make chanchanchanges around our camcamcam-campus". Then the boo started and he expected it. At the same time, paper balls were thrown at him, as the boo grew louder. But what worried Ibrahim more were the different reactions he saw on the faces of the students. Not everyone was booing or throwing stuff at him, not everyone was laughing. But their sad eyes worried him for what he saw was pity, and that was even worse than the booing.

That was a nasty and embarrassing experience for a now stutter free Ibrahim Olajide, 7 years after his public fiasco. Interestingly enough, he actually won the election because he didn't let his condition dictate who he could be, and what he could do with his life.

Stuttering known to be the most wide spread and obvious speech disorder is often caused by anxiety. According to the stuttering Association of Nigeria, (SAN) Nigeria alone has more stutters than the entire West African region, and over 300,000 children under the age of 5 are affected with stuttering. There is a higher percentage of men than women worldwide. Long term stuttering

is more common among boys than girls. Even though stuttering is not a deformity, but an impediment, most people often laugh at them, taking them for granted, and even go as far as ignoring them, forgetting that there are many people who, despite their stutter, have become famous. In fact the first thing that should come to one's mind as a stutterer, is that you are in illustrious company, for history has it that famous people like Winston Churchill, Marilyn Monroe, Sir Isaac Newton who discovered the law of gravity, and Charles Darwin, the father of evolution, suffered from stuttering. Interestingly, Darwin's grandfather, Erasmus, also suffered from the same condition which makes one wonder if the condition is a genetic one. According to Dr Ahmed Sufyan, a medical practitioner with the Federal Medical Centre Azare, "People who stutter have higher levels of social anxiety, which is more likely a consequence rather than a cause, and are more likely to have a family member who has stuttered"

But whether genetic or not, some say the secret to overcoming ones stutter is to speak slowly, word by word and gather a lot of self confidence, since the disorder is known to lower self esteem. "I was always conscious of my stutter and knew I had a problem. So I decided to work on myself by taking my time to talk. I never rush myself, and won't let anyone rush me" said Ibrahim Olajide.

"Whawhawhat do you nened my name for" said tall, beautiful Amina. It's been a tough task locating female stammerers, so even when Amina said she wasn't going to grant the reporter audi-



OVER 300,000 children under the age of 5 in Nigeria are affected with stuttering.

ence, she just kept begging and cajoling until the 20 year old reluctantly agreed. She was obviously in a terrible mood, but when she got comfortable, she revealed that her parents had denied her an opportunity to travel to Jigawa state for a wedding. It really took a lot of patience to have a discussion with Amina, being a 100 level student of physics at the Kano State University of Technology, Amina said she started stuttering a long time ago while she was in primary school. According to her, "I used to imimitate my friend who used to stamstamstammer" and since then she joined the illustrious group of stammerers. For Amina, there is no reason why she can't marry a stutterer as herself has a lot of suitors, who don't mind her stammering disorder. But one mystery that beats the imagination is that Amina never struggles to recite the Holy Qur'an, it only takes the best of her when she becomes emotional about certain issues.

That may explain Joyce Anjo's revelation about only stuttering in public. According to her, "I noticed that I don't stustustutter whenever I speak to myself out loud, I only stutter whenever I'm afaafa"

“According to the Stuttering Association of Nigeria, (SAN) Nigeria alone has more stutters than the entire West African region, and over 300,000 children under the age of 5 are affected with stuttering.



ed by stuttering.

which makes it even harder for a stutterer to improve fluency. In a paper titled "the absence of modern speech therapy in Nigeria" Mr Adeyemi Akintunde states, "The lack of designated departments at any level of the country's health education care institutions, for speech and communication disorder, can be pinpointed as the reason why there is no modern speech therapy in the country." The work of speech therapists requires a lot of patience and compassion, as progress may be slow and halting. If you have stuttered all your life, it is unlikely that the stutter will ever go away completely, but you can make positive changes in your communication skills.

“Stuttering is never the child's fault, so the child should not be blamed or shouted at by parents or teachers for wasting their time while speaking”, says Dr Sufyan. Some adults still deal with the condition, because they didn't get the patience and understanding from parents and teachers as kids. They were usually rushed or yelled at to hurry and say whatever it is they had in mind. "If a teacher lacks patience and tolerance, then it's more likely that they may ignore stammering children, even when they raise their hands in class," he added.

"Stuttering is something that can be overcome with a lot of practice, dedication and some singing wouldn't hurt" says Bridget Johnson who says the condition runs in her family. There have been a lot of testimonies on how speech therapy has been useless in curbing and curtailing a stutter. But there have also been success stories of people learning to sing and dance due to the efficiency of some speech therapists, and how they have been able to help them overcome the impediment and live happier lives. More often than not, stammerers figure out how to resolve the condition themselves, or unfortunately end up being extremely shy or introverts.

“Never help them finish their sentences because they struggle enough through a sentence, without you trying to hurry them up” Bridget warned. "I remember when we were growing up, I used to finish my sisters sentences and it always made her angry."

fraid or tense, or when speaking in the company of strangers."

Even for recovering stammers or those that have healed and lack traces of the condition, it sometimes creeps back in, depending on their feeling. For Mr Andrew, the meeting he was attending was heated and everyone seemed to be talking at the same time. It seemed no one was ready to listen to the others point of view. It had been going on for about 3 hours, yet an agreement was far from being reached. He was upset, tired and had flown in from Kano to attend the meeting. Yet it seemed he was going to have a long day. He felt angry and needed to put a stop to all the argument, confusion and noise they were generating. But when he opened his mouth to speak, all that came out was "stostostoop". The argument continued as no one heard or paid attention to him. His anger swelled and he hit his fist on the table loudly, standing up with a shout "shoshoshott up, all of youyouyouyou". That was when he got their attention. They all stopped and looked up at him, traces of sweat already forming on his forehead. He could see their reactions, the feeling embarrassed him, because he knew what he saw in their eyes were looks of disbelief. He was sure they were subconsciously asking themselves "is he a stammerer?"

"Since then I've been back to my normal stutter free self, I don't stammer anymore. But once in a while it comes back when I'm angry" said Mr Andrew.

The use of drugs have helped some people overcome their stutter, but that can only last a few hours, as it gives them the confidence they need to speak in a crowd without the dreaded repetition of sounds or words. Adang Kevin says he once

experimented with weed to help him escape the embarrassment his stutter could have caused him at the end of a class presentation. "It felt good then, because I stood in front of the class and made my preprepresentation without any fear or tension and I even got an applause at the end of the presentation". Even as he spoke, there were traces of the disorder, as some words were being repeated while others get blocked for a few seconds. But he eventually let them out, and says he is now confident about himself, and doesn't mind that he stutters, for people have learnt to accept him the way he is.

"I started stamstamstammering as a child and I can't remember ever not being a stammer" said Alhaji Ibrahim Mai Adiko, a business man in Central market Kaduna. "As a child, I suffered from the effect and the consequences it had on me, my education and self esteem. Everyone laughed at me in schschoool, and I had a very difficult childhood, especially since I was the only stammerer in a family of 13." But Alhaji Mai Adiko has learnt to live and appreciate his stutter, and even sees it as a blessing in disguise, since it only challenged him to concentrate on the business talent he possessed. He now owns a mega shop in central market Kaduna where he sells wrappers and veils of exotic qualities.

"Why take the risk?" said Ifeoma Onochie "I can't marry a stammer because my children may stammer, I hear its hereditary and I have come across a father and son that both stammer" she said. "We don't even have speech therapists, that can help the children in this country, so I can't take that risk."

Speech therapists help a lot, but their absence in Nigeria only indicates with what seriousness the disorder is being addressed,

“I was always conscious of my stutter and knew I had a problem. So I decided to work on myself by taking my time to talk. I never rush myself, and won't let anyone rush me” said Ibrahim Olajide.

Business

EITI to determine NEITI's fate

By Hamisu Muhammad

THE validators from the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI) are in Nigeria to determine the fate of the Nigerian branch of the body.

The duty of the validators is

to assess the performance and the success recorded so far by the NEITI in ensuring transparency and accountability in the extractive industry in Nigeria. Nigeria joined the EITI implementing countries in 2004. NEITI is the national version of the EITI, a glo-

bal movement aimed at ensuring that extractive resources aid sustainable development.

Speaking at the conference for the professional bodies in Nigeria, the Executive Secretary of the NEITI Haruna Sa'eed said he hopes Nigeria will succeed at the

end of the validation exercise for the good work started to continue.

He said based on the parameters on ground; Nigeria will hopefully continue to enjoy the EITI support in the future.

He said the essence of the exercise is to make sure that Nigeria

is complying with objectives of the EITI.

He said the validators have up and till March to conclude their exercise, within the period they will meet with other stakeholders such as civil societies and government representatives.

Cornerstone gets new MD/CEO

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

THE Board of Directors of Cornerstone Insurance Plc has announced the appointment of a new Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Livingstone Magorimbo, to oversee its insurance operations. He takes over from Dominic Ichaba, who has been acting in that capacity.

A statement from the company noted that his appointment came as part of a management and technical services agreement that Cornerstone recently entered into with TA Holdings Limited (TA).

TA Holdings is a Zimbabwean investment holding company and leading insurance group listed on the Zimbabwean Stock Exchange with interests in the financial services industry spanning non-life insurance, life assurance, reinsurance, asset management and stock broking. It also has insurance investments and operations in Botswana and Uganda with ambitions to go into other promising African coun-

tries.

The new CEO parades an impressive resume and robust pedigree in professional accomplishments as an experienced insurer, actuary and business strategist. He was until his new appointment, the Managing Director of Zimnat Life Assurance Company, a leading Zimbabwean life assurance company. He was also a Director of Zimnat Lion Insurance Company, TA Holdings' short term insurance company; Sovereign Health, the health insurance operation and Grand Re, the reinsurance company.

Prior to joining Zimnat Life, Mr. Magorimbo worked for Old Mutual Life Assurance Company, with responsibilities for Product Development and Pricing, Actuarial Valuations, Embedded Value Calculations and Experience Investigations for Old Mutual's life insurance business in Zimbabwe.

Announcing the decision of the Board, the Chairman of Cornerstone Insurance Plc Mr. Adedotun Sulaiman said the appointment was

"to drive the group's vision of becoming the leading insurance-based financial services group that transforms the Nigerian insurance industry." The appointment, he said, came after a most exhaustive search process and is part of the ongoing transformation of Cornerstone designed to position the company to achieve superior performance and industry leadership.

Mr. Magorimbo holds a First Class B.Sc. Honours Degree in Mathematics from the University of Zimbabwe and is a Qualified Actuary. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries (UK) and a Fellow of the Actuarial Society of South Africa. Mr. Magorimbo is not new to Nigeria. From 2008 to 2009, he led the team that supported a two-year consultancy contract with a leading life and health insurance company in Nigeria, focusing on product development and pricing, process re-engineering, channel development and implementation of effective business systems. Before



MR. Livingstone Magorimbo

his stint in Nigeria with the life and health insurer, Mr. Magorimbo has been involved in business due diligence programmes in a number of

African countries and prospecting for business opportunities for TA Holdings in Zambia, Angola and Mozambique.

Unregulated bank CEO's tenure entrenches corruption — Nagona

By Sunday Williams

GOVERNOR of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Sanusi Lamido Sanusi has been advised to shun critics of the new tenure regime introduced for bank Chief Executive Officers (CEOs), and that unregulated tenure leads to corruption.

Speaking to newsmen in Abuja, President of Integrated Development and Investment Service (IDIS), a venture of capital investment company and promoters of the multi-billion naira Kano Economic City Alhaji Abubakar Nagona warned that Sanusi must beware of the dangers of rescinding the decision in view of the pitfalls that greeted the past consolidation exercise in the banking sector.

According to him: "What the CBN governor must not do is to listen to side talks, not be cowed and succumb to undue pressure from operators of the same sector he is striving to bring sanity to. We have seen what happened to the recent banking consolidation, what we were told then and what the realities are today. Sanusi has to avoid these pitfalls by doing the right thing and ensure that he does not compromise the objectives he set out to achieve in the sector."

He noted that unregulated tenure brought about "entrenched monumental corruption, the type that we have just seen as revealed by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and from the end of year audited accounts of the banks. What that means is that some of these CEOs had compromised their positions by enriching themselves and putting depositors' investments at risk. Under this circumstance, do we encourage such a regime to continue? No of course; this new regime must be sustained to engender corporate governance and best practices.

Nagona said for reforms in the sector to be sustained, Sanusi must ensure that his policies instil fiscal discipline and curb the recklessness exhibited by some CEOs to pave way for return of investors and foreign direct investment into the country.

On the criticism trailing Sanusi's reforms, Nagona said: "I disagree with that position which I consider quite irrational. What people described as the Tsunami in the banking sector was a necessary evil if I may use that expression.

He said that since banks hold deposits for both the rich and poor in the society, they should be made to account for it because, "if they were allowed to fail, no one would have touched these banks thereafter and it would have heaped untold hardship on millions of Nigerians."

According to him, Sanusi had been on a road show abroad to assuage these negative feelings and to explain the catastrophic situation that he inherited. Bailing out banks is not entirely new, especially now. He's also following in the footsteps of the Americans who have taken the initiative of bailing out some of their banks from collapsing."

Nagona explained that, "globally, there is no country that you would go and invest and get quick returns like Nigeria. I stand to be proven wrong. I totally disagree with that notion and want to say that those who propagate these views are those few people who were entrenched and were benefiting from the rotten system. Otherwise, this is the best we can get given the circumstances."

On IDIS tango with Oceanic bank, he noted that, "What is happening in the financial sector is not limited to Oceanic Bank alone, it's had far reaching impact on the whole of the banks in terms of lending. Before I continue, let me digress and say that what has happened in the financial sector took too long in coming. What was happening was that the level of exposure by both the affected banks and their customers was unbelievable."

For him, "this is a welcome development and I must admit that the financing arrangement was not conducted in a proper manner, but now with the reforms, we are confident of moving forward under these new fiscal regime introduced by the apex bank. We are happy that Sanusi Lamido, governor of the Central Bank, has courageously and transparently made it a task to sanitize the banking sector."

Pension: Police start head count today

By Sunday Williams

THE Ministry of Police Affairs through the Police Pension Office (PPO) will today start a nationwide head count of all retired police officers as well as widows and next-of-kins of deceased officers.

Speaking to newsmen in Abuja over the weekend, the new Director of Police Pensions, Malam Atiku Kigo, said the move is to fish out ghost pensioners among the currently estimated over 20,000 on their payroll.

He said the exercise is expected to last till Sunday, February 14, 2010 in all the 36 states capitals of the federation and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja.

He said the verification is part of his office initiative to actualise plans by the Ministry of Police Affairs to improve the Police pension administration system.

The Director of Police Pensions said his office has deployed its officials and support staff in the respective state offices for the exercise.

He said: "This verification exercise is very crucial to our operations. It is envisaged to be a periodic monitoring exercise that ensures that records of our police retirees are updated continuously."

Business/Motoring

Toyota recalls up to 1.8m cars

By Sunday Williams with agency reports

TOYOTA says it is recalling up to 1.8 million cars across Europe, including about 220,000 in the UK, following an accelerator problem.

The carmaker says it will recall eight models including the Yaris, the Corolla and the RAV4 sports utility vehicle.

Last week, Toyota announced it was recalling 1.1 million more cars in the US, a day after suspending sales of eight popular US models.

In a statement, the company said the precise number of European vehicles involved was still under investigation, "but may reach up to 1.8 million vehicles."

The eight models recalled are the AYGO, iQ, Yaris, Auris,

Corolla, Verso, Avensis and RAV4 and cover manufacturing dates going back to February 2005.

"We understand that the current situation is creating concerns and we deeply regret it," said Tadashi Arashima, the chief executive of Toyota Motor Europe.

Toyota said it was not aware of any accidents resulting from the issue and that only a limited

number of incidents involving accelerator pedals had been reported in Europe. On Thursday, Toyota said it was recalling 75,552 RAV4 vehicles in China from 28 February.

The cars in question were manufactured between 19 March 2009 and 25 January 2010 in Tianjin, according to a notice on the website of the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of

the People's Republic of China.

Separately, Ford said it would be suspending production of a van made and sold in China that has an accelerator pedal made by the same firm at the centre of Toyota's investigations.

However, Ford said it had only been using the pedal in the Transit Classic model since December, with only 1,663 vehicles produced. *BBC.*

....Peugeot follows Toyota in car recall



THE old Peugeot 404

PEUGEOT Citroen, Europe's second-biggest carmaker, is recalling some cars made with Toyota in Europe.

"For Peugeot 107s and Citroen C1s, we are going to carry out an identical campaign as Toyota," a spokesman said.

The Japanese car giant has now recalled millions of cars worldwide with faulty pedals. Both models are made in a Czech plant, a joint venture with Toyota that assembles around 200,000 Peugeot and Citroen cars every year.

Peugeot said "under 100,000" cars will be recalled. It did not say when the recall would begin. Toyota is recalling up to 1.8 million cars across Europe, including about 220,000 in the UK, following an accelerator problem.

Rival carmaker Honda has also announced the recall of 646,000 cars globally to fix a switch defect that could cause a fire. The Japanese carmaker said on Friday that it was not aware of any accidents resulting from the issue and that only a limited number of incidents involving accelerator pedals had been reported in Europe.

Both Peugeot models are made in Kolin, east of Prague, and are made for the European market mainly, the Peugeot spokesman said.

The Peugeot 107, Citroen C1 and the Aygo are essentially the same car with different styling and fittings. The French carmaker has no other joint ventures with Toyota.

"We understand that the current situation is creating concerns and we deeply regret it," said Tadashi Arashima, the chief executive of Toyota Motor Europe. *BBC.*

Honda recalls Jazz models in South Africa over safety

HONDA Motors has recalled all 2002-2008 year model Jazz units in South Africa after a fire broke out in one last year, killing a toddler.

Honda said on Friday in Johannesburg that it would "inspect and modify driver door power-window switches that may, in some cases, short circuit as a result of water intrusion".

Vanilla Nurse was killed on her second birthday in Cape Town in Sep-

tember last year when the car she was sleeping in caught fire.

Honda's Jazz was its best-selling brand in December, selling 352 units during the month.

Earlier this week, Toyota Motor Corp's announced it would extend to Europe and China a recall of millions of vehicles due to faulty accelerator pedals and floor mats. (*Reuters/NAN.*)



PEUGEOT 308 RC-Z

Business/Finance

Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Friday, January 29, 2009

| COMPANY Name | No of Deals | Quot. (N) | Quantity Traded | Value of Shares (N) |
|----------------------------------|--------------|-----------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 2ND-TIER SECURITIES | | | | |
| ADSWITCH PLC | 2 | 2.30 | 4,000 | 8,760.00 |
| CAPITAL OIL PLC | 8 | 0.50 | 2,706,730 | 1,353,365.00 |
| SECTOR Totals | 10 | | 2,710,730 | 1,362,125.00 |
| AGRICULTURE | | | | |
| FTN COCOA PROCES. PLC | 32 | 0.72 | 13,736,186 | 9,671,185.40 |
| LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC | 16 | 0.70 | 430,100 | 299,490.00 |
| OKOMU OIL PALM COY PLC | 1 | 22.75 | 2,500 | 54,050.00 |
| PRESKO PLC | 11 | 4.37 | 290,000 | 1,270,700.00 |
| SECTOR Totals | 60 | | 14,456,786 | 11,295,425.40 |
| AIR SERVICES | | | | |
| AIRLINE SERVICES & LOG. PLC | 10 | 3.05 | 75,874 | 226,992.10 |
| NIGERIAN AV. HAND. COY PLC | 106 | 9.04 | 1,213,507 | 10,868,052.46 |
| SECTOR Totals | 116 | | 1,289,381 | 11,095,044.56 |
| AUTOMOBILE & TYRE | | | | |
| DN TYRE & RUBBER PLC | 20 | 0.50 | 3,596,400 | 1,798,200.00 |
| R. T. BRISCOE (NIGERIA) PLC | 1 | 6.23 | 2,000 | 12,440.00 |
| SECTOR Totals | 21 | | 3,598,400 | 1,810,640.00 |
| BANKING | | | | |
| ACCESS BANK PLC | 166 | 8.23 | 49,062,150 | 411,367,173.10 |
| AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC | 67 | 2.82 | 6,344,041 | 17,712,872.64 |
| DIAMOND BANK PLC | 119 | 8.40 | 7,209,113 | 60,310,833.37 |
| ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC | 9 | 8.24 | 181,061 | 1,491,942.64 |
| F/CITY MONUM. BANK PLC | 81 | 8.85 | 7,136,574 | 62,478,274.49 |
| FIDELITY BANK PLC | 172 | 2.51 | 16,989,525 | 42,406,364.90 |
| FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC | 827 | 14.72 | 31,609,215 | 464,185,029.70 |
| FINBANK PLC | 158 | 0.77 | 16,922,383 | 12,936,368.29 |
| GTBANK PLC | 422 | 17.79 | 20,413,894 | 363,768,645.73 |
| STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC | 42 | 8.30 | 2,311,250 | 19,209,946.20 |
| INTERCONT. BANK PLC. | 110 | 2.30 | 4,174,768 | 9,531,792.94 |
| OCEANIC BANK INT. PLC | 183 | 2.36 | 7,321,257 | 17,445,297.05 |
| BANK PHB PLC | 89 | 2.22 | 2,661,550 | 5,979,792.96 |
| SKYE BANK PLC. | 166 | 6.79 | 9,342,862 | 62,406,559.98 |
| SPRING BANK PLC | 10 | 1.12 | 184,249 | 206,358.88 |
| STERLING BANK PLC | 91 | 1.69 | 11,663,938 | 19,948,502.90 |
| UNT. BANK FOR AFRICA PLC. | 275 | 12.45 | 34,081,003 | 423,444,205.29 |
| UNION BANK OF NIGERIA PLC | 218 | 6.45 | 3,321,064 | 21,556,454.94 |
| UNITYBANK PLC | 50 | 1.00 | 5,115,650 | 5,175,003.94 |
| WEMA BANK PLC - | 66 | 1.13 | 5,427,069 | 6,022,507.95 |
| ZENITH BANK PLC | 378 | 15.31 | 10,209,813 | 156,659,739.96 |
| SECTOR Totals | 3,699 | | 251,682,429 | 2,184,243,667.85 |
| BUILDING MATERIALS | | | | |
| ASHAKA CEMENT PLC | 92 | 14.77 | 2,339,264 | 34,354,307.74 |
| BENUCE CEMENT COY PLC | 38 | 50.00 | 500,362 | 25,043,726.71 |
| CEMENT CO. OF N/NIG. PLC | 65 | 15.00 | 1,469,391 | 22,254,631.19 |
| LAFARGE WAPCO PLC | 76 | 34.00 | 1,472,751 | 49,928,632.02 |
| SECTOR Totals | 271 | | 5,781,768 | 131,581,297.66 |
| CHEMICAL & PAINTS | | | | |
| BERGER PAINTS NIGERIA PLC | 7 | 3.36 | 112,000 | 394,240.00 |
| CHEM. & ALLIED PROD. PLC | 7 | 28.00 | 15,255 | 405,783.00 |
| DN MEYER PLC | 1 | 5.13 | 24,660 | 120,340.80 |
| SECTOR Totals | 15 | | 151,915 | 920,363.80 |
| COMMERCIAL/SERVICES | | | | |
| AFROMEDIA PLC | 6 | 0.64 | 698,500 | 466,076.00 |
| RED STAR EXPRESS PLC | 10 | 2.61 | 481,000 | 1,255,450.00 |
| SECTOR Totals | 16 | | 1,179,500 | 1,721,526.00 |
| COMP. & OFFICE EQUIP. | | | | |
| NCR (NIGERIA) PLC. | 2 | 8.13 | 23,927 | 184,955.71 |
| OMATEK VENTURES PLC | 12 | 0.67 | 1,493,000 | 1,050,990.00 |
| SECTOR Totals | 14 | | 1,516,927 | 1,235,945.71 |
| CONGLOMERATES | | | | |
| A. G. LEVENTIS (NIG.) PLC | 5 | 2.81 | 45,103 | 123,029.01 |
| JOHN HOLT PLC | 1 | 9.28 | 1,500 | 13,230.00 |
| PZ CUSONS NIGERIA PLC | 40 | 26.00 | 413,154 | 10,763,225.35 |
| TRANSN. CORP. OF NIG. PLC | 47 | 0.50 | 9,018,265 | 4,509,132.50 |
| UAC OF NIGERIA PLC | 50 | 40.01 | 1,831,916 | 73,248,071.82 |
| UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC | 65 | 23.17 | 893,508 | 20,879,277.81 |
| SECTOR Totals | 208 | | 17,703,846 | 109,999,965.49 |
| CONSTRUCTION | | | | |
| COSTAIN (WA) PLC | 66 | 4.88 | 1,882,618 | 9,086,533.54 |
| JULIUS BERGER NIGERIA PLC | 33 | 28.50 | 387,624 | 10,882,550.36 |
| MULTIVERSE RESOURCES PLC | 4 | 0.50 | 146,000 | 73,000.00 |
| SECTOR Totals | 103 | | 2,416,242 | 20,042,083.90 |
| ENGINEERING TECH. | | | | |
| CUTIX PLC | 6 | 3.28 | 135,000 | 443,663.77 |
| SECTOR Totals | 6 | | 135,000 | 443,663.77 |
| FOOD/BEVERAGES & TOB. | | | | |
| 7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC | 7 | 30.60 | 14,406 | 438,672.00 |
| BIG TREAT PLC | 14 | 0.82 | 508,790 | 417,207.80 |
| CADBURY NIGERIA PLC | 70 | 16.39 | 701,817 | 11,557,426.95 |
| DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC | 161 | 13.10 | 5,048,930 | 65,933,790.81 |
| DANGOTE SUGAR REF. PLC | 55 | 15.10 | 597,983 | 9,009,531.31 |
| FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC | 49 | 38.85 | 654,461 | 25,497,108.02 |
| H/WELL FLOUR MILL PLC. | 12 | 7.77 | 101,051 | 789,552.79 |
| NAT. SALT COY NIG. PLC | 59 | 6.73 | 1,384,961 | 9,346,657.93 |
| NIG. BOTTLING COY PLC | 6 | 27.30 | 66,351 | 1,811,352.60 |
| NESTLE NIGERIA PLC | 32 | 252.00 | 66,289 | 16,830,288.34 |
| TANTALIZERS PLC | 19 | 1.00 | 985,000 | 976,750.00 |
| UNION DICON SALT PLC | 2 | 5.71 | 8,400 | 45,612.00 |

What is Convertible Security

A security of an issuer (for example - bonds, debentures, or preferred shares) that may be converted into other securities of that issuer, in accordance with the terms of the conversion feature. The conversion usually occurs at the option of the holder of the securities, but it may occur at the option of the issuer.

Google

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| UTC NIGERIA PLC | 4 | 0.90 | 35,405 | 30,448.30 |
| SECTOR Totals | 490 | | 10,173,871 | 142,684,398.85 |
| FOOTWEAR | | | | |
| LENNARDS NIGERIA PLC. | 1 | 3.85 | 2,069,008 | 7,965,680.80 |
| SECTOR Totals | 1 | | 2,069,008 | 7,965,680.80 |
| HEALTHCARE | | | | |
| EVANS MEDICAL PLC. | 8 | 1.10 | 106,900 | 117,490.00 |
| FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC | 18 | 2.09 | 607,000 | 1,263,315.00 |
| GLAXOSM. CONS. NIG. PLC | 26 | 26.74 | 693,625 | 18,528,014.50 |
| MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC. | 7 | 5.50 | 46,248 | 241,904.04 |
| NEIMETH INT. PHARM. PLC | 6 | 1.70 | 71,250 | 117,445.00 |
| UN/DIAG. & CLIN. SERV. PLC | 10 | 0.67 | 1,263,088 | 897,449.84 |
| SECTOR Totals | 75 | | 2,788,111 | 21,165,618.38 |
| HOTEL & TOURISM | | | | |
| CAPITAL HOTEL PLC | 5 | 1.98 | 577,727 | 1,143,899.46 |
| IKEJA HOTEL PLC | 13 | 0.99 | 646,796 | 622,331.96 |
| TOURIST COY OF NIG. PLC | 1 | 5.28 | 400 | 2,008.00 |
| SECTOR Totals | 19 | | 1,224,923 | 1,768,239.42 |
| INDUST/DOMESTIC PROD. | | | | |
| NIG. ENAMELWARE PLC | 1 | 52.85 | 360 | 18,075.60 |
| FIRST ALUMINIUM NIG. PLC | 1 | 0.50 | 9,814 | 4,907.00 |
| VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC | 24 | 5.49 | 283,940 | 1,519,976.20 |
| SECTOR Totals | 26 | | 294,114 | 1,542,958.80 |
| INF. & COMM. TECH. | | | | |
| CHAMS PLC | 53 | 0.77 | 3,572,480 | 2,771,255.20 |
| IHS NIGERIA PLC | 1 | 4.24 | 200 | 806.00 |
| MASS TEL. INNOV. NIG. PLC | 2 | 0.50 | 2,000 | 1,000.00 |
| STARCOMMS PLC | 18 | 2.00 | 1,102,100 | 2,233,107.00 |
| SECTOR Totals | 74 | | 4,676,780 | 5,006,168.20 |
| INSURANCE | | | | |
| AFRICAN ALLIANCE INS. PLC | 2 | 0.70 | 2,500 | 1,675.00 |
| AIICO INSURANCE PLC. | 61 | 0.94 | 6,000,617 | 5,630,637.56 |
| CONT. REINSURANCE PLC | 1 | 0.95 | 150,000 | 142,500.00 |
| C/STONE INSUR. CO. PLC. | 17 | 0.57 | 3,132,387 | 1,738,472.79 |
| CUST. & ALL. INSUR. PLC | 20 | 2.85 | 303,000 | 860,930.00 |
| EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC | 2 | 0.50 | 106,000 | 53,000.00 |
| GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC | 70 | 0.51 | 27,561,318 | 14,272,452.18 |
| GUARANTY TRUST ASS. PLC | 19 | 2.16 | 1,254,274 | 2,696,432.18 |
| GUINEA INSURANCE PLC. | 1 | 0.50 | 6,000 | 3,000.00 |
| CONS. HALLMARK INS. PLC | 1 | 0.50 | 6,000 | 3,000.00 |
| INTERN. ENERGY INS. COY PLC | 71 | 0.59 | 17,651,563 | 10,118,450.72 |
| LASACO ASSURANCE PLC. | 42 | 0.56 | 3,085,500 | 1,729,820.43 |
| L/UNION & ROCK INS. PLC. | 1 | 0.55 | 100,000 | 55,000.00 |
| LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC | 2 | 0.50 | 22,000 | 11,000.00 |
| MUTUAL BENEFITS ASS. PLC | 5 | 0.64 | 655,000 | 419,200.00 |
| N.E.M. INS. CO. (NIG.) PLC. | 21 | 0.54 | 940,076 | 525,861.32 |
| NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC. | 3 | 0.92 | 190,393 | 175,193.56 |
| PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC. | 3 | 3.80 | 38,680 | 140,736.80 |
| REG. ALLIANCE INS. COY PLC | 1 | 0.50 | 1,000 | 500.00 |
| SOVEREIGN TRUST INS. PLC | 3 | 0.50 | 681,000 | 340,500.00 |
| STACO INSURANCE PLC | 3 | 0.99 | 420,000 | 415,800.00 |
| STANDARD ALL. INSUR. PLC | 26 | 0.67 | 1,926,275 | 1,312,374.25 |
| UNIC INSURANCE PLC. | 2 | 0.74 | 518,950 | 384,023.00 |
| UNITY CAPITAL ASSUR. PLC | 3 | 1.70 | 7,500,000 | 12,750,000.00 |
| UNIVERSAL INS. COY PLC | 4 | 0.50 | 216,746 | 108,373.00 |
| INTERCONT. WAPIC INS. PLC | 18 | 1.04 | 1,135,022 | 1,181,634.76 |
| SECTOR Totals | 402 | | 73,604,301 | 55,070,567.55 |
| MARITIME | | | | |
| JAP/OIL & MARIT. SERV. PLC | 102 | 1.26 | 3,585,389 | 4,507,543.88 |
| SECTOR Totals | 102 | | 3,585,389 | 4,507,543.88 |
| MEDIA | | | | |
| DAAR COMMUNIC. PLC | 39 | 0.58 | 251,928 | 151,156.80 |
| SECTOR Totals | 39 | | 251,928 | 151,156.80 |
| MORTGAGE COMPANIES | | | | |
| ASO SAVINGS & LOANS PLC | 26 | 0.68 | 2,173,152 | 1,486,743.36 |
| RESORT SAV. & LOANS PLC | 5 | 0.50 | 81,000,000 | 40,500,000.00 |
| UN/HOMES SAV. & LOANS PLC | 23 | 0.98 | 427,596 | 410,703.08 |
| SECTOR Totals | 54 | | 81,800,748 | 42,997,446.44 |
| OTHER FINANCIAL INST. | | | | |
| CRUSADER NIGERIA PLC. | 16 | 1.05 | 764,762 | 798,716.60 |
| D/CAP MANAG. & TRUST PLC | 1 | 2.02 | 145,500 | 293,910.00 |
| ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC | 5 | 0.60 | 659,992 | 397,052.81 |
| SECTOR Totals | 22 | | 1,570,254 | 1,489,679.41 |
| PETROLEUM(MARKETING) | | | | |
| AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC. | 49 | 36.40 | 341,516 | 12,468,279.81 |
| BECO PETROL. PROD. PLC | 8 | 2.08 | 39,486 | 78,654.00 |
| CHEVRON OIL NIGERIA PLC | 1 | 69.79 | 465 | 34,005.45 |
| CONOIL PLC | 26 | 33.57 | 64,627 | 2,117,337.80 |
| ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC. | 42 | 6.01 | 2,059,887 | 12,276,219.70 |
| MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC. | 9 | 99.95 | 2,084 | 206,385.50 |
| OANDO PLC | 4 | 93.99 | 2,037 | 191,457.63 |
| TOTAL NIGERIA PLC | 3 | 150.00 | 1,700 | 249,250.00 |
| SECTOR Totals | 142 | | 2,511,802 | 27,621,589.89 |
| ROAD TRANSPORTATION | | | | |
| ASSOCIATED BUS COY PLC | 7 | 1.10 | 101,833 | 111,459.65 |
| SECTOR Totals | 7 | | 101,833 | 111,459.65 |
| THE FOREIGN LISTINGS | | | | |
| ECOBANK TRANSN. INCORP. | 19 | 14.80 | 1,050,080 | 15,567,168.00 |
| SECTOR Totals | 19 | | 1,050,080 | 15,567,168.00 |
| OVERALL Totals | 6,482 | | 489,175,361 | 2,895,593,161.56 |

GAINERS

| | |
|------------|------|
| NBC | 1.30 |
| GLAXOSMITH | 1.27 |
| ASHAKACEM | 0.70 |
| UBA | 0.59 |

LOSERS

| | |
|----------|------|
| NB | 0.86 |
| CADBURY | 0.86 |
| UNILEVER | 0.82 |
| | |

10 TRAINING CALENDAR

MANAGEMENT COURSES

| COURSE | DAYS | FEE | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEPT | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|------------------------|------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT | 2 | 80,000 | | | | | 11-12 | | | | 1-2 | | | |
| MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT | 3 | 105,000 | | | | | 4-6 | | | | | | 8-10 | |
| MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT | 3 | 105,000 | | | 8-10 | | | | | 2-4 | | | | |
| MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT | 3 | 120,000 | | | | | 24-26 | | | | | 19-21 | | |
| MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT | 3 | 105,000 | | 8-10 | | | | | 12-14 | | | | | |
| MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT | 2 | 80,000 | | | 2-3 | | | | 14-15 | 15-16 | | | | |
| MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT | 2 | 85,000 | | | | | | | | | | | 25-26 | 15-16 |
| MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT | 2 | 85,000 | 28-29 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT | 2 | 85,000 | | | 22-23 | | | | | 10-11 | | | | |
| MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT | 3 | 105,000 | | | | 12-13 | | | | | 13-14 | | | |
| MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT | 3 | 105,000 | | | | | | 16-18 | | | | 12-14 | | |
| MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT | 4 | 150,000 | | 2-5 | | | | | | | | | | |
| MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT | 3 | 105,000 | | | | | | 1-3 | | | | | 5-7 | |
| INTERVIEWING | 2 | 85,000 | | | | 6-7 | | | | | 6-7 | | | |
| INTERVIEWING | 1 | 50,000 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT | DAYS | FEE | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEPT | OCT | NOV | DEC |
| MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT | 3 | 105,000 | | | | 20-22 | | | | | 21-23 | | | |
| MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT | 3 | 150,000 | 25-27 | | | | | | | | 27-29 | | | |
| MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT | 3 | 105,000 | | | 24-26 | | | | | | | | 29-1 | |
| MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT | DAYS | FEE | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEPT | OCT | NOV | DEC |
| MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT | 2 | 85,000 | | | | 8-9 | | | | 27-28 | | | | |
| MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT | 3 | 120,000 | | 17-19 | | | | | 20-22 | | | | | |
| MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT | 3 | 120,000 | | 23-25 | | | | | | 24-26 | | | | |
| MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT | DAYS | FEE | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEPT | OCT | NOV | DEC |
| MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT | 3 | 105,000 | | | | 14-16 | | | | | | | 17-19 | |
| MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT | 3 | 105,000 | | | | | | | | | 15-17 | | | |
| MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT | 2 | 85,000 | | | 4-5 | | | | 8-9 | | | | | |
| MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT | 2 | 85,000 | 20-21 | | | | | | | 12-13 | | | | |
| MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT | 2 | 85,000 | | | | | | | | | 18-19 | | 20-21 | |
| MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT | 3 | 150,000 | | | | | | 22-24 | | | 8-10 | | 28-29 | |
| MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT | 4 | 200,000 | | | | | 18-21 | | | | | | | 2-5 |
| MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT | DAYS | FEE | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEPT | OCT | NOV | DEC |
| MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT | 3 | 155,000 | | | 29-31 | | | | 21-23 | | | | | |
| MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT | 2 | 120,000 | | | | | 13-14 | | | 17-18 | | | | 2-3 |
| MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT | 2 | 85,000 | | 15-16 | | | | | | 1-2 | | | | |
| MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT | 2 | 100,000 | | | | | | | 29-30 | | 30-31 | | | |
| MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT | 2 | 85,000 | | | | | | | | | | 26-27 | | |

TECHNOLOGY COURSES

| COURSE | DAYS | FEE | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEPT | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|-----------------------|------|---------|-----|-----|-------|-----|-------|------|-----|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|
| TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT | 4 | 150,000 | | | 15-18 | | | | | | | | | 6-9 |
| TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT | 5 | 200,000 | | | | | | 7-11 | | | | | | |
| TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT | 2 | 80,500 | | | | | 27-28 | | | | | | 23-24 | |
| BUSINESS ANALYSIS | 3 | 120,000 | | | | | | | 5-7 | | | | | |
| TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT | DAYS | FEE | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEPT | OCT | NOV | DEC |
| TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT | 2 | 80,000 | | | | | | | | 5-6 | | | | |

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES

| | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| Management | March 06 - 13, 2010 | Johannesburg, South Africa |
| | October 02 - 09, 2010 | Dubai, UAE |
| Management Systems Programme | | |
| | March 06 - 13, 2010 | Johannesburg, South Africa |
| | June 12 - 19 & Nov 28 - Dec 04, 2010 | Howard University School of Business, Washington DC, USA |
| Secretaries/PAs' Workshop | | |
| | March 06 - 13, 2010 | Johannesburg, South Africa |
| | October 02 - 09, 2010 | Dubai, UAE |
| Operations Management Programme (POMP): | | |
| | May 22 - June 05, 2010 | Shanghai, China |
| | September 02 - 16, 2010 | Dubai, UAE |
| Management Development Programme (IMDP) | | |
| | March 06 - 13, 2010 | Dubai, UAE |
| Leadership & Business Operations Programme | | |
| | March 12 - 26, 2010 | |
| | November 28 - December 04, 2010 | Howard University School of Business, Washington DC, USA |
| Skills in Managing Labour Relations for Union Leaders & Managers | | |
| | March 07 - 31, 2010 | Johannesburg, South Africa |
| Mediation, Arbitration & Conflict Resolution Programme | | |
| | March 18 - October 02, 2010 | Johannesburg, South Africa |

For enquiries on International Programmes call

Jones

on
0704 093 7584

E-mail:
jonesj@phillipsconsulting.net

or
Felicia

on
0803 328 4688

E-mail:
feliciae@phillipsconsulting.net

ABUJA CENTRE

Nkem

on
09 2904738
09 2904748 or
0805 358 0019

E-mail:
nkema@phillipsconsulting.net

For enquiries, please contact:

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01 8181895
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Nwaji

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0803 402 0517

E-mail:
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Ibironke

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E-mail:
ibironkea@phillipsconsulting.net



RAW MATERIALS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

FEDERAL MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



ANNOUNCES ITS

2ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NATURAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION

THEME

**"LEVERAGING INNOVATION AND RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT"**

DATE

FEBRUARY 9 - 11, 2010

TIME

9: 00 AM DAILY

VENUE

**RMRDC AUDITORIUM,
17, AGUIYI IRONSI STREET, MAITAMA, ABUJA**

ALL STAKEHOLDERS ARE INVITED

**These include Industrialists, Investors, Researchers, Financial Institutions,
Organized Private Sector, Policy Makers, etc**

Registration can be done on-line on

www.rmrdc.gov.ng

or

at the venue of the conference on arrival

Sgd

Engr. (Prof) Peter A. Onwualu FAS

Director-General/CEO



NIGERIA CUSTOMS SERVICE TENDERS BOARD

CUSTOMS HEADQUARTERS, WUSE ZONE 3, ABUJA

Website www.customs.gov.ng e-mail ng.customsboard1@yahoo.com

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SENIOR MANAGEMENT STAFF QUARTERS AT JABI LAKESIDE, ABUJA.

1. INTRODUCTION:

The Nigeria Customs Service invites interested and reputable contractors with relevant experience to apply for pre-qualification for tendering.

2. DESCRIPTION AND SCOPE:

Construction and furnishing of Senior Management Staff Quarters complete with Infrastructural facilities at Jabi Lakeside, Abuja.

3. PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

To be considered for pre-qualification, interested contractors should submit the following:

- (a) Evidence of Company registration with Corporate Affairs Commission
- (b) Evidence of registration as contractor with the Nigeria Customs Service
- (c) Evidence of current Tax Clearance Certificate for the last three (3) years (2007, 2008 and 2009) reflecting applicant's claims of the level of works and other business done within the stipulated period
- (d) Evidence of Tax identification Number (TIN)
- (e) Evidence of VAT Registration, Remittance and Tax Identification Number (TIN)
- (f) Company profile including key Staff and strength
- (g) Details of equipment and plants
- (h) Name, address of Banker and letter of Reference from Bank(s)
- (i) Verifiable details of works contracts previously executed in the last five (5) years including letters of award, agreements and completion certificates. Companies with similar works contracts with value less than the upper ten digits in scope need not apply.

4. SUBMISSION OF THE PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS:

Pre-qualification documents must be appropriately prepared in hard copy and sent in a sealed enveloped marked "PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR TENDER" and to reach the address below not later than 4.00pm on Monday 22nd February, 2010.

5. OPENING OF PRE-QUALIFICATION:

Applications received shall be opened publicly at 10.00 am on Tuesday 23rd February, 2010 at the address below.

6. Please note that formal tendering procedure will be provided only to contractors that have been successfully pre-qualified.

7. Visit our Website www.customs.gov.ng

The Secretary,
Nigeria Customs Service Tenders Board,
Room 323, Customs Headquarters,
Wuse Zone 3,
Abuja.



MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE COUNCIL OF NIGERIA

Federal Statutory Body established by Act. 11 of 2003

8, Harvey Road, (Block D) P.M.B. 1048, Yaba, Nigeria.

(Tel: 01-7745280, 5870565, Tel / Fax: 01-863368)

E-mail: medlabcon@yahoo.com

VACANCIES

Internal and External Advertisement

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the following vacant positions in the Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria.

◆ PRINCIPAL MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENTIST

Candidates should possess Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science/AMLS with not less than 8years Post Qualification cognate experience and must be fully registered and Licensed by the Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria.

◆ SENIOR MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENTIST

Candidates should possess Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science/AMLS with not less than 5years Post Qualification cognate experience and must be fully registered and Licensed by the Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria.

Note

For all Posts, possession of Post Graduate Qualification(s), Computer Literacy, competence in written and spoken English Language would be added advantage.

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

Conditions of services are as prescribed for Officers in the public service.

Applications including detailed Curriculum Vitae and photocopies of all relevant credentials; Birth Certificate, Current Practicing License should reach the undersigned not later than four (4) weeks from the date of publication of advertisement.

- * Successful candidates may be required to work in any of the Council's offices in **Lagos, Abuja, Benin, Gombe, Kano, Awka and Zaria.**

Signed:

Secretary/Registrar
Med. Lab. Science Council of Nigeria
8, Harvey Road
P.M.B. 1048, Yaba - Lagos



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

MINISTERIAL PRESS BRIEFING

The Honourable Minister of Education,
Dr. Sam Egwu and the Hon. Minister of
 State for Education, **Hajiya Aishatu
 Jibril Dukku** invite all Education
 Stakeholders and the General Public to
 the 2009 Ministerial Press Briefing of the
 Federal Ministry of Education under the
 Distinguished Chairmanship of the Hon.
 Minister of Information and
 Communications, **Prof. Dora Akunyili**.

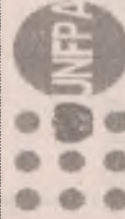
DATE: Tuesday, February 2, 2010

TIME: 10.00am

VENUE: Shehu Musa Yar'Adua
 Centre, Abuja.

Signed;

Prof. O. A. Afolabi
 Permanent Secretary



INTERNAL/EXTERNAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the leading UN organization in Reproductive Health and Population and Development, is recruiting personnel for the following positions in Kaduna Zonal Office, Kaduna:

1. National Programme Analyst, Population and Development (P&D) - NOB (ICS 09)
2. National Programme Analyst, Reproductive Health - NOB (ICS 09)

1. National Programme Analyst (Population & Development)

Post Level: NOB (ICS 09)

Type of Contract: Service Contract

Duty Post: Kaduna Zonal Office, Kaduna

Duration: One (1) Year (renewable but subject to satisfactory performance)

Duties and Responsibilities

Under the general supervision of the Resident Representative and the direct supervision of the Zonal Team Leader, Kaduna Zonal Office, the National Programme Analyst (Population and Development) will undertake the following duties:

- Provides Technical Assistance in the states under the zonal office within the framework of agreed work plans for successful implementation of the population and development component of the UNFPA Country Programme.
- Advises on programme and project implementation, guiding and orienting executing agencies and project personnel and introducing effective modalities and practices of implementation.
- Supports capacity building for staff in relevant government, NGO and CSO institutions in population and development.
- Advises and reports on achievement of programme and project results, proactively measuring substantive progress and the effective utilization of financial and human project resources using appropriate monitoring and measuring mechanisms and tools.
- Creates and documents knowledge by evaluating programmes, projects and ongoing experience for lessons learned, best practices and replicable strategies and approaches and actively shares and applies this knowledge.
- Creates mechanisms to collect and share knowledge.
- Analyzes population and development issues in states under the zonal office to provide substantive inputs to institutional responses and advocacy strategies taking into account political and social sensitivities.
- Conducts substantive policy/advocacy dialogue with State Government counterparts to facilitate the incorporation of UNFPA's Programme priorities and ICPCD agenda into state plans and strategies.
- Promotes a needs based approach and integrates innovative policies and strategies into the design and formulation of country programme action plan based on strategic priorities and responsive to the Government's needs in the areas of RH, P&D and Gender.
- In collaboration with State Government counterparts, NGOs and other partners contribute to collect and maintain data base for evidence based programming, monitoring, reporting and evaluation and build the capacity of programme managers to that effect.
- In collaboration with State Government counterparts, NGOs and other partners contribute substantively to the formulation and design of the country programme action plan in line with State Government priorities and according to UNFPA programme policies and procedures.
- Analyzes and reports on programme and project progress in terms of achieving results, using existing monitoring and evaluation tools.
- Expedites and coordinates project implementation, establishes collaborative relationships with executing agencies, experts, government counterparts and other UN agencies; and facilitates timely and efficient delivery of project inputs in addition to addressing training needs of project personnel.
- Assists advocacy and resource mobilization efforts of the Zonal Office by preparing relevant documentation, i.e. project summaries, conference papers, donor profiles and participating in donor meetings and public information events.
- Conducts substantive policy/advocacy dialogue with Government counterparts to facilitate the incorporation of UNFPA's Programme priorities and ICPCD agenda into state plans and strategies.
- Mobilizes government counterpart obligations and explore opportunities for additional resources in support of Population and Development initiatives in the states under the zonal office.
- Promote UNFPA visibility in the states under the zonal office.
- Perform any other duties as may be assigned by the Resident Representative and/or Zonal Team Leader.

Qualification and Experience

The Ideal Candidate must

- ❑ Be a Nigerian National (Male or Female)
- ❑ Have a Master's degree in population, demography and/or other related social science field.
- ❑ Possess professional experience of a minimum of 8 - 10 years preferably in programme/project management in the public or private sector
- ❑ Be experienced in working with government institutions and donor organizations.
- ❑ Be familiar with issues on population, reproductive health, gender and youth.
- ❑ Have a strong capability to communicate clearly and concisely in both oral and written English.

2. National Programme Analyst - Reproductive Health (RH)

Post Level: ICS-D/N/NOB

Type of Contract: Service Contract

Duty Post: Kaduna Zonal office, Kaduna

Duration of Contract: One Year (Renewable but subject to satisfactory performance)

Duties and Responsibilities

Under the general supervision of the Resident Representative and the direct supervision of the Zonal Team Leader, Kaduna Zonal Office, the National Programme Analyst (Reproductive Health) will undertake the following duties:

- In collaboration with State Government counterparts, NGOs and other partners contribute substantively to integrate reproductive health and rights dimensions in UNFPA programming, monitoring and evaluation and ensure that reproductive health and rights issues are taken into account in addressing population issues.
- Provides technical assistance in the states under the zonal office within the framework of agreed work plans for successful implementation of the Reproductive Health and Rights component of the Country Programme.
- Help to create and document knowledge about current and emerging reproductive health and rights issues, by analyzing programmes, projects, strategies, approaches and ongoing experience for lessons learned, best practices, and shares with the zonal team for use in knowledge sharing and planning future strategies.
- Assist in advocacy and resource mobilization efforts of the Zonal Office by preparing relevant documentation, i.e. project summaries, conference papers, donor profiles and participating in donor meetings and public information events.
- Create and deliver effective evidence-based advocacy messages to promote UNFPA's programme goals taking into account political and social sensitivities
- Mobilize government counterpart obligations and explore opportunities for additional resources in support of Reproductive Health and Rights initiatives in the states under the zonal office.
- Promote UNFPA visibility in the states under the zonal office.
- Analyze and interpret the political, social and economic environment relevant to population and development, reproductive health and gender and identify opportunities for UNFPA assistance and intervention. Keep abreast of new policy developments and strategies analyzing policy papers, strategy documents, national plans and development frameworks.
- Monitor the RH and Rights content of the UNFPA country programme, ensuring that it is in line with the National Strategic Framework and all policies and plans for the effective and efficient provision of RH services.
- Collaborate with relevant stakeholders (Governments, NGOs and CBOs) in the design of materials pertaining to RH, ARH, IEC/BCC advocacy in support of the implementation of RH programme.
- Undertake advocacy activities with policy makers at all level to ensure sustained support for utilization of RH services.
- Perform any other duties as may be assigned by UNFPA Resident Representative and/or Zonal Head.

Qualifications and Experience

The Ideal Candidate should:

- ❑ Be a Nigerian National (Male or Female)
- ❑ Possess an MBBS and a Master's degree in Public Health and/or other related Social Science field would be desirable
- ❑ Possess professional experience of a minimum of 8 - 10 years preferably in programme/project management in the public or private sector related to reproductive health and rights issues.
- ❑ Be experienced in working with government institutions and donor organizations.
- ❑ Be familiar with issues on population, reproductive health, gender and youth.
- ❑ Have a strong capability to communicate clearly and concisely in both oral and written English.

Method of Application

All applications should include functional e-mail addresses and mobile phone numbers, letter of application and detailed curriculum vitae (CV), attached as one file in MS WORD format only. Applications should be addressed to The UNFPA Resident Representative, Abuja and forwarded to the under-listed e-mail addresses latest by 16 February, 2010. Each application should clearly reflect the post to which an applicant is applying.

1. National Programme Analyst, P&D - NOB (ICS 09) (Kaduna Zone) - should send applications to vacancydu.ng@unfpa.org
2. National Programme Analyst, (RH) - NOB (ICS 09) (Kaduna Zone) - should send applications to vacancyrh.ng@unfpa.org

Please note that UNFPA will respond only to those applicants in whom it has a further interest. Kindly also note that ONLY applications sent by e-mail will be accepted. Qualified women are encouraged to apply.

*UNFPA reserves the right to appoint at the indicated or lower level and prior to the closing date.

UNFPA Because everyone counts



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF FINANCE

CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT
P.M.B. GARKI-ABUJA

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Honourable Minister of Finance wishes to invite the Chairmen and Commissioners of the newly constituted Tax Appeal Tribunal, TAT to the inauguration ceremony coming up in Abuja.

DATE: Thursday 4th February, 2010

TIME: 12.30 - 1.30pm

VENUE: The Ladi Kwali Hall, Sheraton Hotels and Towers, Abuja

The members of the Tax Appeal Tribunal (TAT) are:

| CHAIRMEN | | |
|----------|-------------------------|---------------|
| S/N | NAME | TAT POSTING |
| 1 | ABRAHAM NDANA YISA | NORTH CENTRAL |
| 2 | JUSTICE OSENI OYEWO | ABUJA |
| 3 | SULEMAN AUDU | NORTH EAST |
| 4 | BASHIR ABDULLAHI ALBASU | NORTH WEST |

| CHAIRMEN | | |
|----------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| S/N | NAME | TAT POSTING |
| 5 | PROF. CHUKWUDI JOSEPH AMASIKE | SOUTH EAST |
| 6 | HON. JUSTICE ABDUL SALAMI ABIRI | SOUTH SOUTH |
| 7 | MR. JOSEPH ASHIBITETE USHIE | SOUTH WEST |
| 8 | KAYODE SEGUN SOFOLA. S.A.N | LAGOS |

| COMMISSIONERS | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| S/N | NAME | TAT POSTING |
| 1 | MR. MOSHOOD OYEBISI OYELEKE | SOUTH WEST |
| 2 | MR. JOSHUA MUTKA WAKLEK | NORTH WEST |
| 3 | MRS. HALIMA SA'ADIYYA MOHAMMED | NORTH EAST |
| 4 | MRS. JOSEPHINE ALADI ACHOR AGBONILA | SOUTH EAST |
| 5 | MR. DANIEL UGBABE-UGBABE | SOUTH-SOUTH |
| 6 | MR. JIBRIL NGATKYA USENI | NORTH CENTRAL |
| 7 | MR. FATE ABUBAKAR | SOUTH EAST |
| 8 | BARR. D.H. GAPSISO | LAGOS |
| 9 | MRS. KHADEEJA SULEIMAN HALILU | NORTH WEST |
| 10 | MR. BULU IBRAHIM MUSTAPHA | SOUTH WEST |
| 11 | MR. SALIHU ABDULKARIM BARAU | SOUTH-SOUTH |
| 12 | ALH. ALIYU ABBAS BELLO, mni | NORTH EAST |
| 13 | BARR. ZULAIHAT YUSUF ABOKI | ABUJA |
| 14 | MRS. HASHIYA BEN UMAR | NORTH CENTRAL |
| 15 | BARR. BIN-ISA UMAR | LAGOS |
| 16 | ABBAS MUHAMMAD GUMEL | ABUJA |

| COMMISSIONERS | | |
|---------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| S/N | NAME | TAT POSTING |
| 17 | MR. CHINUA ASUZU | LAGOS |
| 18 | NNAMD I BEGBU, S.A.N. | ABUJA |
| 19 | JOSEPH ONYENAECHI IHEKWEREME | NORTH CENTRAL |
| 20 | MR. CYRIL IKEMEFUNA EDE | SOUTH WEST |
| 21 | CHIEF INNOCENT NGOZI AMALIRI | NORTH EAST |
| 22 | MR. SUNDAY IDAM ISU | SOUTH-SOUTH |
| 23 | MR. IGNATIUS CHIBUTUTU | SOUTH EAST |
| 24 | MR. CHARLES AJUYAH (S.A.N) | NORTH EAST |
| 25 | BARR. EBERECHI ADELE | NORTH WEST |
| 26 | BARR. JUDE REX-OGBUKU | ABUJA |
| 27 | DR. OLUMHENSE IMOISILI | NORTH EAST |
| 28 | CHIEF JAMES OYELAKIN OLOPADE | SOUTH WEST |
| 29 | MRS. ADENIKE ADUKE EYOMA | SOUTH-SOUTH |
| 30 | MRS. OLUSOLA IBIDAPO-OBE | NORTH CENTRAL |
| 31 | PROF. EDDY OMOLEHINWA | SOUTH EAST |
| 32 | MRS. CATHERINE AJAYI | LAGOS |

- Members should please note that an induction programme for the Chairmen and Commissioners will commence from 3pm, Thursday 4th February 2010 to Tuesday 8th February 2010 at the New Chelsea Hotel, Central Business District, CBD, Abuja.

Members of the TAT are expected to check into the New Chelsea Hotel on Wednesday 3rd February, 2010.

SIGNED
Dr. Mansur Muhtar
Honourable Minister of Finance



POWER HOLDING COMPANY OF NIGERIA

JOS ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY
PUBLIC NOTICE

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF MANUFACTURERS, CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS FOR PROJECTS UNDER THE 2010 FGW BUDGET

1.0 INTRODUCTION: In line with Federal Government desire to improve power supply in the country, Jos Electricity Distribution Company intends to embark on some vital projects and hereby invites interested, competent and reputable Manufacturers, Contractors and suppliers to apply for pre-qualification to tender for any of the following Lots of their interests.

2.0 SCOPE OF WORKS:

| DESCRIPTION OF PROJECTS |
|---|
| LOT JSG 1: CABLES AND KITS |
| LOT JSG 1.1 Supply of various sizes of HV underground cables |
| LOT JSG 1.2 Supply of various sizes of LV underground cables |
| LOT JSG 1.3 Supply of various sizes of Raychem joining/Termination Kits |
| LOT JSW 2: CONSTRUCTION OF 11KV & 33KV OVERHEAD LINES |
| LOT JSW 2.1 Supply of 150mm ² Aluminum Conductor (AAC) |
| LOT JSW 2.2 Manufacture and supply of HT Reinforced Concrete poles |
| LOT JSW 2.3 Supply of 33kV overhead lines & underground materials and construction of 20km 33kv line at Jos (Jos TX to Rayfield Injection substations) |
| LOT JSW 2.4 Supply of 11kV overhead line & underground materials and construction of 3km 11kV line at Bukuru Business Unit |
| LOT JSW 3: DESIGN AND COMMENCEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD COMPANY STORE IN JOS |
| LOT JSW 3.1 Design of standard store |
| LOT JSW 3.2 Construction of standard store |
| SECTION B OPERATIONS |
| LOT JSW 4: COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT AND SYSTEMS. |
| LOT JSW 4.1 Supply and Installation of VHF Base radios at Yelwa and Otukpo Business Units, Mobile radios at Tudun Wada and Plateau South Business Units and Programming of 15No. Walkie-Talkies |
| LOT JSW 4.2 Laptop & Desktop Computers |
| LOT JSW 5: REPLACEMENT OF OBSOLETE SWITCHGEARS |
| LOT JSW 5.1 Supply of 7 panels Board of 11kV Switchgears and Accessories at Bauchi Road, Dogon Dutse and Zaria Road Injection Substations |
| LOT JSW 5.2 Supply of 5 No. 33kV Transformer Control Panels at Bauchi Road, Anglo Jos, and Azare Injection Substations |
| LOT JSW 6: UPGRADE OF BILLING CENTER INFRASTRUCTURE |
| LOT JSW 6.1 Supply of Servers, Printers, workstation. |
| LOT JSW 7: SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF DISTRIBUTION AUTOMATION/SCADA/DMS EQUIPMENT (PILOT PROJECTS) AT MAKURDI BUSINESS UNIT |
| LOT JSW 8: PROVISION OF TEST EQUIPMENT |
| LOT JSW 8.1 Procurement and Supply of Standard High Voltage Test Van with Modern Test Equipment |
| LOT JSW 9: HEAVY EQUIPMENT VEHICLES, CRANES |
| LOT JSW 9.1 Supply of Lorry at JEDC |
| LOT JSW 9.2 Supply of Hiab Crane |
| LOT JSW 9.3 Rehabilitation of Heavy Duty Lorry TRUCK |
| LOT JSW 10: PROVISION OF SAFETY TOOLS & KITS |
| LOT JSW 10.1 Supply of Earth Grounding Equipment, Hand gloves (Rubber & Leather), Hat helmet, Rain Boots, Safety Belts, Tool Boxes |
| LOT JSW 10.2 Supply of Fire Extinguishers (10kg) Cylinder |
| LOT JSW 10.3 Supply of HT & LT Fiber Ladders |
| SECTION C MAINTENANCE |
| LOT JSW 11: FEEDER PILLARS AND FEEDER PILLAR UNITS |
| LOT JSW 11.1 Supply of 800A 4 - Way Feeder Pillars |
| LOT JSW 11.2 Supply of feeder pillar Units |
| LOT JSW 12: REHABILITATION AND REINFORCEMENT / REPLACEMENT OF 33KV LINES |
| LOT JSW 12.1 Supply of overhead line materials and Rehabilitation of DASS-NABORDO FEEDER (Bauchi-Kabwir Leg), Makurdi |
| LOT JSW 12.2 Supply of overhead line materials and Rehabilitation of NNPC 33KV FEEDER, Makurdi |
| LOT JSW 13: REHABILITATION OF DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS/ SUBSTATIONS |
| LOT JSW 13.1 Supply of Transformer oil |
| LOT JSW 13.2 Supply of 70mm ² Bare Copper wire |
| LOT JSW 13.3 Supply of D-fuse Assemblies (33kv&11kv), L/Arrestors (33kv&11KV), Fuse Elements, Earthing Rods |
| LOT JSW 13.4 Earth Improvement of Substations |
| LOT JSW 14: TRACE CLEARING AND WIDENING OF FEEDERS |
| LOT JSW 14.1 Trace clearing of KUMO 33kV feeder, Gombe |
| LOT JSW 14.2 Trace clearing of MAKERI 33kV feeder, Jos |
| LOT JSW 14.3 Trace clearing of 33kV NNPC feeder at Makurdi |
| LOT JSW 14.4 Trace clearing of 33kV WUKARI feeder at Gboko |
| LOT JSW 14.5 Trace clearing of 33kV POTISKUM feeder at Azare |
| LOT JSW 14.6 Trace clearing of 33kV DAS / NABARDO feeder at Bauchi |
| LOT JSW 14.7 Trace clearing of 33kV NNPC feeder at Jos |
| LOT JSW 15: RECONDUCTORING OF 33KV & 11KV LINES |
| LOT JSW 15.1 Supply of 150mm ² Aluminum conductor(AAC) |
| LOT JSW 15.2 Re-conductoring of 33kV feeder in Bukuru and Gada Biu |
| LOT JSW 15.3 Re-conductoring of 33kV feeder in Bauchi |
| LOT JSW 15.4 Re-conductoring of 33kV feeder in Yelwa and Plateau South |
| LOT JSW 15.5 Re-conductoring of 11kV feeder in Jos, Bukuru and Gada Biu |
| LOT JSW 15.6 Re-conductoring of 11kV feeder in Makurdi |
| LOT JSW 15.7 Re-conductoring of 11kV feeder in Gombe and Azare |
| LOT JSW 15.7.1 Re-conductoring of 11kV feeder in Makurdi |
| LOT JSW 15.7.2 Re-conductoring of 33kV feeder in Gboko and Otukpo |

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENT

The following are the general qualification requirements for bidding:

- A copy of Certificate of Incorporation / Business registration.
- Photocopies of VAT Registration Certificate and evidence of VAT remittances.
- Current Company Tax Clearance Certificate for the last three years.
- Detailed Company profile including Organizational structure and details of Key staff to be deployed for the project.
- Verifiable evidence of similar jobs successfully executed in the last five years.
- Evidence of financial capability showing Company's Bank Statement for the last one year.
- Company's audited account for the last (3) three years.
- Companies in construction industry should have a COREN registered engineer as Managing Director.
- Evidence of being a manufacturer with SON or ISO Certificate, relevant manufacturing capacities where necessary, copy of company and equipment brochure should be submitted. (Manufacturers only).
- Evidence of technical, operational and managerial capabilities.
- A copy of sworn affidavit affirming that all information being provided by the bidder are true and correct in all particulars and that no officer of any relevant procurement committee(s) of Jos Electricity Distribution Company is a former or present Director, shareholder or has any pecuniary interest in the bidder.
- Any other relevant information.

SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS

Pre-qualification documents should be submitted in sealed envelopes marked "Pre-qualification" and indicating the Lot Number(s). Name, mailing address and Phone Number of the Applicant Company shall be clearly marked on back of the envelopes. The documents must be delivered by hand or registered mail to reach the following address:

The Chief Executive Officer
Power Holding Company of Nigeria
Jos Electricity Distribution Company
No. 9 Ahmadu Bello Way, PMB 2727, Jos
Plateau State, Nigeria.

Three sets (original and two copies) are to be submitted. All information shall be provided in English Language. Submission of Pre-qualification documents shall close at 12.00 noon, 13th March 2010.

Submitted documents shall be opened on the same day by 2:00pm at the conference hall of Jos Electricity Distribution HQ, No. 9 Ahmadu Bello Way, Jos.

NOTE:

All prospective contractors should note that non-compliance with the requirements above will lead to outright disqualification.

Only successfully pre-selected bidders will be legible to collect bid documents on payment of non-refundable Tenders Fee. Jos Electricity Distribution Company shall not enter into any correspondence with any unsuccessful bidder.

This Advertisement shall not be construed as a commitment on the part of Jos Electricity Distribution Company nor shall it entitle responding Contractors to seek any indemnity from this company by virtue of such Contractors having responded to this advertisement.

Signed: Management
Jos Electricity Distribution Company

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS

A. INTRODUCTION

In line with Federal Government desire to improve power supply in the country, it has granted approval for the procurement of Distribution Transformers. Consequently, Jos Electricity Distribution Company hereby invites interested, competent and reputable Manufacturers, Contractors and Suppliers to tender for any of the following Lots of their interests.

B. SCOPE OF WORKS

Supply of Distribution Transformers as per the following Lots.

| LOT NO. | BUSINESS UNIT | 500KVA 33/0.415KV | 200KVA 33/0.415KV | 800KVA 11/0.415KV | 300KVA 11/0.415KV | DELIVERY LOCATION |
|---------|---------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| JS 1 | JOS | - | 1 | 7 | 1 | JOS |
| JS 2 | BUKURU | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | BUKURU |
| JS 3 | GADA BIU | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | GADA BIU |
| JS 4 | PLATEAU SOUTH | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | SHENDAM |
| JS 5 | BAUCHI | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | BAUCHI |
| JS 6 | YELWA | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | YELWA |
| JS 7 | AZARE | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | AZARE |
| JS 8 | GOMBE | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | GOMBE |
| JS 9 | MAKURDI | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | MAKURDI |
| JS 10 | GBOKO | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | GBOKO |
| JS 11 | OTUKPO | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | OTUKPO |
| JS 12 | TUDUN WADA | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | GOMBE |

Delivery period will be Two (2) Weeks from the date of issuance of Job Order. Location of delivery is as stated against each Lot.

2.0 METER INSTALLATION IN VARIOUS BUSINESS UNITS OF JOS ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY

A. ELIGIBILITY OF PRODUCTS

1. Only Transformers from European Markets are eligible to be supplied under this procurement invitation.
2. Make of Transformers to be supplied must have been in PHCN network for not less than 5 years.
3. Transformers not supported with shipping documents will not be eligible for procurement.
4. Transformers not sighted at the bidders' warehouse will not be ordered.

B. REQUIREMENT FOR TENDER

The following are the general qualification requirements for bidding:

- A copy of Certificate of Incorporation / Business registration.
- Photocopies of VAT Registration Certificate and evidence of VAT remittances.
- Current Company Tax Clearance Certificate for the last three years.
- Detailed Company profile including Organizational structure and details of Key staff to be deployed for the project.
- Verifiable evidence of similar jobs successfully executed in the last five years.
- Evidence of financial capability showing Company's Bank Statement for the last one year.
- Company's audited account for the last (3) three years.
- Evidence of being a manufacturer with SON or ISO Certification, relevant manufacturing capacities where necessary, copy of company and equipment brochure should be submitted. (Manufacturers only).
- A copy of sworn affidavit affirming that all information being provided by the bidder are true and correct in all particulars and that no officer of any relevant procurement committee(s) of Jos Electricity Distribution Company is a former or present Director, shareholder or has any pecuniary interest in the bidder.
- A team of inspectors from Jos Electricity Distribution Company will inspect the warehouse where the Transformers are housed before any Works Order is issued.
- Any other relevant information.

C. METHOD OF APPLICATION

Interested bidders are to collect tender documents from the office of Principal Manager (Procurement) Jos Electricity Distribution Company on 3rd Floor of Electricity House, No. 9 Ahmadu Bello Way, Jos.

D. SUBMISSION OF TENDER

Interested Applicants should submit their Technical & Financial Bid Documents along with the requirement stated above in sealed envelopes **Marked "Tender for ... (indicate LOT NO.)". Name and mailing address of the Tender Company shall be clearly stated on the back of the envelopes.** The documents must be delivered by hand to reach the following address on or before **12:00 Noon on 13th March 2010.**

The Chief Executive Officer
Power Holding Company of Nigeria
Jos Electricity Distribution Company
No. 9 Ahmadu Bello Way, PMB 2727, Jos,
Plateau State, Nigeria.

Three sets (original and two copies) and a Soft Copy are to be submitted. All information shall be provided in English Language.

E. NOTE

- Bid shall be opened on the same day by 2:00pm and venue shall be Jos Zone Conference Room, 3rd Floor of Electricity House, No. 9 Ahmadu Bello Way, Jos.
- All prospective contractors should note that non-compliance with the requirements above will lead to outright disqualification.
- Each Lot must be bid for separately. Each Bid Document can be purchased at a non-refundable fee of One Hundred Thousand Naira (**₦100,000.00**) only. The method of payment will be by bank draft payable to The Chief Executive Officer, Jos Electricity Distribution Company, Jos.
- Bidders are advised to bid for Lots in the areas of their competency.
- Any tender that is not substantially responsive will not be processed.
- Only successful bidders will be contacted. Jos Electricity Distribution Company shall not enter into any correspondence with any unsuccessful bidder.
- This Advertisement shall not be construed as a commitment on the part of Jos Electricity Distribution Company nor shall it entitle responding Contractors to seek any indemnity from this company by virtue of such Contractors having responded to this advertisement.
- Jos Electricity Distribution Company will verify all claims by companies. Hence, all necessary authority and guarantee for verifications must be submitted
- Further clarification can be obtained from:

The Principal Manager (Procurement)
Jos Electricity Distribution Company
3rd Floor, Electricity House
No. 9 Ahmadu Bello Way, Jos.
Phone No.: 0803-474-7229
E-mail: jjosedc@yahoo.com

Message for the Nation by Eminent Leaders

Eminent Elders Group,
c/o Gen. Dr. Yakubu Gowon GCFR,
Yakubu Gowon Centre,
Yakubu Gowon Crescent,
Asokoro, Abuja

27th January 2010

Senator David Mark GCON
President of the Senate
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja

Mr. Senate President

THE STATE OF THE NATION

I have been mandated and have the honor to address this letter to Your Excellency on issues of fundamental importance to the wellbeing of our dear nation Nigeria.

For well over eight weeks now our President has been ill and out of the country. This illness and long absence from the country is causing serious concern not only to Nigerian citizens but all those who do business with Nigeria and have the wellbeing of the country at heart.

It is for this reason that I called the meeting of some of our former Presidents and Heads of State, former Chief Justices of Nigeria and elder Statesmen today. The meeting was held at the ECOWAS Parliament and attended by the following:

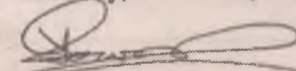
| NAME | POSITION |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. His Excellency Alhaji Shehu Shagari | Former President |
| 2. His Excellency Chief Ernest Shonekan | Former Head of State |
| 3. Dr. Alex Ekwueme | Former Vice President |
| 4. Hon. Justice Mohammed Awwal Uwais | Former C.J.N |
| 5. Hon. Justice Alfa Belgore | Former C.J.N |
| 6. Hon. Justice Kutigi | Former C.J.N |
| 7. Lt. Gen. T.Y Danjuma | Former Minister |
| 8. Chief Solomon D. Lar | Former Minister |
| 9. Chief Edwin Clark | Former Minister |
| 10. Mallam Adamu Ciroma | Former Minister |
| 11. Alhaji Ahmed Joda | Fmr. Federal Permanent Secretary |
| 12. Prof. Jerry Gana | Former Minister & Facilitator |
| 13. Sen. Jonathan S. Zwingina | Senator & Facilitator |

Following a critical review of the general political situation of the country in the recent past, but more especially since the illness of the President and his prolonged absence, it was decided to address this letter to Your Excellency, the Vice President and the Speaker of the Federal House of Representatives.

Resolution of the issue of Acting President pending the return of the President. It is important to resolve this issue by inviting the President to formally issue the necessary communication that will enable the Vice President to be Acting President in accordance with section 145 of the 1999 constitution as soon as possible.

We wish Your Excellency well.

Yours sincerely,


Gen. Dr. Yakubu Gowon GCFR
For & on behalf of Eminent Elders Group

NB: Words of our Elders are words of wisdom. Let those who have ears listen to what the Elders are saying.

Courtesy: National Interest Group (NIG)
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.

DIGEST

How your face reveals the traumas you've been through, by ageing faster

TAKE a look in the mirror and you may assume that each emerging wrinkle is simply down to the passing of time. But the reality is far more complex.

A new study has discovered that ageing can happen in spurts, and that these bursts of activity are driven by the way we live and the traumas we suffer. Whether it is crash-dieting or being made redundant, events such as these can quickly put years on our face.



TELLING: Christine McGovern before her divorce with loss of cheek volume, left, and after treatment

The findings are revealed exclusively to The Mail on Sunday as a result of an investigation over the past nine years looking at facial ageing in 118 women which was presented at an international meeting held in Paris earlier last month.

Carried out by consultant plastic surgeon Mr Rajiv Grover, who is based in London's Harley Street, the research has shown how factors such as yo-yo dieting, bereavement, divorce and stress can cause bursts of ageing activity in the face.

'We know children grow in spurts, but the aim of this study

was to see whether the process of ageing was gradual or if it occurred in spurts as well. It became apparent that while everyone has a gradual ageing process, ageing can also happen in accelerated spurts, precipitated by life events such as significant weight loss or the stress of a divorce.'

Rajiv Grover followed 118 women aged 40 to 45 for up to nine years (average 7.2 years) during the past decade, taking annual

measurements in different areas of the face.

At the end of the study the results were then analysed graphically to see how quickly each facial feature aged over the decade, taking into account lifestyle factors that had happened at different points in the period and whether they contributed to the ageing process.

To establish how a face ages, it was analysed in thirds: the upper third runs from the forehead to the eye, the middle third from the lower lid to the upper lip and the bottom third comprises the mouth and jaw line.

Using special instruments known as vernier callipers, the face was then assessed in terms of brow height (the dropping of the forehead and brow is the main sign of ageing), fat volume in the cheeks and the depth of the nasolabial fold which runs from the side of the nose to the corner of the mouth. Jowl thickness was also taken as well as measurement of ageing in the lower third of the face.

Three years ago, Mr Grover published a report which suggested that ageing in the face started with volume loss - or loss of fat tissues - in the late 30s, followed by the effects of gravity around seven years later.

Not all of the face, he said, aged in dramatic spurts. Analysis of the results found that ageing was gradual in the forehead, brow, jowl and jaw line. 'However, ageing in the mid-face seemed to happen in dramatic spurts with up to 35 per cent of a woman's cheek volume being lost in just one year,' says Mr Grover.

So what are the factors that seem to drive the sunken cheeks, heavy jowls, lines and wrinkles? The most significant issue was yo-yo dieting, when there had been a weight loss of more than 11lb in one year.

'When you lose and gain weight repeatedly, it affects the ligaments that support the soft tissue in the face, allowing them to stretch and then relax. When this happens it causes the face to drop. It is the same principle that happens to women who find a change in their breast shape after they have had children and then breast-fed.

The ligaments are affected in a



How traumatic events can age your looks

similar way,' says Mr Grover.

Other issues driving the ageing spurts were stressful life events such as redundancy, divorce or bereavement, as well as illness, notably breast cancer which particularly affects this age group.

Now we know that our lifestyle can speed up the ageing process, what can we do to age gracefully?

'There are some things you just can't avoid, such as divorce or losing your job, though there is no doubt that avoiding stress would prevent an accelerated ageing spurt,' says Mr Grover. 'But there are things you can control. The best

to avoid yo-yo dieting and to not lose weight by some rapid, crash regime. It may also help to take a Vitamin D supplement as this has an effect on the skin's physiology. And because the body makes Vitamin D from sunlight, and we get so little sun in this country, it is easy to be deficient.'

An example of an ageing spurt revealing itself in the face was experienced by Christine McGovern, 51, a housekeeper from Jersey, who is single with one daughter. She cites divorce as the reason for the sudden loss in volume of her face.

The tell tail clue to a happy dog... they wag it to the left

EVERYONE knows that if a dog's ears are up and its tail is wagging vigorously, it is definitely pleased to see you.

Now, scientists using a robot have found that the way dogs use their tails is more subtle than we thought and that dogs that wag them to the left may be more friendly.

The animal psychologists discovered that when real dogs approached a life-sized black

Labrador with a mechanical tail, they were less wary of it when it was wagging its tail on the left side of its body.

When the robot's tale wagged to the right side, far fewer dogs approached it in a confident manner. In the experiments, the researchers used a model with black synthetic fur covering a wire-framed body.

A small motor allowed the tail to be manipulated by a hand-held

remote control.

More than 500 dogs were filmed as they approached the model in a public park.

In the study, published in the journal *Laterality*, the researchers looked in particular at whether the dogs were hesitant or not as they walked up to the model, as stopping or pausing can be a sign of lack of confidence, doubt or fear. In the first batch of the experiments, 56 per cent of the animals

approached the model without hesitation when the tail was wagged to the left, but only 21 per cent had such a direct approach when it went to the right.

When the researchers excluded incidents where owners were present and may have influenced the behaviour of their pets, the results were similar: 41 per cent of the dogs approached continuously when the tail was wagging to the left, while only

28 per cent did so when it was on the right.

The researchers, from the University of Victoria in Canada, said they did not know whether the dogs' behaviour was the result of experience or an inherited predisposition.

But they warned that the results suggested that the controversial practice of tail docking in some breeds could disrupt communication between animals.

Sign Language



Say it, they will be shot.

Photo location: Penang, Malaysia, by Ann Hof

Culled from www.signspotting.com

EASY CROSSWORDS

ACROSS

1. Miseries
5. Pineapple middle
9. Animation collectible
12. Fascinated by
13. Ring stone
14. Pierre's friend
15. Official stamp
16. Load
17. Be sorry
18. Printed cotton cloth
20. Resound
22. Benefactor
24. "Thanks ___!" (2 wds.)
27. Gossip
30. That girl
31. "___ like" (2 wds.)
32. Lyricist Gershwin
33. Poe's middle name
35. Crooner "King" Cole
36. Swashbuckling actor Errol
38. Like an antique
39. Nautical affirmative
40. "I want ___ alone" (2 wds.)
41. Chilean mountains
43. Bacon and ___
45. Aside from
49. TV taping machine
51. "Blame ___ the Boss"

NOVA (2 wds.)

53. Eight, to Eduardo
54. ___ capita
55. Liberal's side
56. Threesome
57. Vegetarian staple
58. Johnson of "Laugh-In"
59. Pout

DOWN

1. Neighbor of Mich.
2. Draft status (hyph.)
3. Relative of etc. (2 wds.)
4. ___ as a rock
5. Captain's superior
6. Go out ___ limb (2 wds.)

7. Winona of "Dracula"

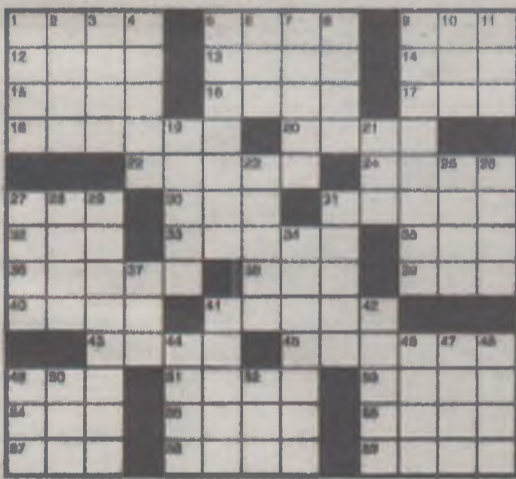
8. Company head (abbr.)
9. "Nothing could be finer" locale
10. Ostrichlike bird
11. Fudge the facts
19. Songwriter George M.

21. Actor Linden
23. Tough fabric
25. "All right!"
28. Pierre's head
27. Natural talent
28. Singer Guthrie

29. Candle aroma

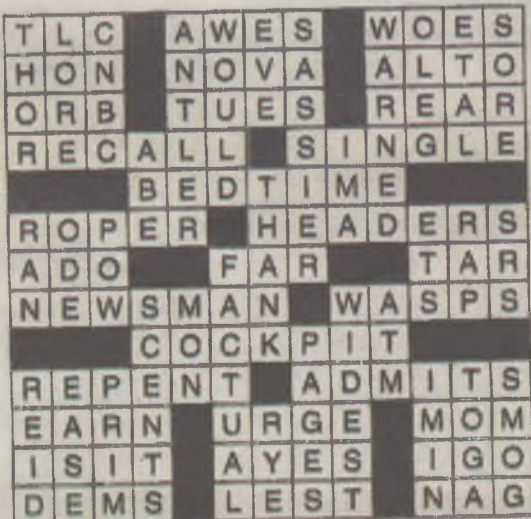
31. Book part
34. Pasta specification (2 wds.)
37. Not pos.
41. Fall bloom
42. Highlanders
44. ___ monster
46. Tan color
47. Hartman or Donahue
48. Captured
49. Gore and Bideh, e.g. (abbr.)
50. Company's head (abbr.)
52. Frequently, to Keats

64



Solution to Easy Crosswords

63



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.

76

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

Solution to Sudoku 75

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

News Extra

Why FW de Klerk let Nelson Mandela out of prison

On 11 February 1990, the then president of South Africa, FW de Klerk, took the fateful decision to release Nelson Mandela, the charismatic hero of the struggle against apartheid. Twenty years on, he talks about the circumstances that led him to set the world's most famous political prisoner free, launching a new era in a divided country



MANDELA gives the Black Power salute to a crowd of 120,000 at Soccer City Stadium in Soweto following his release from prison February 1990



FW de Klerk and Nelson Mandela at a photocall on Wednesday, May 2, 1990 in Cape Town.

After 26 years in captivity, Nelson Mandela did not want to be set free straight away. Two days before his release, the world's most famous political prisoner was taken to see President FW de Klerk in his Cape Town office. The president got a surprise.

"I told him he would be flown to Johannesburg and released there on 11 February 1990. Mr Mandela's reaction was not at all as I had expected," said De Klerk. "He said: 'No, it is too soon, we need more time for preparation.' That is when I realised that long hours of negotiation lay ahead with this man."

Twenty years after the event, sitting in the study of his Cape Town home, Frederik Willem de Klerk, now 73, still has the headmasterly style and deliberate speech that the watching world came to know as he played a crucial role in dismantling apartheid. But the winner of the 1993

Nobel peace prize still recalls the enormous leap of faith that was required to negotiate the end of white minority rule with what he describes as the "fundamentally socialistic" African National Congress of the time.

Just after 4pm on the date appointed by De Klerk, Mandela, then 71, walked free, holding the hand of his wife, Winnie. The prisoner had lost his argument for a later release date but had persuaded De Klerk to allow him to leave directly from Victor Verster prison, in Paarl, near Cape Town. Mandela held up his fist in an ANC salute. In an instant he switched from being a symbol of the oppressed to the global symbol of courage and freedom that he remains today.

Mandela's release did not signal the end of apartheid. In fact, the white-ruled pariah state was entering the most dangerous chapter in its history since the introduction of racial separateness in 1948.

Four hours after leaving prison, Mandela arrived in Cape Town to address thousands of people gathered outside city hall. The impatient crowd had clashed with police and bullets had been fired. But Mandela did not bring a message of appeasement. "The factors which necessitated armed struggle still exist today," he told the cheering onlookers.

Mandela called on the international community to maintain its sanctions. "I have carried the idea of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. I hope to live to see the achievement of that ideal. But if need be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die," he shouted.

With hindsight, Mandela used the fiery address to take up a negotiating position and convince the black majority that he had not made a secret pact with the authorities.

De Klerk had his moment of truth nine days earlier, in an address to the all-white parliament that coined the phrase "a new South Africa." "There were gasps in the house, yes," said De Klerk, "but not at the news of Mr Mandela's release. The gasps came when I announced the unbanning not only of the ANC but also the South African Communist party and of all affiliated organisations, which included the armed wing of the ANC, Umkhonto we Sizwe. There were gasps then and, from the far-right party, protests and boos."

De Klerk speaks slowly and clearly – and charmlessly. He is a lawyer from a strict, Calvinist tradition in which displays of emotion are seen as a sign of weakness. His one quirk seems to be the incessant chewing of gum. He has lived in this modern house in Fresnaye for 18 months, having moved into Cape Town with his second wife, Elita, from his farm in Paarl. He points out that, from his garden, he has a view of Robben Island, where Mandela spent

majority. That fear contributed to policies that built his nation – forced removals to create racially segregated areas and blacks being deprived of their citizenship. It led to "passbooks", introduced to restrict black people's movements beyond those that were necessary to the economy, and separate beaches, buses, hospitals, schools, universities and lavatories for blacks, whites, mixed-race "coloureds" and Indians.

As he prepared his 2 February speech at his holiday home in Hermanus in the Western Cape, De Klerk claims he had no confidant. "My predecessor, PW Botha, had an inner circle and I did not like it. I preferred decisions to evolve out of cabinet discussions. That way we achieved real co-ownership of our policies."

He says his consultative style was a break with National party culture. But he also claims – in a line of argument that allows him to avoid condemning apartheid outright – that the system unravelled through a gradual process. Even today, he admits only that international sanctions against South Africa "from time to time kept us on our toes."

In 1959 prime minister Hendrik Verwoerd's government divided black South Africans into eight ethnic groups and allocated them "homelands" – nations within the nation. The move was a cornerstone of an Afrikaner

He says some whites still accuse him of having given the country away.

18 years in prison. It is a fact. He does not reveal whether it leaves him hot or cold.

But radical change requires steely nerves. De Klerk had become president in September 1989, the son of a National party cabinet minister and the nephew of a prime minister. He grew up with Afrikaner fear in his DNA – the dread that after 400 years on the tip of Africa and the struggle against British colonial rule, his Huguenot descendants would be chased into the sea by the black

CONT'D on Page 47

News Extra



AL Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, in a video still from 2007

Osama bin Laden blamed the United States and other industrialised countries for causing global warming in an extraordinary message issued at the weekend.

In a departure from his usual religious rants, the Al Qaeda leader lectured on the dangers of climate change, claiming the only solution was to 'bring the wheels of the American economy' to a halt.

Rather than vows to inflict

Global warming? You can blame America for that, says bin Laden

death and destruction on the U.S. and its allies, the man behind the September 11 atrocity in New York discussed the environmental future of the planet and monetary policy.

'This is a message to the whole world about those who are causing climate change, whether deliberately or not, and what we should do about that,' he declared.

He blamed Western industrialised nations for hunger, causing flooding and the destruction of fertile ground across the globe.

And he warned solutions must be 'drastic' rather than 'partial'.

Although bin Laden has briefly referred to climate change and global warming in past messages, this fresh audiotape was his first dedicated to the topic.

The speech, which included almost no religious rhetoric, has been interpreted as an attempt

by the terror leader to broaden the appeal of his message beyond Islamic militants.

'Talk about climate change is not an ideological luxury but a reality,' he said in the tape released to the Al Jazeera television network, adding: 'All of the industrialised countries, especially the big ones, bear responsibility.'

Bin Laden referred to the fact that while wealthy nations had agreed to the Kyoto Protocol that binds them to emissions targets, former U.S. President George Bush later rejected such limitations in deference to big business.

He called for a boycott of American products and the end of the U.S. dollar as a world currency.

'We should stop dealings with the dollar and get rid of it as soon as possible,' he said in the brief recording.

'I know that this has great consequences and grave ramifications, but it is the only means to liberate humanity from slavery and dependence on America.'

'It is necessary for us to avoid doing business in the dollar, and to finish with it in the fastest possible time.'

The terrorist even used a quotation from American liberal political activist Noam Chomsky to support his cause.

He said: 'Noam Chomsky was correct when he compared the U.S. policies to those of the Mafia.'

'They are the true terrorists and therefore we should refrain from dealing in the U.S. dollar and should try to get rid of this currency as early as possible.'

He argued that such steps would also hamper Washington's war efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Why FW de Klerk let Nelson Mandela out of prison

CONT'D from Page 46

nationalist dream to create a republic, but it led to international isolation. De Klerk was a vigorous supporter. "I wanted us to take a more adventurous approach to the nation state concept, but the project ultimately failed because the whites wanted to keep too much land for themselves.

"The third phase - which coincided with my entering cabinet but was not started by me - was a shift towards reform. It focused on making separate development more acceptable while still believing it was just. But by the early 1980s we had ended up in a dead-end street in which a minority would continue to hold the reins of power and blacks, outside the homelands, really did not have any meaningful political rights. We had become too economically inter-dependent. We had become an omelette that you could not unscramble."

In 1986 the National party abandoned the concept of separate development. "We embraced the idea of a united South Africa with equal political rights for all, but with very effective protection of minorities. Then my predecessor lost his enthusiasm. When I took over, my task was to flesh out what was already a fairly clear vision, but we needed broad support. We needed negotiation."

De Klerk moved quickly. In October 1989, a month after succeeding Botha, he released Mandela's political mentor, Walter Sisulu, and seven other prominent Robben Island prisoners.

De Klerk says: "When I first met Mandela we did not discuss anything of substance, we just felt each other out. He spent a long time expressing his admiration for the Boer generals and how ingenious they were during the Anglo-Boer war. We did not discuss the fundamental problems or our political philosophies at all.

"Later, during the negotiations, it became clear that there was a big divide. On the economic side, the ANC was fundamentally socialistic, the influence of the Communist party was pervasive and they wanted nationalisation. They also wanted to create an unelected government of national unity which would organise elections. We insisted on governing until a new constitution had been negotiated and adopted by parliament."

De Klerk's successive negotiated victories potentially saved South Africa from the post-colonial governance void suffered by many other countries on the continent. They also entrenched minority rights constitutionally and set the country on a capitalist path. "The government that came into power after the April 1994 elections was going to need a budget. It was drafted by our finance minister, Derek Keys, and he convinced them of the necessity to stay within the free-market principles that had been in force in South Africa for decades. The ANC has stuck to these principles and that is one of the great positives."

He worries that the left wing of the governing alliance - which supported President Jacob Zuma's offensive to oust Thabo Mbeki in



MANDELA (right) leaves the synagogue, being used as a court, in Pretoria, South Africa, at the end of the day's proceedings during the first treason trial

2008 - will win its current campaign for payback. De Klerk, who retired as deputy president in 1997, also believes South Africa is ripe for a political shake-up, maybe as soon as in next year's municipal elections.

"You cannot say we are a healthy, dynamic democracy when one party wins almost two-thirds of the vote. We need a

realignment in politics. I am convinced there will be further splits in the ANC because you cannot keep together people who believe in hardline socialism and others who have become convinced of free-market principles. The 2011 elections will be the opportunity for some much-needed shock therapy. I hope people at those elections will use their right to

vote less with emotion and more through reason to express their concerns about the failure of service delivery."

The foundation he runs in Cape Town officially exists to defend the constitution but places a strong focus on minority rights - those of Afrikaners and the Afrikaans-speaking "coloured" population. "The ANC has regressed into dividing South Africa again along the basis of race and class. We see an attitude in which for certain purposes all people of colour are black, but for other purposes black Africans have a more valid case in the field of, for example, affirmative action than do brown or Indian South Africans. The legacy of Mandela - reconciliation - urgently needs to be revived."

He says some whites still accuse him of having given the country away. Asked what would have happened had he not made the 2 February speech, De Klerk has a ready answer. "To those people I say it is a false comparison to look at what was good in the old South Africa against what is bad today."

"If we had not changed in the manner we did, South Africa would be completely isolated. The majority of people in the world would be intent on overthrowing the government. Our economy would be non-existent - we would not be exporting a single case of wine and South African planes would not be allowed to land anywhere. Internally, we would have the equivalent of civil war."

Culled from theobserver.co.uk

IT WORLD Hotline:08027649677

NITEL: How 2yrs unpaid salaries tore families apart

Yesterday marked 18 months of the long wait by workers of NITEL/MTEL for their salaries to be paid. In November, five months was approved by the federal government to be paid to them.

Two months after, only one month has been paid. This report attempts to highlight the intrigues and half-truths that have made the staff to suffer unprecedented hardship against the back ground that the company is on the privatisation slab to be concluded, maybe soon.



LATE Marvelous Justin John Umoh

By Yunus Abdulhamid

JUSTIN John Umoh was a young man from Cross State in his late 30s who had worked at the Finance department of MTEL, the mobile arm of the Nigeria Telecommunications Limited (NITEL).

He took ill in December but for lack of money, he couldn't get medical attention. On December 10, 2009 when the workers of the firm came to protest at the BPE over the continued delay of their salaries, he managed to join them. There, they were assured by the BPE of facilitating the prompt payment latest December 15. That didn't happen.

Mathew, a colleague of Justin at MTEL told Daily Trust that he (Justin) had come to the head office of NITEL to beg for money from staff to enable him get medical attention but got nobody to give him. They were all financially grounded anyway.

Justin died in a hospital few days after being told that the promise by the NCP was not fulfilled.

On November 24, 2009, the NCP chaired by Vice President Goodluck Jonathan approved the five months payment to the staff out of the 17 months owed them. This was to cover the period the federal government had controlled the once vibrant telecom firm after revoking its sale to Transcorp on June 1, 2009. Transcorp owed them 12 months salaries before the sale was revoked.

BPE spokesman, Mr Chigbo Anichebe had told Daily Trust then that "the NCP approved that N3 billion be borrowed from the accounts of NITEL Pension Fund in Liquidation to pay five months salary of workers of the Nigeria Telecommunications Plc (NITEL) and rent for the offices of NITEL and its mobile arm, M-tel."

They were to be paid in tranches; a month in November 2009, two in December and another two in January, 2010. So

far, only one month was paid last December after a two day long protest by the aggrieved staff, Daily Trust check reveal.

Friday's wife abandoned him and returned to her father's house recently because she couldn't cope any more with the economic hardship the non payment of salaries has subjected the family to over the past two years.

Ugochukwu Godwin is yet another worker of the once vibrant foremost national carrier. With his kids out of school and having a running battle with his landlord over payment of accumulated rents, he said his survival has depended on relatives and friends.

However, some of these kind friends and family members are beginning to lose patience, he said. "These days, some of them don't pick my calls, because they fear I was going to request for assistance as usual, which apparently is taking toll on them. They have families to take care too," he lamented.

Another staff of MTEL, from Kogi state, who didn't want his name on print said he is now a taxi driver to make ends meet. But not many of them are as lucky as him who has the fortune of owning a car.

In December, 2009 when workers of NITEL from across the country converged on the premises of BPE to protest, one of them got a knock of his life.

He received a head wound from a suspected BPE staff who hauled a stone at the Protestants from the BPE's premises. He was the unlucky one to be hit by the stone.

Haruna, who is a staff of NITEL, came from far away Sokoto to join his compatriot to press home demands for their long overdue salaries and allowances. He had his forehead bandaged.

He had told Daily Trust then: "I was standing at the gate when the man inside picked the stone and hauled it at me. It was

the police that came later and took me to the Maitama Hospital for treatment."

The Police later came upon invitation by the management of BPE to quell the impending crisis.

Sunny Iyke is a staff of MTEL. His wife put to bed recently through caesarean session at the National Hospital, Abuja. He said paying the N300, 000 hospital bill was one of the most harrowing experience of his life after staying for the past months without salaries.

Ibrahim Saleh came from far away Gombe State to be part of one the protests by workers. Amidst tears, he told Daily Trust how his family celebrated the last salah without food.

He said: "I could afford only N700 for my wife and I left for Abuja with the hope that I would get my salaries as promised by the BPE but to my dismay, when we came, the BPE is telling us that our money had been lodged with the liquidator of NITEL. Did I work for a liquidator or government?" he asked.

By January 13, 2010, the workers came back again knocking at the BPE, staging a barricade at the agency's gate after waiting in vain to get their salaries.

The BPE placed the blame squarely on the shoulders of the liquidator, Olusola Adekanola and Co, a Chartered Accountants firm in Lagos. The Court appointed the firm as the liquidator of the NITEL/MTEL Pension Fund.

The liquidator Otunba Olushola Adekanola allegedly admitted fixing the money at Skye Bank.

Daily Trust could not get his comment as at press time. He didn't return calls placed to his number as well as text message.

But Otunba Olushola had told this reporter on phone two weeks ago that the payments were to be effected before that weekend. He blamed the delay on difficul-

ties associated with getting huge amount of money like N3 billion out of the banks.

El-Amin Abdullahi is a staff of MTEL. He was one of the team that negotiated with the BPE management in December on prompt payment of the salaries. He told Daily Trust on phone yesterday that their colleagues in Lagos barricaded the liquidator's office in Lagos to protest over the delay where they were reportedly assured that the money would be ready by Thursday this week. El-Amin said he didn't believe that would happen as promised.

According to him, the EFCC invited the liquidator last week over the issue but could not comment on what was discussed at the meeting.

If it is correct that the money is being fixed, which is obviously at the detriment of the workers who have suffered a long neglect by successive owners of NITEL, other questions that come to mind are: "who ordered that the money been fixed? Could it be the Vice President who chairs the NCP? And who is the one or those benefitting from the transaction-the interest accruable to the money? These are some of the questions begging for answers.

It is inconceivable and incongruent with the stance of the present administration of rule of law that monies meant for the payment of workers entitlement would be diverted to other personal uses and more than two months after the federal government had approved the payments, little has been achieved.

Would it be correct to assume therefore that the Vice President who oversees the BPE and the technical committee that are steering the ship of NITEL for a fifth attempted sale looks elsewhere and pretend not see what is happening? Or that the advisers of the Vice President fail to bring to his notice of the continued delay to implement or disobedience to his orders?

It is by no means an easy task getting the answers to these nagging questions.

When the DG of BPE, Dr Christopher Anyanwu assembled journalists in his office on June 1, 2009 to announce the revocation of the sale of NITEL to Transcorp, he said among reasons for the revocation was its (Transcorp) inability to pay salaries and arrears of staff, and making the NITEL a going concern.

Eight months after the revocation and the institution of a technical committee by the federal government where BPE is playing a key role, the same 'sin' is being committed by the government.

Last week Thursday, a group of workers of the ailing company under the umbrella of Concerned NITEL/MTEL Staff visited Daily Trust, with a condemnation of the BPE boss over a recent media interview where he said "we have managed to borrow money to pay five months out of 17. We borrowed from NITEL pension fund because government would not lend us money. ... we borrowed N3 billion to offset five month salaries."

The leader of the group speaking under anonymity said: "Our landlords are accusing us of collecting our salaries and refusing to pay the rents we owe. It's been a huge challenge for us since Monday when the DG's interview was published."



IT World

FG appoints Omatek as e-learning partner

From Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

OMATEK Computers has been appointed by the Federal Ministry of Education as one of the leading providers of hardware/software to implement the Federal Government's e-learning initiative which involves the deployment of a robust content/curriculum as well as monitoring and evaluation to ensure continuity and seamless implementation.

This, according to a statement from Omatek, will be done on a Public Private Partnership (PPP) basis. Other partners on the project include Calfa, Galaxy Backbone and Zinox.

Speaking recently at the inauguration of the Policy Coordination and Implementation Committees on e-Learning Initiative, the Minister of Education Dr. Sam Egwu said the purpose was to improve the quality of teaching and learning in schools through the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and increase the number of students who are proficient IT users in furtherance of the implementation of the Roadmap for the Nigerian Education sector.

According to the Minister, the Education Roadmap clearly demonstrates a deep understanding of the key issues plaguing the Edu-

cation Sector and the e-learning initiative is one of the strategies to be implemented over the next few years as part of efforts to reposition the Education Sector.

In her remarks at the ceremony, the Group Managing Director of Omatek Ventures Plc, Mrs. Florence Seriki said the e-learning initiative will provide a platform to ensure that Information and Communication Technology tools are deployed to classrooms under a carefully structured e-learning environment equipped with internet connectivity to create a virtual connection between students and teachers.

Scammers exploit Apple iPad fever

CYBER conmen are cashing in on hype surrounding Apple's iPad. Security firms have come across attempts to subvert search engines to catch out those seeking more information about the tablet. Those who follow rogue links are re-directed to pages that scan their computer looking for loopholes and vulnerabilities.

Some scammers are using these to peddle security software and others are trying to steal valuable data. Before and after the launch of the tablet computer, terms such as "Apple" and "iPad" were among the most popular on search sites and micro-blogging services such as Twitter.

Symantec said it had seen hi-tech criminals tuning booby-trapped webpages to show up near the top of search results when people go looking for more information.

Those visiting such webpages risk losing personal data, Symantec researcher Joji Hamada warned in a blog posting.

Looking for search terms such as "Apple Ipad rumor" or "Apple Ipad size" led people to sites peddling rogue security software, he said.

Methusela Ferrer of software firm CA said she had seen so-called "scraper sites" change to take advantage of iPad interest. Scraper sites are automated pages that grab or "scrape" information from news sites and other sources and combine them to keep their pages at the top of search results.

Scraper sites often sell their services to cyber criminals who create viruses and code to exploit vulnerabilities in browsers and other programs. She said she had seen a sophisticated site that tuned its attack depending on whether visitors were using an Apple machine or a Windows PC.

Mac users got sent to a site that tried to entice them to use a credit card to pay for pirated movies. On another site users got sent to a site peddling fake Mac security software. BBC

Google phases out support for IE6

GOOGLE has begun to phase out support for Internet Explorer 6, the browser identified as the weak link in a cyber attack on the search engine.

The firm said from 1 March some of its services, such as Google Docs, would not work "properly" with the browser.

It recommended individuals and firms upgrade

"as soon as possible".

Google threatened to withdraw from the Chinese market following the "sophisticated and targeted" attacks, which it said originated in China.

Hackers used a flaw in Microsoft's Internet Explorer (IE) browser to target the Gmail accounts of Chinese human rights activists. BBC

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SHEDA SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMPLEX, ABUJA.

LIST OF SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES

This is to inform the following candidates that they have been shortlisted for the recruitment interview scheduled to hold as follows:
Tuesday 23rd February, 2010 : Research Assistants & Technologist I & II: Aptitude Test.
Wednesday 24th February, 2010 : Research Assistants & Technologist I & II
Thursday 25th February, 2010: Deputy Directors, Senior Research Fellows, Research Fellows I & II.

Principal Technologist & Senior Technologist
Friday 26th February, 2010 : Senior Librarian & Confidential Secretary.
Venue: Sheda Science & Technology Complex, Sheda, Abuja. Time : 9.00am Daily.
10 KM From Gwagwalada on Abuja -Lokoja Road.
For more enquiry Please Contact : 08033369179 08036331286 07059117380

Table with columns for position (e.g., RESEARCH ASSISTANT, SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW), candidate name, state, and other details. The table is organized into several sections corresponding to different job categories and levels.

PROPERTY

property@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 07041632079

Nasarawa to construct N5.7bn 5-Star hotel

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

A Public/Private Partnership (PPA) between Nasarawa State government and the various local government councils on one hand, and an indigenous investor, Simans Hotel Limited has awarded a \$38 million contract for the construction of a 5-Star hotel in Lafia, the state capital.

Also, the government has awarded three other contracts namely the construction of a governor's lodge in Kaduna at the cost of N421,583,877.53 and the restructuring and upgrading of the Governor's Lode in Abuja at the cost of N493,412,383.41. While the Abuja contract was awarded to Savannah Associate limited with the specification of

five months completion period, the Kaduna contract went to Sageto Nigeria Limited and is expected to be delivered within eight months.

These, according to the state commissioner for Information and Orientation, Abdullahi Mustapha Aliyu who briefed newsmen, last Thursday, were the decisions made by the State Executive

Council (SEC) during last week's meeting in Government House, Lafia. Governor Aliyu Akwe Doma presided over the SEC meeting.

The commissioner noted that government decided to engage in the construction of a \$38 million US Dollar 5-Star hotel as part of efforts to boost tourism in the state.

The commissioner said the decision to restructure and upgrade the Governor's Lodge in Abuja included the provision of facilities which the contractor will handle along side the major aspect of the project. He said the decision to construct a lodge in Kaduna came because of the need to enhance the image of the state at the sub-regional headquarters.

Billiri LG expends N1bn on projects

From Aliyu M. Hamagam, Gombe

BILLIRI local government area of Gombe state has expended about N 0.7 billion for the construction of road and market stalls across the LGA, the Chairman of the council, Mr. Robinson Zebulun Wasa has said.

The chairman made the disclosure while exchanging views with newsmen in Billiri, saying a contract of 7 kilometres asphalt road was awarded at the cost of N 500 million.

According to him, the proposed road would transverse through Baganje-Tanglang and Todi, adding that 3 culverts and drainages would form part of the requirement of the specifications of the road.

The palace of the paramount

ruler of the area, Mai-Tangale was marked for renovation and construction of new structures at the cost of over N25 million while at Lasale and Baganje six blocks of Market stalls were built in each of the villages at the cost of N10 million.

He said due to the importance his administration attached to religion, his council had donated N15 million as part of its contribution towards the construction of CAN Centre while N 10 million was also given to the Muslim Community for the renovation and upgrading of the Central Mosque.

According to him, the council had spent the sum of N57 million for the construction and furnishing of the council's local government governor's lodge.

'Inadequate funds hinders early completion of Abaji-Lokoja road'

By Mustapha Suleiman

SOME key projects like the dualisation of Kano-Maiduguri and Abuja-Abaji-Lokoja road under the Presidential Initiative Projects (PIPs) have not been adequately funded since awarded in 2006 which has hampered the timely completion of the projects.

This was stated by the Minister of Works, Housing and Urban Development, Dr Hassan Muhammad Lawal during the ministry's 2009 ministerial press briefing held in Nicon-Luxury hotel on Thursday in Abuja.

The minister added that the contract for the dualisation of Ibadan-Ilorin Road Section 1 (Ibadan-Oyo), which was expected to be

completed in 2009 was not provided for at all in the 2009 appropriation.

He also lamented that inadequate funding is generally a challenge for many departments and programmes in the Ministry, and it has been a hindrance to the prompt payment of severance benefits of disengaged officers; the arrangement of capacity building and training programmes for all cadres of staff; acquisition of desirable working tools in some departments; unavailability of project vehicles for site and projects inspection.

He explained that excessive loading by heavy trucks has been a primary cause of premature failure of roads.



FEDERAL Ministry of Foreign Affairs building, nearing completion in the Central Area, Abuja

'Infrastructure raises quality of life'

By Nasir Imam

The quality and availability of infrastructure form the bedrock of all development and the quality of life in any country and the existence of the right infrastructure in a society raises the quality of life by creating amenities and jobs; supporting industrialisation and consumption of goods; and contributing to macro economic stability through the promotion of HDI and GDP growth.

This assertion was made by Engr Mansur Ahmed, CEO/Director General, Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commis-

sion, in a paper "Engineering and Infrastructural Development" presented at the Nigerian Society of Engineers Colloquium on "Engineering Imperatives for National Development" in honour of Engr. O.A. Ajibola FNSE, 27th and new president of the NSE held recently in Abuja.

Engr. Mansur Ahmed, who said the Almighty who made the rivers, sun, mountains, land etc to achieve a desired function is probably Engineer Number One, explained the broad discipline of engineering to encompass a range of more specialized

sub-disciplines, each with a more specific emphasis on certain fields of application and particular areas of technology.

He said traditional international branches of engineering are categorized, aerospace engineering, chemical engineering, civil engineering, electrical and electronics, engineering, mechanical engineering

"Infrastructure refers to those physical structures that facilitate the production of

goods and services, without themselves being part of the production process, that is, they form the catalysts for development," the DG said.

Kuje chairman wants speed bumps on township roads

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

THE chairman of Kuje Area Council, Mr. Danladi Etsu Zhin, last Friday, called on contractor, S&M Engineering Limited, handling road projects to erect speed bumps on all the completed township roads within the metropolis of the council.

Zhin, who gave the order while inspecting the just completed Uguwar Kayada roads which was made of asphalt and water drainage system, said the decision by the council to mount speed bumps was in order to prevent accidents.

According to him, some motorists and Okada riders could

take advantage of smoothness of the road to over speed recklessly and knock down pedestrians or children that are crossing the road.

He said most of the township roads were impassable especially during the raining season by vehicles and motorcycles that became a nightmare to residents of the

council, which he said the council on assumption in office immediately awarded contract for construction of six major street roads.

The council boss, who also inspected the 600 stretch metres Uguwar Gade road in metropolis of the council, disclosed the road which will be made of stone base and asphalt including water

drainage system was awarded at the cost of N45 million.

He therefore advised the contractor handling the road project to carry out quality job in order to ensure that the road last for 15 to 20 years, so that other on coming administrations should not carried out any repairs on the road again.

PROPERTY

FG to ban tankers from Kaduna metropolis

THE Federal Government said last Thursday that it would stop petroleum tankers from plying Kaduna metropolitan roads from March.

Dr Lawal Hassan, the Minister of Works, Housing and Urban Development, announced this while inspecting the Kaduna Eastern By-pass project.

He said such tankers from Kaduna Refinery would be barred from the township roads as soon as the 16km Abuja-Kachia Highway was inaugurated in March.

He said the importance of the by-pass could not be over emphasised because it would decongest Kaduna township roads and promote safety of its residents.

The minister, however, said the contract was almost revoked in November 2009 due to slow pace of work.

"I was pushed to give an ultimatum during the last inspection in November. I am now impressed with the rate at which the work is going."

He assured the contractors

that payment would not be difficult on completion of the project after certification.

Lawal urged the contractors to maintain the pace of work, saying "funds are available for payment for the project".

He said the Federal Government was not owing contractors handling various jobs in the state.

Earlier, Mr Muzaffer Colac, the Managing Director of Eskigullari Construction Nig. Ltd., said 65 percent of the road had been completed.

He assured government that the remaining 35 percent would be completed and ready for inauguration by March.

He commended the Federal Government for prompt payment of contractors, saying that it would encourage them to expedite work on the project.

Alhaji Sani Sidi, the state Commissioner for Works and Transports, said the completion of the by-pass would accelerate the development of the Kaduna Millennium City.

(NAN)

Niger constructs skills acquisition workshop for prisoners

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

NIGER state government under the Life Rehab program of Hajiya Jummai Babangida Aliyu, has expended N16.8 million on the construction and equipping of skill acquisition workshop for prisoners in Minna.

She explained that out of the N16.8 million spent on the skill acquisition workshop, a total of N12 million was used to construct the workshop while the sum of N4 million was used to equip it.

The wife of the Niger state governor who was at the Minna central prison to also graduate 96 prison officers and inmates after training successfully in computer under the Life Rehab foundation expressed desire to turn prisoners to skilled people after serving their jail terms.

"This occasion is not just

about commissioning of the skills acquisition workshops, but also to felicitate with 96 officers and inmates that were successfully trained in computer between the year 2008 and 2009 respectively.

"The foundations effort therefore is to support the Nigerian prison reform programme in order to improve the lives of the inmates by making them goal oriented and improve their after care service which is our major challenge", she said.

She urged trainees to ensure that the skills and knowledge acquired from the training will impact positively towards generating income for the inmates after they are released.

She called on corporate organizations, NGO's and individuals to support the vision of adding value to the lives of prisoners and the less privileged for a better society.



AN aerial view of Abeokuta, Ogun State

INEC flags off 5,000 housing units for junior staff

By Abbas Jimoh

THE Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), at the weekend in Abuja, flagged off the building of 5,000 housing units for its junior staff.

Laying the foundation stone of the project which will be built through a public private partnership programme, INEC chairman, Prof. Maurice Iwu, said he commission decided to embark on the project to make it easier for

the staff to carry out their duties.

He said the staff of the commission always faced a lot of hazards while carrying out their duties especially that of accommodation which made it proper for construction of the houses.

"In order to see to the realization of the project in good time, the commission rose to the challenge by opening up discussions with banks, developers and mortgage financiers to provide the necessary succour to the huge

number of affected staff," Iwu said.

He however regretted that there are still constraints of acquiring land in some states and Abuja even as he appealed to the authorities concerned to assist the Commission by providing land as soon as possible.

He also revealed that the contractors building the houses have been given 24 months to complete and hand over the keys for the Abuja scheme.

Feb 28 deadline for Lugbe demolition still stands - FCTA

Usman A. Bello & Romoke W. Ahmad

THE Director, Department of Development Control, Yahaya Yusuf, says February 28 deadline given to Lugbe residents along Airport road in Abuja to vacate the area still stands.

Yahaya stated this while briefing newsmen after the monthly sanitation exercise, on the department's next line of action about

the two hotels (Von Resort Hotel and Vine Hotel) situated inside the premises of Banex Plaza, along Aminu Kano Crescent, Wuse 11, Abuja.

"In Lugbe we have a situation where plot of land overlaps into the other. We have got the original layout of the area and any structure that overlap into the other will be pulled down," he said.

He added that some residents

are also encroaching on the FCT technology village in Lugbe area, adding that they held a township meeting with the residents last week to adequately brief them about the department's plan and that the removal of such structure is a continuous exercise.

However, while speaking with our correspondent, Chairman of Lugbe Community Development Association, Prince M. Mustapha

accused the FCT administration of insincerity about the proposed demolition arguing that the community association had an agreement with the former FCT Minister Dr. Aliyu Modibbo Umar to integrate Lugbe in the Abuja Master plan.

Yahaya however said the department is presenting working in Dei Dei, saying as soon as they are through with it, they will move

over to Lugbe and that they will not relent in it efforts to remove illegal structures in the city.

He said the department has been battling with operator of the Banex plaza on the issue of situating the hotel inside the plaza, and that they will refer to the land use at to carry out enforcement, saying if they are found to breach the procedure, they will take the necessary action.

CITY NEWS



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General's suit to divorce wife of 30 years resumes

By Abubakar Yakubu

THE divorce suit instituted by Major-General Suraju Alao Abdulrahman to divorce his wife of 30 years will tomorrow come up at the FCT High Court, sitting at Lugbe, Abuja, after suffering three transfers from various courts.

Representatives of women groups as well as female lawyers in Abuja have signified their intention to witness the trial

in a bid to know, whether an alleged lady seen with the general in public places is now married to him.

Our reporter learnt that Major-General Abdulrahman and his wife Mariam, underwent court marriage, which makes it an offence for him to marry another woman or have children outside wedlock.

When the suit with number HC/CV/PET/42/09 came up at Lugbe High Court on December

15, 2009, Justice O.A. Adeniyi directed parties in the suit to file written depositions on oath of all their witnesses, which shall be adopted as their respective evidence-in-chief in the case.

It would be recalled that Mrs Mariam Wuraola Abdulrahman had earlier called on her husband to have a rethink of the divorce suit for the sake of their children, adding that they as well as herself now live in fear since the matter started.



MAJOR-GENERAL Suraju Alao Abdulrahman and his wife Mariam Wuraola during their court marriage.

PIC: ABUBAKAR SADIQ ISAH



ANPP FCT Chairman Alhaji Usman Abdulmalik (right) presenting membership card to Alhaji Usman Jiya at Kwali on Friday.

PDP aspirant decamps to ANPP at Kwali

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

ONE of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chairmanship aspirants in Kwali Area Council during the party's primaries, Alhaji Usman Jiya, Thursday decamped to the All Nigeria Peoples Party along with 1,600 of his supporters.

Among those who decamped to ANPP were three PDP councillorship flag bearers, namely Salihu Usman, representing Gumbo ward, Adamu Mohammed, representing, Wako ward and Abdurrahman Jibrin, representing Ashara ward.

While receiving the decamped members at Kwaita village, ANPP'S FCT Chairman, Alhaji Usman Abdulmalik, commended the new converts for their courage and wise decision to pitch tent with the ANPP, noting that the coming of old PDP members to ANPP, the party's success will be assured in the

forth coming council election.

He said ANPP is a party that has its manifesto that the masses of the country have confidence in.

The party chairman assured the new members that the party will carry them, along while making decision and sharing ideas for the progress of the party, adding that they should not allow themselves to be deceived by money politics.

Speaking on behalf of the decampers, Alhaji Usman Jiya, said he decided with his supporters to join ANPP for the purpose of peace and progress of Kwali, saying there are steps that one needs to take to foster development.

He said since the assumption of the PDP led government at the council, no meaningful development has been recorded, while the living standards of people in the council have not changed despite huge a resource that is coming into the council's coffers.

Court orders Kwali Council to pay contractor N19.2 m

By Abubakar Yakubu

AN FCT High Court sitting at Kwali has ordered the Kwali Area Council to pay Dream Potable Water Limited the sum of N19, 208,007 for drilling two solar boreholes at Piri and Gomani villages of Kwali as well as for the five percent retention money for the two contracts.

Justice O.C. Agbaza had declared during his ruling that Dream Potable Water is entitled to the sums and the retention money for the contract it executed for the area council.

The contractor had sought the court's intervention to direct Kwali council to immediately pay to his company the sum of N18, 052, 316 and five percent retention money for two contracts.

The judge observed during trial that Kwali Council, represented by Mrs Chuwa, did not file notice of intention to defend nor an affidavit disclosing a defence on the merit in compliance

with order 21 rules 5 of the rules of the court.

He said the defendant only filed a memorandum of appearance dated November 30, 2009, adding that it falls short of the requirement of the provision of order 21, rule 3 and shows the defendant has no defence to claim.

After the judgement, Dream Potable Water in a letter dated January 22 and written by their lawyer, Steve O. Emelezie, reminded Kwali council's Chairman of the judgement.

"We are aware that although your council was in court on the day judgement was entered, the plaintiff has also ensured that you are served with the judgement and certificate of judgement," the lawyer stated.

He gave the council's management three days from the receipt of his letter to obey the court's judgement or leave the plaintiff with the option of applying to court to enforce the judgement.

1000 children get free treatment at Jikwoyi

By Romoke W. Ahmad

ABOUT 1000 children at the weekend received free treatment at the Jikwoyi Medical Centre in a programme initiated by 'Train a Child Network'; a Zaria based Non Governmental Organisation (NGO), whose aim is to reach out to the less privileged in various communities.

The treatments ranged from malaria diagnosis, optical services, deworming as well as giving multivitamin drugs to children between zero to 12 years.

One of the NGO's Directors, Mrs. Awa Oladipe, said some group of professionals came together to impact on the lives of Nigerian children, especially the vulnerable.

"As you can see, the

number of people we have here shows the level of poverty as well as points to the fact that some individuals cannot afford hospital bill for their children and I believe our coming to this environment is a prayer answered to some parent," she added.

Mrs Oladipe said the group chose Jikwoyi in order to reach out to more children because they discovered that the numbers of people in the suburbs are more than those at the central areas in Abuja.

Apart from the treatments, parents were also educated on personal hygiene, while some children got free items like slippers, soaps, bibles, pampers and treated mosquito nets.

Dr. Ozy Okonokhua, principal optometrist at Asokoro Hospital gave free eye tests

and treated children with eye problems.

The medical director of Jikwoyi Medical Centre, Dr. Emeka Anene, said the group choose the medical centre so that medical personnel in the place can assist the group in diagnosing the children before their treatment.

"All my staff are on ground to help the group and we also donated treated mosquito nets as the hospital's support to the programme, which means that every child treated here today would be giving a free follow treatment after three month at the hospital," he said.

Some parents whose children benefitted from the programme commended the organisers and called on government and other philanthropists to emulate them.

Tender Years pupils conduct elections into prefect positions

By Abubakar Yakubu

A replica of what exists during elections period in a democratic society was on Friday exhibited at Tender Years Preparatory School at Wuse 2, Abuja, when the pupils contested for elective positions as prefects of the school, under the Pupils Democratic Party (PDP) and the Action Pupils (AC) party.

The PDP however won the most votes with six of its aspirants sweeping the prefect positions as against four candidates from the AC.

Aspirants that won under the PDP consisted of Otonye Gabriel Eremie, head boy; Shehu Rokibi, asst head boy, Vanessa Nkechika, health prefect; Olurin Boluwatife, sports prefect; Philip Pwanora, social prefect and Elizabeth Nkechika, punctuality prefect.

The AC aspirants that won were Khadijat Mustapha, head girl, Madumere Chidera, asst head girl; Minty Alexandra, social prefect and Hassan Farida,

bell and light prefect.

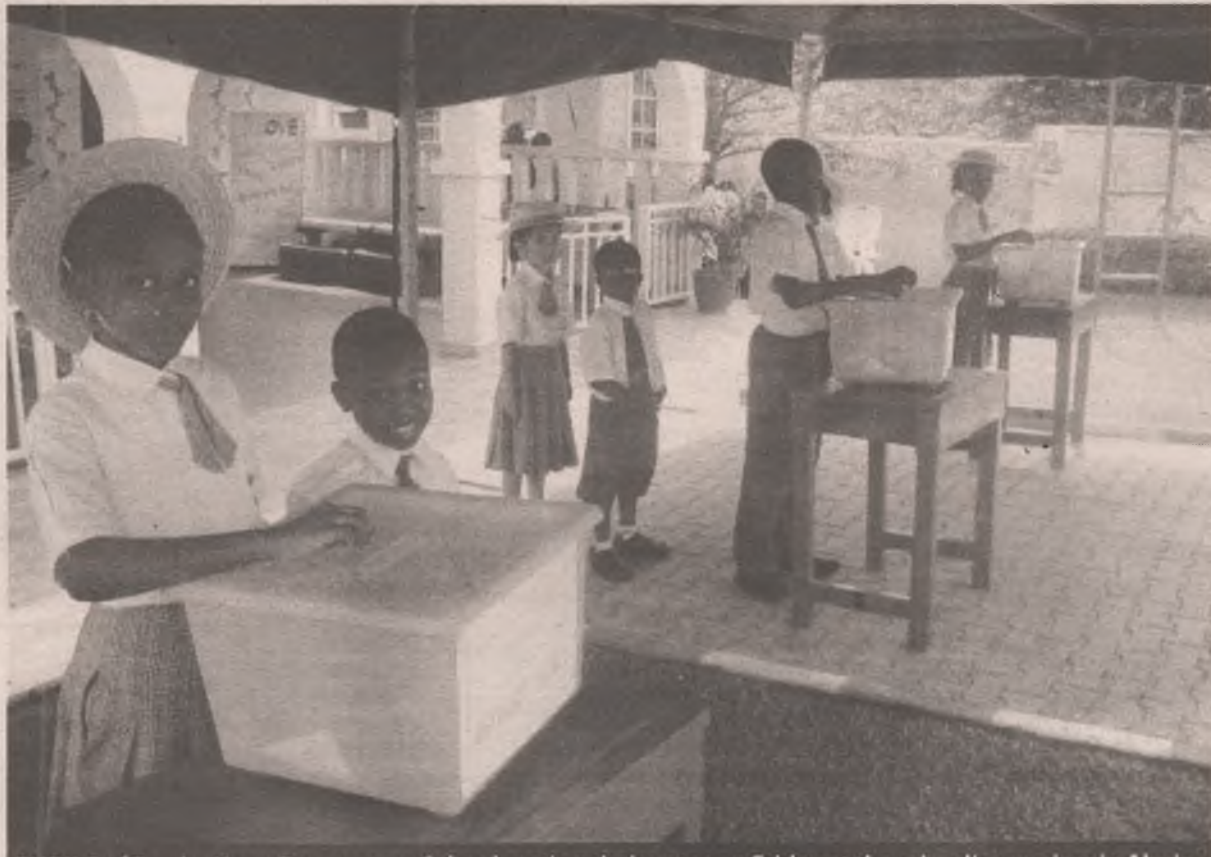
Before the election proper, campaigns were conducted for a week with posters and manifestos of the various aspirants pasted at strategic places in the school, before pupils, parents as well as staff of the school voted.

Coordinator of the electoral process, Mr Ajayi Isaac, disclosed that the electoral process is a project under the citizenship subject that has to be practicalised, adding that those contesting are from ages 7 to 9 years, who went through a normal electoral process.

He said the election comes up yearly, while those that emerge as winners will be sworn-in on February 12.

Also speaking, Assistant Chef of the school, Johnson Uwem and Ms Ikomi, head teacher, both said the elections will make pupils in the school understand what a real electoral process entails.

According to the head teacher, the vision is to have children that will stand at par, if not better



PUPILS of Tender Years Preparatory School casting their votes on Friday at the school's premises in Abuja.

than other children of the world.

She said the school is into active and participatory learning, where

pupils are involved in early stages on happenings within their environments, adding that they are made con-

scious of punctuality, neatness and to conduct themselves with decorum in the public.

Nurul-Bayan Int'l Academy's students visit orphanage



NURUL-BAYAN International Academy students and staff with children of Abuja Children's Home Saturday.

By Usman Bello

STUDENTS of the Nurul-Bayan International Academy Saturday visited Abuja Children's Home at Karu, Abuja, to give clothes and

foodstuff to children inside the home.

The students, who were led by the school's Muslim Students' Society Coordinator, Malam Abdullahi Yusuf, interacted with chil-

dren in the male, babies and female wards of the home.

At the boy's ward, the sight of one Lucky Monday attracted the students, who sought to know if he was sick because of his lean state.

Monday, who said he is an orphan from Cross River State, disclosed that his sister brought him to the home the previous day because they could no longer cope after his late father's step sister drove them away from her house.

The 10-year-old boy said he was a primary five pupil of Gracious School, Karimo before his parents' death.

Oasis Int'l Sch holds PTA seminar

By Usman A. Bello

THE management of Oasis International School, Kado, Abuja, Saturday organised a Parents/Teachers Association (PTA) seminar, where resource persons gave lectures on various topics concerning children.

Mrs Chinwe Onyekwelu and Mrs Suleiman gave lectures respectively on 'Caring for a special child' and 'the importance of PTA in private schools', while Nanaye Ogoina lectured on the three keys to healthy living.

Zenith Bank's representative also presented a lecture on the importance of Zenith Children's account.

The school's proprietress, Dr Popoola, advised parents to come on time to pick their

that the school's inter-house sport event will take place in March this year.

The proprietress also announced that more buses will be gotten to convey children to and from schools.



FROM left, Dr Popoola and Dr (Mrs) Popoola with other management staff of Oasis School during a PTA seminar at Kado, Abuja, Saturday.

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|---|---|---|---|

More couples go for court marriages in Abuja

By Abubakar Yakubu

AN investigation by City News shows that more couples in Abuja now prefer court marriages rather than white or traditional weddings because of the low cost incurred.

At the Abuja Municipal Area Council's marriage registry, our reporter observed 12 marriages last Thursday without the presence of a legal practitioner to enlighten couples of what they are entering into.

Some couples were not aware that marrying another woman or having children outside wedlock are illegal and acts of bigamy.

Once the couple enters the registry, they are giving forms to fill out their particulars and intentions, after which they take oaths



FROM left: Chief Emeka Onuohy, Samuel Ejere Kalu, Comfort Nkasiobi Ekeh and Mrs. Odinaka at the Marriage Registry at AMAC, Abuja.

that what is on the forms filled by them are true.

After taking the oaths, the couples are then moved to another table

where they exchange rings and sign the marriage register alongside their witnesses, before entertaining their small guests.



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The under listed used vehicles are for sale on an 'as is' basis.

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- The date and time of inspection are 1st - 5th February, 2010 at the stated location between 12 am and 4pm.
- Submission of bids in a sealed envelope indicating your name, Telephone number, Quoted Price, Vehicle(s) Make and Registration number.
- All bids are to be addressed to Vehicle Disposal Committee and deliver by hand at Yakubu Gowon Centre for National Unity and International Cooperation, No 45, Yakubu Gowon Crescent, Asokoro, Abuja on or before 12 February, 2010.
- Bids will be accepted up to 12 February, 2010.

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Disposal Committee.

actionaid

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT –Impact Assessment & Shared Learning (IASL) Coordinator

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

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Person Specifications

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All interested candidates should fill in the application form as accessed from the application pack on www.actionaid-nigeria.org. The application pack contains the Vacancy announcement, Job Description and Application form. **Subject line of emails should clearly state position applied for otherwise application will not be considered.**

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Closing date for receipt of application forms is **12th, February 2010.** Only short listed candidates will be contacted. Only Electronically completed application forms will be entertained and should be mailed to vacancy.nigeria@actionaid.org. Applications will **ONLY** be considered if submitted on AAN's Standard Application forms.

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Good Governance Group RC: 295781
(Best Practice Initiative Foundation)

The Time to Act is Now

Text of a Press Conference on Thursday, January 28, 2010 by Sen. Ken Nnamani GCON, Chairman, Steering Committee, Good Governance Group (3G)

As the nation slouches towards avoidable constitutional and political crisis, the words of Dante Alighieri, the Italian poet that the hottest part of hell is reserved for whoever fails to act in a moment of moral crisis should sound clear in the ears of every Nigerian. Nigeria faces crisis of unimaginable proportion today on account of the ill-health of President Yaradua. It is a big shame that a country that pretends to aspire to become the 20th leading economy in the world by the turn of this decade cannot manage the transition of power in the wake of the hospitalization of the President.

The Constitution has provided sufficient guidance on what should be done when unexpectedly an elected President can no longer continue to exercise executive power as President and Commander in Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. That guidance is in Section 144 of the Constitution. It requires that the Executive Council of the Federation, the body with the closest proximity to the President, should declare him incapable of exercising executive power so that he could be replaced by the Vice President.

The failure of the Executive Council of the Federation to initiate action based on the provisions of Section 144 of the Constitution is a failure of leadership. Chief Ojo Maduekwe, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, declared in an interview at the United Nations recently that he is a Minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and not of President Yaradua. This is right. The implication is that the primary responsibility of the Executive Council of the Federation is to promote the efficacy of the Federal Executive power. The Federal Executive is an institution not a person. To refuse to rise up to the patriotic duty of declaring the President incapable is a fundamental breach of the Constitution by members of the Executive Council of the Federation.

There is no doubt that President Yaradua, for no fault of his, can no longer effectively and efficiently act as President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Without transferring power officially to the Vice President, all exercise of presidential authority is unconstitutional, and in fact, treasonable. This is so because the constitution does not recognize that a shadowy group could take decisions on state matters when the President is sick to the extent that he could not return to Nigeria for 65 days. President Yaradua in his 58-second statement on Hausa Service of the BBC acknowledged his ill-health. The fact that the President is so ill that he cannot address Nigerians and has been away for so long is clear

evidence of this incapacity. What the Constitution requires is that the Executive Council of the Federation declares such incapacity so that the consequent act of swearing in the Vice President in his stead can take place.

We believe that at this stage of the crisis, Section 145 requiring President Yaradua to transmit a letter of vacation does not apply anymore. What is envisaged in that section is where the President is still capable of discharging the executive power but would be momentarily indisposed. We have gone beyond this in all honesty. We are faced as a nation with a situation of prolonged absence of the President on medical grounds. We also believe that the issue of impeachment should not arise at this point. Impeachment is equivalent of criminal conviction for gross misconduct. So far, President Yaradua's ill-health does not amount to a misconduct. There is no evidence that he is even aware of the violation of the constitution.

We believe that it is inappropriate for the Attorney General to, on behalf of the Executive Council of the Federation, without medical opinion, declare a President who is said to be in the intensive care unit of a Saudi Hospital for the last 65 days medically fit to continue in office. On what basis did the Executive Council of the Federation reach such conclusion? Which medical opinion did it seek? This is just a gimmick at the detriment of a nation that lies at the cliff-hanger of disaster.

We ask the Executive Council of the Federation to go back and do the proper thing required by the constitution. What they have done lacks merit because it is not based on medical evidence or health history of the President. If the Executive Council of the Federation fails to act the National Assembly should take the initiative as the trustees of the people to save Nigeria from an impending disaster.

The nation is at the crossroads and at a threshold of a major political crisis. We pray that President Yaradua recovers soon and returns to Nigeria to the embrace of his family, friends and compatriots. But obviously he cannot reasonably continue to act as President. In a democracy, presidency is not a monarchy. The nation must move on and move away from disaster. Emotions and sentiments have their values in other circumstances but not in the present crisis.

Now is time to act.

Sen. Ken Nnamani GCON,

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- Wildlife Park Planning and Recreational Development

6) Master of Science (M. Sc./Ph.D) in:

- Food Quality Control & Assurance
- Agric. Microbiology & Biotechnology
- Food Engineering
- Food Production & Storage Technology
- Computational Physics
- Nutrition & Dietetics
- Agrometeorology
- Water Resources Management
- Medical Microbiology & Public Health
- Agric. Microbiology & Biotechnology
- Environmental Microbiology
- Food & Industrial Microbiology
- Zoology (Parasitology)
- Botany (Plant Physiology)
- Zoology (Animal Physiology)
- Mathematics (Algebra, Analysis)
- Botany (Cytology)
- Zoology (Entomology)
- Computer Science

Ph.D only

- Organic Chemistry
- Inorganic Chemistry
- Clothing & Textile
- Analytical Chemistry
- Industrial Chemistry
- Physical Chemistry
- Environmental Physics
- Radiation and Health Physics
- Condensed Matter/Theoretical Physics
- Instrumentation
- Solid Earth Physics/Geophysics
- Biochemistry

7) Master of Engineering (M.ENG) Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in

- Agricultural Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Electrical Machines and Power Systems
- Electrical and Electronic Control Systems
- Communication and Digital Signal Processing Systems

8) Master of Business Administration Agribusiness

- 9) MSc/MVSc/Ph.D**
- Veterinary Medicine
 - Veterinary Surgery
 - Veterinary Microbiology
 - Veterinary Parasitology
 - Veterinary Pathology
 - Veterinary Public Health
 - Veterinary Theriogenology

10) Postgraduate Diploma Courses

- Computer Science (Evening/Weekend)
- Plann. Research & Stat. (Evening/Weekend)
- Agricultural Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Soil Management and Land Use Planning (PT)
- Plant Breeding and Seed Tech.. (PT)
- Crop Prod. Technology (FT)
- Crop Protection (FT)
- Agric. Extension and Rural Dev. (PT/EW)
- Small Ruminant Production (FT)
- Meat Processing and Packaging (FT)
- Beef & Dairy Cattle Production (FT)
- Poultry Prod. (FT)
- Ani. Nutrition (Ruminant & Non-Ruminant)
- Swine Production (FT)
- Rabbit Production (FT)
- Livestock Feed Resources (PT)
- Pasture Production (PT)
- Communication Studies
- Refrige & Cold Store Tech. (EW)
- Aqua-culture & Fisheries Mgt. (PT)
- Nutrition & Fisheries Mgt. (PT)
- Horticulture (FT)
- Nutrition Biochemistry (FT) (PT) (Even/Wkd)

11) Master of Information And Communication Technology (MICT) MICT (Professional) Week-end Programme

12) Master of Communication - Communication Development

- Water Resources and Environmental Engineering
- Highway and Traffic Engineering
- Structural Engineering

Admission Requirements To be eligible for admission to the Postgraduate Diploma Programme, candidates must be first degree holders in a relevant discipline from any recognized University. Holders of HND Upper Credit and above, with a minimum of 4 years post-qualification experience or Lower Credit with a minimum of 5 years post-qualification experience could also apply. Candidates for Masters Degree Programme, must be graduates of the University of Agriculture, Abeokuta or any other University recognized by the Senate and shall normally have obtained a minimum of Second Class (Lower Division) degree with a Cumulative Grade Point Average of 3.00 on a scale of 5.00 in relevant field. Candidates for MICT programme should possess Postgraduate Diploma in the area of Physical sciences, and Engineering and Allied Disciplines. Prior computing or IT exposure is beneficial but not essential. To be eligible for admission to the MBA (AgriBusiness) degree programme candidate must be a first-degree holder in any discipline or an HND (upper credit) with a Postgraduate Diploma in any discipline. MEM is a three semester terminal/professional programme designed for captains of industries with at least five (5) years of cognate experience. To be eligible for admission to the Doctor of Philosophy degree programme, candidates must have obtained a Master's degree from the University or its equivalent from any other University recognized by Senate. Holders of one year degree of Master's are expected to undergo a conversion examination after the first session before proceeding to a Ph. D programme

PGD PROGRAMMES: Full Time (FT) - 2 Semesters
Part Time (PT) - 4 Semesters

ALL MASTERS PROGRAMMES: Full time (FT) - 4 Semesters Minimum & Maximum of 8 Semesters
Part time (PT) - 8 Semesters Minimum & Maximum of 12 Semesters

Ph. D (Doctor of Philosophy) Degree Program) : Full time (FT) - 6 Semesters
Part Time (PT) - 8 Semesters

But if the Master's degree is obtained from University of Agriculture, Abeokuta or its equivalent else-where, minimum duration shall be 4 & 6 Semesters for Full Time and Part Time respectively.

METHOD OF APPLICATION

Request for application forms should be made to: The Registrar, University of Agriculture, P.M.B. 2240, Abeokuta, Nigeria. Candidates should enclose a self-addressed (35cm by 22.5cm) envelope marked 'Postgraduate Admission 2009/2010' at the bottom left corner, with N50.00 stamp affixed. An application fee of N5,000.00 if within Nigeria or (US) \$50.00 dollars if outside Nigeria, in Bank Drafts made payable to the University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, should accompany the request for forms. Only Application Forms duly completed and returned to the Registrar not later than two months from the date of this advertisement will be considered. Application forms will NOT be processed without transcripts.

(signed)
Adeleke Adeboye
for: Registrar

Inside Politics

Yar'adua remains president as long as he is breathing – Sen. Ukpo

SENATOR Paul Ukpo, a democracy activist is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Yar'adua for New Nigeria. He speaks in this interview on the controversies surrounding Yar'adua's absence. Ukpo who was in the Senate during the Babangida transition era says the call on Yar'adua to quit is alien to the constitution. Excerpts:

By Suleiman M. Bisalla

WHY has the Yar'adua for New Nigeria been silent in the ongoing debate over whether President Yar'adua can continue in office or not, have you gone underground?

We have not gone underground. First, we are sensitive to the health of the President and we have organized prayer sessions for his quick recovery. Therefore we won't join in making noise that end up overheating the polity.

But people are talking of about a power vacuum; do you think it is anything to the contrary?

I think there is no power vacuum or constitutional crisis. The thing about power vacuum is more imagined than real. There is the President and a Vice President on ground. The executive arm of government is operating; the legislative arm is in place and the judiciary is also operating. I think people misconstrue the constitution to mean that if the president is not around, everything comes to stand still. I was privileged to be a member of the Constituent Assembly which drafted the constitution and I know that there is a clear separation of power between the executive, legislative and the judicial arms of government. The executive arm of government acts or operates by delegation of authority to the ministers and so on.

Again, certain authorities are inherent in federal executive bodies like INEC, Judicial Service Commission and the Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission. Once they are inaugurated, nobody or authority except the National Assembly, with a two thirds majority, can remove any member and the president cannot direct them on what to do.

So the president is like an operator of an auto pilot system.

“By the provision of the 1999 constitution, as long as Umaru Yar'adua is alive, he remains the president of this country until 29th of May, 2011.

Once you set it on, it on goes on auto pilot. The legislative arm and judiciary do not operate that way. You cannot delegate authority to your aide to vote or to speak in parliament on your behalf; you must be present physically to operate because their duties are limited. The vice president is there with all the authority in the constitution; he is an associate of the President and therefore can act on behalf of the president. He can lead decisions on all the federal executive bodies where he is a member. In fact he even chairs one [National Economic Council] and he is deputy to three other crucial ones, the National Defense Council, the Council of State and the National Security Council. The law is very clear about how we operate those bodies. Members hold deliberations and vote on matters. In fact the President is a member like any other member and whether he is around or not, they can take decisions. In his absence, his deputy, who is the Vice President chairs the meetings of the councils.

The major augment of the opposition is that the President did not transmit any letter to the National Assembly before he left, which could have made the VP assume the role of acting president until he comes back...

They forget that the constitution says: 'whenever'. So it is at the president's discretion. In fact it will interest you to know that Umaru Yar'adua was a member of the Constituent Assembly that drafted the constitution; he knows the constitution more than those making noise out there. And he has done nothing so far to show that he has hesitated in implementing the rule of law.

This is a President who acknowledged that the election that brought him to power was flawed and promised to make sure we have genuine free and fair election. I think we need to pressure the National Assembly to expedite action in passing of the electoral reform bill, which is Key to our democratic system. Another important issue is the Freedom of Information Bill. If it were passed and has been operational, you will demand as a matter of right to get all information you require about the President. So let us go to the root of the matter. Elections are coming in 2011 and we should address this issue.



SENATOR Paul Ukpo

Are there plans by the Yar'adua for New Nigeria to contribute to the debate at the national assembly on the constitution amendment process?

We will start very soon. We will be part of the pressure on the National Assembly to pass the Electoral Bill and the Freedom of Information Bill. We will also pressure them to expedite action on the budget so that it can be implemented. Much of the work is on the table of the National Assembly right now not on the President's table. That is why I insist that Nigerians should put pressure on the National Assembly. These are the fundamentals of democracy not whether the President is here or there. By the provision of the 1999 constitution, as long as Umaru Yar'adua is alive, he remains the president of this country until 29th of May 2011.

But the same constitution talks of incapacitation. What do you make of those saying he should hand over on the ground of incapacitation?

The constitution does not just say incapacitation. It says 'permanent incapacitation', and what that means is that he is in a situation that he will never recover. It means that there is not even a slight chance that he will recover.

But as you know, people have been in comma for several years and they come out of it. So it is not for an individual to say this person is permanently incapacitated if he can even talk to members of his cabinet and even the nation on radio [BBC]. The cabinet has not said the man can no longer communicate with us or that work is no longer going on. Moreover, the Vice President who is linked to him by the constitution is there and therefore the government stands. I do not see why they should be making so much noise. The institutions are working. They may not be as good as we want think they should be but they are working. Have you seen civil servants not receiving their pay because the President is not around? Are people not going to the bank to withdraw money because the President is not around? Have traders been barred from going to the market because the President is not around?

What do you make of Obasanjo's recent statement that President Yar'adua should take the path of honour?

Obasanjo was President for eight years and he did everything he could to extend his stay in office. I think he is a very lucky man and he should retire in peace and leave us in peace.

ANPP charges Kano chapter on Shekarau's successor

From Lawan Danjuma Adamu, Kano

NEW leadership of All Nigeria Peoples Party in Kano has been urged to work towards getting a befitting successor for the Kano State governor, Malam Ibrahim Shekarau, whose tenure ends next year, the party's national chairman Chief Edwin Ume-Ezeoke has said at the inauguration of the party's new leadership in Kano at the weekend.

Chief Ume-Ezeoke, who was represented at the ceremony by ANPP's national secretary, Senator Sa'idu Kumo, said shopping for a "competent successor" for Shekarau is the "greatest challenge" that is facing the party in the state presently.

He also called on the new leadership to see themselves as the representatives of all the members of the party in Kano and warned them to be cautious of activities of opposition parties, which he said are strategizing to create disaffection within the party's rank.

While ruling out the possibility of his party losing power to the opposition in the state in 2011, the national chairman said there was need for ANPP members to remain united as opposition parties could capitalize on any available cracks to cause setbacks for the party.

Similarly, while speaking at the occasion Kano State governor, Malam Ibrahim Shekarau, said the swearing-in ceremony has proved the critics of the party who speculate that the state chapter of the party is divided wrong. He said the party has for the last four years been peaceful due to good quality of its leadership.

Also in his remarks, the newly elected chairman of ANPP Kano chapter, Alhaji Sani Hashim Hotoro, said Shekarau, being the leader of the party and having used the party's mandate to bring kano state to reckoning, will play a prominent role in deciding the candidate to pick the party's ticket in the state in 2011.

“Shopping for a “competent successor” for Shekarau is the “greatest challenge” that is facing the party in the state presently.

Inside Politics

Gaidam, Albishir shake hands after three years

From Hamza Idris, Damaturu

FOR the first time in about three years, Governor Ibrahim Gaidam of Yobe State last Saturday shook hands and exchanged pleasantries with Senator Usman Albishir who has been challenging the 2007 governorship election in Yobe in the court. Many observers said it is an important step towards reconciliation.

The two politicians met at the palace of the Emir of Bade Alhaji Abubakar Umar Suleiman during the wedding ceremony of Barrister Fatima Aji, daughter of the permanent secretary in the Federal Ministry of Police Affairs Alhaji Bukar Goni Aji.

Gaidam who was the last prominent person to arrive the venue went straight and met Albishir who was seated in the midst of other dignitaries and extended his hands; a development which observers say was an Olive Branch.

"Even though the two are in court... Gaidam still holds Albishir in high esteem and has no personal grudge against him", one of Gaidam's special advisers told *Daily Trust*.

The occasion was witnessed by prominent Nigerian politicians including Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF) Mahmud Yayale Ahmed, Minister of Defence Major General Godwin Abbe (Rtd); Minister of Interior Dr. Shettima Mustapha; Minister of Police Affairs Dr. Yakubu Lame, Minister of State (foreign

affairs), Jibrin Maigari and his counterpart in the ministry of interior, Abdurrahman Adamu.

Others include Senator Ahmed Lawan, former military administrator of Yobe State Commissioner of Police Dabo Aliyu (Rtd) as well as many members of the House of Representatives, commissioners and permanent secretaries in federal and state government ministries from across the country.

Alerted on the security implication of Gaidam and Albishir meeting in one place, the security outfits of Yobe State including hundreds of soldiers from the 241 Recce Battalion Nguru, the police, State Security Service (SSS), immigration, Civil Defence and the prison service temporarily relocated to the palace of the emir of Bade in order to ensure safety of dignitaries and rancour free event.

As early as 6am on Saturday, supporters of Governor Gaidam and that of Senator Albishir pasted the posters of their political mentors in vantage positions around the emir's palace while others mounted heavy sound systems on vehicles and moved around the city of Gashua singing political songs.

Shortly after the wedding fatiha led by the Chief Imam of Gashua Goni Isiaku Gashua after the payment of N50,000 as dowry by the representatives of the groom, political rally began in earnest.

The SGF, the minister of police affairs



GOVERNOR Ibrahim Gaidam of Yobe State offering a handshake to Senator Usman Albishir at the palace of the Emir of Bade in Gashua during a wedding fatiha at the weekend.

as well as his counterparts in the ministry of defence and ministry of interior all received well decorated horses as souvenirs from the Emir of Bade.

Sources said the last time Gaidam met with Senator Albishir was during the pre-gubernatorial primary election of the All Nigeria Peoples Party when the incumbent

governor was the running mate of late Governor Mamman Ali who slogged it out with Albishir at the primaries.

The Supreme Court is expected to give ruling on whether Albishir's out of time appeal on his "wrongful substitution" as the gubernatorial candidate of the ANPP should be heard by the Court of Appeal in Jos.

Ogunbiyi-led DPP denies collecting N50m from Wamakko

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

THE Chief Biodun Ogunbiyi-led members of the Democratic Peoples Party (DPP) yesterday denied a media publication that they collected N50 million from the incumbent Sokoto State governor, Aliyu Magatakardan Wamako to divide the party and facilitate the decamping of DPP members in the Sokoto State House of Assembly to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

Ogunbiyi, while briefing the press in Abuja, challenged those he called conspirators to prove that he has been given the said amount, stressing his group has no link to Governor Wamako whatsoever.

He said though some of the signatories to the publication were actually part of the movement to restructure the DPP, they were disgruntled along the way and decided to betray us. "We have therefore suspended them from the leadership," he said.

According to him, solicitors have been contacted for a proper legal advice because the action of the signatories amounted to character assassination.

Chief Ogunbiyi also denied holding discussing any matter relating to former Sokoto State governor Alhaji Atahiru Bafarawa during their meeting as stated in the said advertorial.

AC shuns mega party

MR Tajudeen Olusi, the South West National Vice Chairman of the Action Congress (AC), has said that the party will not be part of the mega party arrangement.

The decision was contained in a statement signed by Mr Sunday Akere, AC's Director of Research and Strategy, and made available to newsmen on Sunday in Osogbo.

The statement said the decision was reached at a meeting with Osun leaders of the party during a visit to Osogbo.

Olusi said the AC had deliberated extensively on why the opposition wanted to form the

mega party and concluded that the aims were at variance with that of the AC.

"AC would not join the mega party because it is a strong and solid party with a formidable structure, coupled with national spread. What we have we hold.

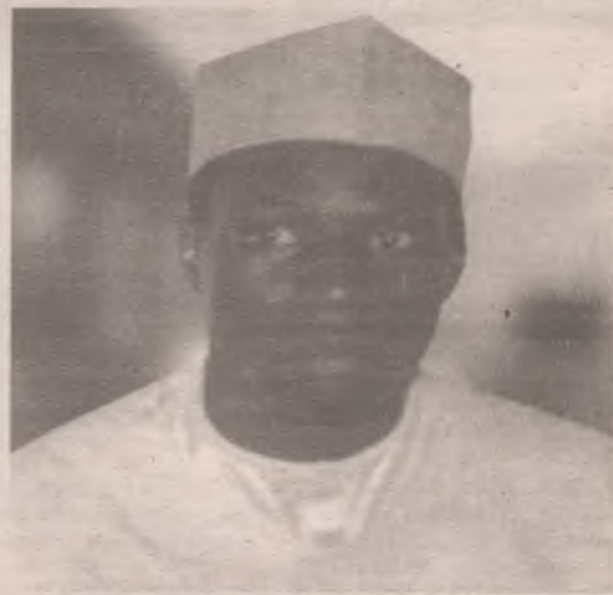
"This is the position of the party today which may change tomorrow but for now, no AC member must attend any mega party meeting or function," he said.

"The AC has no business with mega party and the leadership of our party believes that we have no reason to join it," he added. (NAN)



POLICE GAZETTE

WANTED PERSON



ALHAJI HALIRU MAGAJI

The above named person, Alhaji Haliru Magaji, 'M' whose picture is attached is wanted by the Nigeria Police Force, FCT Command, Abuja for the *Offence of Joint Act, Defamation of Character and Attempt to Commit Offence of Cheating.*

He hails from Katsina township, Katsina State and he is about forty (40) years of age. He speaks Hausa, Fulani and English languages fluently. He is tall about 6ft in height and fair in complexion with a long face and pointed nose.

If seen, should be arrested and taken to the nearest Police Station or, any person with useful information about him should report to the nearest Police Station or contact the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), FCT Police Command, Abuja on the following numbers: 08061581938, 08032003913 and 08032569029.

SP Jimoh Moshood, 27/01/2010
Police Public Relations Officer,
FCT Police Command,
Abuja.

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WOMEN IN ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

This is to inform the general public that the above named Association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for Registration under part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1 of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES:-

1. Dr. Hajiya Diye Bala
2. Alhaji Hussaini Mohammed Kirfi
3. Alhaji Abdu Umar

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:-

1. To empower the less privilege, women in the society through skills Acquisition Training Programs to be self Reliant.
2. To educate women on the importance of keeping a clean environment and to reserve the negative Behaviour through environmental lectures, seminar or workshop.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, Maitama District Abuja within 28 days of the publication.

Signed:

Dr. Hajiya Diye Bala.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly MISS AISHA IBRAHIM. Now wish to be known as **MRS. AISHA IBRAHIM MUSA**. All formal documents remain valid. Bayro University, Kano, NYSC and general public note.

I formerly Miss **RAMOT KADIRI** now wish to be known as **MRS RAHMAT ABDULQADIR AHMED**. Former documents remain valid, General public take note.

I formerly known as **MISS LADI JOY ENENCHE** now wish to be known and called **MRS JOY LADI DANIEL**. All former documents remain valid general public to take note.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AS **MISS DORCAS NUHU** NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS **MRS DORCAS DANIEL**, ALL FORMER DOCUMENT REMAIN VALID NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL COURT AND GENERAL TO NOTE.

I FORMERLY ZAINAB ISYAKU NOW MRS ZAINAB AHMAD ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID, ABU ZARIA, NYSC, AND GENERAL PUBLIC TO NOTE.

I KEZIAH YOHANA ACHI now wish to be addressed as **MRS KEZIAH JOEL MAGA**. Former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I formerly Miss. **VICTORIA IJEOMA OKAFOR**, now Mrs. **VICTORIA IJEOMA DIRBI**. Former documents remain valid general public take note.

I formerly **YAKAKA WAKIL**, now wish to be known **FATIMA WAKIL**. Former documents remains valid school of health technology, general public take note.

I formerly Miss. **RANTI OLURUNFEMI** now Mrs **EUNICE RANTI OLOYE**. All former documents remain valid, N.Y.S.C, general public take note

I formerly Miss. **HADIJAT MURANA** now Mrs. **HADIJAT J BELLO**. ALL former documents remain valid N.Y.S.C general public take note.

I, formerly known as **ANNE ATULE ADAMU**, now wish to be addressed as **MRS ANNE ATULE CHRIS-ANCHOR**. All former documents remain valid. CBN, Pic and general public to take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS JOY KELECHI IGWE**, now wish to be known as **MRS. JOY KELECHI DANIEL AGWU**. Former documents remain valid. THE LAW SCHOOL and general public take note.

I, formerly **NDIRIBE STELLA CHIBUZO**, wish to be known and called **UMELO STELLA CHIBUZO**. Former documents remain valid general public take note.

I, formerly called **LILIAN CHINENYE NWOSU** now **MRS. LILIAN CHINENYE UGOJI**. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS OKOLO CLARA ENECHOJO**, now wish to be called **MRS. ACHOMHI CLARA ENECHOJO**. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and the general public take note.

I, formerly known as **ISHAYA LUKA**, now wish to be addressed as **ISHAYA LUKA WAYAS**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **NAPHTALI ISA**, now wish to be addressed as **MRS NAPHTALI ISHAYA WAYAS**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS AGNES YAHAYA**, now wish to be addressed as **MRS AGNES JAMES N. AGBADU**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly **MISS ADELEKE LEAH OYEKEMI**, now wish to be called **MRS LEAH OYEKEMI OLATEJU**. All former documents remain valid. Nursing & Midwifery Council of Nigeria & general public take note.

I, formerly known as **OLAIROJU ILEASMI OLAJIDE**, now wish to be known as **ADESANMI OLUFEMI OLAIROJU**. All former documents remain valid. Public please note.

I, formerly known as **HASSAN BALA**, now wish to be known as **NATHANIEL HASSAN BALA**. All former documents remain valid. General public should take note please.

NIGERIAN ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING CRAFTSMEN NOTICE OF PROFESSIONAL INTERVIEW

This is to notify all engineering artisans and craftsmen that the professional interview for membership of the Nigeria Association of Engineering Craftsmen (NAEC) would hold on Saturday, 6th February 2010 9am at these centres simultaneously:

1. Abuja New Head Office: 26, A.E. Ekuinam Street, Utako District, Abuja. Tel: 07098807920

2. Eastern Zonal Office: 310, Zik Avenue, Awka, Anambra State. Tel: 08057252276, 08080113339.

3. Lagos: 79, Palm Avenue, Mushin, Lagos. Tel: 01-8933374, 07031557777.

Obtain your form at these centres before the interview date, all enquiries and correspondence to the Abuja Head Office.

J.O. Oyewusi
National Public Relations Officer

AIEJU KLUB OF NIGERIA

The general public is hereby informed that the above named club has applied for registration under part "C" of Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990

The Trustees are:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Dr. Isaac Onyike | 2. Boniface O. Okwe |
| 3. Isaiah Eru | 4. Emmanuel O. Odighi |
| 5. David O. Awugo | 6. George E. Odeh |
| 7. Darlington Alukpo | |

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To foster unity and maintain peace among the people of Iggede nation and the world around them
2. To strive to foster and enhance the socio-economic and cultural values of the Iggede people in particular and the Nigerian Nation at large
3. To use men, material and other resources at her disposal in pursuit of better welfare for the less privileged in the society

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Garki-Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

ETUKWU ONA Esq
Suite 43 Yasuha Plaza, Plot NO 8
Bozoum close, Behind AP Plaza Wuse II
Box 6692 Wuse Abuja, 08-4612427, 08033156103

UNITY WOMEN ASSOCIATION NASARAWA

The general public is hereby informed that the above named Association has applied for registration under part "C" of Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990

The Trustees are:

1. His Royal Highness Alhaji Hassan Ahmed II MNI, MFR, FNIM, FFPN, Emir of Nasarawa
2. Alh. Abuhu Ra'ira Umar - Wazirin Nasarawa
3. Alh. Ibrahim Usman Jibrin - Wambal Nasarawa
4. Barr. Zabeiru Salihu Namama
5. Alh. Suleiman K. Umar

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Promoting unity and friendliness among members in order to attain aims and objectives of the Association.
2. Making financial contributions in order to help the poor and needy in Nasarawa town and to alleviate the hardship and suffering of widows and orphans in the said town or any other town the association may deem fit.
3. Embarking on any business commercial ventures or project that would facilitate the realization of the association's aims and objectives
4. Maintain a high standard of decorum among members

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Garki-Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

Adekunle Oladapo Otitoju & Co.

I, formerly **MISS EDITH CHINGOROM NWAGWU**, now wish to be known as **MRS EDITH CHINGOROM ONWUZURIKE**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly **MR SOLOMON OZEMOYA OKOUGHU**, now **MR. SOLOMON OZEMOYA AGAH**. Former documents remain valid. General public please note.

I, formerly known as **PASTOR CHRIS DAVID**, now wish to be known as **PASTOR CHRIS D. RAYMOND**. All former documents remain valid. General public to please note.

I, formerly **MISS ONYIOHA RITA CHIOMA**, henceforth wish to be called **MRS AGADA RITA CHIOMA**. Former documents remain valid, general public note.

I, formerly **MARYAM MUHAMMED DAN HAMIDU GUSAU**, now wish to be called **MARYAM MUHAMMED DAN HALIDU GUSAU**. All former documents remain valid.

I, formerly **OGUNNIYI RACHAEL TOYIN** to be known as **OEDELE RACHAEL TOYIN**. Osun State College of Technology, Esa Oke and general public to note.

I, formerly **IBITOYE ZULIKHAT IBITAYO** now wish to be known as **TIAMIYU ZULIKHAT IBITAYO**. Former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public to note.

I, formerly **AISHA ABUBAKAR ALI GOMBE**, now wish to be known as **AISHA SULEIMAN CHIROMA**. Former documents remain valid. General public take note.

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

This is to inform the general public that the original certificate of occupancy BO/5042 of plot No. 137 on BOTP /6/ Pompomari commercial layout belonging to Alhaji Ma'aji Masaya is declared missing. All efforts to trace the said missing documents failed. If found, kindly return to nearest police station. This announcement is for the purpose of replacement by the Borno State ministry of Land and Survey.

Signed
Yarima Ma'aji Masaya

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

This is to inform the general public the lost of original Grand of Right of Occupancy with plot No. 4A additional an area of about 2400sqm. BOTP/NEP/96A situated in Damboa Road West- GRA issued by ministry of Land and Survey Maiduguri: - bearing Alhaji Bulama Gana. All effort to trace it proved abortive if found please contact the nearest police station

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

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SPORT

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It's Pharoahs again!

By Ismaila Lere, with Agency reports

EGYPT clinched a record seventh African Cup of Nations title, their third in a row, after a late goal from Mohamed Nagy Gedo gave them a 1-0 win over Ghana yesterday at Estadio 11 Novembro in Luanda, Angola.

The Ittihad Alexandria midfielder, a relative unknown before debuting on the eve of the Nations Cup, came off the bench to score his fifth goal in the tournament with a sweet 85th-minute finish in a tight game.

The win was consolation for their heart-breaking World Cup play-off defeat to Algeria and rounded off a day of records: in addition to the Pharoahs team haul, Ahmed Hassan and Essam El-Hadary picked up record fourth winners' medals, coach Hassan Shehata and skipper Hassan became the first to win three in a row and Gedo became the first tournament top-scorer to solely feature from the bench.

Egypt also extended their unbeaten run in the tournament to an incredible 19 matches but Ghana gave them a sterner test than anyone in their previous five games in Angola.

Gedo's 71st-minute introduction - and his eventual winner - seemed inevitable as a young Ghana side, missing several star players, played out of their skins to match Egypt with a high-pressing, physical game.

Chances were few and far between for both sides but, as players tired in the heat, the game opened up and until Egypt's moment of magic it looked like Ghana might sneak victory and they even missed a last-gasp chance to level.

The match started cautiously, typical for both sides this campaign as Ghana's Serbian coach Milovan Rajevaj instructed his



EGYPT'S captain Ahmed Hassan, centre, reacts as he receives the Africa Cup of Nations trophy after winning the final match of the championship at the November 11 stadium in Luanda, Angola yesterday. The Pharoahs completed a hat trick of victories in the competition after beating Ghana 1-0.

young charges to adopt an Egyptian approach of focusing on defence over attack.

If Egypt's strikers Mohamed Zidan and Emad Moteab were taller than 5'9 they may have made more of two good first-half deliveries from wide, but right-wing crosses from Hossam Ghaly and Hosny Abd-Rabo flew over their heads in a first half where Ghana focused on solid defending and occasional breaks at pace.

Egypt, meanwhile, were happy to sit deep and isolate lone Ghana striker Asamoah Gyan, moving the ball in mesmerising fashion and on several occasions racking

up moves of more than 20 passes.

The second half saw Ghana take the game to Egypt, as Gyan sent one free-kick just over and a long-range strike just wide, although El-Hadary had both covered.

The Pharoahs had a penalty appeal turned down when Hassan appeared to be pushed by Samuel Inkoom, while there was a nervous moment when Hossam Ghaly gave the ball away, although the counter that followed saw Gyan again shoot over.

El-Hadary and Ghana's Richard Kingson are arguably the only two goalkeeper's in the tournament who look comfortable

in their positions but the Egypt number one had a shaky moment when he elected to punch Gyan's free-kick, the ball spinning wide for a corner.

Ghana looked the more likely, as Wael Gomaa used all his experience to ease Kwadwo Asamoah away from Inkoom's inviting low cross.

But Gedo, who is rumoured to be on his way out of Egypt in the near future, had other ideas.

With five minutes remaining, an Egypt break saw the playmaker-forward exchange a slick one-two with Zidan, bursting into the box and shifting the ball from his favoured left to his right foot,

which he showed to be of equal potency with a superb, curling effort across Kingson and just inside the right-hand post.

The drama was not over though: Ghana almost snatched an equaliser deep into injury time when Inkoom's high ball wreaked havoc in the Egypt, with the ball ricocheting into the path of sub Eric Addo who, in the split-second that followed, could only finish weakly at El-Hadary.

Referee Koman Coulibaly - criticised before the game but impeccable throughout - blew for full time and Ghana's young stars collapsed as Egypt rejoiced for the third time running.

Galadima: Eagles' bronze brings relief

By Orkula Shaagee

FORMER Chairman of the Nigeria Football Association (NFA), Alhaji Ibrahim Galadima yesterday congratulated the Super Eagles' players and technical crew for winning bronze at the 2010 African Cup of Nations in Angola.

The Eagles on Saturday at Ombaka Stadium in Benguela defeated the Fenecs of Algeria 1-0 through Obinna Nsofor's goal to claim the tournament's bronze medal.

Galadima told Trustsports in a telephone interview that the victory has brought succour to Nigerians who were worried about

what could become of the team at the South Africa 2010 World Cup next June, following their lacklustre showing at the tournament.

The versatile football administrator, who said it would have been disastrous for Nigeria to return from the fiesta without anything, stated that many of those who gave up hope of the

team achieving anything at the Nations Cup, can now look forward to an improved outing in South Africa with the needed changes to the team.

"I am happy we came back with something, it would have been disastrous if the Super Eagles fail to come home with something. It is also very impor-

tant they won the bronze because many Nigerians gave up hope of the team achieving anything in Angola.

"With this, there is hope that with the needed changes to the team, Nigeria would be able to do better at the South Africa 2010 World Cup in June", Galadima stated.

Sport Briefs...

Terry made team-mate's girlfriend pregnant, then arranged for abortion

ENGLAND captain John Terry's career was thrown into further doubt after it was revealed he got his team-mate's girlfriend pregnant. The Mail on Sunday reports that French model Vanessa Perroncel, former partner of fellow England defender Wayne Bridge, had an abortion within months of the affair starting. The pregnancy and termination are thought to have been the 'consequences' referred to by the High Court judge who threw out the £170,000-a-week footballer's bid to seek a draconian gagging order to keep his affair secret.



JOHN Terry

Superb Man U. humble Arsenal

CHAMPIONS Manchester United delivered a devastating statement of Premier League title intent by beating rivals Arsenal 3-1 at the Emirates Stadium yesterday. United produced a superb attacking display, taking the lead when Nani's cross was turned into his own net by goalkeeper Manuel Almunia after 33 minutes before Wayne Rooney started and finished a stunning counter-attack four minutes later. Park Ji-sung got the third seven minutes into the second half and Arsenal had only Thomas Vermaelen's deflected volley 10 minutes from time to show for their efforts.

Anthony misses 4th straight game



CARMELO Anthony

DENVER Nuggets forward Carmelo Anthony missed his fourth consecutive game with a sprained left ankle Sunday against the San Antonio Spurs. Nuggets coach George Karl said the NBA's leading scorer still isn't comfortable making sharp moves, and Denver was expecting a fast-paced game against the Spurs. Karl expects Anthony to try to play Monday against Sacramento. Anthony is averaging 29.7 points and injured his ankle a week ago against New Orleans. The Nuggets are 2-1 without him so far.

Karlsson ends 16-month title drought

SWEDEN'S Robert Karlsson won his first individual trophy for 16 months when he captured the Qatar Masters title on Sunday. The 40-year-old Ryder Cup player shot a closing seven-under-par 65, the lowest round of the week, for a 15-under tally of 273 to finish three ahead of holder Alvaro Quiros of Spain (67). Briton Lee Westwood, playing alongside Karlsson, saw his chance of victory vanish when he three-putted the par-four 16th for bogey. Karlsson's last individual victory was at the Dunhill Links Championship in October 2008 before he ended that year with a World Cup win alongside compatriot Henrik Stenson.

CAF boss should quit after 'monstrous' Togo ban - Adebayor

CONFEDERATION of African Football (CAF) President, Issa Hayatou, should resign following the "monstrous" decision to ban Togo from the next two African Nations Cups, captain Emmanuel Adebayor said on Sunday.

Togo quit the tournament when their government recalled the team for three days of mourning.

The recall followed the killing of two members of their delegation in an attack by gunmen in the northern Angolan province of Cabinda on Jan. 8.

CAF banned Togo and fined their soccer association \$50,000 on Saturday because their government had interfered in football matters.

"Mr Hayatou did serve Africa but today, he must clear off. This decision is monstrous," Adebayor told French sports daily L'Equipe.

"He (Hayatou) is irresponsible. I have the feeling we are not respected," he added.

Togo Sports Minister, Christophe Tchao, told Reuters by telephone on Saturday that they would appeal the CAF ban.

An assistant coach and a media officer with the Togo team died in the ambush as the team traveled from Pointe Noire, Congo to the Angolan capital by bus for their opening match.

"Two well-respected personalities in African football died, our keeper took three bullets. We did not just wake up in the morning and decide to leave the competition.



EMMANUEL Adebayor... Togo captain said CAF boss should resign following the decision to ban his country from the next two Nations Cup.

"If (Cameroon keeper Idriss) Kameni was the one having been shot or if it was the Ivory Coast team bus that had been attacked, the Nations Cup would have been cancelled," Adebayor said.

The Manchester City striker

said the attack, which lasted at least 20 minutes, was still fresh in his memory.

"It is very difficult (to think of football). Since the attack, I have been having nightmare every night," he said.

CAF actions a disgrace

DOES the arrogance and greed of CAF know no bounds? Their decision to ban Togo from the next two Africa Cup of Nations tournaments is one of the most astounding decisions ever undertaken by the body.

Their 'justification' is that it was government interference that led to the Togolese side withdrawing from this year's competition following the deadly terrorist attacks on their team bus that left three people dead.

This government intervention contravenes tournament rules, and therefore deserves punishment, their say.

But the obvious point is that there were extraordinary circumstances in this case, and the fact that CAF have decided to go down this route is, quite frankly, a disgrace to African football and will leave a lasting stain on the tenure of CAF president Issa Hayatou.

They claim that they are trying to ensure the integrity of

African football, but what integrity can it have left with this decision?

CAF and the LOC of the Angolan Nations Cup had bullied the Togolese players into continuing to compete in the tournament when quite obviously they did not want to.

CAF, more worried about their flagship event and the sponsorship money it brings than allowing the players to bury their dead, have decided to give the 'two-finger' salute to the Togo government for doing what CAF should have done in the first place, telling the team to mourn their loss.

Their motives are borne out of nothing more than greed and their disregard for human life and the affect of the tragic incident on these players mentally are shameful.

But then CAF have acted in a disgraceful manner from the start, blaming the Togolese for the incident as they had decided to travel by bus rather than air to their base in Cabinda.

But they is not the point, it

should not have mattered what mode of transport the Togo team took, they should not have been put in a situation where they may be fired upon by gunmen.

One also has to wonder what might have been the case if this incident had affected Cameroon, the country of Hayatou, and just how they may have been dealt with? It is fair to say that a two tournament ban would not have been passed down because Hayatou would not have allowed it to happen.

This is perhaps the darkest day in the history of CAF, whose mandate is to help grow the sport on the continent, yet they have shown themselves to be nothing but a self-serving organisation who are more interested in the colour of their money than the welfare of the players.

Shame on you.

Culled from MTNfootball.com



FRENCH coach, Herve Renard had talks with NFF with a view towards leading the Super Eagles to the World Cup.



EAGLES coach, Shaibu Amodu dismissed speculation that he will be replaced soon by a foreign coach.

African journalists to get more World Cup accreditation

JOURNALISTS from the five African countries that qualified for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa are to get more media accreditation to enable them participate in the event.

The World Cup is coming to Africa for the first time and African journalists have complained of not having enough accreditation to be part of the history.

The development followed FIFA President, Sepp Blatter's directive on Thursday when he reacted to complaints on the issue.

Blatter directed that more media accreditation be given to journalists from the five African countries that qualified for the World Cup.

He told newsmen that FIFA would do everything possible to ensure that journalists from Africa were given the opportunity to be part of the World Cup.

"This is the first time Africa is hosting the world cup and Africans must be given the opportunity to be part of history.

"I am not asking but telling the media officer to look at the issue of more accreditations to African journalists. I was not aware of the problem before now.

"Now that I know, there should be a way out. More accreditation should be given to African journalists, especially those from the five countries that qualified," Blatter said.

Nicolas Maingot, FIFA Assistant Director of Communications and Public Affairs, said that accreditations were given to countries according to their football status.

"Accreditations were allocated to each country according to previous World Cup standard.

"With this complaint, we will look into it and come out with a solution but each federation will have to make their own case for their journalists.

"It is based on their request that we will know what additional number will be given to each country," Maingot said.

Meanwhile, FIFA, Secretary-General, Jerome Valcke, has said that match tickets for South Africa 2010 would be the cheapest.

"FIFA wants this World Cup to be truly African World Cup as a way of encouraging football fans across Africa to come to South Africa to support their teams.

"We also plan to enter into agreement with airlines to provide cheap air tickets to the fans from the five qualified countries from Africa."

He added that though it was not their responsibility to make travel arrangements, they wanted to encourage Africans to come and support their teams," Valcke said.

He said the aim was not to make profit but to provide opportunities for everyone to be part of history.

NFF in secret talks with Renard

TOP officials of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) have met with Zambia coach, Herve Renard, with a view to the Frenchman leading the Super Eagles to the World Cup in June.

A top source informed MTN-Football.com Saturday afternoon: "NFF officials led by president Sani Lulu and Taiwo Ogunjobi met with Renard in Luanda to discuss the possibility of his joining Nigeria for the World Cup.

"Also at this meeting was FIFA top official, Walter Gagg. It was a fruitful meeting. Hopefully something should come out of this.

"Renard is excited to work with Nigeria, but asked the NFF officials to speed up their interest as he has also been courted by several other African teams."

The young French coach became a darling of several Nigeria officials here in Angola after his youthful and inexperi-

enced Chipolopolo outclassed the Super Eagles in a Nations Cup quarterfinal even though they would go on to lose 5-4 on penalties to Nigeria after scores were tied at 0-0 after extra-time.

"He has really won the approval of top officials here in Angola," another source disclosed.

Last week, Renard had earlier said he would "trek from Angola to Nigeria" if that would get him

the top Nigeria coaching job.

Renard, was assistant to compatriot Claude Le Roy with Ghana two years ago. He moved to Zambia in May, 2008, on a two-year contract, which pays him a monthly salary of between \$15,000 and \$18,000.

An impressed Zambia President, Rupiah Banda, promised at a reception for the country's team on arrival from Angola that he will do everything to keep Renard.

...Amodu unfazed by speculations

SUPER Eagles coach Shaibu Amodu has dismissed speculation about his future, saying his employers are satisfied with his work.

Amodu's Super Eagles beat Algeria 1-0 on Saturday to claim the Africa Cup of Nations bronze medal and the coach said he was

at least satisfied his team finished in third even though their target was to win the championship.

"The match was above average especially in the first half and we started with a little bit of fear. Any team that scored first would have won the game.

"However, we had to psyche

ourselves because we needed to win the third place," he said.

"We have done well enough even though we may not have played to our full potential, but with longer preparations we can do a lot better. We improved with each game, we were not at our best in Angola but we can be bet-

ter before the World Cup."

Amodu also dismissed speculation that he could be fired before the World Cup in June.

"I have never been bothered about speculation about my future because they are just speculation. My employers are satisfied with my work," he said.

Angolan fans pleased with tournament outcome

BEING part of the host nation at any international tournament is always something special, and fans in Angola during the almost-concluded African Nations Cup competition feel that they have experienced something very special over the past three weeks.

A number of Angolans in Luanda believe the tournament was a great success.

"It is nice to have a tourna-

ment like this in the country after having never experienced football like this. Angola did well and we are happy that they went to the next round of the competition. In general the competition was well hosted, I just feel terrible for the poor Togo players and those with them who were killed. Other than that terrible situation, most things went very well," said Ricardo.

Sandro, a 25-year-old South African living and working on

contract in Angola said: "It has been a lovely month of football. I watched a few of the games and I was part of the festival in the streets to celebrate matches. The tournament went very well and only Togo stands out as a sad time in this tournament. I hope to return to South Africa for two weeks during the World Cup to experience that frenzy in my country, it will be an amazing time and a tournament to

remember."

Shop assistant Lena had a wonderful time during Angola 2010, saying: "Me and my friends gathered to watch matches and see some of the training sessions. It is unbelievable to have so many football heroes in one place and I will remember this for the rest of my life."

Joel was disappointed that the competition was coming to an end.

THE MONDAY COLUMN

Mahmud Jega

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A word for Jos warriors

It was not for nothing that Sir Winston Churchill said in war, the truth is so precious that it has a bodyguard of lies.

The carnage in Jos and environs two weeks ago left many outside observers confused and bewildered as to how such a terrible event could occur at this time. I mean, the indiscriminate killings, including of women and children, maiming of people, setting ablaze of mosques, churches, shops and houses with the occupants inside, genocidal attacks on villages, farm workers and herdsmen, and the waylaying of vehicles on the highway, to drag out and kill innocent people.

Equally bewildering was the latest mayhem's origins. It does look like an attempt by *Yan Kasa* natives to prevent a Hausa man from rebuilding his burnt house caused a small fracas at Dutse Uku. How that dispute snowballed into a major conflagration enveloping a whole big city and its environs, remains to be determined. While it lasted, thugs on both sides conducted killings and arson, disproportionately perhaps, but they did so all the same.

The first road to a solution is to actualise what Vice President Goodluck Jonathan said in his television broadcast, that responsibility for all crimes committed is strictly individual, not communal. Some people will very well try to prevent this by alleging bias etc, as happened in Zangon Kataf in 1992, but the security agents' stiff resolution should be that any identified culprit must be punished whether or not other culprits are apprehended. Just keep an eye to overall proportion.

The Jos carnage is trying to become intractable because all the key agencies and agents who should contain it, namely the Plateau State governor, the police commissioner, the army GOC, and the Federal Government have been alleged by one party or the other to be a partisan in the conflict. Some of the accusations appear to be more credible than others, if not of complicity, at least of incompetence and insensitivity. The Plateau State government, for example, is not even pretending at impartiality in this affair, from all the tone of its statements.

Now, we can apportion blame and punish culprits for all we want, but an even bigger task at hand is to seek a comprehensive inter-communal settlement in order to ensure that this does not happen again. Let us look at the two communities' summary of grievances. I can only poorly summarise them here, as gleaned from public statements.

The summary of the *Yan Kasa's* agenda seems to be that, *some of our choicest land has been grabbed over time by Hausa/Fulani Muslim settlers, who have cornered economic opportunities and are economically better off than the natives, who look down upon us socially, and who are also attempting to grab political power in Jos North LG, which was created by their powerful kinsmen outside the state just for that purpose. We must regain what we lost, if necessary by expelling the settlers.*

One brief word here for the *Yan Kasa*. While it is okay to have communal aspirations, it will be difficult to achieve this kind of agenda through violence. This is because even if the Plateau State Government covertly condones or supports it, the Federal Government and the security agencies will not allow its full realisation, no matter whether the president is Christian or Muslim. Besides, continuing attempts to actualise this agenda by violent means could easily generate nasty inter-communal reprisals in other parts of the country, all the more reason why the Federal Government won't allow it. As for historical injustice, well, remember that throughout the world, not all historical injustice can be remedied without creating even bigger problems.

Of course the Hausa in Jos see things very differently. They think, *we are as native to this place as anyone, since our*

ancestors first came here at the beginning of the 18th century. We were not brought here by the British or even the Caliphate; we made this place rich by trading and by helping to extract its mineral resources. We worked very hard to earn our keep, and in any case the Constitution protects our right to stay here and to own property and even to have civic and political rights.

Still, a word must be said here for the Hausa community of Jos. Even though they are counting on the automatic support of the very large Hausa community throughout the country and beyond, they must be offered the wise counsel to find better ways of living peacefully with their *Yan Kasa* neighbours. If necessary, this could entail the forgoing of some constitutional rights, such as the right to seek the chairmanship of Jos North LG, for a generation, until the Nigerian society's character changes. This may be painful to a citizen, but it is a small price to pay for peace.

I am aware that the main reason why the Hausa want the chairmanship of Jos North LG is because, they said, despite their numerical majority there, the LG denies them letters of indigeneship. Matters are not helped here by the Plateau Peace Summit's 2004 declaration which listed the "native tribes" of Plateau, conspicuously excluding the Hausas of Jos. All these problems can be tackled as part of an overall settlement.

Now, in recommending the voluntary waiving of some political rights in return for peace, I was thinking of the Tiv in Wukari LG of Taraba State, whose conflict with the Jukun natives I reported for *Citizen Magazine* in 1990. Despite their numerical majority in the area since the 19th century, the Tiv informally bought the Jukun argument that since there are many Tiv LGs in Benue, they shouldn't snatch away the Jukun's lone LG in Wukari. I must however add that in the end, this concession did not save

the Tiv in Wukari.

If the Hausa community were to borrow a leaf and informally forgo some political rights in Jos as part of a settlement, the community can still exercise much political influence by determining which *Dan Kasa* becomes the chairman. As Northern Nigeria as a whole has learnt, political power is sometimes a disincentive to a community's forging ahead.

After a comprehensive communal settlement is made in Jos, if the two communities still want to compete, they can do so peacefully by working out other means of forging ahead economically and socially. In working out each community's agenda for progress, no one should sit down and wallow in self-pity and blame other communities for some historically-acquired attributes, such as Tiv industry on the farm, Hausa trading acumen, Igbo domination of spare parts trading, Yoruba taxi driving prowess, Langtang prominence in the military or Hausa domination of long-distance haulage.

Any community that is dragged backwards because its youth have certain habits should address them squarely and not blame its misfortunes on others, as Governor Jang did with his early campaign against excessive beer drinking.

The surest route for a community to forge ahead these days is education, not clinging on to ancestral farmlands or even minerals. Warring Plateau communities could borrow a leaf from Governor Godswill Akpabio of Akwa Ibom. He said on television last week that he would end many people's views of Akwa Ibom as "a large factory for producing houseboys and house girls," using education as the tool. He did not blame anyone for historically bringing this about; the important thing is how to end it.

SPORTS REPORT



ROGER Federer relishing his 16th Grand Slam title

Federer wins 16th Grand Slam

Roger Federer felt awkward for a moment, celebrating his 16th Grand Slam title.

Federer timed his run to perfection at the season's first major, beating fifth-seeded Andy Murray 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (11) in the Sunday night final to collect his fourth Australian Open title.

This time last year,

Federer was sobbing after a five-set loss to Rafael Nadal at Melbourne Park. He'd missed a chance to equal Pete Sampras' record of 14 Grand Slams, compounding an emotional few weeks.

This time, Murray was on the verge of tears after missing a chance to become the first British man since 1936 to win a major.



STEFANO Okaka

Okaka leaves Roma with a parting gift

Roma took advantage of second-placed AC Milan being held 1-1 at home by Livorno to catch up with them in Serie A yesterday by beating basement side Siena 2-1 with the help of a remarkable Stefano Okaka goal.

Okaka, who is expected to join Premier League side Fulham on Monday, back-heeled a cross from fellow substitute Adrian Pit to seal victory in the 88th minute.

"The goal was really satisfying. I wanted to put on a beautiful performance," said Okaka, the Nigerian-born forward.

"I'm going to England to improve myself. This opportunity came up and I couldn't say no."



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