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## Showdown at the Villa:

# Governors: Spare Ogbulafor Jonathan: I won't spare him

By Muhammad S. Shehu & Muideen Olaniyi

THIS country's most powerful political figures stared down at one another at a tension-soaked meeting at the Presidential Villa, Abuja last night when Acting President Goodluck Jonathan suddenly summoned the 28 PDP governors to his residence at sunset, three hours before they held a scheduled meeting of their own.

On Sunday evening, chairman of the PDP governors' caucus Dr. Abubakar

● Court stops PDP NEC

● Party: We were not served

Bukola Saraki had summoned his colleagues to a meeting at the Kwara Governor's Lodge in Asokoro, Abuja for 10pm last night, hours before the start of the long-

stalled PDP National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting scheduled for this morning in Abuja.

However, with most of the governors

already in Abuja late in the afternoon yesterday and holding small meetings around the city, Jonathan's office phoned all of them at about 6pm and asked them to proceed forthwith to the Villa for a meeting with Jonathan.

At the meeting, *Daily Trust* learnt that the governors recovered from the pre-emptive action and, one by one, they begged Jonathan to forgive PDP National Chairman Prince Vincent Ogbulafor, call

**Continued on page 5**

PHOTO: FELIX ONIGBINDE



APPLICANTS seeking employment with the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) attend an interview and aptitude test in Abuja yesterday.



## KATSINA

"Wallahi, Wallahi, duk Nigeria ba gwamnan da ya fi wannan [Shema]"

- HRH Alhaji Abdulmumin Kabir,

Emir of Katsina  
April 19, 2010



# Fika emir urges constitutional role for traditional rulers

From Hamza Idris, Damaturu

EMIR of Fika and chairman of the Yobe State Council of Chiefs, Alhaji Dr. Muhammadu Abali Ibn Muhammadu Idrissa, has called for a constitutional role for traditional rulers in Nigeria, saying that such would provide good governance, security and peaceful co-existence in the country.

The emir made the appeal in Potiskum at the weekend after receiving his first class staff of office from Governor Ibrahim Gaidam at

an occasion witnessed by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation Alhaji Mahmud Yayale Ahmed who represented Acting President Goodluck Jonathan.

"I wish to appeal to appropriate authorities to carve out a constitutional role for traditional rulers in Nigeria. The functions of emirs and chiefs cannot be carried out effectively without constitutional backing," the new emir said.

"Up till 1989, Nigeria had a constitutional role for traditional institutions, it was in the 1999

Constitution that the role was expunged. We therefore call on the executive, the legislature and the entire citizens of Nigeria to support its re-introduction because doing so will strengthen the traditional institutions to perform their functions more effectively," he added.

Other dignitaries at the occasion included Governors Ali Modu Sheriff (Borno), Ibrahim Shekarau (Kano) and Danjuma Goje (Gombe) as well as Minister of Police Affairs Adamu Maina Waziri, the Inspector General

of Police Mr. Ogbonna Onovo, former Director General of the NYSC Yusuf Bomai, former Chief of Army Staff General Alwali Kazir, former Yobe State governor Alhaji Bukar Abba Ibrahim, Senator Ahmed Lawan, national legislators and representatives of the diplomatic corps.

A delegation of over 120 emirs from all parts of the country was led by the Sultan of Sokoto Alhaji Saad Abubakar, Shehu of Borno Alhaji Abubakar Garbai El-Kanemi, Emir of Gombe Alhaji Shehu Abubakar,

Emir of Ilorin Dr Abubakar Sulu Gambari, the Etsu Nupe, emirs of Hadejia, Kontagora, Suleja, Katagum, Dass, Misau and the Tor Tiv, among others.

Governor Ibrahim Gaidam in his address said the state government would support the new emir in the discharge of his duties as the chairman of the state council of chiefs.

The new emir took over from his late father, Alhaji Abali Ibn Muhammadu Idrissa, who died last year.

PIC: KENNEDY EGBONODJE



STUDENTS of Government Senior Secondary School, Garki, Abuja, leaving for home after schools resume from holidays yesterday.

## Onovo orders probe of journalist's death

From Benjamin Auta, Lagos

INSPECTOR General of Police Mr. Ogbona Onovo yesterday ordered an investigation into the death of Mr. Edo Sule Ugbagwu, reporter with The Nation newspaper who was murdered by unknown gunmen Saturday.

Onovo, through the Force Public Relations Officer, Mr. Emmanuel Ojukwu, described the deceased as "our colleague in the criminal system" and ordered that the culprits should be fished out.

While mandating the Lagos State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Marvel Akpoyibo, to thoroughly investigate the matter, he condoled the family of the deceased journalist as he added that the police would leave no stone unturned in the hunt for the culprits.

The late Edo Sule Ugbagwu, who is a judicial correspondent with The Nation Newspaper, was shot dead at his home in Lagos by unknown persons after he returned to meet some people according to reports who were waiting for him at his house.

## Arabic inscription on rock attracts crowds in Jos

From Ahmed Mohammed & Mahmud Lalo, Jos

THE Rikkos area of Jos North Local Government Area of Plateau State was yesterday turned to a tourist point when hundreds of people trooped to the area to see a huge rock that bore an Arabic inscription with "Muhammad" written on it after it cracked as a result of thunder strike on Sunday night.

Our correspondents who visited the area saw people of different ages trooping towards Randar Ruwa, a suburb of Rikkos to look at the whitish inscription.

When our correspondents arrived at the scene, members of the Special Task Force had taken over the place and dispersed the crowd considering the fragile peace in Jos.

## 4 die in collapsed Lagos building

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

FOUR people died early yesterday when a two storey building collapsed on Isopakodowo Street within Kairo market in Oshodi Lagos.

Witnesses said the market building being constructed by the Oshodi Local Council Development Area (LCDA) crumbled at about 7.30 am when traders were opening for the day's business.

Earlier on Sunday, a two storey building collapsed on 78, Smith Street, Lagos Island leaving nine people injured. The building adjacent Massey Chil-

dren Hospital caved in around 5pm, necessitating the state government's decision to demolish another two storey building on the same street today for being defective.

When our reporter visited the Isopakodowo Street in Oshodi at about 2:00pm yesterday, workers from the State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA) the Fire Service, the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) the Police, LASTMA and other agencies were searching for people that might have been trapped.

Folorunsho Ayinde who lived

next to the collapsed building said there was no sign of distress in the building before it collapsed. "We heard a loud bang and within a twinkle of an eye the building collapsed, trapping some people," he said.

The General Manager of LASEMA Dr. Oke Osanyintolu said it appeared people has not understood or were not ready to abide by government's directive that owners of defective buildings should demolish them on their own or call on the government to assist them to do so.

"The state government has directed that owners of defective

buildings should bring it down on their own in their own interest or else they'll lose the property to the government," he said.

He said government rescue agencies came to the scene of the collapsed buildings on time and succeeded in rescuing those trapped, saying government's emergency response had been very effective.

A member of the rescue team from the NSCDC, Ayo ojudu, said among the 12 people rescued from the rubble in Oshodi some died on their way to the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH), Ikeja.

## Bauchi police arrest 206 with weapons

From Muhammad Abubakar, Bauchi

THE Bauchi State police command says it arrested 206 suspects in possession of dangerous weapons around Inkil village on the outskirts of the state capital on Saturday on their way to

Bauchi metropolis.

Addressing newsmen yesterday at the state police command where the recovered weapons were displayed, the command's spokesman, Muhammad Barau, said the recovered weapons included 105 dane guns, 47

knives, 37 cutlasses, 2 bows and a substantial number of arrows.

He told newsmen that the suspects were taken to the Magistrate's Court 2.

Responding to a question that suggested that the weapons might have been planted on the

suspects as they might have been the ones earlier displayed along with other suspects, he denied the accusation explaining that anytime suspects were arrested with weapons they are charged to court along with them to serve as exhibits.

PIC: OLADIPUPO ODUNEWU



A bulldozer pulling down the remains of the building that collapsed at Oshodi market yesterday.

## Jonathan orders probe of Bank PHB MD, lawyer

By Mohammed S. Shehu

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan has instructed security services to investigate Bank PHB Managing Director, Cyril Chukwuma and the bank's counsel, Ajibola Aribisala, over claims by his counsel at the Lagos High Court that his client was threatened by the Acting President to reach an amicable settlement with Zenon Oil President, Femi Otedola over a lawsuit involving Otedola and the bank or risk sack.

Jonathan, in a statement yesterday by his spokesman Ima Niboro said he has directed a thorough investigation into the matter.

It reads: "Our attention has been drawn to the DAILY INDEPENDENT report of Monday, April 26, 2010 with the headline: 'Otedola: Jonathan threatens to sack Bank PHB MD'. This false and outrightly seditious report claimed the Acting President, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, made telephone calls to Bank PHB's MD, Cyril Chukwuma, to withdraw a civil suit against Zenon Oil's Femi Otedola or face sack."

Jonathan said the report is the handiwork of mischief makers and urged "all well meaning citizens to ignore this foolish story, which is so outlandish that only a newspaper with an ax to grind could have published it. There is no need to point out that it would be ridiculous for the President of Nigeria, whether acting or substantive, to place a call to some bank CEO he doesn't know from Adam to discuss issues between the bank and its client."

He claimed that the report was part of the widely acknowledged psychological warfare being waged against the presidency.

"Anyone that has a case to answer with the anti-corruption agencies should do so without dragging Dr. Jonathan into it. He will not interfere with their work, and there shall be no sacred cows!" the statement said.

## Court stops PDP NEC meeting

By Adelanwa Bamgboye

THE 19 aggrieved members of the PDP suspended by the party yesterday obtained an order from an Abuja High Court sitting in Gudu restraining the party from going ahead with its planned National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting today until the determination of a suit filed against it by the applicants.

The plaintiffs/applicants, led by former Senate President Ken

Nnamani, also got the trial Judge, Justice Abubakar Talba, to grant all the reliefs sought.

The applicants secured an interim injunction restraining the respondents whether by themselves, their agents, servants or the National Working Committee as well as the National Executive Committee of the party from acting on the decision suspending the applicants from the party pending the determination of the originating motion it filed

yesterday.

Other respondents on the list were, the PDP, Prince Vincent Ogbulafor, Alhaji Abubakar Kawu Baraje and Prof. Rufai Ahmed Alkali, as the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th respondents respectively.

The 19 members are seeking to quash the decision of the party leadership suspending them over their alleged anti-party activities.

The litigants are Sen Ken Nnamani, Hon. Aminu Masari, Chief

Onyema Ugochukwu, Sen Adolufus Nwabara, Chief Sunny Iroche, Sen Emmanuel Ahooni, Sen Sylvanus Ngele, Sen. Ireahichukwu Ararume, Chief Achike Udenwa, Chief Rochas Okorocho, Chief Chris Ekpenyong, Chief Abiye Sekibo, Hon. Auwal Tukur, Hon. Bawa Bwari, Prof. A. B. C. Nwosu, Dr Peter Odili, Dr Kelechi Igwe and Chief Bernard Eze.

Further hearing in the matter has been adjourned till May 10, 2010.

## PDP govts vow to continue with today's NEC

By Mohammed S. Shehu

GOVERNORS of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) have vowed to go ahead with the party's planned National Executive Committee meeting today.

The governors dismissed the court injunction restraining the party holding the meeting, saying that those who got the court injunction were not in the first place members of the party.

The governors said this after a meeting that lasted three hours with Acting President Goodluck

Jonathan yesterday at his Aguda House residence.

Speaking at the end of the meeting, Governor Bukola Saraki of Kwara State said the meeting discussed how they would work together in moving the party forward.

He also said the meeting was held to disabuse the mind of the public about reported rift between the governors and the acting president over plans to remove the PDP chairman Vincent Ogbulafor.

"We are here for over three

hours and you can see that we are all feeling very good over the outcome of the meeting. Both we the governors and the acting president will also work with the leadership of the party as we are very close now to primaries and elections to focus and move the party forward," he said.

On the possibility of NEC meeting holding today, Gov. Saraki said, "I think so, there will be."

When reminded that some of the party members got court injunction to stop the NEC meeting, he said, "Have you checked

to find out if they are members of the party?"

Governor Ikedi Ohakim of Imo State simply said, "We are not aware of any such court injunction."

Niger State Governor Muazu Babangida Aliyu also said, "We are not aware of that. To me I understand that some individuals have done something wrong and there is need for some measure of discipline. So if there is any crack in the party we will mend it in a constitutional way because we have rules and constitutions governing the PDP"

## PDP rules out automatic tickets for members

By Maideen Olaniji

THE ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) yesterday insisted that no automatic ticket would be given to aspiring members of the party in the 2011 general elections.

PDP Deputy National Chairman Dr Bello Haliru Mohammed said this when a delegation of Conference of PDP Secretaries from the Northern States paid a solidarity visit to the party leadership in Abuja.

He said, "This party has vouched to introduce due process. That is why we resist any talk about automatic ticket for anybody and we stand by it. But undemocratic forces who believe they can act like they used to act under garrison politics will not have what they want under this leadership. They are out there plan-

ning mischief, we are ready for them."

He said the National Working Committee of the PDP has made it clear that it will continue to pursue the policy of due process and internal democracy as well as create level playing field for all members who have ambitions at any level.

Mohammed said nothing would shake the party leadership as they have the backing of its governors and all members across all levels.

"We are glad we have the support of our governors, we have the support of national and state legislators, we have the support of the hierarchy in the states, all state chairmen, and secretaries have come here to show support," he added.

Meanwhile, the PDP has described Senator Ken Nnamani, Alhaji Aminu Bello Masari

and others who are members of PDP Reform Forum as rebels.

He said the party had proper channels for anybody who wanted to introduce more reforms to the party to follow, adding that the suspension of Senator Ken Nnamani, Alhaji Aminu Bello Masari and others was not a punishment.

Mohammed added: "However there is one area we are not going to compromise, the area of discipline. There must be party discipline for this party to move forward."

Earlier, Chairman of the Secretaries Conference and PDP Secretary for Niger State Alhaji Aminu Yusuf expressed support for the Ogbulafor-led NWC, adding that the party's secretaries from the Northern states backed Ogbulafor's reinforcement of the commitment to respect zoning arrangement in 2011.



ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan



PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE

FROM left: Director General, National Orientation Agency (NOA) Alhaji Idi Farouk, Executive Director, Accounts and Finance Ali Kagu Lawal and Director, Political and Civil Education, Chukwudum Anene, during the unveiling of action plan of NOA for 2011 general elections in Abuja, yesterday.

## EFCC: Ibori flees Nigeria

By Boco Edet

THE Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) said it was unable to trace former Delta state governor James Ibori as he had sneaked out of Escravos Creek with the aid of militants guarding him.

A source in EFCC who did not want to be named said, "We do not know where he is currently. We suspect he has fled the country. This is a familiar tactic with Ibori. As it is he is not likely expected back in the country for a year."

Asked whether the anti-graft agency had considered placing the wanted ex-governor on a watch list, the source said, "He has already fled the country. It is too late to take that action."

But Ibori's media aide, Tony Eluemunor, denied claims that the ex-governor had fled the country and said such act would amount to playing into the hands of his detractors.

Eluemunor said, "He did not run away. There is going to be an election next year and his persecutors know he is to play a critical role that is why they are doing all they can to remove him from the picture."

He maintained that there was a court order restraining the EFCC or police from arresting his client and in the interest of the rule of law it was expedient for both agencies to obey the order.

Ibori is wanted over an investigation into some allegations of official corruption and money laundering levelled against him.

Some prominent elders in Delta State had petitioned EFCC alleging that shares in Oceanic Bank belonging to the Delta State government was used by Ibori to guarantee over N44bn loan issued by Intercontinental Bank Plc to his personal company, Ascot Offshore Nigeria Limited.

# 12 Jigawa-bound traders die in Makurdi-Lafia road crash

TWELVE traders including a driver who left Makurdi in Benue State in a Jigawa State-bound mini bus died in an accident when the bus had a head-on collision with a lorry along the Makurdi-Lafia road yesterday. Only one passenger, a teenager, survived the accident.

The bus attempted to overtake another vehicle at a sharp bend in Yelwata in Guma Local Government Area of Benue State when it met the speeding lorry at about 9:30am as the rain drizzled. The mini bus belongs to the Nigerian Legion in Jigawa State.

Registration number of the bus could not be ascertained as the vehicle was lying in shreds, but the lorry carried the registration number SA 354 CRC (Katsina).

The lorry dragged the bus backwards for over 20 metres, and pushed it into drainage. The bodies of the casualties

were mutilated in the process, with some losing parts of their bodies.

The driver of the lorry and all passengers on board were unscathed. The teenager who survived in the mini bus also came out unscathed but could not speak due to shock.

The traders took off from the Wadata market in Makurdi where they made bulk purchases of tomatoes and pepper, *Daily Trust* learnt.

When *Daily Trust* visited the scene at about 10am yesterday, Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) officials from Nasarawa State led by Mr. S. Dauda had just arrived and joined the horde of concerned youths to retrieve the trapped bodies from the mangled bus which was under the lorry.

Witnesses at the scene including villagers and passengers

of the lorry said the driver of the mini bus tried to overtake at a sharp bend. A farmer, Hyacinth Kagher, said the lorry dragged the bus backward for long before both vehicles ended up in the drainage.

FRSC officials from Benue State could not make it to the accident scene which falls under their area of jurisdiction because their vehicle broke down, *Daily Trust* learnt. But those of the Nasarawa State sector command, who brought an ambulance, conveyed the bodies to the mortuary at the Federal Medical Centre (FMC) in Makurdi.

Sector commander of the FRSC in Nasarawa State, Mrs. Susan Ajenge, confirmed the accident and deaths in a telephone chat with *Daily Trust*. She also confirmed that the accident scene falls under Benue jurisdiction.

## Police find abducted NNPC official

By Misbahu Bashir

THE police in Abuja said they have found the official of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Engineer Usman Mohammed, who was abducted in Abuja two days ago.

Mohammed, a General Manager, Material Management Department of the NNPC, was whisked away from his Abuja residence on Saturday and his kidnappers demanded N100 million ransom for his release.

He was forced out of his house by the abductors after a brief struggle.

The Police Public Rela-

tions Officer in Abuja SP Moshood Jimoh said Mohammed was found in Life Camp, Abuja, yesterday at a house where he was hidden.

"Police cordoned off the area and arrested about 20 people living around the house. They are helping the investigators and those who have no case to answer will be released," he said.

The police said no money was paid to the kidnapers before the NNPC official's whereabouts was revealed and none of them was arrested. The police said Mohammed is hale and hearty and has since re-united with his family.

## Court asked to restrain Jonathan as 'Acting President'

By Adelanwa Bamgboye

A Federal High Court in Abuja has been asked to restrain Acting President Goodluck Jonathan from parading himself as Acting President and Commander-in-chief of Nigeria or carrying out any functions attached to the office of the president.

Plaintiff in the suit, Nkemjika Nkemjika, a social critic and public commentator, is also seeking for a declaration that the National Assembly acted beyond its constitutional powers in declaring Jonathan Acting President and Commander-in-Chief.

Those joined as defendants are the National Assembly (1st defendant), Senate President (2nd defendant), Speaker of the House of Reps (3rd defendant), and clerk of the National Assembly (4th defendant).

Co-defendants are the Attorney General of the Federation

(5th defendant), and Goodluck Ebele Jonathan (6th defendant)

The thirteen paragraph affidavit said the President Umaru Musa Yar'adua left Nigeria for medical treatment in Saudi Arabia without transmitting the required written declaration to the National Assembly as prescribed by Section 145 of the 1999 constitution.

Nkemjika said the presence of Yar'adua within the shores of Nigeria has created a situation of having two Commanders-in-Chief which is not healthy for the country's democracy.

He said the doctrine of necessity relied upon by the National Assembly to declare Jonathan as acting president was not applicable and asked court to determine whether the action did not subvert the provisions of Sections 144 and 145 of the 1999 CFRN.

No date has been fixed yet for hearing in the suit.

## Nigeria demands fair trial for Abdulmutallab

By Turaki A. Hassan

THE Federal Government has called on the United States of America to give Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, who is facing terror charges in the U.S., a fair trial. Minister of Foreign Affairs

Odein Ajugomobia said this while speaking to newsmen at the National Assembly yesterday. He said the foreign affairs ministry has appealed to US government to treat Farouk according to the rule of law. twenty-three-year-old Farouk allegedly tried to blow up a US passenger plane heading for Detroit on Dec. 25 last year.

PHOTO: FELIX ONIGBINDE



MINISTER of Foreign Affairs Henry Ajumogobia (left) with Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs, Umaru Bature during an interactive meeting in Abuja yesterday.

## Turai's brother sacked in NNPC changes

By Hamisu Muhammad & Mohammed Shehu

A major shakeup of the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation and the Department of Petroleum Resources was announced by new Petroleum Minister Mrs. Diezani Allison-Maduekwe yesterday, with the Managing Director of the Port Harcourt Refinery Alhaji Sulaiman Bashir Abdullahi being the only top officer who was sacked outright. Alhaji Sulaiman is a full brother of First Lady Hajia Turai Yar'adua. While all the other officers affected by the changes were moved to other places, Abdullahi was replaced at his old post but was not assigned to a new one.

The other changes announced by the Ministry of the Petroleum Resources involved the Director of the Department of Petroleum Studies [DPR], Mr Billy Agha, who moves to NNPC headquarters as Group Executive Director [GED], Engineering and Technical Services. The former GED, Engineering and Technical Services Mr. F. Abbiye Suku is now GED Corporate Services, while Alhaji Attahiru Yusuf, the current GED, Corporate Services is now GED, Commercial and Investment (C&I).

Alhaji Aminu Babakusa, the current GED, Commercial and Investment is now NNPC's GED, Special Services. Also, all the GED's who have been in acting capacity over the past 2 years have been confirmed.

Other changes made yesterday include Mr Andrew Obaje, Deputy Director of DPR who becomes its substantive Director. Mr Samuel Okeke, Acting Group General Manager (Ag GGM), New Business Development Division (NBDD) moves to Pipelines and Products Marketing Company (PPMC) as substantive Managing Director to replace Mr Reginald Stanley, who moves to head NBDD.

Mr K. Olaosebikan, Managing Director of Nigerian Petroleum Development Company (NPDC), moves to NNPC Corporate HQ as Group General Manager (GGM), National Frontier on Exploration Services (NFES) under the GED Exploration and Production. Mr Olaosebikan will be replaced by Mr A. Membre, the current Executive Director Operations of NPDC. Mr Membre becomes the substantive MD of NPDC. Mr M. A. Fiddi has been named GGM NAPIMS to replace Dr Ayo Balogun. Mr Anthony Ogbuigwe has been confirmed as the substantive Managing Director of PHRC.

Meanwhile, an International Trading Company (ITCO)

is now being created to replace the activities of the HYSO, NAPOIL, and Duke Oil with Dr Ayo Balogun of the National Petroleum Investment Management Services (NAPIMS) now moving to head the ITCO as its first Managing Director.

Hyson (Nigeria) Limited in Affiliation with Calson (BERMUDA) Limited was a joint venture between NNPC and Vitol S.A. Swiss International Crude Oil and Products Trading Company. Hyson/Calson was in business to market Nigeria's excess petroleum products in the West and Central African sub regions and elsewhere. NAPOIL is 51 percent owned by NNPC and 49% owned by Trafigura Beheer BV. NAPOIL was incorporated in Bermuda as a private limited liability company under a Joint Venture agreement entered into by NNPC on the 5th of December 1991. Duke Oil Services (UK) Limited was also the subsidiary of the NNPC aimed at launching the corporation into the international trading arena whereby additional profit could be made from crude oil and petroleum products sales in the spot market.

No reasons were given for the changes, but the statement said the appointments and changes take immediate effect.

## Governors: Spare Ogbulafor

Continued from page 1

call off his planned prosecution by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) next Monday over alleged corrupt deeds committed ten years ago and allow him to continue in office at least until the next party mini-convention.

Several of them wondered why ICPC should reopen a case against Ogbulafor at this time for offences allegedly committed ten years ago, when he was Minister of Special Duties (Economic Matters) in the Obasanjo regime. They observed that since then, Ogbulafor had been PDP National Secretary, gubernatorial aspirant in Abia State and now Party Chairman for two years, without the case ever being mentioned. After several governors had spoken in the same vein, a source at the

meeting said Jonathan delivered a rambling and incoherent reply, and he completely sidestepped the governors' pleas on behalf of Ogbulafor. He also dismissed suggestions that Ogbulafor was being witch-hunted for political reasons.

Next, the governors brought up the issue of the PDP Reform Forum, the pro-Jonathan group that has been campaigning for Ogbulafor's sack and 19 of whose prominent leaders were suspended from the party by the PDP's National Working Committee [NWC] last week. The governors accused the group of causing disunity and disaffection in the party and urged Jonathan to call them to order.

In his reply, the Acting President made an about-turn from his assurances to the governors last week that he had nothing to do with the group, a stance which

encouraged the governors to publicly attack the Forum and also encouraged the NWC to suspend its members. Last night however, Jonathan said the Forum's members were his friends and that he accepted their request to pay him a courtesy call despite their suspension from the PDP. The Acting President also condemned their suspension from the PDP, saying it was unjustified. He called for their reinstatement.

The governors then brought up the issue of the injunction granted to the PDP Reform Forum by an Abuja High Court yesterday seeking to stop today's NEC meeting, and they requested for his support to try to discharge the injunction. In his reply, Jonathan expressed non-challance at the injunction and refused to support moves to discharge it. He specifically said he allowed the NEC meeting to go ahead because of a story in

*Daily Trust* of Tuesday last week, which reported that he had serially stalled NEC meetings three times in five weeks. He said if a court now stopped the meeting, he could not be blamed for stalling it. A top party source told *Daily Trust* last night that the sum total of Dr. Jonathan's actions and those of his supporters in the PDP Reform Forum conclusively proved that he is determined to spare no punches in his desire to overturn the PDP's presidential zoning formula so that he can contest the 2011 elections.

According to the source, Jonathan had endorsed the rebel PDP Reform Forum's proposal to use the ICPC case to remove Ogbulafor and replace him with Prince Bernard Eze, a staunch Obasanjo man who briefly served as PDP national secretary in 2005, after then secretary Ogbulafor was ousted alongside Chairman Chief

Audu Ogbeh.

The source said Jonathan's game plan is that the new party chairman would dissolve all state executive committees of the party and replace them with handpicked, pro-Jonathan caretaker committees that would wrest control of the party from the powerful governors' caucus. Afterwards, the source said, the party would change its zoning formula and allow Jonathan to contest for the party's presidential ticket.

Last night's meeting at the Villa ended inconclusively with no agreement on any of the issues. The 28 governors then drove to the Kwara Lodge to start their own meeting at about 9.30pm last night. Twenty two of the governors attended the meeting at the Kwara Lodge which ended at 11pm. They refused to make any statement, saying they had already spoken at the Presidential Villa.

## FG to complete Kano Ring Road

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

MINISTER of Works Senator Sanusi Daggash has expressed the Federal Government's commitment towards ensuring the speedy completion of the second phase of the Kano Ring Road eastern bypass.

Speaking to newsmen during an inspection tour of the Kano-Maiduguri Road and the Kano Ring Road, Daggash said he was in the state to inspect federal roads, especially the alignment of the proposed Kano Ring Road.

He said the Ring Road was a major project, not because of the investment in terms of money, but because of its significance to the state in the area of decongestion.

"Passing through Kano is a nightmare because of the

heavy traffic and the growing number of Okada riders is also worrisome," he said.

While calling on the state government to work out a compensation arrangement for settlers in the area, Daggash said the area was marked at a time when there was no building in the area.

He maintained that the project would not be successful without the assistance of the state government.

At the Government House, Governor Shekarau, who was represented by his deputy, Engineer Abdullahi Tijjani Gwarzo, said the state government would look into the matter.

He said he would also visit the minister to discuss issues that would bring development to the state.



FROM left: National Coordinator, National Malaria Control Programme, Dr. Folake Ademola-Majekodunmi, Chairman, House Committee on Media and Public Affairs, Eyibo Ezeme and Manager, Public Health Development, Idris Ibrahim during the roll back malaria programme in Abuja, yesterday.

# Police raise squads on extortion

From Abdullahi Tasiu Abubakar, Yola

THE Nigeria Police Force is setting up special squads throughout the country to check incessant cases of extortion by its officers.

Deputy Inspector General of Police Olusegun Efuntayo, who disclosed this during the working tour of Adamawa State police command in Yola yesterday, said anyone caught in the act would be summarily dismissed.

He said all the police commands in the country "must set up X-squad to check extortion on the highway and police stations.

"The Inspector General of Police Monitoring Unit has been reorganised and are always on the road to check the incessant

cases of extortion on the highways and at the police stations. Any officer (caught) will be summarily dismissed," he said.

DIG Efuntayo also announced new crime prevention strategies to reduce crime rate in the country.

He said all beats must be effectively covered 24 hours daily, and that police visibility must be maintained in the metropolis and on the highways.

Similarly, he said, police will constantly raid criminal hideouts, and that "all illegal arms in circulation must be mopped".

He also ordered all commands to commence in-house training on crisis management to avert a repeat of Boko Haram and Jos crisis.

"All command's commissioners of police are to ensure that

all the intelligence gathering apparatus of the state are well coordinated," he added.

DIG Efuntayo warned against extrajudicial killings, misuse of firearms, maltreatment of suspects and all acts of incivility to the members of the public.

Earlier, the Adamawa State Police Commissioner Bukar Maina had told him that the crime rate in the state had reduced drastically due to the command's adoption of good strategies and the commitment of the police in the state.

However, he said, the command is facing the constraints of inadequate manpower, logistics and dilapidated barracks that had further been ravaged by windstorm which blew off most roofs police houses and rendered many policemen homeless this month.

## Borno PDP meeting ends in rowdy session

From Isa Umar Gusau, Maiduguri

A meeting organised by leaders of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Borno State to brief other party members and supporters of the outcome of their efforts to reconcile their differences ended in a rowdy session. This followed a protest by a female party member and House of Representatives aspirant, claiming that beside Hajiya Inna Ciroma, the National Women Leader of the party, women were completely prevented from speaking at the meeting.

Hajiya Hauwa Hassan Kida, aspirant for Askira-Uba/Hawul federal constitu-

ency in 2011 accused the stakeholders of discriminating against women. She said the party stakeholders failed to implement the 30 percent gender affirmative action in favour of women which the PDP prescribes because throughout the proceedings no woman was allowed to speak. She was supported by members of the audience, who began to protest, causing the meeting to end abruptly.

Prior to that, Senator Daggash, who is the leader of the party in the state because he occupies the highest office as minister, noted that the aggrieved members of the party including himself, the 2003 and 2007 governorship can-

didate of the party, Kashim Imam, Senator Abba Aji, Amb. Pindar and others had agreed to bury their differences in the interest of the party ahead of 2011.

Daggash said the stakeholders had series of reconciliation meetings in Abuja and that they were now united and stronger than before. He promised to support the party and anyone who emerges as the governorship candidate. The meeting had in attendance virtually all leaders of the PDP in the state including the former Minister of Interior Dr Shettima Mustapha, Ambassador Saidu Pindar, former Governor Mohammed Goni and Hajiya Inna Ciroma among others.

## Court awards N22m to Sallafyya sect in Niger

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

SALLAFIYYA, an Islamic sect in Niger State has been awarded a N22m compensation as damages against the Bida Emirate Council by the Federal High Court in Minna.

The ruling of the court is sequel to a suit which was filed by members of the sect on the alleged attack by persons believed to be from the emirate council in Bida in April 2009. The sect had asked the court to grant it compensation for what it described as the wanton destruction of property and illegal detention of members of the sect in a cell not recognized by law.

The case which was presided over by Justice Sabiu Yahuza, ordered the Bida Emirate Council

to pay N22m to the sect. Trouble started between the emirate council and the Sallafyya sect after a disagreement on its mode of worship.

The judge in delivering his judgement, directed that N2m should be paid to members of the sect for damages and that N20m should be paid as compensation for the destruction of their property.

Justice Yahuza maintained that the detention cell, where members of the Islamic sect were detained in Bida was illegal, adding that it was not recognised by law. Counsel to the Bida Emirate Council, Mohammed Rabi, who was represented by Onoche Odu, indicated a possible appeal against the ruling after due consultations with the emirate council.

## World Malaria Day: Oshiomhole warns health workers against sabotage

From Vincent Egunyanga, Benin

AS Edo State joined the rest of the world to mark World Malaria Day yesterday, Governor Adams Oshiomhole warned health workers in the state against sabotaging the government's efforts towards fighting the disease.

The governor, who gave the warning at a celebration to mark the day also commissioned new ambulances and flagged-off the distribution of insecticides, treated mosquito nets and anti-malaria drugs. He urged the health workers to ensure that the drugs and other items are distributed accordingly.

# Job applicants barricade INEC over interview

By Abbas Jimoh

APPLICANTS who applied for employment into the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) yesterday staged a peaceful protest at the headquarters of the electoral body over their inability to write the exams set by the commission.

The applicants were billed to write the examination at the Women Development Centre in Abuja yesterday for employment into the vacant positions recently advertised by INEC.

Spokesman of the group who refused to give his name said they decided to trek over four kilometres from the interview centre to the INEC office to register their dis-

pleasure over the manner the interview process was handled.

"The hall provided for the event could barely contain 600 people while over 10,000 candidates were on hand for the exercise, a situation that made some of the candidates to forcefully seize some of the question papers and ran away," he said.

But Deputy Secretary (Administration) of the commission, Emmanuel Ademola Johnson, who addressed the angry applicants, said the question papers which were set for the botched examination has been withdrawn and another one would be set.

"Before the end of this week, you will be invited again for the exams, we are going to provide two big halls that

will accommodate a good number of people at a time, we appealed to the candidates to cooperate with INEC by maintaining simple instructions," Johnson said.

He said the commission scheduled the exams in three categories at the Women Development Centre amongst those who applied for registration officers, admin officers and executive officers accordingly. "When we came into the hall, all categories of applicants were all in the hall and we had intended taking the test in batches. We announced that we would start with the registration officers and hence asked that those of the admin and executive to kindly left the hall and wait for their turn. But the candidates refused and stayed back feeling we wanted to dislodge them."

PIX: FELIX ONIGBINDE



CROSS section of applicants during their interview and aptitude test in Abuja on Monday.



SOME of the applicants waiting for their examination



SOME of the applicants struggling to submit their scripts after writing the examination



AN applicant who collapsed being taken to the hospital

## Court demands N10bn bond to release Ugbane's travel documents

By Atika Balal & Boco Edet

CHAIRMAN, Senate Committee on Power Senator Nicholas Yahaya Ugbane will have to provide a N10 billion bond from a reputable bank in Nigeria to an Abuja Federal High Court if his travel documents are to be released to him.

Ugbane is being prosecuted by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) alongside his House of Representatives counterpart Godwin Ndudi Elumelu, Hon. Jibo Mohammed, Engr. Samuel Ibi Gekpe and Dr. Abdullahi Aliyu over a Rural Electrification Agency (REA) scam amounting to N5.2 billion.

Others are Simon Kirdi Nanle, Engr. Lawrence Kayode Orekoya, Abdulsamad Garba Jahun and Barrister Kayode Oyedeji.

Justice Adebukunola Banjoko said that such conditions are to ensure Ugbane returns to the court for his trial, adding that he has to be guaranteed by a counsel who will give the court same assurance.

Ugbane, through his counsel Sunday Ameh (SAN), had filed an application requesting for his travel documents to enable him travel to Virginia, United States to treat an eye defect which needed urgent medical attention.

Though the Prosecuting Counsel

did not object, he insisted that the application should be approved only on conditions that will enable the accused return for trial.

The court had last year thrown out an application by Ugbane seeking to quash the charges against him when had argued that the prosecution did not have sufficient evidence against him.

The nine accused persons have been separated in fresh charges. While Ugbane, Elumelu and Hon. Mohammed are facing a 62 count charge, the other six accused persons are jointly facing a 68 count charge.

The court has fixed May 10 for hearing.

## NBC urged to ensure better pay for media workers

By Atika Balal

THE lowest paid worker at any media organization should earn not less than N80, 000 while staff on Level 17 should earn nothing less than N652, 000 monthly, the committee set up to review the wages and salaries of government media workers has recommended. The committee also recommended 300% increase in basic salary, 40% hazard allowance, 30% wardrobe allowance, 25% communication allowance and 35% hospitality allowance.

Chairman of the committee Abubakar Jijiwa said the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) should withdraw the licenses of any media organisation that does not comply with the rules and regulations of the regulatory body.

Jijiwa said while submitting the committee's report yesterday to the Information and Communications Minister that the NBC should not just lay emphasis on the provision of adequate equipments before issuance of licenses but should ensure that routine checks are carried out so as to ascertain staff welfare particularly in private media houses.

# Jang charges LG chairmen, traditional rulers on peace

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

THE Governor of Plateau State Jonah David Jang has challenged local government chairmen and traditional rulers in the state on ensuring peace and security in their domains.

Jang made the call yesterday at

the swearing in ceremony of the new Chairman of Mikang Local Government Area following his victory at the election petition tribunal.

"I wish to re-echo my challenge to local government chairmen and traditional rulers on ensuring peace and security in their domains. They

are to sensitize their peoples on peaceful co-existence, vigilance and against taking the law into their hands", he said.

"I appeal to us all to restore our commitment to peace as well as build confidence in one another. Together, Plateau State will rise again", he added.

Jang said his government had so far released in two tranches, a total of N5.34 billion from the Paris Club Debt Relief Fund to the third tier of government, adding that this represents 70 per cent of the total of N7.4 billion. "Let me use this opportunity to warn that this money is not for over head but for

the execution of projects", he said.

While congratulating Mr Daniel Kungmi, Jang reminded the chairman of his administration's zero tolerance for corruption and urged relations and associates of the chairman not to put pressure on him that may lead him to indulge in corrupt practices.

## Dangerous curves may remain on Akwanga-Lafia road

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

SOME dangerous curves may remain even after completion of the on going realignment of the curve-ridden Akwanga-Lafia High Way in Nasarawa State, an investigation by Daily Trust has shown.

ENL, the contractor handling the project, is constructing a new road round the dangerous curves without trying to straighten them.

At four different places, the contractor is running a new road round the old curves, indicating that upon completion, the objective may fail.

The project was awarded to eliminate the many dangerous curves along the road. The curves have been the major cause of many accidents on the road, claiming many lives.

The Director of Federal High Ways in the Ministry of Works, Housing and urban Development, Engineer S.K. Halliru, who reacted to the observation during a chat with Daily Trust on Sunday, said he would prefer the contractor is allowed to complete the job before comments are passed. He said the contractor was handed the design made by the ministry with specific instructions to follow.

Nasarawa State governor, Aliyu Akwe Doma had received the Senator Adefemi Kila-led Senate Committee on Works last year, commending the Federal Government for awarding the contract to realign the dangerous portions of the road. Doma had expressed optimism that when completed, the project would end what he called "the death trap that has caused serious damage to lives and property".

**The death trap that has caused serious damage to lives and property**



FROM left: Minister of FCT, Senator Bala Muhammed, Minister of State for Finance, Kemi Babalola, and Chairman, Joint Tax Board, Mrs Ifueko Omoigui during the 122nd Joint Tax Board meeting in Abuja yesterday.

## Jonathan did not order execution of condemned prisoners – Minister

From Ismail Mudashir & Maryam Ahmadu-Suka, Kaduna

MINISTER of Interior, retired Captain Emmanuel Iheanacho yesterday in Kaduna denied reports that Acting President Dr. Goodluck Jonathan had directed that all condemned inmates in prisons across the country be executed as part of efforts to decongest the prisons.

Tension has been mounting in prisons across the country following the speculation that Jonathan had during the National Economic Council meeting directed that all condemned prisoners be executed in order to decongest the prisons. Speaking during a visit to

the Kaduna State Governor, the minister said the Acting President had at no time directed that the condemned inmates be executed.

"There have been misconceptions that instruction has been given that all prisoners should be killed. This is not the case at all. It just happened that we need to look out for administrative measures to reduce congestion in prisons. The acting president had at no time instructed any one that the prisons be decongested through the execution of condemned prisoners," he said.

The minister who was speaking shortly after inspecting the Kaduna prisons where seven inmates died last week as a result

of an attempted jail break, said during the meeting on prisons that was attended by all stakeholders in the country, the governors were only reminded of their constitutional powers as regards management of prisons in their respective states. He advocated for a right administrative mechanism to speed up the judicial process in the country, saying, "We are going to meet with the Minister of Justice to work on the judges on the need to discharge their mandates on time in order to reduce the number of people in prisons," he said.

On the attempted jail break in Kaduna, he said the number of inmates at the prison outweighed

the capacity of the prison. According to him, the carrying capacity of the prison was 570 inmates but that the number of inmates at the prison presently was over 800.

Kaduna State Governor Alhaji Mohammed Namadi Sambo said the attempted jail break took them by surprise, describing the incident as unfortunate.

The governor who was represented by his deputy, Mr. Patrick Ibrahim Yakowa, said the population of inmates at the prison had outgrown the facilities on ground. He reiterated the readiness of the state government to partner with the Federal Government to find a lasting solution to the problems of the prisons.

## Storm kills one in Plateau village

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

ONE person died in a heavy storm at the weekend in Barkin Ladi Local Government Area of Plateau State, the member representing Barkin Ladi constituency

in the state House of Assembly, Gyang Fulani, has said.

Fulani who spoke with our correspondent on telephone yesterday said the storm also destroyed property including residential houses and two schools in

the area.

According to Fulani who is also the Chief Whip in the state assembly, the storm also destroyed electric poles.

"I have personally written to the National Emergency Manage-

ment Agency (NEMA) as well as the state government to come to the aid of the victims", he said.

Witnesses said the storm lasted for over an hour and many people in the area are now homeless.

# Minister: FG is keen on workers' welfare

By Francis Okeke

THE Federal Government yesterday tied the planned salary increase for federal civil servants to Acting President Goodluck Jonathan's passion for the improved welfare of government workers.

Minister of Labour Chief Emeka Wogu stated this during a meeting with the Joint Public Service Negotiating Committee (JPSNC) where he said he had received a mandate to negotiate

on behalf of the government from the acting president.

A press statement signed by the Special Assistant on Media to the minister, Emmanuel Aziken, said Chief Wogu vowed to make honesty and openness his watchword during his tenure.

"As you may recall, the reason negotiation stalled and my ministry had to intervene was because of the alleged absence of a mandate from the government side. I am happy to report to you now that I have made adequate consul-

tations and the Acting President Goodluck Jonathan in line with his concern for workers welfare has given the mandate to recommence negotiations."

"The committee should therefore recommence negotiation immediately. I shall monitor progress on the negotiation to ensure that the interests of all concerned parties are protected and that all issues are resolved amicably."

Earlier, the Acting Chairman of the Trade Union side of the coun-

cil, Comrade Olaitan, said "We are happy that we are going back to the negotiation table and we are also happy that the mandate which the other Ministers lacked has now been obtained and we want to believe that that mandate would now be used judiciously and honestly."

He gave the workers' determination to resolve the dispute before the end of the month as earlier stated to enable an announcement of the results of the negotiation at the May Day celebrations.

## Mark condoles with Goje over brother's death

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

SENATE President David Mark has commiserated with Gombe State Governor Mohammed Danjuma Goje over the demise of his younger brother, Alhaji Babayo Goje.

In a condolence message to the governor and people of Gombe State, Mark described the late Babayo as a complete gentleman, successful businessman and an outstanding philanthropist who was selfless most especially to the needy.

A statement by the Chief Press Secretary to the Senate President, Mr. Paul Mumeh said, "The death of Babayo was an act of Almighty God. God gives and takes at will. Death is an inevitable end and a route we all must pass through."



PIC: AFOLABI SOTUNDE

DIRECTOR General of NESREA Dr. Ngeri Benebo (2nd left), Justice G.O. Olatere Olagbegi, Chief Justice of Ondo State and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment Abiodun Olorunfemi at a national workshop on environment laws, regulations and standard in Abuja, yesterday.

## Minister asks ETF to ensure fund utilisation

By Maureen Onochie

MINISTER of Education Prof. Ruqayyatu Rufai has challenged the management of Education Trust Fund (ETF) to ensure that those who receive fund from the board give an account on how the fund was used.

The minister gave this challenge when she paid a familiarization visit

to the agency yesterday in Abuja.

She said that "the guidelines of the fund which has to be followed must be followed."

Prof. Ruqayyatu also commended the board on the activities and achievements it has made in the country so far as she also called on other agencies to emulate them. "ETF's presence in almost all areas in the country, even the rural areas,

has given boost to the quality of education that Nigeria requires. It is a household name," she disclosed.

On his part, the chairman, board of trustees ETF, Dr. Musa Babayo said it has been the desire of the fund to ensure that the Nigerian education sector ranks amongst the best in the world, adding that the present management has refocused to meet the aspirations of Nigerians.

Presenting a detailed report of the activities of the fund from 1999-2009 to the minister, Executive Secretary of the fund Prof. Yakubu Mahmud said in 2008 and 2009 N50 million was given to all federal and state universities, N25 million was given to all federal and state polytechnics while N15 million was given to all federal and state colleges of education.

## Envoy: W/Bank rated Sierra Leone high on reform

By Aisha Umar Agaie

SIERRA Leonean High Commissioner Henry O. Macauley said the World Bank has recognised Sierra Leone as one of the best reformers in 2010, with an investment protection policy second to South Africa in the continent.

Macauley said this at a press briefing at the embassy in Abuja over the weekend.

He said the World Bank's assessment in the Ibrahim index for good governance is well known for its tough anti-corruption laws, ensuring protection of interests, exemplary macroeconomic management.

He said this has led to increasing economic stability (growth rate of 5.5% in 2009) which was endorsed by George Soros as being ready for business.

He said "Our relationship with Nigeria has waxed stronger and stronger and we have nearly all the Nigerian banks in Sierra Leone, Insurance Companies and various other businesses doing very well."

"The exchange of academia, dating back to the beginnings of Fourah Bay College, continues, the activities of trade, religion and culture which brought us together

thousands of years ago still continues and technical cooperation between the two countries is on a justifiable rise," he added.

Macauley said the inter-marriages and social bonding between Nigerians and Sierra Leoneans are perpetual and there is a very bright future for the historical relationship and pledged to ensure a deepening and strengthening of ties.

## NOA unveils plan ahead 2011 polls

By Adie Vanessa Offiong & Romoke W. Ahmad

THE National Orientation Agency (NOA) has unveiled its action plan aimed at promoting programme-focused and issue-based campaigns during the 2011 general elections.

Director General of the agency Alhaji Idi M. Farouk said this yesterday while speaking with journalists at a sensitisation briefing in Abuja.

He said the NOA commissioned research into the conduct of the last three elections and discovered that there was a lack of programme content in the campaigns of political parties and their candidates.

Farouk said it is in this context that the agency's Action Plan for 2011 general election was developed to provide relevant information for the people to perform their civic duties during the 2011 election and encourage more women and youth to actively participate in the electoral process.

He also said that the plan seeks to enhance the quality of democratic engagement between the political parties and the electorate as well as facilitate the role of other electoral institutions, including the independent National Electoral Commission, within the framework of NOA's mandate.

While commending the media for providing unrestricted space for Nigerians to freely canvass for and receive democratic ideas, the DG however observed that political reporting by the media tends to focus more on personalities than on programmes.

## CSOs to visit Jos over spate of violence

By Ruby Leo

FORTY-TWO Nigerian and international civil society organizations have selected highly placed personalities to conduct a solidarity and assessment mission to Jos, Plateau State from 28-29 April 2010.

The purpose of the visit according to a statement issued in Abuja was to commiserate with affected persons and communities and to consult with both public authorities and the leadership of all affected communities on how to end the recurring crises and associated violence and contribute to peace building in the city.

While in Jos, the mission will hold consultations with representatives of all affected communities and victims, government, security, traditional and community institutions, non-governmental organisations and humanitarian agencies.

Since the beginning of 2008, over 1,500 persons have reportedly been killed in the Jos crises, thousands more have been injured, tens of thousands have been displaced and property valued at hundreds of millions destroyed.

The statement said that the civil society mission into Jos was non-partisan, non-sectarian and independent.

# Gaidam wants council of traditional rulers

From Hamza Idris, Damaturu

YOBE State Governor Ibrahim Gaidam has reiterated his call for a National Council of Traditional Rulers in the country.

Gaidam, who spoke at the weekend in Potiskum during the presentation of the first class staff of office to the Emir of Fika and Chairman of the Yobe Coun-

cil of Chiefs Alhaji Muhammadu Abali Ibn Muhammadu Idrissa said the state government had in its submission to the National Assembly on the review of the 1999 Constitution recommended the establishment of a council of traditional rulers, which according to him would strengthen the institution.

He said it should also be estab-

lished in all the 36 states of the federation and the FCT.

"Such a body would be charged with the responsibility of advising government on traditional customs and providing inputs for developmental plans from grassroots perspectives, mediating in religious, boundary and communal disputes among others.

If the traditional institution is

properly repositioned, its contributions to good governance and communal peace would be more effective," he said.

Gaidam said his administration attached a great importance to peace and harmony, cooperation and mutual understanding among rural dwellers.

"That is why we adopted an all-inclusive and all-embracing

approach to governance in order to give our people a sense of belonging.

However, this concern for peaceful co-existence is qualified by our uncompromising commitment to the rule of law and zero tolerance to wilful acts of provocation, threat to peace and challenge to constitutional authority", he added.



PIC: HIR JOSEPH

Nasarawa State Governor Aliyu Akwe Doma (left) with former governor of the state, Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu, after Governor Doma was conferred with the Honorary Doctor of Letters by the University of Jos at the weekend.

## EFCC to quiz Lagos State officials

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

FOLLOWING the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission's (EFCC) arrest and subsequent detention of the Lagos State major contractor, Tunji Olowosafe last Friday, the commission is now making arrangement to invite top government officials in the state for questioning.

Our correspondent gathered that the EFCC did not only detain the contractor, but also ransacked his house and carted away vital documents, which the anti-graft agency considered valuable to its investigation of fraud allegations against Governor Babatunde Fashola and his predecessor, Sen. Bola Tinubu. It would be recalled that a group called the True Face of Lagos last week stormed the EFCC headquarters to present a letter containing fraud charges

against Governor Fashola to the commission's boss, Mrs. Farida Waziri, who promised to look into the matter. Our correspondent also gathered that those to be invited for questioning include, the Deputy Governor Mrs. Sarah Sosan, who also oversees the Ministry of Education, the Commissioner for Health Dr. Jide Idris and his Finance counterpart, Prince Rotimi Oyekan. They are to be interrogated over alleged contract scam running into billions of naira involving their ministries.

A source disclosed that Olowosafe, a close associate of Governor Babatunde Fashola and former Governor Bola Tinubu had given useful information to the commission since his arrest last week Friday. Olowosafe is the boss of Deux Projects Ltd and it is alleged that Fashola's men use the company as a front for fraudulent activities.

## Why Rivers embarks on ambitious projects - Amaechi

From Muhammad Bello, Port Harcourt

THE Rivers State government says its ambitious road projects and other developmental projects in the coastal communities of the state like land reclamation are geared towards fast-tracking economic growth in the areas.

Governor Chibuike Amaechi said this while conducting the management of the Nigeria Television Authority (NTA) in

Port Harcourt round the various projects embarked upon by the state government.

Amaechi said the people of Opobo, Ikuru and other riverine communities in Andoni Local Government Area would soon access their communities by road.

On the redistribution of the reclaimed lands in Opobo Kingdom, Governor Amaechi said the communities would be left to decide on how the land should be re-distributed,

saying the state government would not interfere.

He added that his administration would introduce special allowances for teachers, who teach in the rural areas to encourage them.

Governor Amaechi also said that the bills for the proposed Primary Healthcare Board and Social Welfare Tax, when passed into law would institutionalize and sustain the projects/programmes beyond his administration.

## Danjani faults AC's call for Lamido's resignation

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

THE call by the Action Congress (AC) for the resignation of Governor Sule Lamido of Jigawa State is baseless, Special Assistant to Governor Lamido on Education, Umar Danjani Hadejia, has said. Speaking with our correspondent yesterday in Kano, Danjani Hadejia said the AC as a party lacked the credibility to make such a call.

"The AC cannot defend democracy because the party does not believe in democratic ideals. The party is only a place where aggrieved and politicians pitch their tents," he said.

He said the Action Congress in Jigawa did not have any stake in the state politics since they do not occupy any political position.

## ABC rewards workers

From John Kennedy Uzoma, Owerri

THE Associated Bus Company Plc (ABC) has rewarded 350 drivers and attendants working for it for exhibiting high level of professionalism. Presenting the awards in Owerri yesterday, the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of ABC Plc Mr. Frank Nneji said the drivers were not involved in any accident in 2009.

Nneji said the event which is held annually was very important because it provided the management an opportunity to interact with the drivers, who spend a greater part of their time on the road.

He said ABC had contributed to the growth and development of the transportation industry in Nigeria. While congratulating the awardees, Nneji urged them to be cautious whenever they are on the wheels, saying the company's watchword is safety.

## Rivers test-runs new gas turbine

From Muhammad Bello, Port Harcourt

THE Rivers State government has commenced the test-run of its 100 Megawatts Gas Turbine Power Plant situated at the state's Independent Power Project (IPP) site in Trans Amadi, Port Harcourt.

Governor Amaechi, who said this while on an inspection tour of projects in the state. He however, noted that of the 100mw of electricity generated by the new station, the PHCN was only able to evacuate 18mw leaving 82 megawatts idle. The governor said it was sad that at a time when most homes had no power supply, power was being wasted.

# Online Reactions

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



## SENATE President David Mark Mark assures on Jos crises culprits

SAME sing song every day. Daily, we wake up to hear gory tales of lives lost endlessly in Jos and every day, we are assured that something will be done. We are tired. Apart from recommendations upon recommendations by various investigative panels, we hear nothing else. All these killings would be averted if the government is sincere and willing to live up to its word.

**Abubakar Tanimu Umar**  
[whatlegacy@yahoo.com](mailto:whatlegacy@yahoo.com)

We have heard stories like this that culprits will be brought to book. The same happened during the Boko Haram incident. He is just saying so for the sake of it-actions speak louder than words.

**Muhammed D Muhammed**  
[danasabs@yahoo.com](mailto:danasabs@yahoo.com)



**FORMER President Ibrahim Babangida**

## IBB: The age of his ideas

I am a bit disappointed with the write up. There were very little facts to support the argument.

**Mohammed Bello**  
[muhdhat3@yahoo.com](mailto:muhdhat3@yahoo.com)

This analysis is fine. Let IBB and his handlers respond. By and large IBB has at least shown us what he has to offer. We still await our Buhari and Atiku to come out with their own ideas for us to make informed decision as to which of them should we throw our weights behind.

Thank you Aremu.  
**Yakub Isa**  
[yakub67@yahoo.com](mailto:yakub67@yahoo.com)

## HCS: Federal workers to get pay hike

THIS is a welcome development. For the government to hike salaries and review the minimum wage to the benefit of the civil servants as part of a move to improve the lives of majority of Nigerians is good.

**Bamanga Nuhu**  
[bamanga1@hotmail.com](mailto:bamanga1@hotmail.com)

That is good news. It is said that those who work should be adequately compensated for the sweat of their labour. Nigeria's civil servants are one of the most poorly paid workers in the world. This is not good enough considering the fact that we are one of the foremost oil producing nations in the

world. Salary enhancement will go a long way to reduce brain drain in the country and will make public service more attractive and also it can curb the incidence of corruption. The issue of dichotomy in salary has been a serious issue for a long time now. The government should therefore consider a uniform salary structure for all public service in Nigeria. It is appalling that public servants under the same environment with the same qualifications are paid differently for a similar job. These workers go to the same market.

The government should also consider the payment of the

remaining balance of monetization allowance since the budget has been approved now.

**Abdullahi Ibrahim**  
[giriabdul@yahoo.com](mailto:giriabdul@yahoo.com)

This is definitely cheering news for federal workers as this has been long overdue. To encourage productivity and to reduce the high rate of corruption in the civil service, the need for increase in salary has become a necessity.

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

This is a welcome development indeed but my advice is

that if there is increase in salary, there should also be price control because no matter how salary is increased if there is no price control nothing is going to be achieved and conditions will remain the same.

**Abubakar Chika Maru**  
[abubakarsuleiman2009@yahoo.com](mailto:abubakarsuleiman2009@yahoo.com)

This increase in salary is a great development for the civil service sector but let the FCSC try to control the inflation rate that may come as a result of the salary increase.

**Yahaya Ibn Idris**  
[ibnidrees@gmail.com](mailto:ibnidrees@gmail.com)

## Monguno to Jonathan: Abide by PDP zoning or quit

I think Elder Shetima Monguno is speaking the minds of many right thinking Nigerians. As long as Dr. Jonathan remains in the PDP, he should have no option than to abide by its principles and/or internal arrangement of zoning power to the North. Otherwise, he should quit the party and relinquish his position in order to contest the presidency under the party of his choice. Under the Nigerian constitution, he has the right to contest under any of the over 50 registered political parties, but as a gentle man I think it will be better for him to finished the remaining term and step aside or if he so wishes remain as Vice President in the next dispensation which will be better for him. If the former Dep. Gov. of Benue state could go back to his ward after his tenure and contested for a Local Government Councillorship, there is no harm if Jonathan also, after his tenure, should re-contest for vice president. It is an honorable way to serve your country.

**Lamara Garba Azare**  
[lamaragarba@yahoo.com](mailto:lamaragarba@yahoo.com)

Shettima Monguno asks that Jonathan should quit PDP if he feels like contesting for the Presidency. He lists his reasons why the polity will be heated if Jonathan ventures to contest against the North. This is political blackmail. The world did not collapse when against the run of the PDP decisions, Rimi contested. When people who have benefited immensely from the wealth of all of us decide that they reserve the power to lord it over us, it becomes insulting. This is a travesty of justice Monguno. It is also not constitutional. It is PDP's internal arrangement which violates the Nigerian constitution and so should be jettisoned. Many will go with Jonathan if only he can perform within the short time he has.

**Merem Emeribe**



**ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan**

[emeokoro@yahoo.com](mailto:emeokoro@yahoo.com)

Please, the PDP 'gentlemen agreement' was a child of necessity. It is not in our constitution and PDP is not Nigeria. Everyone should be given the opportunity to contest elections in Nigeria in whatever party he seems fit. When Yar'adua went for PDP primaries, weren't there people from other parts of the country who contested with him? We should grow away from this rotational arrangement. Why are they not agitating for same in the states where it is more ideal? That is why people are seeking for states creation. We don't want any 'gentlemen's agreement'; what we want is free and fair elections.

**Aji Isuwa Suleiman**  
[suleimanaji@yahoo.com](mailto:suleimanaji@yahoo.com)

Mr. Shettima, let me remind you that every Nigerian citizen has equal right: the right to vote and be voted for. Therefore it will be correct for me to say that if an important and sensitive issue such as the Zoning arrangement in your party is to be honored as a gentleman's agreement, then it must be written in your constitution. I will be glad if you can quote for clarification purpose the section of the PDP's constitution that state this. In absence of this, please sir stop beating about the bush and allow the Acting President to

concentrate in his job for now.

**Anthony**  
[anthonyhifashion@hotmail.com](mailto:anthonyhifashion@hotmail.com)

The words of elders are words of wisdom. Please Mr. Acting President, take Alh. Monguno's advise and allow your party's zoning arrangement to prevail.

**Aminu Abdullahi**  
[aminu.abdullah@yahoo.com](mailto:aminu.abdullah@yahoo.com)

I believe the Acting President is a gentleman and above all he is not ambitious. He is a very smart and educated politician who deals justly in all his dealings. We know he will wait for his time patiently. He, being a party loyalist, will surely respect PDP's zoning arrangement. The Acting President must not listen to detractors and sycophants. May Allah guide the him to do justice as he presides over the affairs of our beloved Country Nigeria.

**Joseph Lar**  
[jeosephlar@yahoo.com](mailto:jeosephlar@yahoo.com)

Monguno, please allow us to vote for the candidate of our choice.

**Lawal Adamu Usman**  
[mrla300@gmail.com](mailto:mrla300@gmail.com)

Are we really sure that the zoning system is helping us as a nation? We had better concentrate on credibility and reliability which I am sure we all know are our major problems.

**Bala A. M. Egiyaya**  
[egeyayaadee@yahoo.com](mailto:egeyayaadee@yahoo.com)

## FG to make second payment of monetization

THIS is cheering news. Civil servants have been patiently waiting for when the money will be paid. The update and verification should be done as quickly as possible.

**Abdullahi Ibrahim**  
[giriabdul@yahoo.com](mailto:giriabdul@yahoo.com)

It is good to hear that government would soon pay one of its outstanding debts to workers. The press release however lacks details. When is the payment expected?

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

## Ogbulafor: Why we suspended Masari, Nnamani, others

NNAMANI, Masari, Udenwa etc, were all suspended for alleged indiscipline, and may even get outright dismissal from the party. Yet the same party is now welcoming Atiku Abubakar and at the same time allowing Ogbulafor to remain its chair despite the corruption charges against him. They were branded as indisciplined because they called for the sacking of Ogbulafor, yet for allegedly defrauding the country to the tune of over 140 million naira while a Minister, he is regarded as disciplined and patriotic. Please PDP, change tactics and style in order to gain our trust again in 2011. The party leadership ought to have been given to a more credible person pending when the chairman clears his name from the alleged financial scam he allegedly committed about 9 years ago.

**Lamara Garba Azare**  
[lamaragarba@yahoo.com](mailto:lamaragarba@yahoo.com)

The reason given by Prince Vincent Ogbulafor for the suspension of the PDP reform group only goes to show the character of people that run "the largest political party in Africa." PDP as a party lacks internal democracy and for the ongoing electoral reforms to succeed, PDP being the ruling party must reform itself and not suspending members that are out to reform the party for better.

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

“ By Muhammadu Buhari

## Youths, corrupt politicians and the future of Nigeria

In the past, students' bodies were visionary and focused. They were largely limited to the main institution's student body and other academic or interest groups. Today, many of our tertiary schools are dotted with students' unions of almost every village and ethnic groupings – even the cultist have a space!

While I agree that there is virtue in diversity in as much as it promotes understanding and free choice, the multiplicity of the negative effects of these has diminished the vibrancy and focus of our students today. Instead of discussing issues and promoting national interest, many of our students are rapidly becoming willing tools in the hands of corrupt and failed elite in promoting ethno/religious differences and regional divides.

But before anybody blames you, it is better to ask whether you understand the nature of the destructive forces within Nigerian society today especially in the North; how these forces are shaping the lives of everyone, including you our future leaders. In my speech during the Nigerian 50th anniversary celebration organized by the Gamji Members Association a fortnight ago here in

**Do you have some new and refreshing ideas to offer to the society?**

Katuna; I disagreed that *Nigeria is a failed state; rather, I said, this country has suffered from extreme bad government on account of corruption, incompetence and bad faith*. In other words the failure is from the elite. We have done so much injustice to the system that we are daily watching with no concern how our various institutions and infrastructures are falling apart one by one.

Our students, whom I may describe as young elite are, of course, all too aware of leadership failure. I remember making a similar observation in September 2003 when I addressed the Conference of Nigerian Students on Defence of Democracy and the Arewa Youth Development Foundation at Bayero University Kano. Lamenting on the weakening state of our students, I said then: *“with too many things to worry about, such as lecturers' strikes, underfunding of universities and other tertiary institutions, the social conscience of students gets deadened”*. *“...students' campuses became alienated from the larger society and even more dangerous – as veritable havens of cultism, robberies, examination malpractices, drugs and assorted immoralities. The campus of ideas, the campus that cared about society and the campus that used to lead or contribute to the struggle for justice wherever it was waged suddenly disappears”*. Yes, while political leaders rig themselves into office and consequently pilfer the

public treasury, it is not hard to imagine why students could not cheat in examination and engage themselves in other immoralities.

As I said earlier, students cannot wholly be blamed for all this. Nor should all students be tainted with this brush. You are not alone in the league of this failure. When leaders fail, one does not expect the led to fare better. However, since students are leaders of tomorrow we cannot totally lose hope for the future.

The nation will continue to expect you to rise up to the patriotic challenge to correct the system. In this regard, therefore, there is no contradiction in the emergence of National Union of Northern Nigerian Students in spite of many other unions. But while I am very happy you have appreciated the importance of unity, understanding and peaceful coexistence among our people, I am constrained to ask these questions. Do you have some new and refreshing ideas to offer to the society?

Do you have the independent and patriotic mind to pursue this difficult task or are you simply itching to extract recognition or attention in order to join the fray of divisiveness and polarization? I am sure you are not.

As you may be aware the Northern States community is made up of nearly 300 different ethnic groups with few numbers of religious faiths – Christianity and Islam being the major ones. Both the World Bank and Central Bank of Nigeria have certified the North as the worst in the country in terms of poverty. The high levels of corruption by the states and local government councils in the north have ensured frustration and dissatisfaction among the people. As if these are not enough, leaders who have stolen public money have turned to divert the attention of the people against these crimes by inciting the people against each other, either in the churches, mosques, cultural meetings or political gatherings. The resulting effect is that people who have hitherto coexisted peacefully are today suspicious of one another. People no longer respect the values of one another.

Seeds of discord and hatred are planted into their minds which often resulted into clashes that led to loss of lives and property. While these diversions go on, looters of the public treasury and their families are smiling to the banks enjoying the best of life in and out of the country.

In March 2002, I had the privilege of attending the convention of the National Association of Nigerian Students here at Arewa House; where the union launched a renaissance of student unionism in Nigerian Universities. My address to them was as relevant then as to you today; and I quote: *“Initiating such type of activity, no doubt, is a worthy pursuit for Nigerian students. It is perhaps the first and best way to make yourselves aware of your responsibility to yourselves and society; and awareness is half of responsibility discharged”*.

To be concluded tomorrow.  
General Buhari made these remarks at the inauguration of National Union of Northern Nigerian Students in Kaduna on Friday.

“ By Saka Raji Audu

## About that Kano's unusual GRA

I read a two-page feature titled *Kano's unusual GRA* by one Lawan Danjuma Adamu in the *Daily Trust* of Wednesday, April 21, 2010, pages 14 and 15. After going through the piece, one could only conclude that the essence of such lopsided piece is basically to portray Kano GRA and its environment in bad light for reason best known to him. Here is why.

The previous day, the *Daily Trust* had in its front page of April 20, 2010, photo of an unusual scene captioned, *“Street beggars scavenging at a refuse dump in GRA Kano yesterday”*. It is unusual because such scenes are a common sight of beggars, not only in GRA but almost in all the cities of Nigeria. So, it is not a newsworthy event. It is not quite long ago documentary news was aired on *British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)*, which portrayed the city of Lagos as a slum. But where interest is involved, any type of photograph can be conspicuously displayed on the front page to achieve certain predetermined result. Methinks that *Daily Trust* lens should have also captured that of Lagos City and perhaps elsewhere as well.

However, the aim of such unusual front page photograph of the *Daily Trust* was exposed in the so called star feature of April 21, where the writer ignored the great achievements recorded in the area of road construction and rehabilitation in Kano GRAs, and chose instead to hammer on certain vested interest of Kano GRA.

The fact that the Bompai residents

**This is wonderful! It means that all the governments that administered Kano in the last 20 years, only the Shekarau-led administration did something marvellous**

in Nassarawa GRA opposed house numbering levy of N2, 000 per house does not make Kano GRA unusual. After all, it is not only Bompai residents that make up Kano GRA. While government has the responsibility to maintain its GRA, the writer should not have negated the role of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) by private GRA residents on their private streets and roads.

It is interesting that the writer enumerated in his feature the importance of tax to the activities of government. It is widely assumed that only the well-to-do in the society usually reside in Government Reserved Area (GRA). It is however expected that the residents of such areas or streets mentioned in the article should be in position to assist the government to take care of their residential houses and streets without necessarily waiting for government to always come

to their aid. This is why most poor people are not found in GRA because it takes a lot to be a member of such reserved area.

Unfortunately however, in most part of the North, the idea of Private Public Partnership cum Corporate Social Responsibility is not given much priority attention it requires. This is chiefly because, perhaps, people in this part of the community seem to so much rely on what the government alone can provide for them, which in most cases might not be possible.

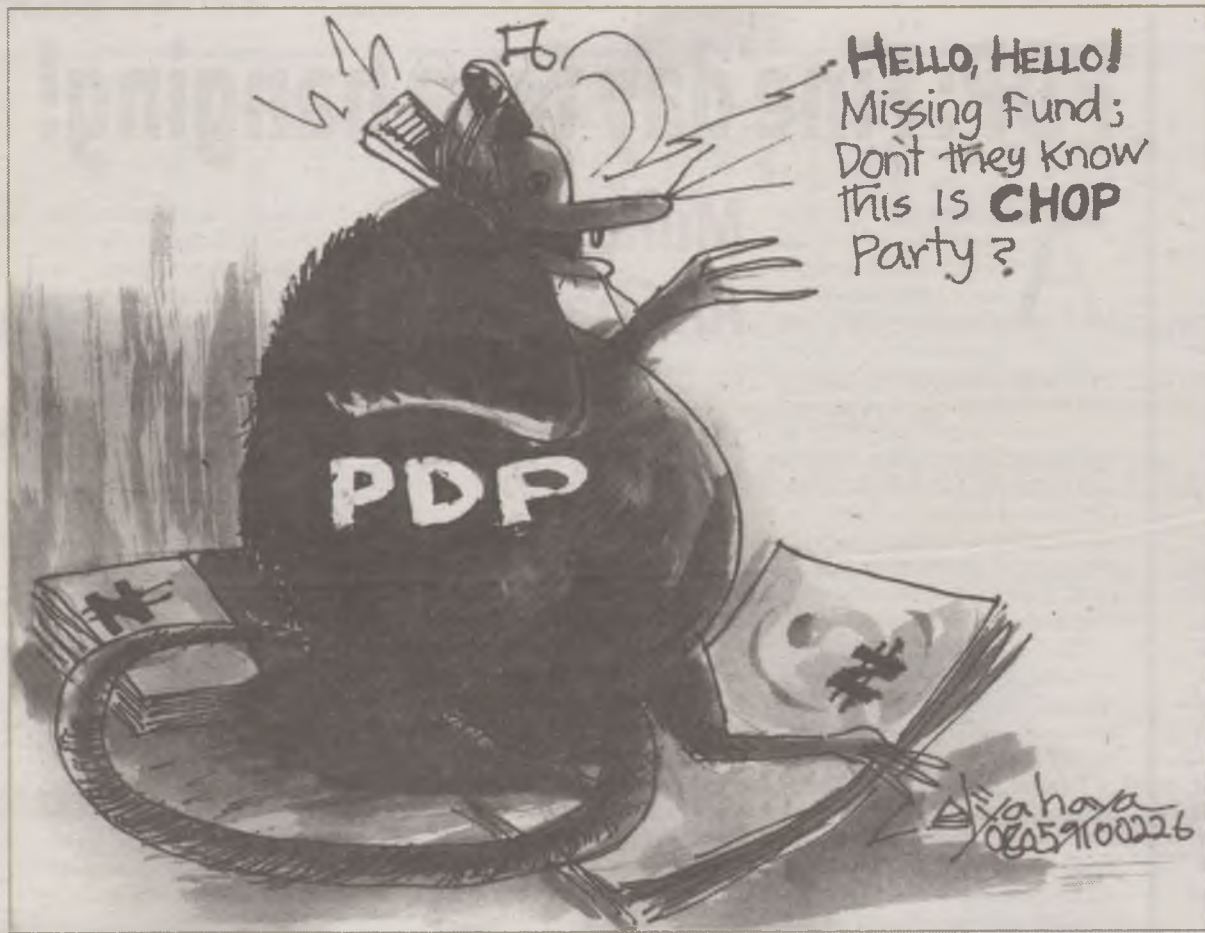
It is sad to note that Danjuma's piece on Kano GRA only focused on private residential roads/streets where the bourgeoisie lives, but the writer failed woefully to highlight and mention the tremendous improvements on the public roads and streets as Ibrahim Taiwo Road, State Road, BUK Road, Zoo Road, France Road and many other roads in GRA Kano suburbs that now become mini-London, courtesy of the Governor Ibrahim Shekarau's administration.

No investigative star feature can stand the test of time if it is lopsided. Whatever was the aim and purpose of Danjuma's feature on Kano's so called unusual GRA, the fact is that he stated it in his article that, *“the last major road repair in 20 years, investigation has revealed, was the one done two years ago on Durbin – Katsina road by the State Government”*. This is wonderful! It means that all the governments that administered Kano in the last 20 years, only the Shekarau-led administration did something marvellous, *ma sha'allahu!* Going by this revelation, who does he now want to blame, and for what purpose?

As for the issue of refuse and dustbin scavengers, it gladdens the heart that the state's House of Assembly is already looking into the matter. Hitherto, we have seen many new trucks purchase for refuse disposal. Effort should be made by the authorities concern to see to it that with those trucks, all hands must be on deck by every citizen in the state to ensure that refuse are properly disposed and quickly too.

As we can see, there is therefore nothing 'unusual' in Danjuma's *Kano's unusual GRA*. No matter the interests involved, as an informed journalist, he should have called a spade a spade by enlightening our big men in GRA the importance of CSR, which they have always shied away from, only to expect government to always do every thing for them, knowing full well that the common people especially the under privileged are more in need of government's assistance. It is hoped that one day the GRA residents will not cry of government not sweeping their rooms. Most worrisome is that by not talking about the other major areas of achievements of government, the article portrayed an unfortunate lack of balance and fairness.

Audu wrote from Kano (sakaraj@yahoo.com)



## Your Letters

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

### Ex-governors and perpetual injunctions

**W**hat has Nigeria turned into? It is shameful that those who looted the treasury when they were in office are allowed to be walking the streets freely with the aid of the judiciary. The judiciary seems corruptible and it is unfortunate and the masses are now looking up to the media for rescue.

If ex-governor of Rivers State exploit loopholes to secure a perpetual injunction in a matter

that is very clear on the crimes he committed, what would one say of Delta State governor whose cousin, an ex-governor of the state he aided to transfer his case from Kaduna to Asaba where a contracted judge was on hand to grant an injunction on clear case of corruption against the former governor?

It was recently reported that a high chief in Edo State had taken delivery of a US\$48million private jet which was received by him, his two sons including a former governor of the state, who had a plea-bargain for the corruption charges levelled against him by the EFCC. He has not even met the conditions for plea-bargain he entered into.

We have former governors of Abia State, who is even plan-

ning to run as a vice presidential candidate, and a host of others having their cases delayed by the judiciary. This action portrays the judiciary as an abettor of a corrupt society.

I feel the judiciary should bury its head in shame, so also for those corrupt former government officials (elected or appointed). Some sitting governors, definitely those out of office, would account for their corrupt practices, one way or another some day. Those of them who are in the habit of arranging for awards and taking full page pictorial and television advertisements propagating such should stop vomiting their ill-gotten wealth at the feet of the masses.

**Alhaji Mutum Bello, 1 Bello Close, Bukuru, Plateau State** ([bellomutum@gmail.com](mailto:bellomutum@gmail.com))

## Text us on 08 131 8000 30

### What deal with Obama?

WHAT made Nigeria qualify for de-listing of our name from group of nations of interest to the US? With Boko Haram, Kala Kalto, Jos crisis and, Niger Delta militants, Ebonyi Communal crisis still fresh and alive; I hope acting president did not make any trade off with Obama during his recent visit there.

**OJONUGWA Thomas,**  
08028552631.

### Firm but fair

FARIDA Waziri, we Nigerians are supporting and praying for you, but don't be selective in your fight against corruption; prosecute Ibori's colleagues too, almost all the former governors committed similar offence. We know you are equal to the task and God will surely help and protect you.

**MRS FARIDA Shu'aib,**  
08083636008.

### Sincerity as key

THE ACF and allied organisations must be sincere in their agenda of emancipating the north and country at large. What belief system or ideology do our leaders have to provoke good followership? You can't implement something you don't believe in.

**A.K. Babajoe, Kaduna,**  
08028595864.

### Civil servants' salary increment

IT will be a wise for the FG to increase civil servants' salary, but a wiser course of action would be to create salary scheme for the jobless.

**SULAIMAN Aliyu, Yaba, Lagos State,**  
08061617077.

### Welcome back, IBB

IT has been a long wait. I know

you are now positively rebranded for the task ahead, come 2011.

**MAHMOOD M, Minna,**  
08069830221.

### Him again!

PASTOR Bakare, I support your stand that IBB must apologize to Nigerians on a lot of issues. In any case, we have seen what he can do; what more can he offer? Nothing, if you asked me; except more pain and regrets.

**SENIOR Anthony, 08063181939.**

### Divided house?

SO a 'Northern CAN' is alleging marginalisation. Those people in it should be reminded that there is only one CAN in Nigeria, and it is headed by His Grace, Arch Bishop Onaiyekan. When did Elder Dogo balkanize it with a Northern faction?

**08064949495.**



By Dipo Dosumu

## The Mark in Gaddafi's 'madness'

**T**he labelling of Col Muammar Gaddafi by the Senate President as a mad man, in reaction to the latter's call for division of Nigeria into a Muslim North and a Christian South, leaves much to be desired; it was uncalled for. The "honourable" law-maker ought to have either reacted more maturely or should have not reacted at all. This is an unfortunate confirmation that mad people are seen by our leaders as outcasts, rather than as mentally-challenged people who should, ideally, be rehabilitated.

While I am not a supporter of Gaddafi's opinions, it must not be forgotten that we are in a global village, where happenings in the remotest of places are beamed to the whole world. I remember vividly while in the primary school, decades ago, one of my teachers used to rebuke erratic students in Yoruba, "Gaddafi - o o o ni se" (May you never become a Gaddafi).

It is noteworthy that Gaddafi had since modified his prescription for resolution of Nigerian ethno-religious crises by suggesting a break-up of Nigeria along ethnic lines rather than religious lines earlier postulated - a confirmation of having received and acted on the feedback from the public opinion on his original postulation.

How many of our leaders, past and present, govern based on public opinion? Do I say boldly then that madness is situated in our leaders, rather than the imagined enemies of this country? Did we not have one who framed his political rival up for treasonable felony? Was it not at the same trial a justice of the highest court in the land said his hands were "tied"?

Did we not have a leader who had planned to make a broadcast that there was no basis for the continued existence of Nigeria, only to be hailed later to go on with one Nigeria? Was he not the same one that said Nigeria's problem was not lack of money but how to spend it?

Were we not "blessed" with a leader who did everything with immediate effect, including the hasty retirements in the civil service which sounded its death-knell since there was no longer the cherished job security? What do we say about that leader, in his first coming, whose will it was not to lead, and also warned that the best candidate in a presidential election needed not win?

What do we make of that leader who was sworn-in on the basis of having enough votes in two-thirds of a state, rather than a whole state, and who subsequently recorded a landslide/moon-slide victory years later despite the austerity measures? What do we make of his lieutenant who said widespread poverty could not be substantiated until Nigerians started picking from the dustbin?

What manner of a disciplined leader would execute human beings based on laws/decrees that were not in existence as at the time the offence was committed? What sort of leader would acknowledge being an evil genius and a "Messi-less" dribbler of yesteryears, rolled into one and still tell Nigerians he wanted to continue from where he stopped? What manner of leader would be so uninterested in unearthing what killed a prominent journalist citizen, or rejoice in banning, unbanning, postponing and finally annulling the process of return to civil rule? How on earth could someone annul in one breath and in another, plan to contest, with the unique selling point of having conducted a free and fair election in this country?

Was it not in this country that we had the interim government nonsense, led by someone who neither staged a coup nor was voted in? Was he not supplanted by the dark-goggled one, whom the musicians and youths earnestly "asked" for, after the historic endorsement by that prominent *Awoist* and the other remaining four fingers of a leprous hand? Shall we talk about the leader who freed a convict and allowed an election winner to die in detention?

What shall we say about the crusader of third-termism, the apostle of do-or-die politics, whose daughter-in-law was not off-limit in his queer incestuous behaviour? How could we have expected true electoral reforms from the chief beneficiary of a self-admitted electoral heist? What kind of leader would find it easier to attend conference on nuclear issues some continents away but would not find time to visit victims of continual ethnic warfare in the neighbouring state?

How much more of madness can a country take when a fellow senator of the Federal Republic publicly marries an under-aged, or when militants successfully repel attempts by law-enforcement agents to arrest the James "Bond" of our time? What manner of a minister is Michael "Power" whose judicial interpretations is legendary, including governance from anywhere and by any device, including BlackBerry?

Dosumu wrote from Lagos ([newnuge1@gmail.com](mailto:newnuge1@gmail.com))

# DAILY TRUST

## EDITORIAL

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## Ibori and the law: Stop the charade

**T**he Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) declared ex-governor James Onanefe Ibori wanted a couple of weeks ago. Mr Ibori is wanted to answer to charges of alleged misdemeanour while he was in office as Governor of Delta State. The EFCC gave him April 17 to honour its invitation or risk arrest. But rather than perform his civic responsibility by surrendering himself to the EFCC, Ibori first sought to dictate the terms for doing so by demanding that he be questioned at Government House Asaba. With the benefit of experience, the EFCC sensibly rejected the suggestion. Subsequently, Ibori went to court to prevent his arrest; but the EFCC equally went to court and secured a counter-order supporting its quest to carry out its constitutional duty.

On the strength of the EFCC order, police authorities withdrew Ibori's security detail prelude to his arrest. When EFCC officials turned up at Ibori's residence in Oghara, the ex-governor's country home in Delta State, they met stiff resistance mounted by an armed militia allegedly contracted by Mr Ibori. A police reinforcement led by a deputy inspector-general drafted to the area was attacked at a road block mounted by persons that the authorities have not identified. This is the second time the arrest of a former governor would be foiled by hoodlums, the first being that of former Sokoto State governor, Attahiru Bafarawa.

The Ibori's case is particularly worrisome. It is the duty of every citizen to respect the law. Where the citizen happens to be a former governor, that duty is doubly required. Mr Ibori may have issues with the law or with certain agencies of the government responsible for law enforcement; but when he is required by law to report himself to any of the agencies, his first act is to obey.

**H**e can later raise objections; there are several avenues in law for him to air those objections. But to keep placing hurdles in the way of the law, he risks crossing the fine line of becoming a fugitive from justice. A nation trying to shake off its image as a country ravaged by graft cannot allow such shenanigans to stand. As a former governor and chief security officer of a state, Mr Ibori is not setting a good example for the millions of people he once ruled over. If this antic is not brought to a speedy conclusion, it is the notion of the rule of law that will suffer. How then can we claim to apply that principle in the nation's fight against graft and the abuse of office?

The law provides safeguards for all those who are either accused or suspected of any wrongdoing to be presumed innocent until the contrary is proved. Our laws guarantee the rights of individuals undergoing investigation; and our courts have been forthright in enforcing such rights in the past. There is no evidence that they have trampled on those rights or neglected to enforce them.

**T**hat Ibori chose to surround himself with militia in order to stay above the law is a very bad example from a former chief executive of a state, because it place the lives of the so-called militia and the entire Oghara citizenry in harm's way had the police opted to enforce the law willy-nilly.

Mr Ibori, with his status as a former governor, should respect constituted authority and the rule of law by turning himself in without any further delay. That is the only way to clear his name and redeem his image and save the image of his country. He should remember that leadership means setting good examples. He should not jeopardize the life of the citizens he has surrounded himself with and should remember that no man is stronger than the state. On the other hand, the state must enforce the law, regardless of what individuals do to sidetrack it. The back-and-forth that has characterized the case of Ibori is a charade that must stop.

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## PDP: Fine day for a hanging!

### Muhammad Al-Ghazali

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top job himself a term earlier than he previously contemplated.

At that point of course, Atiku was nowhere near the damaged goods he seems presently. By 2003, when Obasanjo had just earned his 'first degree' in political affairs, Atiku was already a grandmaster of the game. Years of tutelage under the late Shehu Musa Yar'adua, did him no harm. He knew where the levers of power were in the party system. It was a measure of the hold he had over the governors who controlled a majority of the voting delegates that a whole Obasanjo - messianic delusions, pride and all-had to go on bent knees to Atiku to

**A**s incredible as it may seem, the PDP, which we all love to hate today, once composed of the most honourable men and women in the land. In 1999 the party found its rhythm from the quality of members of the G-38, composed of the most reputable gentlemen in the land at the time. They included the unapologetically principled late Chief Sunday Awoniyi and Chief [Dr] Alex Ekwueme. Another member of this esteemed group was Chief Solomon Lar, among others too numerous to mention for lack of space.

They were united by one common objective, which was to torpedo Abacha's thinly-veiled plan of self-succession. But when fate played a fatal trick on the dark-goggled infantry General, and Abdulsallami Abubakar called time on the military's tumultuous involvement in politics, the G-38 welcomed the opportunity to form the next government by creating a truly national political platform to contest the subsequent general elections.

The group quickly metamorphosed into the PDP, which, its founding fathers believed could launch Nigeria on the part of greatness. There were the usual cases of renegades, moles and journeymen quite typical with Nigerian political parties and politicians even today, but besides that, everything seemed fine with the PDP at its inception until it settled for its choice of presidential candidate to contest for the elections in 1999.

**Y**et even the choice of Olusegun Obasanjo to fly the party's flag in 1999 was everything but accidental because he was in actual fact a beneficiary of the peculiar circumstances of the time. When the PDP nominated him to run for president in 1999 the nation had been in crisis for several years following the annulment of the June 12 elections in 1992. Our national cohesion was threatened with all its damning consequences in the manner that made the choice of the Ota farmer a compelling enterprise. How wrong it all proved to be!

Eight years of Obasanjo effectively purged the party of all its ranking men of honour and integrity. Assassinations were commonplace. Subjected to the endless shenanigans of its dubious 'leader and founder of modern Nigeria', the party recorded the highest turn-over of party Chairmen and leaders of the National Assembly in our history. In time, also, the party degenerated into a vote rigging contraption that is home to all rogues in the land with a taste for power and its misuse.

Regardless, the last time the PDP experienced anything close to the crises it is confronted with today was in the run up to the general elections in 2003. Four years of unprecedented debauchery even by Nigerian standards, had damaged Obasanjo beyond redemption.

He was considered unsellable especially in the north by the few remaining 'democrats' in the PDP. Atiku Abubakar his Vice President and alter-ego saw an opening and dreamt of a palace coup to land the

from cornering the political machinery of the PDP, if his dream to return to the Villa is to be actualised.

For someone to whom consensus has always meant everything, the different interests at play at the moment will make that difficult to achieve.

Those interests explain why even the acting President Jonathan Goodluck will be an orphan at today's meeting. He lacks the support of the governors from his own state who fancy their own chances in 2015 and will not like Jonathan's candidacy to curtail those dreams.

But few months of acting presidency has left a sweet taste in Jonathan's mouth. And like a child, he is unwilling to let go of the candy. He will be praying that the other prominent gladiators inflict enough damage on each other to make his ambition a fait-accompli. For now, it may seem as if he lacks the courage to make a decisive pitch, but the naked reality we must contend with here is that for

It was equally a testimony of Atiku's now customary tendency for political errors that he failed to press his advantage when he had Obasanjo flush on the ropes

earn a shot at a second term in office to our eternal regret.

It was equally a testimony of Atiku's now customary tendency for political errors that he failed to press his advantage when he had Obasanjo flush on the ropes. The rest is history, of course, but Atiku is set to prove once again, that he has learnt nothing from the past!

As the battle for the soul of the PDP is joined this morning, he has once again, contrived to make himself a bit-part player. Only Atiku possibly explain why he made the shocking pilgrimage to Ota a time most sensible Nigerians avoided his pot-bellied host like a dreaded virus. Only he can also explain why he suddenly jettisoned the Action Congress and the Mega Party project or why he made the high profile return to the PDP without apparently making his peace with his adversaries in his ward of state level.

**I**f, as widely insinuated, his return to the fold was hastened by a posse of Governors intent on checkmating the ambition of Ibrahim Babangida, it is now obvious that he may require a special dispensation to even participate at today's meeting if the party leadership from his own state, insist on making him a political orphan! If the special dispensation is not granted, he could end up like a stranded whale especially if his matter becomes a subject of intense division in the party. We shall see.

It is not only Atiku Abubakar's political fate that is assured to be sealed today. IBB will also discover that having a national network of friends and associates is different

the man to remain relevant post 2011, he will definitely fight.

**O**bviously, the governors will decide wherever the pendulum swings later today. They could opt for an arrangement that favours one of their own depending on the degree of success Jonathan achieves in penetrating their ranks. Here, a combination of coercion and greed could be crucial factors in the manner the contest will unravel.

I gathered that the governors will fight to retain control of the party structure and could offer as a compromise to the Generals the candidacy of the retired Admiral Murtala Nyako, who according to my source, had nothing to show for his long sojourn in the corridors of power besides his expansive farm on the outskirts of Yola.

Nyako's candidacy, my source concluded, could be an acceptable compromise to both Generals Obasanjo and IBB, to whom the outcome of today's events are decisive. The difficult task for proponents of the idea it seems, will be how to find schedules of duties for the governor's four wives. Besides, other governors from the north may also throw their hats into the ring depending on the circumstances.

But we are still months away from the PDP conventions proper where the ultimate candidates will emerge. For now, the rabble-rousers will have their say, but what will be decided today are only the ground rules and custodians of the party machinery ahead of the next elections. Still, some political ambitions will effectively 'hang' or be retired today!

# CONGRATULATIONS

to our Honourable Chairman Alh. (Dr.) Abdulkadir Sanusi Alhassan Dantata, MFR  
on your conferment with the

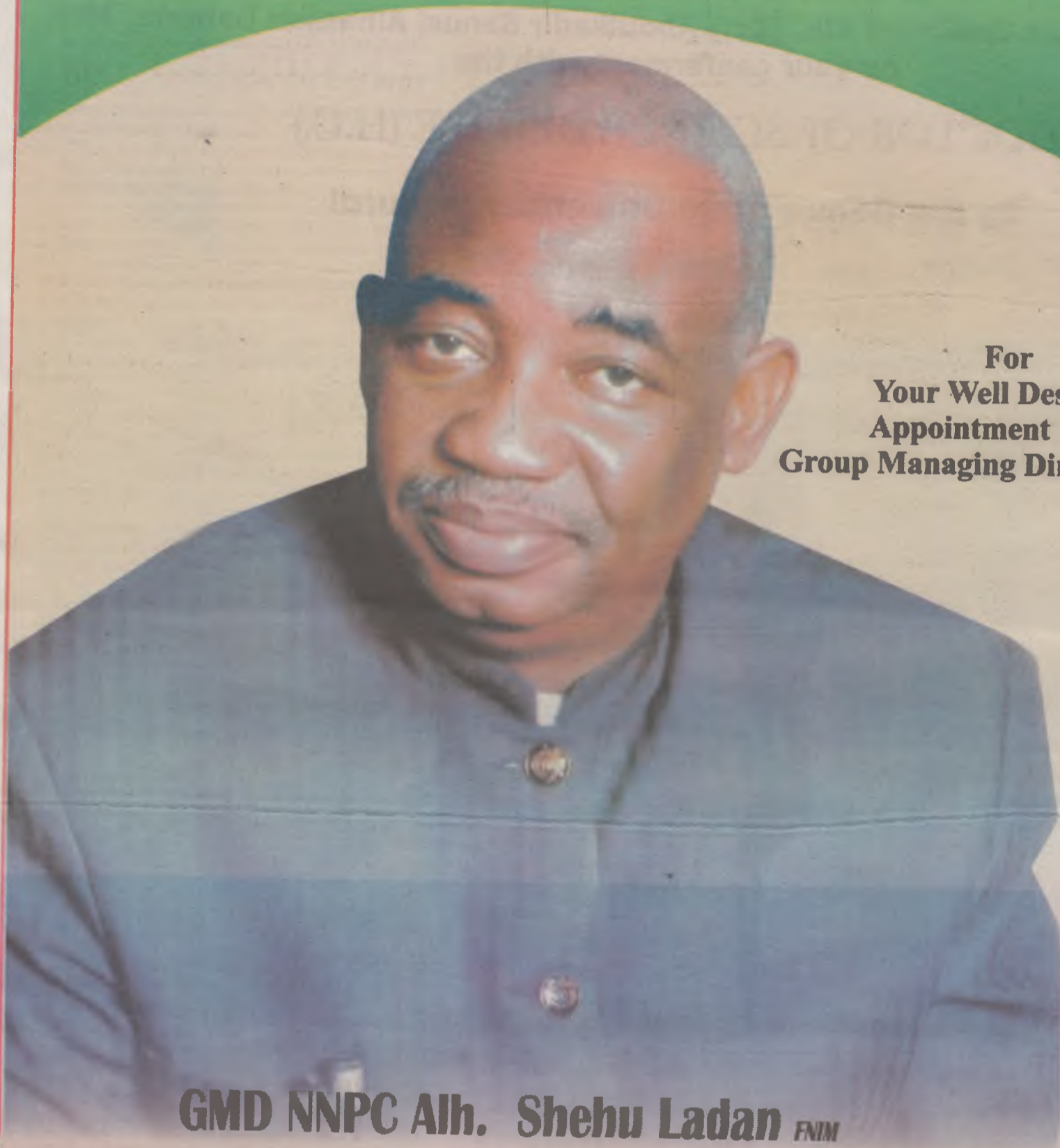
**DOCTOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE (H.C.)**

**By the Benue State University Makurdi**



**BOARD, MANAGEMENT & STAFF OF  
DANTATA & SAWOE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY (NIGERIA) LTD.**

# Congratulations



**For  
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Appointment as the  
Group Managing Director NNPC**

**GMD NNPC Alh. Shehu Ladan FNIM  
Cigarin Zazzau.**

Mal. Shehu, as you take over the mantle of leadership of one of the Nation's most sensitive organization (NNPC), we join your numerous friends, relatives and well wishers in congratulating you.

We pray for Allah's guidance, protection and increased wisdom to enable you steer the course of the Organization to greater heights.

**Congrats!**

**Signed:**

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Alh. Muhammad .M. Ja'afaru (Yariman Zazzau) | 5. Dr. Abdulkadir .A. Kassim |
| 2. Prof. Abubakar .S. Sambo                    | 6. Mr. Olorunfemi .D.Charles |
| 3. Prof. Tunde Adeniran                        | 7. Ms. Chinyere Egeonu       |
| 4. Prof. Layi Fagbenle                         |                              |

# INTERNATIONAL



SUDAN'S President Omar Hassan al-Bashir.

## Al-Bashir wins Sudan elections

PRESIDENT Omar Hassan al-Bashir has won Sudan's first open elections in 24 years in a result that confirms in office the only sitting head of state wanted by the International Criminal Court for war crimes.

Bashir won 68 percent of the presidential vote, while Salva Kiir retained his job as the president of Sudan's semi-autonomous south, with 92.99 percent of the vote in that race, Sudan's National Elections Commission announced.

After a vote that outside observers said fell short of global standards, Bashir is expected to form a coalition with Kiir as the country heads toward a 2011 referendum on whether south Sudan should split off and become Africa's newest state.

Bashir had hoped a win in a legitimate vote would help him defy the ICC warrant, in which he is accused of ordering a campaign of murder, torture and rape in Sudan's Darfur region.

But the election, meant to mark Sudan's transformation into a democratic state, were marred by widespread charges of fraud, including from Kiir's Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), suggesting the new ruling coalition will be a fragile one.

Bashir appeared on state television soon after the result saying the Sudanese people "have achieved this moral victory before the eyes of the world in a civilized, high class and shared manner."

He added that Sudan would hold the southern referendum "as scheduled." Many southerners fear Bashir will try to disrupt the plebiscite in a maneuver to keep control of the south's oil.

Kiir said he felt "total dismay" about reports of election irregularities and promised to investigate all complaints.

"No amount of intimidation or provocation will lead us back to war. We will maintain security and prepare our people for the referendum in 2011," he told journalists in the southern capital Juba, going on to congratulate Bashir on his win.

A breakdown of the presidential votes showed massive majorities of up to 95 percent for Bashir in most northern states, although those percentages dipped in three states of Darfur and border regions.

Kiir won overwhelmingly in every southern state. Bashir's victory was dismissed by opposition parties. They boycotted the vote, citing fraud.

## Morocco dismantles Al-Qaeda linked cell: authorities

MOROCCAN security services have arrested 24 people and dismantled an Al-Qaeda linked network which was preparing to carry out attacks, the interior ministry and police said yesterday.

"The security services

have recently dismantled a terrorist network linked to Al-Qaeda and composed of 24 members," the North African kingdom's interior ministry said in a statement.

It said the network "was preparing to commit

crimes and acts of sabotage against the security services and interests of Morocco."

The arrests took place around mid-April in several towns, notably Casablanca, about 100 kilometres (60 miles) southwest of Rabat, according to a police

source contacted by AFP.

The group recruited Moroccan "activists" to send to locations such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia and the Sahel-Saharan zone, the ministry said, citing initial details from an inquiry led by a prosecutor.

## Somali militants push toward pirate stronghold

FIGHTERS from Somalia's al-Qaida-linked militant group moved into the northern region where Somali pirates operate early yesterday, residents said, forcing pirates to flee and raising the specter of an insurgent attempt to close down the piracy trade.

The pirate gang holding a kidnapped British couple fled into a forest to escape the militants, a self-proclaimed pirate chieftain said.

Paul and Rachel Chandler were bundled into a car early Monday after militants neared the town of Haradhere, said Maslah Yare, who leads the pirate gang that is holding the Chandlers.

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## International

# Palestinians signal readiness to start peace talks



AN Ultra-orthodox Jewish boy climbs on timber beams at a construction site in the east Jerusalem neighbourhood of Ramat Shimon.

THE Israeli government has effectively frozen new Jewish construction in Jerusalem's disputed eastern sector, municipal officials said yesterday. The decision was made despite Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's public insistence that building would not be stopped in the face of U.S. pressure. It remained unclear if the slowdown constituted a formal moratorium or how long it would last, but the move reflected Netanyahu's need to mend a serious rift with the U.S. over Israeli construc-

tion on lands the Palestinians claim for a future state as Washington tries to bring the Palestinians back to the negotiating table.

In an interview yesterday, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas signaled he would be ready to start indirect peace talks with Israel, after weeks of hesitation. The U.S. has proposed talks between Israel and the Palestinians, with President Barack Obama's envoy as go-between, and in recent days Washington had stepped up efforts to coax Abbas back to the table.

THE ASSISTANT INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE  
THE NIGERIA POLICE,  
ZONE 7 HEAD QUARTERS,  
CONAKRY CLOSE,  
WUSE ZONE 3, ABUJA.



# WANTED

This person is wanted by the Zone 7 Police Command, Abuja in connection with a case of Joint Act, Criminal Breach of Trust, Theft and Receiving Stolen Property Involving Huge Sums of Money.

He hails from Owa-nta in Ika North-East Local Government Area of Delta State, speaks Ika and English languages fluently, about 5.6ft tall, has dark hair with white eyes. His last known residential address is SB 6, Flat 1, NNPC Quarters, Area 11 Garki, Abuja.

If seen, contact the Police on the following numbers; 08033314345, 08033018835, 08037000166, 08037010731 or the nearest Police Station.

A handsome reward of N5million awaits any person with useful information leading to his arrest.



**LEONARD OKOH**

**ASP BENNARD UKWUNTA**

ZONE 7, POLICE PUBLIC RELATION OFFICER  
FOR: ASSISTANT INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE  
ZONE 7 HEADQUARTERS, ABUJA

## International



POLICE stand next to alleged drug cartel members Dagoberto Jimenez Diaz de Leon aka 'El Cantante', right, and Gabriel Gacitua Godoy, aka 'Don Gabriel', second from left, during a presentation to the press in Mexico City, yesterday.

# Mexico says cartels turning attacks on authorities

MEXICO'S drug cartels have changed tactics and are turning more attacks on authorities, rather than focusing their fire on rivals gangs, the country's top security official said Sunday.

Interior Secretary Fernandez Gomez-Mont said at a news conference that two back-to-back, bloody ambushes of government convoys — both blamed on cartels — represent a new tactic.

"In the last few weeks the dynamics of the violence have changed. The criminals have decided to directly confront and attack the authorities," Gomez-Mont said. "They are trying to direct their fire power at what they fear most at this moment, which is the authorities," he said.

Officials here have long said that more than 90 percent of the death toll in Mexico's wave of drug violence — which has claimed more than 22,700 lives since a government crackdown began in December 2006 — are victims of disputes between rival gangs.

Mexican drug gangs have been known to target security officials. The nation's acting federal police chief was shot dead in May 2008 in an attack attributed to drug traffickers lashing back at President Felipe Calderon's offensive against organized crime.

But such high-profile attacks were rare in comparison to inter-gang warfare. But after the large-scale attacks on officials Friday and Saturday, "casualties among the authorities are beginning to increase in this battle," Gomez-Mont said.

On Saturday, gunmen armed with assault rifles and grenades attacked a convoy carrying the top security official of the western state of Michoacan, in what appeared to be a carefully planned ambush.

The official survived with non-life-threatening wounds — she was traveling in a bullet-resistant SUV — but two of her bodyguards and

two passers-by were killed. Of the other nine people wounded, most were bystanders, including two girls ages 2 and 12.

Gomez-Mont said the attack was carried out by a group known as "The Resistance," an outgrowth of the Michoacan-based La Familia drug cartel.

It came a day after, gunmen ambushed two police vehicles at a busy intersection in the northern border city of Ciudad Juarez, killing seven officers and a 17-year-old boy caught in the crossfire. Two more officers were seriously wounded.

Hours after that attack, a painted message directed at top federal police commanders and claiming responsibility for the attack appeared on a wall in downtown Ciudad Juarez. It was apparently signed by La Linea, the enforcement arm of the Juarez drug cartel. The Juarez cartel has been locked in a bloody turf battle with the Sinaloa cartel, led by Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman.

"This will happen to you ... for being with El Chapo Guzman and to all the dirtbags who support him. Sincerely, La Linea," the message read. The authenticity of the message could not be independently verified.

Gomez-Mont, who is responsible for domestic security affairs, said the United States has to do more to stop cross-border gangs and illicit trade in weapons and money.

He said some gangs "find a certain kind of sanctuary on the other side of the border," referring to Los Aztecas, a Ciudad Juarez gang that also operates in the United States, where it is known as the Barrio Azteca gang.

"They (the United States) contribute very important components in the dynamic of violence," Gomez-Mont said.

## New York passers-by leave good Samaritan to die

A homeless man in New York City who was stabbed after coming to a woman's aid was left to die while passers-by ignored him, CCTV footage has shown.

Police said that at least 25 people walked past Hugo Alfredo Tale-Yax as he bled to death on a

pavement in Queens.

The 31-year-old from Guatemala was repeatedly stabbed by a man as he intervened during the attack last week.

The footage shows it was an hour and a half before somebody tried to rouse him and contacted

the emergency services.

In the security camera video, a woman is followed by a man, who then appears to attack her.

Cannot play media. You do not have the correct version of the flash player. Download the correct version. "How can you

walk past somebody when see you them lying there in need of help?"

Mr Tale-Yax walks toward them. Off-camera he is stabbed several times while trying to help the woman. The camera captures the apparent attacker running away.

## ICRC warns Colombia conflict victims 'forgotten'

THE International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has warned that Colombians caught up in the civil conflict there are in danger of being forgotten.

Fighting has shifted from densely populated areas to remote regions where the fate of tens of thousands of people is almost invisible, the ICRC says.

ICRC staff recorded 800 alleged human rights violations last year, including murder and sexual violence.

Left-wing rebel groups have fought the Colombian government since the 1960s.

The ICRC says the number of people displaced by the conflict now stands at 3.3m out of a population of about 46m - one of the highest figures in the world.

The south of the country and the Pacific coast are among areas worst affected, the ICRC says, with indigenous communities and those of African origin especially vulnerable.

"Many are being forced to flee because of threats to their lives. Other are subjected to extra-judicial killings or to sexual violence, and yet most of their tragedies go unreported," said Christophe Beney, ICRC's head of operations in Colombia.

The ICRC has been distributing food and household items to more than 50,000 displaced people.

## US tornadoes claim lives in Mississippi and Alabama

TWELVE people are now known to have died in violent storms that tore through several southern US states at the weekend, officials said.

Two people died in Alabama and another 10 lost their lives in Mississippi, after tornadoes generated winds of about 150mph (240km/h).

Hundreds of people across the storm-hit region have been left homeless or without power. Rescue teams have been searching isolated rural areas for survivors.

The storms left a path of destruction at least 50 miles long (80km), with tornadoes also reported in Louisiana and Arkansas, National Weather Service meteorologists said.

In all, eight states were placed on tornado watch.

## International

## Dead Kaczynski's twin to run for Poland president

THE twin brother of Poland's former president, who was killed in a plane crash in Russia this month, says he will run to be elected in his place.

Jaroslaw Kaczynski said he would stand in the 20 June presidential election despite his "personal pain", in order to continue his brother's mission.

Lech Kaczynski was killed in a plane crash in western Russia on

10 April, along with many Polish dignitaries.

The two brothers founded the Law and Justice party in 2001.

In a statement on the party's website yesterday, Mr Kaczynski said: "Poland is our common, great responsibility. It demands that we overcome personal suffering to take action despite a personal tragedy."

He continued: "This is why

I have taken the decision to be a candidate for the office of president of the Republic of Poland."

Jaroslaw Kaczynski, 60, became prime minister in 2006, heading a right-wing coalition that had tense relations with the European Union and Russia.

He lost power in a general election in 2007. Lech Kaczynski had been expected to run for re-election in October - although

polls suggested he would lose.

The BBC's Adam Easton in Warsaw says his brother could benefit from a significant sympathy vote in the wake of the tragedy.

Parliamentary Speaker Bronislaw Komorowski, who became acting head of state after the crash, had been preparing to run against Lech Kaczynski.

Opinion polls have suggested that Mr Komorowski will defeat

Mr Kaczynski in the snap election on June 20.

The election was called after the president, his wife and 94 senior officials were killed in a plane crash in Russia on 10 April.

Kaczynski attended the funeral on Monday of Aleksandra Natalli-Swiat, a member of his party, at a cemetery in Wroclaw. Natalli-Swiat was one of the victims of the plane crash.

## French Muslim says has mistresses, not a polygamist



LIES Hebbadj (L), husband of Anne, an assumed name, a 31-year old French woman who has been fined, for wearing niqab while driving, speaks to media during a news conference in Nantes, at West France.

A French Muslim threatened with being stripped of his passport for practicing polygamy yesterday denied the accusation, saying he had only one wife and several mistresses.

The case of Lies Hebbadj, an Algerian-born butcher who became a French citizen when he married a French woman in 1999, has flared into a major political row with opposition parties accusing the government of exploiting the situation.

Hebbadj's story came to light at the weekend, when his wife complained she had been fined for driving while wearing an Islamic veil on the grounds that it was dangerous.

The government, which days earlier announced a plan to ban the full veil from the streets of France, accused Hebbadj of having four wives, all of whom were claiming single parent benefits for his 12 children.

He said only one was his wife and the others were lovers.

"If one can be stripped of one's French nationality for having mistresses, then many French could lose theirs," he told reporters in the Western city of Nantes, where he lives.

A person can lose their French passport if they acquired it through fraud -- if, for instance, Hebbadj hid an existing marriage when he

married the French woman. Mistresses, however, are hardly unusual in France, where former President Francois Mitterrand maintained a hidden, second family for years.

While it is still unclear whether Hebbadj and his partners have broken the law, Immigration Minister Eric Besson suggested stricter legislation to punish polygamists.

"If the French consider that fraudulent polygamy and benefit claims shouldn't be allowed, then ... we could well imagine a change to the law," Besson told RTL radio yesterday.

Still smarting from a beating in last month's regional elections, French President Nicolas Sarkozy has revived a strident tone on law and order popular with many of his voters.

He has called for a public ban of veils such as the burqa or niqab, which he describes as demeaning to women, in a legal gamble given constitutional guarantees on freedom of religion.

The French Council of Muslims (CFCM), a body that opposes the full veil but does not believe a ban is helpful, met French Prime Minister Francois Fillon Monday to complain that the debate over the burqa was damaging the image of Muslims.

## EU presses to unify Europe's fragmented skies

THE European Union and the continent's air traffic agency want to move fast to abolish Europe's fragmented national airspaces, which they say exacerbated the unprecedented air travel disruptions that grounded over 100,000 flights because of volcanic ash last week.

Industry representatives, regulators and analysts all say the most important result of the post-mortem meetings starting this week will be a move toward a unified airspace at the expense of nations still seeking to jealously guard the sky as a symbol of national sovereignty.

Unified airspace would also put the skies under one regulatory body instead of leaving decisions to dozens of individual countries — one of the key sources of confusion in the volcanic ash crisis.

The Montreal-based International Air Transport Association has enthusiastically endorsed calls for streamlining Europe's airspace, with the introduction of the so-called Single European Sky concept that would turn it into a seamless system like the one in the United States.

"The volcanic ash crisis that paralyzed European air transport for nearly a week made it crystal clear that the Single European Sky is a critical missing link in Europe's infrastructure," said IATA Director General Giovanni Bisignani.

## Ukraine leader says Chernobyl reactor a threat

UKRAINE'S president warned yesterday on the anniversary of the world's worst atomic accident that the Chernobyl nuclear reac-

tor remains a serious threat to Europe.

The 1986 reactor explosion sent a cloud of radiation over

much of Europe and severe health problems persist a quarter-century later.

Ukrainian President Viktor

Yanukovich says some 2 million people suffer illnesses caused by the radiation.

The exploded reactor is

encased in a deteriorating shell and internationally funded work to replace the shell is far behind schedule.

## International



A man walks barefoot over burning coals. A private school in the western Indian state of Gujarat made pupils walk over burning coals and broken glass in a test designed to boost their confidence.

### Indian pupils walk on fire, glass to boost confidence

A private school in the western Indian state of Gujarat made pupils walk over burning coals and broken glass in a test designed to boost their confidence.

Officials at the Riverdale school in the city of Surat on Wednesday described the challenges set at a summer camp as "important exercises that will make a child strong and determined".

"We asked the students to walk with naked feet on fire and on broken glass pieces as it teaches them to deal with their fear and find new ways to overcome it," Kalpesh Patel, a school administrator, told AFP.

Patel said 80 children aged nine to 14

walked on the hot coals, while 110 students walked over glass pieces. He said no one suffered any injuries.

Television footage of the event was picked up by Indian news channels.

"The children were reluctant in the beginning but afterwards they exuded confidence," Patel said, adding that the school had been running the activities for more than a decade.

Fire-walking has existed as a religious ritual in many cultures for thousands of years. It has also gained some popularity in the United States as a team-building exercise and alternative health remedy.

### Police arrest 'holy man' over sex scandal

POLICE have arrested a Hindu holy man with thousands of followers across India and abroad after video footage emerged last month allegedly showing him frolicking with two women.

Nithyananda Swami, whose devotees include politicians and movie stars, was arrested in the resort town of Shimla in northern India late on Wednesday, police said on Thursday.

Swami, head of Dhyanapectam, or "knowledge center," was forced to resign last month after the video that was allegedly shot in his center outside the southern city of Bangalore.

The leaked video aired by news channels angered hundreds of devotees who ransacked his center and tore down his posters, forcing him to go into hiding.

"He will be brought to Bangalore for further investigations," D.V. Guruprasad, an officer of the Criminal Investigation Department said.

The 32-year-old, who denied any links to the women and said the tapes were doctored, is being investigated for rape, cheating and criminal conspiracy, police said.

The last few months have been bad for India's self-styled holy men with police arresting a swami for running a brothel involving air stewardesses and college students, while charging another with kidnapping a minor.

Nithyananda Swami has spiritual centers in Europe and the United States and Dhyanapectam runs free medical centers and supplies food to the poor.

### British election candidate dropped over sex talk

BRITAIN'S ruling Labour party has suspended a candidate ahead of the May 6 general election, it said yesterday, after he boasted about his sex life online.

John Cowan, 35, was also accused of saying he "would not be happy" if his children dated a Muslim, the Sunday Telegraph newspaper said.

Describing his sex life, Cowan reportedly

wrote: "Why limit it to just one woman? I would prefer one for each day of the week!"

He was dropped two weeks after Prime Minister Gordon Brown's Labour banned another candidate, Stuart MacLennan, from standing in a Scottish seat due to his foul-mouthed rants on micro-blogging site Twitter.



### AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL P.M.B. 06 ZARIA

#### INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR VARIOUS PROJECTS UNDER THE 2010 CAPITAL BUDGET FOR ABUTH, ZARIA

##### INTRODUCTION:

The ABUTH Board of Management invites interested and reputable Contractors and Suppliers with relevant experience and good track record for pre-qualification for the following projects at ABUTH, Zaria:

- Lot 1: Construction of Polyclinic.
- Lot 2: Furnishing of Polyclinic.
- Lot 3: Completion of House Officers Quarters.
- Lot 4: Furnishing of House Officers Quarters.
- Lot 5: Renovation and Rehabilitation of 6No. House Officers Quarters.
- Lot 6: Furnishing of 10No. Completed House Officers Quarters.
- Lot 7: Construction of 5-bedroom Bungalow Staff Quarters.
- Lot 8: Furnishing of 5-bedroom Bungalow Staff Quarters.
- Lot 9: Construction of Psychiatric Ward.
- Lot 10: Furnishing of Psychiatric Ward.
- Lot 11: Supply/Installation of Surgical and other Equipments:
  - a) ENT Equipment.
  - b) Urology Equipment.
  - c) Physiotherapy Equipment.
- Lot 12: Procurement of Medical Prescription and Installation:
  - a) Respiratory Lab. Equipment.
  - b) General Medical Equipment.
- Lot 13: Procurement and Installation of Equipment for Cardiothoracic Unit.
- Lot 14: Supply/Installation of Industrial Washing Machine and Dryer for Laundry Department.

##### 2.0 PRE-QUALIFICATION

In order to be considered for pre-qualification, bidders must submit the following:

- i. Certificate of Registration with Corporate Affairs Commission.
- ii. Evidence of Current Tax Clearance.
- iii. Company Audited Account for the last 3 years.
- iv. VAT registration certificate.
- v. Original copies of documents listed in item (i-iv) for sighting during the opening session which is scheduled for **10<sup>th</sup> May, 2010 at 12.30pm.**
- vi. Evidence of Experience with similar jobs in the last three years. This should include the scope/volume of work and the amount, which should be verifiable.
- vii. Evidence of financial capability to handle the job and bank support.
- viii. Company profile including names and technical qualification(s) and experience(s) of key personnel.

##### 3.0 SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

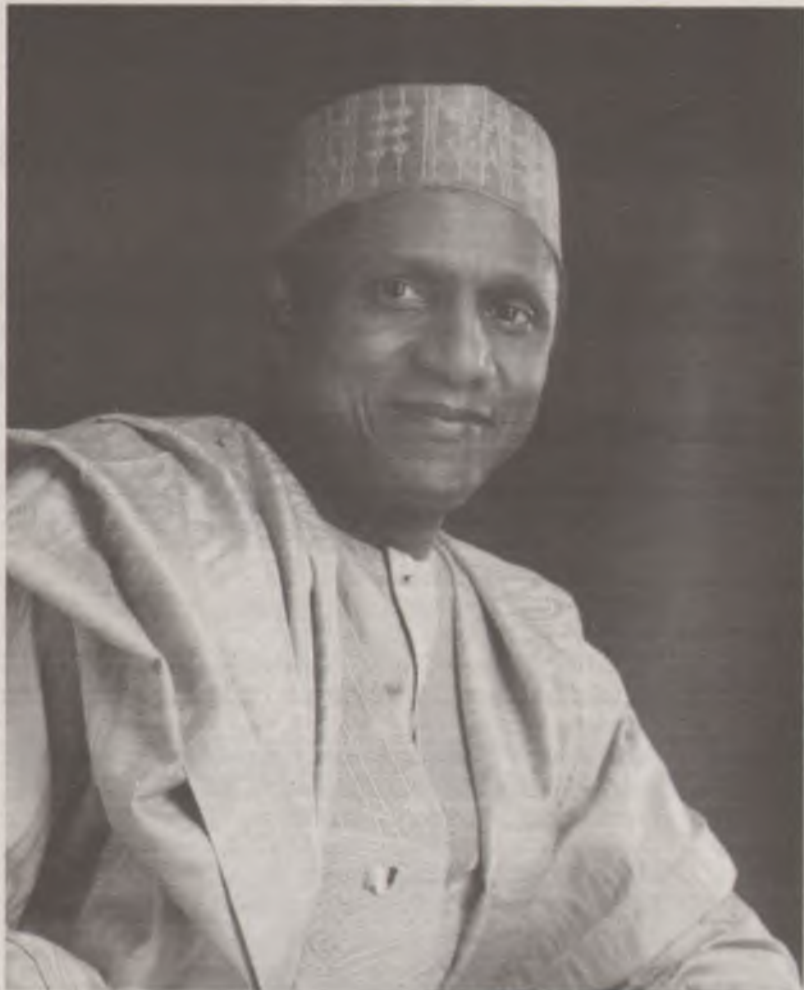
The completed pre-qualification documents should be enclosed in an envelope, sealed and marked "PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS FOR THE (Indicate the Project you are bidding for) and addressed to:

The Chief Medical Director,  
ABU Teaching Hospital, Zaria.

Attention: Asst. Director of Admin. (Planning).

- 4.0 The completed pre-qualification documents should be deposited in the Tenders Box situated at the Office of the Chief Medical Director, ABUTH, Zaria.
- 5.0 The submitted pre-qualification documents will be opened on the **10<sup>th</sup> May, 2010 at 12:30 p.m.** in the presence of bidders or their representatives who choose to attend, at the Board Room, ABUTH, Permanent Site, Shika-Zaria.
- 6.0 This is not an invitation to tender, full tendering procedure will be applied only to bidders that have been pre-qualified and found capable of project delivery.
- 7.0 Tenderers should note that only pre-qualified companies would be invited to submit financial bids. The ABUTH Management reserves the right to reject any or all pre-qualification documents.
- 8.0 Interested Companies/Contractors wishing to bid for more than one aspect of the work must submit separate Pre-qualifications for each aspect(s).

Signed  
Director of Administration



# YAR'ADUA SUPPORT GROUP (YSG)

Defending the integrity  
and legacy of President  
Yar'adua

For over four months now Umaru Musa Yar'adua, President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Force of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has been a victim of coarse jokes, cruel jibes, ill-mannered cartoons, unsavoury commentaries and jaundiced editorials in the mass media. He has been demonised and criminalized, his legacy tarnished and scoffed at. This process of dehumanization is being excessively funded and promoted by both known and faceless individuals and power blocs whose path to instant power and future political hegemony must be paved with the battered image of a fine gentleman, and a true democrat personified. Of course, these power crazed individuals have found ready allies in the media who blow their trumpets very loud, and among a tiny segment of civil society who aid them in spewing out poisonous words and bellicose slogans against Mr President.

President Yar'adua's primary 'crime' is that he fell ill but at this juncture, we wish to state that after several months of ill health in Katsina during his first term as Governor of Katsina he returned and the rest his history. It is pertinent to note that his deputy, Alhaji Tukur Ahmed Jikamashi was allegedly at the verge of seizing absolute power when his boss returned. The other alleged 'crimes' of President Yar'adua include his refusal to condone the looting of the treasury, introducing civility and transparency in governance, respect for the rule of law, the Amnesty Programme in the Niger Delta which stopped the exploitation of the youths turned militants by cabals that profited from the unrest at the expense of the future of the youths.

In the recent past, because resistance to this mindless assault and insults have been half-hearted, perfunctory and incidental, these individuals have found the necessary operating space and enabling political and socio-psychological environment to execute an aggressive and pernicious process of dismantling Yar'adua's presidency. They have more than succeeded in this dubious enterprise, erecting in this wake a new system of power and authority relationship that is pertinently alien to the constitution and damaging to the growth and consolidation of Nigerian democracy.

However, their appetite for office and lust for total power remains insatiable. They must have studied the theory and practice of appeasement politics as enunciated by the Nazis in the 1930s and garnered immense historical consciousness in this negative direction. Nigerians are reminded that when the Nazis annexed Austria in 1935-1936, the great powers barely murmuring to Hitler's triumphal posture and who gleefully declared to his fretting generals; "I told you so". They repeated the same trick with regard to the Sudeten land in the then Czechoslovakia in 1938 with the same staggering success. The rest of Europe woke up too late in 1939 when it was the turn of Poland to be devoured.

As each step of the onslaught by the cabals behind the war against Yar'adua appear to have met minimal resistance, Nigeria is heading towards total domination by this 'Coalition of Cabals against Yar'adua'.

Those individuals with towering ambition, which is already tarred with a sterner hue, want it all. They want to annex the whole of Umaru Yar'adua's Presidency, to convert it to their own, to bloat their political appetite and flatulence with its debris. They are now planning for the final push. They want him out of office. They want to commence impeachment proceedings in a novel way, may be in the way and manner the extra-constitutional "doctrine of necessity" was procured. They are in a hurry to invoke section 144 of the constitution but are not prepared to follow the process clearly laid out in the constitution to achieve their evil intent. They are certain that an order of mandamus will soon be delivered to them by a friendly court, urging them to act with despatch.

We want to assure Nigerians that we are not only watching and waiting but are fully primed to confront this offensive with every fibre of our social, political and legal being. Hence forth no single insult, commentary, opinion page diatribe, self-serving derogatory essay and ill-motivated editorial piece will go un-replied. Our patience is now worn very thin. There is so much an individual can take without hitting back. President Yar'adua has taken hits he doesn't deserve. We his supporters are now ready to hit back, vigorously, robustly, openly and unrepentantly.

In so doing, we would not merely be defending the character and legacy of a fine gentleman and a true democrat; we will also be rallying to the defence of the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Those who do not want to let President Yar'adua be are those who want to overheat the system, to destabilize it, to compromise its unity and security. We will not shy away from their planned onslaught. We will confront them squarely, resolutely and decisively, whether they dwell in Nigeria or are outlaws on self-exile. And we mean every word of this. Let Nigerians take this assertion as our solemn testament, our sacred declaration, our article of faith.

To all the friends of Umaru, to all his admirers, to all his supporters, and to all those across the length and breadth of the land who are revolted and nauseated by the unrelenting attacks on the President of the Federation but whose individual and collective voices have thus far not been heard, you now have a voice, a home, a platform and an entity you can call your own. It will be visible, well mannered and well organised. And to all Nigerians who believe that it is good, proud and honourable for a sitting President to publicly declare his assets, concede that the election that brought him to office had certain flaws, who gave us all the gift of the Uwais committee on electoral reforms, who respects the independence of the National Assembly and Judiciary, who honours the precepts, values and culture of plural, multi-party democracy under his watch as was exemplified in the Appeal Court rulings on the Edo, Ondo and Anambra Governorship elections, and who value the historic amnesty programme in the Niger Delta, you too have a voice, a home and a platform.

This is a clarion call, a call to robust political and legal arm. We are ready for the challenges ahead, and spiritually and psychologically strengthened to confront the monster of impunity, tyranny of a few and lawlessness that define the criminalization of President Yar'adua. Whatsoever measures these power mongering demagogues take, we will be ready. We are ready for their antics, tactics and strategies. We will never pull back unless they do.

Mao Tse Tung said; "Politics is war without bloodshed and war is politics with bloodshed". The Yar'adua Support Group will not retreat from this political war within the ambits of the laws of the land.



'Acting President' Dr Goodluck Jonathan has assumed all the powers of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria albeit via a "doctrine of necessity" resolution of the National Assembly which is not in the Constitution of Nigeria.

Wasting no time in a manner reminiscent to a victorious General, he set out to dismantle, ridicule and rubbish the legacies of the Elected President by:

- 1.) Creating a Presidential Advisory Council in which some of the most ardent known adversaries of President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua are included.
- 2.) He reshuffled his cabinet by removing the then Attorney-General and Minister of Justice to Ministry of Special Duties, redeploying Senator Kazaure and Mr Adetokunboh (SAN) to the Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Justice respectively even if for a couple of weeks hoping to please an interest or to assert authority as 'Acting President'.
- 3.) Removal of the National Security Advisor, General Sarki Mukhtar believed to be an Yar'Adua loyalist as if it is now a crime to be loyal to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- 4.) Constituting a so called Project Assessment Committee whose initial mandate is to investigate President Yar'Adua's administration and in his haste to disparage his legacy the implication of his being the Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers and therefore part of the proceedings and the consequence of such failed to register on him and his handlers.
- 5.) Attempting to remove Yar'Adua's Chief Security Officer (CSO) and his aide-de-camp (ADC). The import of this is of course to leave the President exposed, endangered and at the mercy of strange substitutes whose allegiance and loyalty are elsewhere!
- 6.) The dissolution and reconstitution of the Executive Council of the Federation. An exercise whose whole motive was to remove all actual or perceived Yar'Adua loyalists and bring in "Goodluck Jonathan for President in 2010 propagandists!" The shameless duty of an ANPP Senator and his tasty reward is just one example out of many.
- 7.) The lingering threat of deploying all the soldiers of the Brigade of Guards out of Abuja to far Taraba and Sokoto suggest high level of ill will towards the President particularly as Nigeria still has a substantive President who these troops were ordered to protect.

Now Dr Goodluck Jonathan and his co-travellers are beginning to expose their true reasons for all these shenanigans. It is 2011!

Even therefore the "new" Executive Council of the Federation settles in, talks are beginning to make the rounds that the invocation of S.144 of the constitution is high up on the Agenda. But someone needs to read the provisions of the section carefully to Dr Goodluck Jonathan even if there is an inherent danger in doing so. Professor Babatunde Osotimehin was reported to have advised the 'Acting President' that it is impossible to medically declare anyone permanently incapacitated. The audacity of his honest, frank, and absolutely true assessment allegedly earned the respected and renowned Professor of medicine the sack from the membership of the Executive Council of Federation.

To make assurances double sure, and also fence off imposters, pretenders and

# YAR'ADUA SUPPORT GROUP (YSG)

## Section 144 and The Year 2011; A timely alert

undemocratic elements, the authors of the Nigerian Constitution further strengthened section. 144 by putting in sub - section (5) which states as follows;

(5) In this section, the references to "Executive Council of the Federation" is a reference to the body of Ministers of the Government of the Federation, howsoever called, established by the PRESIDENT and charged with such responsibilities for the functions of government as PRESIDENT may direct.

For purpose of clarity, the sub-section mentions the word President twice! Not Acting President or even Vice President.

It is absolutely clear, therefore that in Nigeria today, there is no Executive Council of the Federation established by the President and the highest rank Dr Goodluck Jonathan can lay claim to are only that of 'Acting President' (courtesy of "doctrine of necessity" not the Nigerian Constitution) and or Vice President.

To continue to think of the possibility of the President "Executive Council of the Federation" established by Dr Goodluck Jonathan of having any appearance of legality capable of invoking S.144 is an utter exercise in futility, period! They are neither established by the President nor assigned any functions of government by the President. "The Acting President" missed his chance when he dissolved the council.

Dr Goodluck Jonathan's chances of becoming President in 2011 cannot therefore succeed through the invocation of S.144 of the constitution.

Reproduced below for the enlightenment of Nigerians is the whole Section 144 of the Constitution together with all the sub-sections. Our clear aim is to educate our people about a very complex exercise, with potentially damaging political consequences but which is being simplistically mis-read by marauders who are intent on grabbing instant total power.

### Section 144 of the Nigerian Constitution

144. - (1) The President or Vice-President shall cease to hold office, if -  
(a) by a resolution passed by two-thirds majority of all members of the Executive Council of the Federation it is declared that the President or Vice-President is incapable of discharging the functions of his office; and  
(b) the declaration is verified, after such medical examination as may be necessary, by a medical panel established under subsection (4) of this section in its report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(2) Where the medical panel certifies in the report that in its opinion the President or Vice-President is suffering from such infirmity of body or mind as renders him permanently incapable of discharging the function of his office, a notice thereof signed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall be published in the Official Gazette of the Government of the Federation.

(3) The President or Vice-President shall cease to hold office as from the date of publication of the notice of the medical report pursuant to subsection (2) of this section.

(4) The medical panel to which this section relates shall be appointed by the President of the Senate, and shall comprise five medical practitioners in Nigeria-

- (a) One of whom shall be the personal physician of the holder of the office concerned; and
- (b) four other medical practitioners who have, in the opinion of the President of the Senate, attained a high degree of eminence in the field of medicine relative to the nature of the examination to be conducted in accordance with the foregoing provisions.

(5) In this section, the reference "executive council of the Federation" is a reference to the body of Ministers of the Government of the Federation, howsoever called, established by the President and charged with such responsibilities for the functions of government as the President may direct.



# YOBE STATE GOVERNMENT

**ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF YOBE STATE ALHAJI IBRAHIM GAIDAM FCNA CPA, ON THE OCCASION OF THE FORMAL INSTALLATION AND PRESENTATION OF STAFF OF OFFICE TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, THE EMIR OF FIKA, ALHAJI MUHAMMADU ABALI IBN MUHAMMADU IDRISSA ON SATURDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2010**

- Your Excellency, The Acting President, Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Dr. Goodluck E. Jonathan GCON
- Your Excellencies, Visiting State Governors,
- Honourable Ministers here present,
- The Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Alhaji Yayale Ahmed,
- The Inspector General of Police,
- Your Excellency, the Deputy Governor of Yobe State, Engr. Abubakar D. Aliyu MNSE.
- Distinguished Senators and Hon. Members of House of Representatives here present,
- Hon. Speaker, Yobe State House of Assembly,
- The Honourable Chief Judge and Honourable Grand Khadi,
- His Eminence the Sultan of Sokoto and President General of the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, Alhaji (Dr) Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar CFR mni
- His Royal Highness, the Shehu of Borno and Deputy President General of Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, Alhaji Abubakar Ibn Umar Garbai El-kanemi,
- Members of the State House of Assembly here present,
- Members of the State Executive Council,
- The Commissioner of Police Yobe State Command,
- The Secretary to the State Government,
- The Head of Service,
- Special Advisers, Senior Special Assistants and Special Assistants,
- Permanent Secretaries,
- Chief Executives of Federal and State Boards and Parastatals and Heads of Extra Ministerial Departments,
- Chairmen of Local Government Councils here present,
- Your Royal Highness the Emir of Fika and Chairman Yobe State Council of Chiefs, Alhaji Muhammadu Abali Ibn Muhammadu Idrissa,
- Your Royal Highnesses, Emirs and Mais here present,
- Distinguished invited Guests,
- Gentlemen of the Press,
- Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalamu Alaikum

We are gathered here today in Potiskum town to witness the formal installation and presentation of staff of office to His Royal Highness the Emir of Fika, Alhaji Muhammadu Abali Ibn Muhammadu Idrissa whose appointment I approved following the passing away of his late father Alhaji (Dr) Abali Muhammadu Ibn Idrissa. His selection by the Fika Emirate Kingmakers to succeed his late father, and my subsequent approval is in conformity with the powers conferred on me by the Yobe State Emirs (Appointments and Deposition) edict No. 5 of 1996. I wish to commend the Fika Emirate King makers for the understanding and maturity they demonstrated in the selection and recommendation of the Emir to Government which culminated in his appointment as the 43<sup>rd</sup> Emir of Fika.

2. On behalf of the Government and good people of Yobe State, let me take this opportunity to warmly welcome Your Excellencies, our visiting Governors, eminent traditional rulers, distinguished personalities, well wishers and friends of Fika Emirate who have come from far and near despite their numerous commitments to grace this memorable occasion. Permit me to say that the mammoth crowd at this occasion is a clear manifestation of the Emir's acceptance by his people, and a demonstration that the traditional institution is highly respected and cherished. It is also an indication of the resilience and dynamism of



**ALHAJI IBRAHIM GAIDAM FCNA CPA**  
Executive Governor of Yobe State

the Institution. Like some parts of Nigeria, we had a rich history of organized central political authority under traditional rulers long before the imposition of colonial rule. Consequently, the traditional institution has continued to partner with Government in the promotion of social harmony, peaceful co-existence and mobilization of the populace for development.

3. Our distinguished guests, eminent personalities, it is our conviction that if the traditional institution is properly repositioned, its contribution to good governance and communal peace would be more effective and beneficial. In this regard, the Yobe State Government in its submission to the National Assembly Committee on constitutional review, recommended the establishment of a National Council of Traditional Rulers and a similar body at the State level. Such a body could be charged with the responsibility of advising Government on traditional customs and usages, providing inputs for development plans from grassroots perspectives, mediating in religious, boundary and communal disputes among others.

4. At this juncture, I would like to congratulate Your Royal Highness on your appointment to the throne of Fika Emirate as the 43<sup>rd</sup> Emir. I have just enumerated some of our expectations of you in the discharge of your roles as the Emir of Fika and the Chairman of the Yobe State Council of Chiefs. Although the task is enormous and challenging, judging from your past records as an astute and seasoned administrator who served in various capacities in both the public and private sector, I have no doubt in my mind that you will live up to the expectation of the people of your domain and the state in general. Moreover, considering the caliber of the Kingmakers and your council members, you have competent hands to advise you on any issue.

5. In view of Your Royal Highnesses' track record, coupled with personal qualities of honesty, integrity, diligence, foresight and tolerance, your choice as the 43<sup>rd</sup> Emir of Fika was appropriate. You ought to realize that your selection to occupy this exalted office of the Emir of Fika is a source of pride and inspiration to the people of the Emirate. I would, therefore like to recall my advice to you last year when you paid a courtesy call on me. You should take your late father Alhaji (Dr) Abali Muhammadu Ibn Idrissa of blessed memory, may his soul rest in peace, as your role model, and emulate his personal attributes and sterling qualities which endeared him to his subjects and other people within and outside the State. His qualities of wisdom, tolerance, tact and large heartedness contributed in dousing situations that could have escalated into communal crisis on many occasions. He was noted for his courage and commitment to the development and, welfare of people in his domain.

You would also do well to emulate his sense of accommodation and fatherly posture towards all people and groups.

6. Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, this administration attaches great importance to inter-group peace and harmony, cooperation and mutual understanding. That is why we

have adopted an all-inclusive and all-embracing approach to governance in order to give our people a sense of belonging. However, this concern for peaceful co-existence is qualified by our uncompromising commitment to rule of law and zero tolerance to willful acts of provocation, threat to peace and challenge to constituted authority. His Royal Highness needs to take a cue from the State Government and embrace all the people of his domain irrespective of religious, ethnic and political leanings while at the same time taking a firm stand on issues which will breach the peace. Even though we may have different ethnic groups, we, in Yobe share a common cultural and historical heritage. We should not allow the differences that exist amongst us to endanger the peace we have been enjoying nor allow unpleasant memories of the past to stand in our way of forging ahead in a progressive and fast changing world.

7. Your Royal Highness, I would further implore you and all our traditional rulers to always promote mutual understanding and tolerance among your subjects. You should enlighten and mobilize them on their civic responsibilities, and to support Government programmes on the education of their wards and children, immunization, review of voters registration, voting etc. You should take proactive measures against inter-communal disputes, farmers and cattle rearers clash and sectarian violence. In this regard, all of us including security agencies have to work in harmony in order to achieve the desired objective. In this way, individually and collectively, we shall be able to put Yobe State in a position of greatness, peace and harmony.

8. Distinguished Guests, eminent personalities, Your Royal Highnesses, I cannot end this address without soliciting for support and cooperation of various groups for His Royal Highness. In a well-known Hadith, the Prophet (SAW) is said to have declared that when Allah (SWT) wills good for a leader, He will surround him with good advisers who will remind him when he forgets and correct him when he goes wrong. This is my charge to your Council members and the senior title holders.

For the Ulama and other leaders of religious groups, I appeal for prayers for peace and prosperity in our State and the Nation in general. They should guide and counsel the Emir. As for the generality of the subjects, illustrious sons and daughters of Fika Emirate and all stakeholders, the new Emir needs your support, cooperation, loyalty and prayers. In the tradition of his late father's, open door policy which I am sure he will also maintain, I expect you to provide to him beneficial information whenever the need arises. On its part the State Government shall continue to give His Royal Highness all the necessary support, he requires to enable him discharge his responsibilities as Emir of Fika and Chairman of the State Council of Chiefs. It is my hope that he will reciprocate the gesture accordingly.

9. In conclusion, I wish to once again congratulate His Royal Highness on his appointment to the throne of Fika Emirate. I wish you Allah's protection, guidance, and successful reign, and remind you to treat your subjects diligently without fear or favour. I wish to thank all our distinguished invited guests too numerous to mention for finding time to be with us on this important occasion.

We are indeed grateful for the wonderful gesture and wish you safe journey to your respective destinations and abodes. Let me also take this opportunity to once again urge our religious leaders and the entire people of Yobe State to pray to Almighty Allah to bless us with plentiful rain and bumper harvest this cropping season and for many more years to come. We equally pray for peace, stability, security, happiness, prosperity and sustenance of democracy in Nigeria.

10. Finally, it is now my singular honour, privilege and duty to present the staff of office to His Royal Highness the Emir of Fika Alhaji Muhammadu Abali Ibn Muhammadu Idrissa today Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2010.

Thank you and May Almighty Allah bless us all. Amen.



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13:00 - 17:00 BCIE, Ground Floor, Metro Plaza, Plot 991-992 Zakariya Maimalari Street, Central Area, Abuja.  
 Contact: Zinny - T: 094604709  
 M: 081 3228 2853

**Friday, 30th April 2010**  
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 T: 01462 7838

12:00 - 15:00 BCIE, Plot 146 C, Immam Abibu Adetoro Street, (By Sinari Daranijo), VI.  
 T: 01-4624088, M: 08-062351535

15:15 - 16:30 Preparation for Life, Plot 15E Muri Okunola Crescent, (Off Ajose Adeogun), VI.  
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**Saturday, 1st May 2010**  
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## Don't raise VAT, NLC warns FG

*VAT increase will fund security – FIRS*

By Idris Ahmed

NIGERIA Labour Congress (NLC) said yesterday it is against any attempt by the Federal Government to increase the Value Added Tax (VAT) rate in the country.

It is rumoured that FG is planning to raise the current 5 percent VAT rate by 100 percent before the end of this year.

"We have argued in the past and continue to insist that given the progressive nature of VAT, raising the rate will compound the position of the poor and workers", President of NLC Abdulwahed Omar said at the meeting of the Joint Tax Board (JTB) in Abuja.

But chairman of the Federal Inland Revenue Service Mrs. Ifueko Omoigui Okauru, who also doubled as chairman of the JTB said government intends to raise tax revenues to fund security in the country.

Speaking at the JTB meeting in Abuja, the NLC President urged tax authorities to explore other tax bases such as wealth tax which is a progressive tax.

He said attempt to hike VAT was one of the issues of industrial dispute labour had with government in 2007.

"Within the past week, there have been reports that this matter is being canvassed again, this time as a way of financing the Police Force", the labour leader said.

He said tax is an important instrument of policy which needs to be carefully employed to grow the economy and promote desirable sectors.

"That way, long term tax revenues can be expanded by growing the economy and broadening the tax base in the short term", Omar said.

The FIRS chairman Mrs. Ifueko Omoigui Okauru said her agency is working with all stakeholders to harmonise taxes in the country.

She said they had met with members of the private sector to dialogue on the best way to fund the police reforms estimated at N1.5 trillion over the next six years. N600 billion out of this amount is to be sourced from the private sector.

Meanwhile, FG has directed the JTB and the FIRS to capture all eligible taxpayers in the



NLC President Abdulwahed Omar

country.

The Minister of State for Finance Remi Babalola who spoke for government at the JTB meeting also urged the tax authorities to eliminate all forms of double taxation in all the various jurisdictions in the country.

He however insisted that people must be taxed to raise the revenue of government.

He said: "It will lift our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) so that Nigerians are better off. It has a way of fighting the corruption virus in our system and it can deal with intergenerational issues in a way that ensures a sustainable future."

"These are big challenges and our performance must be up to scratch and surpass expectation."

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE

#### IRS Airlines

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

#### DANA Airlines:

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

#### Overland Airways

Lagos-Ilorin: 07.15 (Mon-Fri), Ilorin-Lagos: 16.15 (Mon-Fri)  
Abuja-Ilorin: 15.00 (Mo-Fri), Ilorin-Abuja: 08.15 (Mon-Fri)  
Lagos-Ibadan: 07.15 (Mon-Fri), Lagos-Ibadan: 16.15 (Mon-Fri)  
Ibadan-Abuja: 08.00 (Mon-Fri), Abuja-Ibadan: 5.00 (Mon-Fri)  
Kats-Abuja: 07.30 (Mon-Fri) Abuja-Kats: 15.30 (Mon-Fri)

### STOCK MARKET INDEX

Date:	Monday, April 26, 2010
Index:	26,952.10
Deals:	8,669
Volume:	551,362,322
Value:	N 5,898,295,136.89
Cap.:	N 6,519,052,288,025.26

### TRUST INDEX

Inflation	12.3%
GDP	6.68%
Budget	N4.6tr
Ext. Reserves Acct	\$41.5bn
Excess Crude Acct	\$3.9bn
Poverty Ratio	54.4%
Monetary Policy Rate	6%
Banks	24
Oil Price	\$82 a barrel
Power Supply	2, 500MW
Oil output per day	2.6mbd
Broad Money Supply	N10,618,587.9m
Credit to Private Sector	N10,006,236.9m
Inter-Bank Rate	1.1700%
Treasury Bills	2.02%
Deposit Rate	10.98%
Prime Lending Rate	18.28%

### CBN EXCHANGE RATES

	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)
23/4/2010			
CFA	0.2808	0.2908	0.3008
DANISH KRONER	26.4183	26.5079	26.5975
EURO	196.7011	197.3682	198.0353
POUNDS STERLING	226.1871	226.9542	227.7213
RIYAL	39.3147	39.448	39.5813
SDR	223.0468	223.8033	224.5597
SWISS FRANC	137.0167	137.4814	137.9461
US DOLLAR	147.43	147.93	148.43
WAUA	222.6996	223.4549	224.2101
VIN	1.5652	1.5706	1.5759

### Bureau de Change Rates

BUYING	
Dollar	N151
Euro	N204
Pound	N234
SELLING	
Dollar	N152
Euro	N206
Pound	N236

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

CBN

## Business

# SEC introduces new rules

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

NEW rules guiding the operations and activities of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) have been signed by the Director General of the exchange, Ms Arunma Oteh.

The new rules, according to a copy made available to Daily Trust in Lagos, was compiled in Pursuant to Section 313(6) of the Investments and Securities Act, 2007.

The new rules covers appointment of directors of market operators, rules on bond issue which include condition for approval of Initial Public Offer and Listing by Introduction, conditions for approval of offer Issue and Handling of Certificates, rules on issuance of corporate bond, Bond Issuance (State and Local Government), reduction of SEC fees for the registration of bond issuance, as well as rule on money market fund which covers, regulation of mergers, takeovers and acquisitions and Power to Order the Breakup of Company.

The new rules which become effective since the beginning



MS Arunma Oteh, DG SEC

of this month also put Primary Market registration fee at 0.15

per cent.

It also stipulates that all pub-

lic companies shall publish their "signed" quarterly balance sheet, income statement and cash flow statements in at least one National daily newspaper, while the accounting policies, notes and other relevant information shall be posted on the company's website which address shall be disclosed in the newspaper publication.

Any company which fails to file quarterly report with the Commission, according to the rule shall be liable to a fine of N1million and the sum of N25, 000.00 for everyday the default continues.

The Audit Committee of every public company shall henceforth review the company's financial statements prior to approval by the Board of the company and present the report at the Annual General Meeting.

Any company which fails to file its half yearly returns with the Commission shall be liable to a fine of N1million and the sum of N25, 000.00 for everyday the default continues. The new rules also stated that all public companies shall maintain segregated

accounts for unclaimed dividends funds; while companies are to separate unclaimed dividends from cash balances and provide explanatory notes to that effect in their annual reports.

On private placement, SEC said private placements shall not be advertised, mentioned and/or discussed in the print and electronic media.

"Approval of a private placement may be suspended or withdrawn for violation of this rule. Any Capital Market Operator engaged in an advisory role on the private placement may also be sanctioned".

Fro Condition for approval of Initial Public Offer and Listing by Introduction a new Rule 50 is hereby created", it stated.

It explained that company may be eligible to undertake an Initial Public Offer (IPO) of pure equity or convertibles or listing by introduction only if it meets the new conditions such as having a three year financial track record; a track record of distributable profits excluding extra-ordinary profits for at least two out of the immediately preceding three years and positive shareholders funds.

## FCTA to checkmate revenue leakages

By Nasir Imam

THE FCT Administration will soon come up with a framework that would boost its revenue base as well as block possible areas of leakages.

The FCT Minister, Senator Bala Mohammed made this disclosure while declaring open the 122nd meeting of the Joint Tax Board on Monday at Sheraton Hotel and Towers, Abuja.

The Minister reiterated that the diversification in the revenue base of the FCT Administration is desirable to improve the services it renders to the residents of the Federal Capital Territory.

His words: "Considering the phenomenal increase in population and economic activities in the FCT coupled with the new taxes to be introduced in Abuja such as property tax and other taxes allowed to be collected constitutionally, there is the need to institute proper and efficient machinery of tax collection in the FCT".

Senator Mohammed stated that the FCT Administration is already collaborating with the Federal Inland Revenue Services (FIRS) to improve on its tax collection; hoping that the existing collaborative efforts between the two bodies would continue to fur-

ther boost tax base of the Administration.

Senator Mohammed remarked that the Joint Tax Board has a crucial role in improving tax administration in Nigeria thereby meeting government revenue targets inspite of various challenges.

The Minister implored members of the Joint Tax Board to make constructive deliberation in order to come up with tax policies that will enhance the revenue generation at all tiers of government as the era of total reliance on government subvention is over.

Also speaking at the occasion, the Minister of State, Finance, Mr. Remi Babalola called for more effective business and broader community input into the development and implementation of tax laws in the country.

**The Minister implored members of the Joint Tax Board to make constructive deliberation in order to come up with tax policies that will enhance the revenue generation**

## Business/South East

### Imo govt to establish micro firms in oil areas

Stories from Johnkennedy Uzoma, Owerri

IMO State Government is to establish medium scale industries in the oil producing areas to provide employment and directly enhance economic well-being of the people.

Special Adviser, Bureau for Niger Delta Affairs, Imo State Tony Eze Okere disclosed this while addressing members of Women For Peace and Empowerment Initiative (WOPEINGS), a Non Governmental Organization who paid him a courtesy visit in his office.

Okere said that government will achieve this project in collaboration with WOPEINGS, adding that the Bureau has maintained a touch with women and youth organizations in the area.

He said that the whole essence is to ensure accelerated development of oil producing areas in Imo State in fulfilment of the mandate by State Governor Chief Ikedi Ohakim.

### Cleric laments absence of network services

THE Anglican Bishop of Ohaji/Egbema in Imo State, Rt. Revd. Chidi Collins Oparaojiaku has expressed concern over absence of communication network and operational banks in the area.

Preaching a sermon last Sunday at the inauguration and dedication service of St. Matthew's Church Etekuru Egbema, the prelate regretted that the situation is seriously affecting the entire local government area.

He said that the people of the oil producing local government area have being experience calls drop and difficulties in communicating with their relations outside due to lack of service providers' mast.

He expressed worries that no operational banks can be located in any part of Ohaji and Egbema, urging relevant authorities to hasten up to establish one in the area to assist in securing people's money and property.

According to him, a lot of people travel far distance either to Owerri or Omoku in Rivers State to lodge in their money.

While assuring of the Diocesan patronage to the first bank that would oblige to this, he said that presence of banks in the area could boost the economic development in the area.

### ABC rewards 350 drivers, others

THE management of the Associated Bus Company Plc (ABC) has rewarded 350 drivers and attendants for exhibiting high level of safety and professionalism.

Presenting the awards to the recipients at the colourful Accident-Free Award ceremony in Owerri yesterday, the chairman and CEO ABC Plc, Mr. Frank Nneji said that the drivers did not record any form of accident during their operation years.

### Council boss distributes organic fertilizer

SOLE Administrator of Ihitte/Uboma council area of Imo, Chief Kodichi Anamekwe has distributed 200 bags of organic fertilizer and 200 improved palm seedlings worth millions of naira free to farmers.

Anamekwe made the distribution yesterday at the council headquarters Isinweke when the bureau for Agricultural Development and Food Security and a team of Agric expert from Imo ADP visited his council.

## Star Feature

# Bida: Brass smiths speak of better days

The 400-year-old brass making activity in Bida local government area of Niger State, may be heading towards extinction, if the call by the smiths is not heeded.

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

**T**HE brass makers who have been in the art of making products ranging from household utensils, to ornaments meant for beautification purposes, are faced with the greatest challenge in their profession, as it is becoming difficult to source raw materials for their art.

The spokesperson of the brass makers, Nda-Alhaji Sayyedi, speaking with our correspondent in Bida, Niger state, disclosed that the over four hundred year old trade may fizzle into oblivion due to financial constraints.

He reflected with nostalgia how his ancestors used to source their raw materials from the soil which he said was rich with minerals of high quality, which was then processed into brass, that was used to fashion out products of different varieties and uses.

He said those were times brass work was at its best, as materials were not subjected to adulteration, and craftsmen were not under pressure to travel very far to source for raw materials.

Sayyedi said that all that was needed in those days, was knowledge of the soil components, and energy to dig them out from their

various spots, at locations in the emirate council.

Hardship in sourcing the materials began to set in after several years of extraction, which he said finally left the soil bare, and brass workers had no other option, but to look beyond the shores of the country, for raw materials for their work.

He however lamented a situation where government officials patronize their art works, only to offer lip-service each time they call on them for assistance.

He said that on several occasions they were told that state governments assist farmers, tailors and other petty traders, to help them grow in their chosen profession. But such help has never reached them. He said they are treated as if they are not part of the society.

"We suffer a lot in the aspect of getting raw materials for our art work, as we lack the capital to buy enough brass to produce in large commercial quantities, to meet the demands of our teeming customers, from within and outside the country.

**W**e have done our best to ensure that we inform government in the state since the inception of democracy in 1999. All we get from government officials has always been promises, and nothing more," he said.

Sayyedi in his explanation maintained that they are not asking for free gifts of money from the Niger state government, but financial leverage in the form of soft loans, adding that such loans will go a long way in boosting productivity.

He said that the challenge of the brass workers is mainly in the aspect of having to source raw materials of various mineral contents needed in producing brass from more than one country, saying that these locations are scattered across the world.

He explained that they travel as far as Egypt and Saudi Arabia to get pure gold (azarifa) which they use in coating the brass casting to gloss the material. He added that

they travel as far as Ghana and Benin republic, to get brass and a soldering element (evah) for the work.

"Apart from the fact that we spend additional money to travel across the world to get materials for our work, we end up buying only in little quantities, which is usually not enough to meet the demands of our customers.

If the state government can oblige us with soft loans given to Small and Medium Scale Enterprises, we will do better than we have done now, as we will get our raw materials in large quantities and at better prizes, which will in turn boost our production capacity, and by extension reduce our overhead cost.

For now, all we do is to wait for our brothers to go for the Hajj in Saudi Arabia, and we contribute the little we have for them to buy some of our materials for us. When we exhaust what is with us, we have to buy at cut-throat prices from traders in Kano market," he said.

Aliyu Ndakutsu, explaining the need for government to assist the brass makers, stated that the place can also serve as a tourist attraction, adding that the state government stands to benefit immensely from the revenue potentials the place will generate.

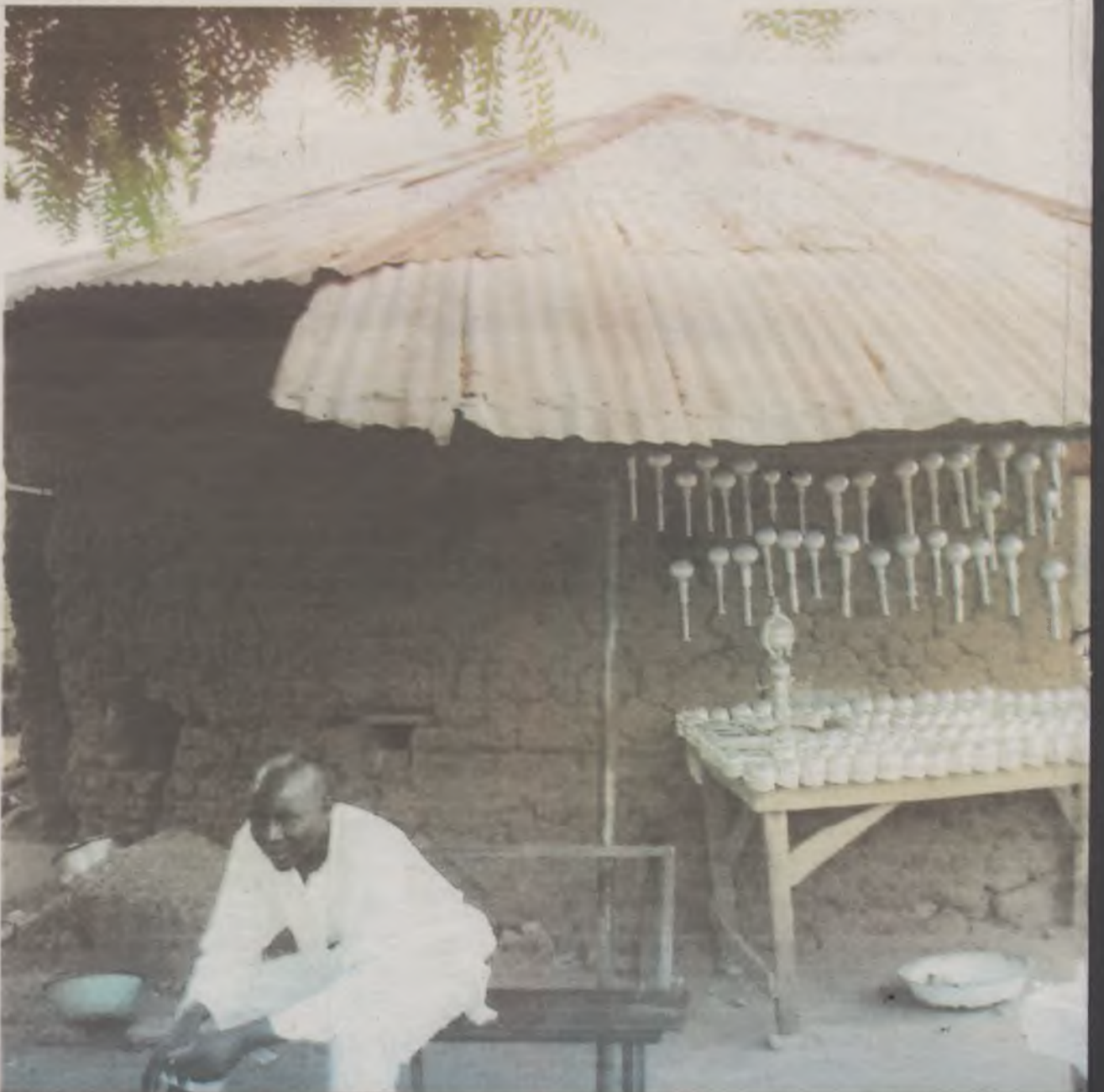
**H**e laments a situation where the main workshop for the brass makers

has been standing there for the past 200 years, adding that the structure can be preserved for tourist purposes, while a large space of land be set aside for them to build more modern workshops.

Ndakutsu stressed that in addition to building workshops, the place needs showrooms, where their products could be displayed for patronage, and also for purposes of creating tourist attraction to visitors on sightseeing tours.

He said that part of the reason why people in developed countries make more money, than those striving to get it right from countries with struggling economy, is the idea and practice of packaging, which he said the brass makers do not have.

He explained that show rooms can give more value to the art works, as they will reflect true beauty, than when people see them on the dusty floor of the workshop,



THE 200 year old brass workshop in Bida.

**What we have now is an ancient central workshop which was built over 200 years ago."**

**They have managed to evolve designs that dazzle foreigners."**

ed with dust and ash from the burning  
ce.  
he Niger state government must know  
e are not trying to improve our finances  
but our work will help the state govern-  
generate revenue, as we hope the place  
e time it gets a facelift, will be the next  
t destination.

need structures for workshops and  
rooms, as what we have now is an ancient  
al workshop which was built over 200  
ago, which I think is only fit enough as  
tique building for tourist attraction," he

regretted the fact that the limitation  
ent in their operations, has denied them  
tunity to showcase their talent in interna-



BRASS workers busy in the central workshop.

tional exhibitions, as he disclosed that each time foreigners make the move to invite them, they lack the financial strength to attend.

He added that for hundreds of years, they have managed to evolve designs that dazzle foreigners, adding that if given the opportunity, they have the potentials of winning international awards for brass work, and by extension bring the state and Nigeria to fame.

He explained how most of their art works are taken outside the country to compete favourably with those from other parts of the world, as many of their customers come back for more, since people appreciate the hand made works, than the machine produced brass works.

**A**bdulkadir Maiyaki, lending his voice to the call for financial help for the brass workers, explained that many higher institutions in the state, bring students to their workshop, to do practical lessons in technical skills.

He said the students troop in every year to acquire technical skills, yet nobody cares to give the place a boost, despite the fact that the place is becoming too small and obsolete in the area of tools.

"Higher institutions from different parts of the state and beyond, come to us to get basic technical skills which include how to use the blast furnace, the hammer and anvil, to fashion out things from hot brass and aluminum materials.

While our doors are open to give out our best to the society, especially the future generation, to get the basics in technical education, we urge all who have things to benefit from us to help



NDA-ALHAJI Sayyedi standing by displayed brass work.

us grow. Most times when students crowd around, the place becomes too small to contain everybody," he said.

He further disclosed that apart from making products for household and ornamental purposes, they fabricate aluminum based spare parts of vehicles and motorcycles, which he said fits in well with promise of maximum durability.

He said the place is a mini workshop for motorcycle owners who need the parts of their

machines fixed, revealing that no owner of a motorbike in Bida buys certain parts, as they produce better quality than what is sold in the open market.

**H**e said that when government and other stakeholder's partner with them, the area of technology can generate immense revenue for the state, since they can reproduce virtually any material made from aluminium, with remarkable precision.

"As you can see, we are also skilled in fabricating spare parts of all types and sizes, which we sell to our customers, especially motorcycle owners, and these parts fit so well, that no one will notice it is handmade.

We are ready to improve on what we are doing here, if government can come to our assistance with loans, and I think the society will benefit immensely from it, as our fabricated parts are even better than the ones sold in the market," he said.



## Business/Energy

# As Jonathan signs Local Content Bill into Law

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

FOLLOWING last Thursday's signing of the much-awaited Local content bill into law by the Acting President Goodluck Jonathan, a new vista of prospect in the nation's oil and gas sector seems to have been opened for indigenous operators.

For a sector that has generated over \$300 billion to the coffers of the government in the last 32 years, with foreign oil companies dominating the scene, observers said the law would change the status quo and ensure that indigenous oil and gas companies now come to the front burner in the sector.

The thrust of the Nigerian Content Policy of the Federal Government issued by NNPC to the international oil companies and other stakeholders in 2005 is to promote value addition to the local economy, increase indigenous participation, build local capacity on the back of ongoing projects and generally create linkages to other sectors of the national economy to grow Local content to 70% by 2010.

The Act, among other notable objectives, provides that Nigerian independent operators shall be given first consideration in the award of oil blocks; oil filed licenses, oil lifting licenses and in all projects for which contract is to be awarded in the Nigerian oil and gas industry.

It also stipulates that in the bidding for any license, permit or interest and before carrying out any project in the Nigerian oil and gas industry, an operator shall submit a Nigerian content plan demonstrating compliance with the Nigerian content requirements of this Bill.

According to the Act, every multinational company must domicile a minimum of 10 per cent of its annual profit in Nigerian banks, while Nigerian insurance companies must do all aspect of insurance in the oil and gas industry unless where in the opinion of the Nigerian insurance commission, the capacity of the Nigerian company has been exhausted.

The Act also required that Nigerians shall be given first consideration in the award of oil blocks, oil field licences, oil lifting licences and shipping services and all projects for which contracts are to be awarded in the industry; subject to the fulfilment of such conditions as may be specified by the minister; and there shall be exclusive consideration for Nigerian indigenous service.

Major operators will be expected to ensure that Nigerians are engaged in key sectors of the industry to enhance indigenous



MINISTER of Petroleum Resources, Mrs Diezani Alison-Madueke

human capital development and technology transfer.

In a situation where Nigerians are not competent, oil companies are expected to ensure, to the satisfaction of the Board, that every reasonable effort is made within a reasonable time to supply such training locally or elsewhere.

According to the Act: "For each of its operations, the operator shall submit to its Board a succession plan for any position not held by Nigerians. Such succession plan shall provide for Nigerians to understudy each incumbent expatriate for a maximum period of four years. At the end of the four-year period, the position shall become Nigerianised."

"Where Nigerians are not employed because of their lack of training, the operator shall ensure, to the satisfaction of the Board that every reasonable effort is made within a reasonable time to supply such training locally or elsewhere. Such effort and the procedure for its execution shall be contained in the operator's employment and training plan while the operator shall report to the Board quarterly on employment and training activities for the reporting period and compare this to the employment and training plan."

It further stated the minimum Nigerian content that would apply on takeoff of the law. These include field and detailed engineering

and other engineering services (onshore facilities), offshore facilities, shallow water 90 per cent; feed and detailed engineering on Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facility (50) feed and detailed engineering on gas gathering (90) feed and detailed engineering on deep offshore facilities-hull and topside modules (80) and floating concrete structure (80).

On well and drilling facilities, the Act provides thus: Reservoir services 75 per cent, well completion services (80) logging while drilling services (45) well watch services (70) fluid/bottom hole sampling services (80) and OCT services (cleaning, hardbanding, recutting, re-threading, storage) (95).

It also stipulates that: "Notwithstanding the provisions of the schedule to this Act, all projects or contracts whose total budget exceeds \$100 million, shall contain a labour clause mandating the use of a minimum percentage of Nigerian Labour in specific cadres as may be stipulated by the Board."

The Act mandates the minister of petroleum to make regulations that could further encourage indigenous companies and requires international/multinational companies working through their Nigerian subsidiaries to demonstrate that a minimum of 50 per cent of the equipment deployed for execution of work are owned by the Nigerian subsidiaries.

Acting President Goodluck Jonathan said while signing the bill into law last week that its full implementation will make indigenous participation in the nation's oil industry obligatory.

He said that the new law will address the compelling need for us as a nation to have indigenous participation in the oil industry", emphasizing that it shall "apply to all matters pertaining to Nigerian content in respect of all operations or transactions carried out or connected with the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry, Jonathan stressed all regulatory authorities, operators, contractors, sub-contractors, alliance partners and other entities involved in any project, operation, activity or transaction in the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry shall consider Nigerian content as an important element of their overall project development and management philosophy for project execution.

According to him, the Nigerian content development and monitoring board established in accordance with the Local Content Act will make procedures to guide, monitor, coordinate and implement the provisions of the new law to ensure and enforce measurable and continuous growth of Nigerian content in all oil and gas operations in the country.

The acting president however noted that the law as presently passed may not be totally perfect.

But stakeholders in the oil and gas sector see the new law as the beginning of the road to an enduring path in the country.

Minister of Petroleum Resources, Mrs Diezani Alison-Madueke said the Nigerian Content Law has the potential to generate over 30,000 jobs in the next 5 years.

She also said the new law has far reaching implications for the issues of technological advancement, long term cost effectiveness, post amnesty programs in the Niger Delta and the improved impact of the Oil & Gas Industry on National Gross Domestic Product.

The Minister expressed joy that the law would transform the industry from a major importer of goods and services to an industry that sources a substantial proportion of its inputs locally to support operations thereby empowering Nigerians.

The Minister noted that very soon there will be an urgent need to undertake certain interventions to, among other things, build strong partnerships between local and multinational service companies to handle Engineering, Project Management, Procurement, Data processing, Reservoir studies etc; upgrade existing shipyards and develop new ones

with modern docking facilities for marine maintenance and boat-building; establish Steel Pipe Mills to handle the high demand of line pipes.

Besides, the Group Managing Director of the NNPC Malam Shehu Ladan described the passage of the new law as a great day for the industry, stressing that its multiplier effect is enormous.

Ladan said: "The signing of the Bill into Law today is timely because it sets the stage for the anticipated growth that the PIB will herald in respect of our national Oil and Gas asset portfolio. Post PIB, it is estimated that investment inflow into the industry will drive activities over the next five years in the magnitude unprecedented in the history of oil and gas in Nigeria."

For his part, President of the Trade Union Congress [TUC], Comrade Peter Esole told Daily Trust that the new law is good on paper but would be better if the government can guarantee its enforcement and implementation.

According to him, the law would be meaningless if it encourages indigenous companies to get job and give same to multinational companies to execute as the development does not give room for backward integration.

He explained that the law should be conceived in such a way to promote necessary manpower in order to maximize the benefits of oil and gas sector for Nigerians.

Director General of the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry [LCCCI] Muga Yusuf said the law is a good development for the country though it is coming late.

"It will open more doors for indigenous companies in the nation's oil and gas sector. The law is the beginning of linkage between the oil and gas sector and other sector of the nation's economy."

Mr Yussuf however advised the Federal government to ensure that the purported linkage the law would bring should not be allowed to jeopardize production of oil by the country.

Chairman, Lagos Chapter of National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers [NUPENG], Tokunboh Korodo said there should be concerted efforts on the part of the Federal government to ensure transparency in the implementation of the law.

"The law should bring about employment. It should be in totality. There should be no sectionalism."

Nigerians are no doubt waiting to see how the new law would transform the oil and gas sector, the economy and their well being in totality.

## Business/Aviation

# Owerri airport gets airfield lighting system



MINISTER of Aviation Mrs. Fidella Njeze

STORIES from Nahimah Ajikanle Nurudeen, Lagos

THE Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) has completed the installation of category one airfield light-

ing system (AFL) for the Sam Mbakwe Airport, Owerri to enhance night flight operations.

According to the manager of the airport, Mr. Orjiakor Mgbemene, the AFL is only waiting for certification from the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) to fully commence night flight operations.

He said: "The contractor just concluded the CAT-1. Technically speaking, the approach lights have been fixed; the edge lights also have been fixed. Those are the things that have made the CAT-1. They have just concluded and testing is on going now".

He explained that this is the first time the airport would accommodate night operations since it was built.

Mgbemene disclosed that the management of FAAN and the aviation minister will decide when it will be commissioned while the NCAA is expected to peg the time limit for night flights into the airport.

He added, "The contractor will first handover to FAAN and test run it, my managing director will be here to see it test run and inform the minister, NCAA which is the regulatory body to declare it fit for night flying and equally determine the time of flights at night. Everything is set now."

Mgbemene explained further that work will soon begin to rehabilitate the arrival and departure halls of the airport to accommodate more passengers in line with the federal government's approval for the restructuring of the Sam Mbakwe airport.

According to him, the airport which was built to accommodate 400 passengers now host over 1,000 passengers following the closure of the Akanu Ibiam airport Enugu, early

this year.

Mgbemene explained that with the closure of Enugu airport, facilities at the Owerri airport became stretched due to the increase in the usage as the airport now serve the South Eastern part of the country.

He however frowned at the high rate of indebtedness to the authority by airlines which have made it increasingly difficult to replace some ageing facilities.

The airport manager warned that the management of Owerri airport will soon seal up shops belonging to debtor airlines.

On the fencing of the airport, Mgbemene said the federal government has given out contract for the fencing of the airport with block wall round, but regretted that work was yet to commence.

He said: "The Bureau for Public Enterprises visited a month ago for enquiries whether the job has commenced. It has not commenced. They said it ought to have commenced".

According to him, since the airport was cited in the heart of three communities, the authority has been trying its best to ward off incursion to avoid the Calabar ugly incident.

Mgbemene revealed that all necessary requirements for the control of wildlife have been put in place to ensure the smooth take off and landing by aircraft.

The airport manager lamented the absence of PHCN dedicated lines to the airport to boost electricity supply which has negatively affected operations there; noting that two-third of the maintenance fund goes for the running of generating plants which ought to be the secondary source of power.

## Airline operators sad over persistent bird-strike

AIRLINE Operators of Nigeria (AON) has frowned at the continuous attack suffered by its members from bird-strike causing serious operational damage to their aircraft.

Speaking with aviation journalists on the update in the industry, the chairman of the association, Mr. Steve Mahowun, described the incidents as a "great loss to the airline".

According to him, their urgent need is for the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) to address the issue of migrating birds at the nation's airports by

installing more birds scaring devices.

He stated that just last week alone; two major airlines suffered birds attack at the Margaret Ekpo International Airport in Calabar and at the Murtala Muhammed Airport Lagos.

Mahowun said that an Arik aircraft with registration number 5N-MJE suffered a bird strike which affected the plane's landing gear, making it difficult for it to manoeuvre on the runway, minutes after it landed in Calabar airport having took-off from Lagos at about 8:00 a.m. with over

100 passengers on board.

He added that a similar incident occurred on a Dana Air Flight 9J 995, travelling to Abuja from Lagos, on April 19, lost one of its engines during takeoff due to a bird's strike at MM airport Ikeja, forcing the pilot to initiate an air return.

The chairman noted that a total of 400,000 US dollars were spent by the airlines to repair one aircraft engine.

He said: "Bird-strike is a bad phenomenon in the aviation sector, and it is not being checked by the authorities. We have often-

times clamoured for good operating environment."

Mahonwu called on FAAN to assist the airlines on the repair of it damaged aircraft engines, saying it is part of the agency responsibility to prevent birds' access to airports

He stated: "If birds were being prevented from attacking our aircraft engines, the airline will not be talking about the financial loss which has been incurred. Government should look at this area because the airlines are losing money from this bird-strike issue."

## Aero offers 50% discount on baggage

AEROCONTRACTOR has announced the offering of a 50% discount on excess baggage charges for customers who purchase baggage voucher online via the airline's website.

The airline's Head of Commercial Robert Prophet said that customers only need to Aero homepage on its website and click on "buy excess baggage voucher" to have access to the discount.

Robert Prophet stated that the offer was informed by the airline's position to maintain simplify travel procedures with quality services.

He said, "Whether you are travelling for business or leisure, Aero will transport your excess baggage safely and conveniently, saving you as much as 50% off the excess baggage rates."

## Stranded passengers: Arik announces extra flight to London

ARIK Air has again announced an extra flight on the Lagos-London Heathrow route to take care of stranded passengers affected by the April 14, 2010 volcanic eruption in Iceland.

According to Arik Air's Chief Commercial Officer, Mr. Suraj Sundaram, in addition to the airline's daily service at 10.40am to London Heathrow, the airline will be operating an extra flight on Tuesday, April 27, 2010 as an added service to guests stranded since the past week due to closure of UK air space.

He stated that the extra flight will depart Lagos on Tuesday, April 27, 2010 at 1.00pm (local time) and arrive London at 7.30pm (local time). Sundaram explained that the return flight will leave London on Tuesday at 11.30pm (local time) and arrive Lagos at 6.00am (local time) on Wednesday April 28, adding that all flights depart and arrive London Heathrow Terminal 4.

## Germany to host IATA AGM in June

THE International Air Transport Association (IATA) announced that Lufthansa will host the IATA Annual General Meeting (AGM) and World Air Transport Summit in Berlin from 6-8 June 2010.

Director General and CEO of IATA Giovanni Bisignani said: "Berlin will become the world capital of the aviation industry for three days. Of the 700 expected delegates, nearly one-third will be the chief executives of IATA's 230 member airlines.

This is the biggest event on the international aviation calendar and we are very excited to be doing it for the first time in Germany's dynamic capital of Berlin."

Bisignani added: "This year's AGM will be one of the most important in the history of the industry. Just as the

industry was beginning to recover from the financial impact of the global financial crisis, we have been plunged into crisis once again with airspace closures following the Icelandic volcano eruption.

At the same time, we continue to face long-term challenges to improve efficiency, safety, and environmental performance. We are still looking to break the shackles of antiquated regulation and liberalize the industry to compete like a normal business. This year's AGM will address all these important issues."

This will be the third time that Germany hosts the IATA AGM. Previously Munich (1968) and Hamburg (1985) hosted the event while the last year's AGM took place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

## Business/International

# Tanzania prioritises agriculture to alleviate poverty

By Aisha Umar Agaie

TANZANIA has deliberately decided to prioritize agriculture because of its immense potential to alleviate poverty in the country, Tanzania High Commissioner Msuya W. Mangachi has said.

He said this at the Tanzanian national day celebration in Abuja yesterday.

He said Tanzania wants Nigeria to share its experience in the area of the establishment and management of medium to large-scale farming.

Nigeria can also learn from Tanzania how to conduct research in the improvement of various seeds such as

tubers, cotton, cocoa and cereals, the High Commissioner said.

He said Tanzania would in return learn from Nigeria its vast experience in fish farming.

He said during the visit of Tanzania Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda to attend the conference Agri-business and Agro-industries in Abuja he stressed the need to further strengthen cooperation between Nigeria and Tanzania, particularly in those areas where Nigeria has a clear comparative advantage such as investments, agriculture, petroleum, science and technology, skilled human resources, culture and sports.

"In the field of investment, we are gratified to note

the initiatives taken by the Dangote Group in spearheading investment in the area of cement production in Tanzania. In the same vein, we commend the UBA for opening a branch in Tanzania. It is our hope that the example set by these Nigerian enterprises will be emulated by other Nigerian companies to invest in Tanzania" he said.

The minister of Foreign Affairs Odein Ajumogobia in his speech said the challenge between Nigeria and Tanzania is economic integration, because there are a lot of opportunities.

He said Tanzania can help Nigeria develop its tourism by working together.



A delegate checks a Blackberry during the West & Central Africa Com conference in Nigeria's capital, Abuja.

## Algeria would welcome Orascom-MTN deal

EGYPT'S Orascom Telecom is in talks on selling its Algerian unit to MTN Group and the Algerian government takes a positive view of the sale, a senior government source said yesterday.

"We have been informed," about the negotiations between Orascom and South Africa's MTN, the source told Reuters. "Orascom had no alternative but to inform us, and it did that."

Asked if the Algerian government will approve a deal, the source said: "Having the South Africans in the telecoms sector in Algeria instead of the Egyptians is a good solution for us."

## Shops ordered to pay £20m over 'toxic sofas'

A number of High Street chains have been ordered to pay up to £20m (\$31m) to 2,000 people who received chemical burns from anti-fungal agents in sofas.

The victims are expected to get £1,200-£9,000 each plus other expenses for loss

of weddings, holidays and wages.

The group that owns Argos and Homebase, furniture chain Walmsleys and other smaller firms had admitted liability for selling the Chinese-made sofas.

Some Land of Leather customers will not get a pay-out, after an earlier ruling.

Richard Langton, solicitor for law firm Russell Jones and Walker, said: "People's lives were put on hold. Some people thought that they were dying, that they had skin cancer.

"Their doctors couldn't tell them what was wrong, a lot of psychological symp-

toms.

"Some cases were not so severe, fortunately, but for many people they say it was the worst period of their lives ever."

Mr Justice MacDuff was told in court that a "claims handling agreement" had been reached that did not resolve the whole of the litigation, but would "open the way to swift compensation for many hundreds" of people.

Mr Langton said there would be another hearing on 21 May when 2,500 further cases would be considered.

The £20m figure includes legal costs, as well as compensation. *BBC*

## Ghana sees 20% growth in 2011

OIL will help raise Ghana's economic growth rates to 20 percent next year, the deputy governor of the central bank said yesterday, hinting at further interest rate cuts so long as inflation continued to fall.

Ghana is due to join the club of oil-producing nations later this year, with a planned fourth quarter first oil shipment from the 800 million barrel Jubilee field set to have a rapid impact on the economy.

"This is the best estimate that our forecasters have come out with," Millison Narh said of the 20 percent estimate in an

interview with *Reuters Insider TV* on the sidelines of an investors' conference in Accra.

Earlier at the conference, Narh said 2010 economic growth was seen at 6.5 percent, a slight upwards revision from earlier official forecasts of just below six percent.

A Reuters poll in January showed that Ghana's economy could grow at 14.7 percent in 2011, one of the world's fastest growth rates, boosted by oil production of oil.

Since coming into power last year, President John Atta Mills' government has managed to get

a grip on stubbornly high inflation, which had hovered over 20 percent for months but fell in March for the ninth consecutive month.

The March figure of 13.32 percent is still above the year-end target of 9.2-11.2 percent, but the Bank of Ghana lowered its prime rate by 100 basis points to 15 percent on April 16.

Asked if there would be more rate cuts, Narh said: "To the extent that the disinflation process continues that will definitely also follow but it has to be coupled with the caveat that there are risks that we are watching."

Some people thought that they were dying, that they had skin cancer.

Business/Finance

Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Monday, April 26, 2010

COMPANY Name	No of Deals	Quot. (N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
<b>2ND-TIER SECURITIES</b>				
CAPITAL OIL PLC	15	0.51	547,504	280,644.00
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	15		547,504	280,644.00
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>				
FTN COCOA PROC. PLC	24	1.01	1,299,300	1,326,160.00
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	23	0.95	657,565	624,686.75
PRESCO PLC	9	8.19	64,757	516,859.83
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	56		2,021,622	2,467,706.58
<b>AIR SERVICES</b>				
AIR/SERV & LOG. PLC	32	4.33	496,234	2,148,693.22
NIG/AV. HAND. COY PLC	69	12.11	990,102	11,990,135.22
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	101		1,486,336	14,138,828.44
<b>BANKING</b>				
ACCESS BANK PLC	268	9.60	18,783,617	178,731,382.92
AFRIBANK NIG. PLC	35	2.48	1,903,330	4,729,417.88
DIAMOND BANK PLC	170	8.17	42,456,537	344,171,958.97
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	62	6.00	1,753,690	10,438,350.35
F/CITY MON. BANK PLC	80	8.41	2,769,613	23,427,632.83
FIDELITY BANK PLC	142	3.00	8,141,847	24,465,673.27
F/BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	857	16.55	24,457,648	410,174,853.90
FINBANK PLC	45	0.60	2,930,115	1,753,157.64
GTBANK PLC	569	17.58	37,781,909	681,016,032.34
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	99	9.25	34,161,020	331,173,039.86
INTERCONT. BANK PLC.	92	1.69	2,830,373	4,797,092.01
OCEANIC BANK INT. PLC	99	1.97	5,014,734	9,723,116.92
BANK PHB PLC	92	1.50	7,548,119	11,097,622.75
SKYE BANK PLC.	194	7.50	20,987,644	155,364,942.34
SPRING BANK PLC	14	1.06	780,338	826,002.96
STERLING BANK PLC	73	2.14	3,795,966	8,268,822.07
UNT B. FOR AFR. PLC.	271	13.07	13,114,098	171,401,260.86
UN/BANK OF NIG. PLC	167	6.00	6,938,255	41,713,444.29
UNITYBANK PLC	62	1.09	13,803,080	15,899,483.07
WEMA BANK PLC	38	1.10	2,829,071	3,063,151.02
ZENITH BANK PLC	338	15.51	16,040,411	250,191,918.05
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	3,782		208,821,411	2,488,888,888.31
<b>BUILDING MATERIALS</b>				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	112	21.10	1,793,600	38,008,157.82
BEN/CEM. COY PLC	25	63.85	257,712	16,487,995.86
CEM. CO. OF N/NIG. PLC	78	20.81	1,197,092	25,263,924.64
NIGERIAN ROPES PLC.	1	9.14	166	1,442.54
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	19	41.95	4,953,455	207,676,797.75
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	235		8,202,025	282,288,118.61
<b>CHEMICAL &amp; PAINTS</b>				
BERG/PAINTS NIG. PLC	18	7.94	72,620	555,077.20
CHEM&ALLIED PROD. PLC	12	29.67	31,089	967,893.15
DN MEYER PLC	21	4.57	1,185,800	5,419,106.00
I. P. W. A. PLC	2	1.14	100,000	114,000.00
PORT/P. & PROD. NIG. PLC	1	5.67	500	2,975.00
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	54		1,390,009	7,059,051.35
<b>COMP. &amp; OFFICE EQUIP.</b>				
OMATEK VENTURES PLC	57	0.86	2,667,894	2,310,395.86
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	57		2,667,894	2,310,395.86
<b>CONGLOMERATES</b>				
A. G. LEVENTIS (NIG.) PLC	18	3.99	531,887	2,025,323.07
JOHN HOLT PLC	1	9.28	185	1,631.70
PZ CUSSONS NIG. PLC	66	30.50	466,928	14,193,069.52
TRANS/ CORP. OF NIG. PLC	44	0.52	3,896,930	2,092,543.50
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	82	53.00	3,211,209	171,478,548.68
UNILEVER NIG. PLC	79	27.58	949,221	26,324,843.96
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	290		9,056,360	216,119,560.43
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>				
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	95	8.41	2,233,719	18,847,889.81
JULIUS BERGER NIG. PLC	80	61.69	638,473	38,255,755.35
MULTIVERSE RES. PLC	10	0.50	3,090,000	1,545,000.00
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	185		5,962,192	58,648,645.16
<b>ENGINEERING TECH.</b>				
CUTIX PLC	4	4.13	117,800	486,514.00
NIG. WIRE AND CABLE PLC.	5	0.89	1,335,849	1,188,905.61
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	9		1,453,649	1,675,419.61
<b>FOOD/BEV. &amp; TOBACCO</b>				
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	30	47.00	23,994	1,104,795.45
BIG TREAT PLC	17	0.95	1,536,165	1,459,356.75
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	118	22.64	2,782,066	62,985,974.24
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	483	21.85	8,286,827	182,466,774.92
DANGOTE SUGAR REF. PLC	143	18.51	6,196,187	114,747,254.06
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	97	71.15	4,428,219	308,577,919.35
H/WELL FLOUR MILL PLC	43	8.30	721,105	6,094,132.86
NAT. SALT COY NIGERIA PLC	88	8.50	1,966,273	17,317,259.89
NIG. BOTTLING COY PLC	34	32.59	263,955	8,612,118.59
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	61	314.00	255,026	80,154,924.63
N/NIG. FLOUR MILLS PLC	2	41.20	10,000	391,400.00
TANTALIZERS PLC	33	1.14	1,954,000	2,227,645.00
UNION DICON SALT PLC	6	4.91	100,000	467,000.00
UTC NIGERIA PLC	12	1.21	528,260	639,194.60
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	1,197		29,032,077	581,111,350.34
<b>HEALTHCARE</b>				
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	27	1.64	379,970	630,750.80
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	31	3.14	1,707,881	5,410,733.34
GLAXOSM. CONS. NIG. PLC	16	24.55	155,741	3,833,878.85

MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC.	46	7.63	1,489,671	11,418,216.77
NEIMETH INT. PHARM. PLC	34	3.25	401,043	1,303,389.75
UN/DIAG. & CLIN. SERV. PLC	10	0.78	1,490,290	1,164,126.20
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	164		5,624,598	23,761,095.71
<b>HOTEL &amp; TOURISM</b>				
CAPITAL HOTEL PLC	1	3.62	500	1,720.00
IKEJA HOTEL PLC	32	2.85	2,066,750	5,914,305.00
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	33		2,067,250	7,634,025.00
<b>IND/DOMESTIC PROD.</b>				
B. O. C. GASES NIGERIA PLC	4	10.22	20,538	209,643.36
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIG. PLC	3	0.50	57,191	28,595.50
VITAFIOM NIGERIA PLC	21	6.50	494,958	3,226,052.00
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	28		572,687	3,464,290.86
<b>INF. &amp; COMM. TECH.</b>				
CHAMS PLC	33	0.76	1,746,366	1,344,222.58
MASS TEL. INNOV. NIG. PLC	1	0.50	50,000	25,000.00
STARCOMMS PLC	46	2.10	4,381,305	9,152,225.11
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	80		6,177,671	10,521,447.69
<b>INSURANCE</b>				
AFRICAN ALLIANCE INS. PLC	1	0.50	600	300.00
AIICO INSURANCE PLC.	116	1.55	4,146,372	6,206,933.53
CONTINENTAL REINS. PLC	31	1.14	4,953,142	5,608,281.88
C/STONE INS. CO. PLC.	67	0.78	6,492,000	4,914,559.97
CUST. & ALLIED INS. PLC	28	3.57	8,942,014	31,803,206.76
EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC	3	0.50	25,020,010	12,510,005.00
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	9	0.90	1,220,000	1,098,000.00
GUAR. TRUST ASSUR. PLC	38	2.70	2,112,120	5,793,456.00
GUINEA INSURANCE PLC.	8	0.50	1,060,000	530,000.00
CONS. HALLMARK INS. PLC	20	0.55	3,193,701	1,733,935.55
INT. ENERGY INS. COY PLC	55	0.66	10,693,930	7,436,016.10
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC.	51	0.54	12,049,810	6,564,720.11
L/UNION & ROCK INS. PLC.	15	0.65	926,135	606,427.75
LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	6	0.50	26,100,000	13,050,000.00
MUT. BENEFITS ASS. PLC	11	0.55	604,000	336,280.00
N.E.M. INS. CO. (NIG.) PLC.	41	0.67	3,156,298	2,080,851.07
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC.	17	1.45	572,257	829,772.65
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC.	9	4.18	141,575	600,847.50
SOVEREIGN TRUST INS. PLC	3	0.50	244,500	122,250.00
STACO INSURANCE PLC	24	0.58	3,245,807	1,882,568.06
STAND. ALLIANCE INS. PLC	57	0.53	11,884,400	6,455,313.24
UNIC INSURANCE PLC.	8	0.77	570,000	438,900.00
UNITY KAPITAL ASS. PLC	1	0.60	500	285.00
INTERC. WAPIC INSUR. PLC	10	0.91	198,326	184,723.42
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	629		127,527,497	110,787,633.59
<b>MARITIME</b>				
JAP/OIL & MAR. SERV. PLC	206	1.55	8,370,735	13,136,143.87
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	206		8,370,735	13,136,143.87
<b>MEDIA</b>				
DAAR COMMUNIC. PLC	21	1.19	147,754	175,827.26
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	21		147,754	175,827.26
<b>MORTGAGE COMPANIES</b>				
ASO SAVINGS & LOAND PLC	67	0.55	12,643,602	7,003,174.10
RES/SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	4	0.50	154,770	77,385.00
UN/HOMES SAV/LOANS PLC	24	0.98	1,194,834	1,150,456.90
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	95		13,993,206	8,231,016.00
<b>OTHER FINANCIAL INST.</b>				
CRUSADER NIGERIA PLC.	9	0.91	525,100	478,741.00
ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC	18	0.91	467,365	429,122.15
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	27		992,465	907,863.15
<b>PACKAGING</b>				
NIG. BAG MAN. COY PLC	235	3.35	2,563,756	8,698,971.80
BETA GLASS CO. PLC	1	15.20	1,000	14,440.00
POLY PROD. (NIG.) PLC.	1	3.45	500	1,640.00
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	237		2,565,256	8,715,051.80
<b>PETROLEUM(MARK.)</b>				
AFRICAN PETR. PLC.	72	40.60	252,081	10,241,834.43
BECO PETR. PROD. PLC	47	1.59	783,393	1,207,927.67
MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC	8	69.79	5,452	399,468.04
CONOIL PLC	33	56.14	99,554	5,829,746.32
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC.	39	8.00	821,335	6,541,754.34
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC.	21	174.85	49,008	8,241,509.10
OANDO PLC	299	120.00	2,215,255	270,277,058.99
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	20	195.00	43,516	8,427,998.86
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	539		4,269,594	311,167,297.75
<b>PRINTING &amp; PUBLISHING</b>				
ACADEMY PRESS PLC.	1	6.51	200	1,238.00
LONGMAN NIGERIA PLC	12	10.31	154,400	1,588,360.00
UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC	9	7.89	2,545,800	20,086,362.00
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	22		2,700,400	21,675,960.00
<b>REAL ESTATE</b>				
UACN PROP. DEV. CO. PLC	24	22.50	1,094,270	24,675,475.71
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	24		1,094,270	24,675,475.71
<b>ROAD TRANSPORTATION</b>				
ASSOCIATED BUS COY PLC	14	1.05	334,770	362,988.10
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	14		334,770	362,988.10
<b>THE FOREIGN LISTINGS</b>				
ECOBANK TRANS. INCORP.	46	20.31	4,472,116	90,817,317.00
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	46		4,472,116	90,817,317.00
<b>OVERALL Totals</b>	8,669		551,362,322	5,898,295,136.89

What is income stock?  
A security with a solid record of dividend payments and which offers a dividend yield higher than the average common stock.

Google.com

GAINERS

J/BERGER	1.69
AP	0.60
ETI	0.51
LONGMAN	0.49

LOSERS

# DIGEST

## Body language: How to encourage respect

WHAT an unusual commodity respect is. It is almost impossible to quantify, and yet it forms a crucial part of most human interactions. It can be unclear what constitutes respect, beyond recognising the integrity of another individual.

Mostly, respect is engendered by self-respect. If you see that somebody is taking themselves seriously, then you are much more likely also to take them seriously, too. So with your body language you should concentrate on projecting your strong sense of self. Done successfully, this body language will let those around you relax in your company. Imagine you're watching a play and the actor forgets his lines – it's always fine as long as the actor has the confidence to deal with the situation.

### Dress to impress

Nothing says "I command respect" like good dress sense. It doesn't have to be flashy or showy – it's not a catwalk – and clothes that are too outlandish can convey the sense that you don't take yourself seriously. But if you are well turned out, many people will find it that much harder to dismiss you out of hand.

### Be deliberate

Hold yourself well – straight back, chin up, deliberate arm gestures. Imagine what you look like from the outside – do you give off the impression that you are worried about being yourself? You can practise in the mirror – even if you're put in a situation you're terrified of, you can at least look



With your body language, you should concentrate on projecting a strong sense of self

like you know what you are doing. If you stand up, or change your posture, do so with an equal sense of purpose. Keep the palms of your hands facing outwards, and try to smile. It makes you seem friendly and open, which combined with confidence lets people respect you as being both approachable and self-assured.

Are you leaking respect?

Negative body language, or "leakage", is one of the most surefire ways to eradicate any respect you inspire in others. These little signals betray your insecurities, and let your audience know you are wavering or uncertain of what you are saying. Excessive fidgeting – particularly playing with your hair, face or clothes – is an obvious warning

that our faith, or respect, might be misplaced. Particularly avoid covering your mouth or face with your hands; this is a classic gesture of nervousness, and indicates that you might be lying.

This is especially true if you fear you are in a position of weakness – raising an issue at work, such as a pay-rise or mistreatment by a boss, or dealing with

an awkward social situation, like a break-up with a partner. When you need to be taken seriously, you need your body language to support the words you're saying. Respect helps in every aspect of life: the right body language can help you go a long way to achieving it, professionally, socially and romantically.

Culled from telegraph.co.uk

## Facebook speak: Teenagers create secret online language

TEENAGERS on social networking sites such as Facebook and Bebo are creating a secret language to stop adults knowing what they are up to, researchers say.

**“The language used on Bebo seems to go beyond abbreviations that are commonly used in text messaging, such as removing all the vowels**

The teens are using it to stop parents and employers judging them by their social activities such as partying and drinking.

Instead of writing they are drunk, teens post 'Getting MWI' - or mad with it.

Being in a relationship is known as 'taken' or 'Ownageeee', and 'Ridneck', a corruption of redneck, means to feel embarrassed.

Meanwhile, girls posting 'Legal' are indicating that they are above 16 and legally allowed to have sex.

Lisa Whittaker, a postgraduate student at the University of Stirling, who studied teens aged 16-18 on Bebo in Scotland, said the slang had been created to keep their activi-

ties private, and cited the example of one young girl who was sacked after bosses found pictures of her drinking on the website.

"Young people often distort the languages they use by making the pages difficult for those unfamiliar with the distortions and colloquialisms," she said. "The language used on Bebo seems to go beyond abbreviations that are commonly used in text messaging, such as removing all the vowels.

"This is not just bad spelling, which would suggest literacy issues, but a deliberate attempt to creatively mis-

spell words.

"The creation and use of their own social language may be a deliberate attempt to keep adults from understanding what is written on the page.

"By doing this they are able to communicate with their in-group and conceal the content from the out-group. This further adds to their online identity."

She said that one reason for encoding their messages was to keep adults in the dark about their drinking or smoking.

Culled from telegraph.co.uk

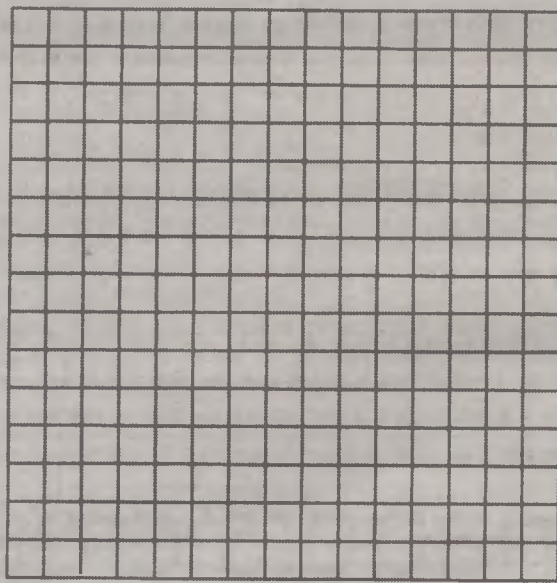
### Sign Language



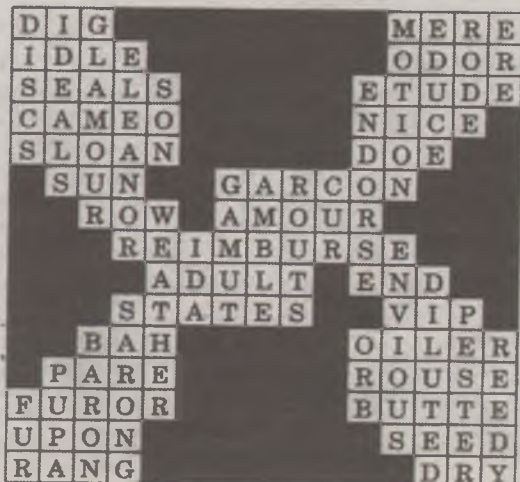
...and bottom in spelling  
 Photo location: Melbourne, by Erik Munch-Fals  
 Culled from telegraph.co.uk

## DIAGRAMLESS 6

- |                              |                             |                                   |                                  |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                | 23. That girl               | 3. Track event                    | 21. Raptor nest                  |
| 1. Gambling game             | 24. Military assistant      | 4. Middle East sultanate          | 25. Piece of classroom furniture |
| 5. Constantly changing scene | 27. Church tower            | 5. Dressy shoe material: 2 wds.   | 26. Fencing tool                 |
| 9. Salt Lake City's state    | 30. Chemical building-block | 6. Surrounded by                  | 27. Glut                         |
| 13. U.S. citizen             | 34. Cheer word              | 7. 19-Across, in the society page | 28. Civil War general            |
| 14. — Roosevelt, FDR's mom   | 35. Understands             | 8. Some                           | 29. Psychic gift                 |
| 15. Man's neck accessory     | 36. Adjust, as heat         | 9. Function                       | 30. Give guns to                 |
| 18. Repudiate                | 38. Retain                  | 10. IRS collection                | 31. Abound (with)                |
| 17. Glorified                | 39. More full-flavored      | 11. Dashing mount                 | 32. Rude look                    |
| 19. Brought into life        | 40. Thaw                    | 12. Angel's head-topper           | 33. Ponder                       |
| 20. Had lunch                |                             | 18. Rubbish                       | 34. Uncooked                     |
| 22. Like a fox               |                             |                                   | 37. Land parcel                  |



### SOLUTION TO DIAGRAMLESS



5

# 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.

136

4			2	7		1		
							7	
1			3			9	4	
		9		8	2			1
		8		6		3		
2			5	1		7		
	8	5				9		7
	2							
	4		1		5			9

### Solution to Sudoku 135

8	9	5	1	2	7	3	4	6
4	6	3	5	8	9	7	1	2
7	1	2	3	4	6	9	8	5
9	4	7	2	3	5	8	6	1
1	5	6	4	9	8	2	7	3
3	2	8	7	6	1	4	5	9
5	8	4	9	1	3	6	2	7
6	7	9	8	5	2	1	3	4
2	3	1	6	7	4	5	9	8

## News Extra

# George W Bush set to admit mistakes for the first time in memoir

## DECISION POINTS



## GEORGE W. BUSH

THE cover of former President Bush's soon-to-be-published memoir, revealed for the first time

Former US president writes about 'never-before-heard detail' of 9/11, his alcoholism, and mistakes and achievements while in White House

**F**ormer U.S. President George Bush is set to admit his mistakes for the first time in a new memoir set to be published in November.

As president, Mr Bush was known for not acknowledging errors, but Crown Publishers, the company behind the book, said that he 'writes honestly and directly about his flaws and mistakes.'

The president's publisher has lifted the veil on the cover of the new book, 'Decision Points.'

It features a photo of Mr Bush alone with his thoughts, standing in the Rose Garden Colonnade, wearing a dark suit and holding a briefing book, his head turned slightly from the camera.

The publishers said the former president would also write about 'his historic achievements in reforming education, providing life-saving treatments for HIV/Aids and malaria for millions of people in Africa, safeguarding the country from another terrorist attack, and other areas.'

**M**r Bush has said he is not writing a traditional memoir but an account of key decisions in his life.

According to Crown Publishers, 'Decision Points' will offer 'gripping, never-before-heard detail' on such historic events as the September 11, 2001, attacks and the 2000 presidential election along with Bush's decision to quit drinking, his relationship with his family and other personal details.

'Since leaving the Oval Office, President Bush has given virtually no interviews or public speeches about his presidency,'

Crown said in a statement.

'Instead, he has spent almost every day writing "Decision Points", a strikingly personal and candid account revealing how and why he made the defining decisions in his consequential presidency and personal life.'

A publishing industry source familiar with the book said that Mr Bush had completed a first draft and was editing the manuscript on a computer at his office in Dallas.

A former White House speech writer, Chris Michel, is helping with research.

**T**he source was unsure whether Mr Bush had compared notes with his wife, Laura Bush, whose memoir comes out May 4.

His is set to be published on November 9.

The book will have a list price of \$35 in the U.S. One thousand signed, clothbound copies will be available, priced at \$350 each.

The former president will promote 'Decision Points' through a national tour, although Crown, a division of Random House Inc., said no details were available.

'Since leaving the Oval Office, President Bush has given virtually no interviews or public speeches about his presidency.'

# Band of Brothers author accused of fabrication for Eisenhower biography

US academic world shocked as respected historian is said to have 'made up' meetings with 34th US president

**H**is book *Band of Brothers* – which chronicled the exploits of one company of US airborne troops in second world war Europe – was turned into a highly praised TV series.

But now American historian Professor Stephen Ambrose, who was President Dwight D Eisenhower's official biographer and wrote or edited more than a dozen books about him, is embroiled in a posthumous controversy. It is alleged that he invented many meetings he claimed to have had with Eisenhower, and even fabricated entire interviews with him. The revelations have sent shock waves through the scholarly community in the United States.

The books written by Ambrose, who died in 2002, brought him popular acclaim, and director Steven Spielberg used him as a military adviser on his 1998 Oscar-winning film *Saving Private Ryan*. *Band of Brothers*

became a cultural milestone when it was turned into a TV series on which Ambrose was a producer. It was hailed for educating an entire generation about the sacrifices of their forefathers. But it appears that Ambrose indulged in some sort of fantasy about the extent of his relationship with Eisenhower. In TV interviews, he claimed to have spent "hundreds and hundreds of hours" with the former president. He even once said he would spend two days a week working with Eisenhower in his office.

**H**owever, recently studied records of Eisenhower's meetings contradict the notion that the pair had any lengthy face-to-face contact. "I think five hours [in total] is a generous estimation of the actual time they spent together. I personally would push it back to less than two or three," said Tim Rives, deputy director of the Eisenhower Presidential Library in Abilene,



DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

Kansas.

The discovery came to light almost by accident. The museum had been planning an exhibi-

tion exploring the relationship between Ambrose and Eisenhower. Rives found that the records showed that Ambrose and Eisenhower had met only three times, and never alone. He found that on seven occasions when Ambrose had claimed in the footnotes to his book *Supreme Commander* to have met Eisenhower, his subject was either elsewhere in the country or holding meetings with other people at the time.

**I**n one example, Ambrose claimed to have had an interview with Eisenhower in Pennsylvania, when Eisenhower was in Kansas. "The whole story kind of unravelled from there. It was quite a surprise. We were not looking for it, so it sort of happened almost by accident," Rives said.

Given that the lives of former presidents are meticulously detailed by their staff, there is almost no chance Ambrose could have held interviews with Eisenhower that went unrecorded.

Later claims by Ambrose in other books to have interviewed Eisenhower lack specific dates or places, but were just footnoted as

"Interview with DDE". However, the range of subjects Ambrose claimed to have discussed with Eisenhower increased to take in topics such as giving up smoking or the Vietnam war.

**R**ives believes there is no way that Ambrose could have discussed such a vast array of subjects in the tiny amount of time he actually spent with his subject. "I find that very doubtful. That should be something that would be a concern for scholars. It could cast doubt."

Ambrose claimed that Eisenhower asked him to be his biographer by ringing him out of the blue in 1964. But Rives found letters from Ambrose to Eisenhower introducing himself and then asking him to agree to Ambrose writing his biography. This is not the first scandal over Ambrose's work. In 2002 he was accused of plagiarism in his book *The Wild Blue*. His publisher issued an apology but Ambrose said he had merely failed to put some short passages taken from elsewhere in quotation marks.

Culled from guardian.co.uk

## News Extra



JAPANESE belief holds that the tears can ensure good health for the children



A sumo wrestler holds aloft a bawling baby during the Japanese Nakizumo festival in Tokyo Sunday

# Yes, it's the 'Crying Sumo' contest

...Japanese wrestlers compete to see who can make a baby bawl first

**S**o much for the argument that leaving a baby to cry can result in brain damage.

These Japanese sumo wrestlers believe the exact opposite: That a good long wail can be healthy for babies.

That, at least, is the theory behind the bizarre 'crying sumo' or Nakizumo festival held at the Sensoji Temple in Tokyo earlier this month.

University club sumo wrestlers hold babies aloft in the contest and try to make them cry. Whichever baby cries first, is the winner.

**I**f both babies cry at the same time, the one bawling loudest is declared victor.

The babies are persuaded to tears by a sumo judge, who orders them to 'nake, nake' ('cry, cry') as the wrestlers growl and make faces.

Of course, even the best laid plans sometimes go awry, and the babies end up laughing instead. At that point the wrestlers don ferocious masks, which usually finishes the job.

**T**he babies are held aloft so that their cries are closer to heaven. During the 400-year-old competition, their parents pray for the good health of their children.

Evil spirits are supposedly driven away during the festival, which takes place across Japan.

Childcare expert Dr Penelope Leach made headlines last week when she claimed that fresh research proves that long periods of crying can damage developing brains, leading to learning difficulties later in life.



MOTHERS wait in line to enter their babies in the bizarre competition on Sunday.



FIERCE competition: Whichever baby cries first is the winner

## News Extra

# Meet Britain's smallest mother

## ...Her 14-month-old son towers over her



**PROUD mother: Amanda Moore with 14-month-old Aidan, who already towers over her when he stands up**

**B**ritain's smallest mum told yesterday how her baby son already towers above her - aged just 14 months.

Proud Amanda Moore, 25, became the shortest woman ever to give birth in the UK when son Aidan was delivered by Caesarean section last year.

She suffers from a rare bone disease which has left her measuring just 3ft 1in. But because the condition has left her unable to stand, Aidan already towers above her at 2ft 6in.

Amanda says Aidan could end up being as tall as his father Steven Fyfe, 20 - who is a lanky 6ft 1in.

She said: 'Aidan is getting so big, he takes after his dad. I always knew he would be taller than me but he's shot up. When I sit on the floor to play with him, he is taller than me already and he's only 14 months old. He's getting so big and strong that soon we'll have to tell him to be gentle with mummy.'

'It's been a struggle because he's been running rings around me since he was crawling. But

now he's walking he's more than a handful for someone my size. Most boys are bigger than their

mums, but not after a year. He'll always be my little boy.'

Amanda, of Hinkley, Leices-

tershire., suffers from brittle bone disorder.

She was born with 14 broken bones and resigned herself to never having children because experts feared that her tiny frame could not cope with a pregnancy. But she accidentally

growing inside me would kill me.

'But at the same time I felt a strong love developing for our unborn child I just couldn't dismiss. We both wanted this baby so much.'

She began suffering black-outs at 35 weeks and was rushed to the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford after blacking out at an Asda store in Swindon, where she and Steven lived at the time.

Aidan was born on February 27 last year weighing 5lb 5oz and had not inherited his mother's bone condition.

At 14 months, he already tips the scales at 22lb - nearly half the four stone his mother weighs.

She said: 'Soon Aidan will be bigger than me and we are working out how I can move him around the house in my chair while Steven is at work.'

'Aidan is starting to say a few words and is really mobile - but he'll never be too big for a telling off from his mum.'

Steven, who works for a taxi firm, said they haven't ruled out having another child even after the stressful pregnancy and the danger of passing on Amanda's condition.

He said: 'It's been a struggle but Aidan is doing so well. He's a big boy and will soon be much bigger than his mother. When Amanda became pregnant doctors told us she or the baby could die, or even both of them.'

'But they are both fighting fit and we are a very lucky family. We are not ruling out having another child - Aidan would make a great big brother.'

She was born with 14 broken bones and resigned herself to never having children because experts feared that her tiny frame could not cope with a pregnancy

fell pregnant and defied doctors' advice to have an abortion.

Amanda said: 'Doctors advised me to have a termination and we did think about it. I didn't want to die and there was a real and likely possibility that the baby



**HAPPY family: Steven and Amanda have not ruled out having a second child**

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## Stakeholders tasked on environment

By Mustapha Suleiman

CHAIRMAN, Senate Committee on Environment and Ecology, Senator Grace Bent, has said that the job of enforcing environmental protection cannot be done alone by federal protection agencies. She called for a concerted effort among the Legislative arm, the judiciary and the law enforcement agencies to effectively ensure the prevention of environmental damages, regulation of potentially harmful activities and the punishment of wilful harmful damages whenever it occurs.

Bent was speaking yesterday in Abuja at a

workshop on Environmental Laws, Regulations and Conventions for Judges and Law Enforcement Officers organised by the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) in collaboration with National Judicial Institute and the United Nations Development programme (UNDP).

The workshop is intended to increase awareness within the Judiciary and Law Enforcement Agencies on extant environmental laws, regulations and conventions.

She said that the role of the National Assembly is to make laws for good environmental governance, adding that the enforcement and interpretation of these laws

rest on the environmental enforcement agencies, most importantly, the Judiciary.

In his opening address, Minister of Environment Mr. John Odey said that for us to have a good environment we must have laws that protect the environment and these laws must be enforced.

Also speaking, the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Mr. Mohammed Bello Adoke, noted that deficiency in the knowledge of relevant skills and information in regard to environmental law is one of the principal causes that contribute to the lack of effective implementation, development and enforcement of environmental law.



THE green vehicle, Womble Truck, recycled from 21 different car parts

## Green vehicle recycled from 21 different car parts

IT may have been cobbled together with parts from 21 different cars, but this misshapened vehicle nicknamed the 'Womble Truck' could be Britain's most environmentally friendly car.

The unusual mode of transport can reach speeds of up to 110mph running only on chip fat and vegetable oil.

It was created by sculptor and environmentalist Buzz Knapp-Fisher, who has spent the last six years modifying the automobile into an

almost carbon-free mode of transport.

The vehicle has been cobbled together from an array of car parts including some from a Sixties Morris 1000, Seventies Mini, a Ford, a Reliant Robin, an MG Midget, a Vauxhall Viva and a Volvo 740.

It was named after the children's TV characters 'The Wombles', who lived on Wimbledon Common and collected and recycled rubbish in ingenious ways.

Costing only £250 on purchase, Buzz has made some modest and cheap adjustments over the years.

Replacing the large petrol engine for a biodiesel engine, in the last year Buzz has managed to convert the car to run entirely on chip fat.

'I started using biodiesel and then switched to chip fat and vegetable oil just over a year ago,' he said.

## Niger spends N3.6bn on oxygen fitted ambulances

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

NIGER state government has procured 50 oxygen fitted ambulances for highways at the cost of N3.6 billion through the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Governor Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu, who flagged off the use of the ambulances, said the need to preserve lives was an imperative of every government.

He said road accidents have claimed lives on Nigerian roads which would have been salvaged if ambulances were on ground to evacuate wounded persons to the nearest hospitals.

According to him, the ambulances would be dispatched on accident prone spots in the state, adding that the first batch of the ambulances will be deployed to address emergencies in Mokwa, Suleja, Bida, Kontagora and Minna roads.

Aliyu said that the state would soon take delivery of additional ten of the ambulances which are equipped with modern auxiliary first aid kits and equipments, such as Oxygen chambers and other medical personnel next month.

Earlier, the state Director General of MDGs, Malam Hassan Nuhu disclosed that the first quarter of the year has recorded hundreds of deaths in the state resulting from road accidents.

## Community challenges regulators on oil spillage

RESIDENTS and fishermen in Ibeno community in Akwa Ibom have appealed to industry regulators to identify those responsible for the oil spill that contaminated the coastline in the area on March 24.

Representatives of the community, who made the appeal at the weekend in Eket in an interview, said Mobil Producing Nigeria (MPN), Total Exploration and Production, Addax Petroleum and Afren Energy operating offshore Akwa Ibom coastline have all denied responsibility for the spill.

MPN's External Affairs Director, Mrs Gloria Essien-

Danner, said tests conducted by the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) and National Oil Spills Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) confirmed that the spill did not emanate from its facilities.

Chief John Udoeka, Chairman, Iwuopom Village Council in Ibeno, said that the community was awaiting the result of the ongoing investigation to unravel the source of the crude discharge.

"The management of Mobil is claiming that the company is not the source of the oil.

The community leader said that the company respon-

sible for the spill would also be made to pay compensation for the economic losses incurred by fishermen.

He said the fishermen had suffered as a result of frequent oil spills, and urged the oil industry regulators to minimise oil spill incidents.

Twenty-five youths from various parts of the host community were engaged for the clean-up exercise expected to last for 10 days.

An official of the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) said on telephone that the clean-up was in progress, but declined further comments. (NAN)

Environment



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# Lagos to share waste mgt experience

MR Ola Oresanya, the Managing Director of Lagos State Waste Management Authority (LAWMA), said on Sunday that the Authority was willing to share its waste management experience with any interested state.

Oresanya said in Lagos that the agency was also prepared to build the capacity of interested states in efficient waste management.

"With the little milestone which Lagos has achieved in waste collection and disposal, we would be ready to share our experience with other states in Nigeria.

He said that some West African countries and some state governments in Nigeria had indicated interest in collaborating with Lagos State in the area of waste management.

He urged the governments to step up the people's sensitisation on desirable waste management procedures, while urging the people to desist from dumping waste along the streets, highways and other unauthorised places.

He stressed that with a clean and healthy environment, epidemics and diseases would be significantly reduced in communities. (NAN)



FIRE boat response crews battle the blazing remnants of the off shore oil rig Deepwater Horizon 50 miles off the coast Louisiana in the Gulf of Mexico

## Fire destroys UNN council chamber

A section of UNN Continuous Education Centre (CEC) housing the Council Chamber has been gutted by fire.

The fire, it was gathered, started in the early hours of Saturday with equipment worth millions of naira and vital documents destroyed.

An eye witness said in Nsukka on Saturday that the fire started at about 4a.m. from a cyber café, where students were doing an overnight browsing.

He said that instead of raising alarm for people to come and assist in putting out the inferno, the night browsers sneaked out of the place.

"The council chamber as well some business centres were completely razed by the inferno," the source said.

As of the time of filing this report, UNN security had condoned off the affected section of the CEC.

The university's chief security officer and CEC manager who refused to give their names, declined to speak, stressing that they needed to get permission from the appropriate authorities before speaking to the media.

However, when contacted, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof Bartho Okolo, described the fire incident as unfortunate, especially at this time that the university was striving to address issues of poor facilities.

"It is unfortunate that this fire disaster that destroyed equipment worth millions of naira in CEC happened at a moment the management is making effort to improve the facilities in the university," he said.

Okolo said an electrical fault ignited the fire and ruled out sabotage.

"It is electrical fault, there is no act of sabotage in it," the V-C said.

In a comment, Mr Osmond Omuh, Chief Fire Service Officer in Nsukka, said he was contacted by the Nsukka Local Government Chairman, Mr Tony Ugwu, at about 5 a.m., and his men immediately moved to the scene.

Omuh noted that if the university community had called when the fire started, they would have limited the damage.

"I thank the local government chairman who alerted us, if not, the situation could have been worse," he said. (NAN)

## Developing countries to generate more e-waste

AUTHORS of an Environmental Science and Technology article have forecasted that the developing world will generate more waste computers than the developed countries as soon as 2017, and that by 2025 the developing world will generate twice the amount of waste computers as what will come from developed nations.

"Rapid economic and population growth in developing countries is driving an increase in computer use

in these parts of the world that is outpacing the implementation of modern and environment-friendly recycling systems," Williams says. "So without action, backyard recycling is certain to increase."

One proposal is to pay backyard recyclers not to recycle.

Electronics waste - or e-waste - is often exported from the United States and other developed nations to regions in China, India, Thailand

and less developed countries where recycling is done in a crude fashion.

To recover copper from e-waste, for instance, wires are pulled out, piled up and burned to remove insulation covering the copper. This emits dioxins and other pollutants.

Toxic cyanide and acids used to remove gold from circuit boards of junked computers also are released into the environment.

## Experts seek review of environmental laws

ENVIRONMENTALISTS at the weekend in Lagos called for a review of the country's environmental regulatory laws, arguing that some of the laws had become obsolete.

The experts, who spoke variously at the 40th Earth Day anniversary organised by the United States Consulate, Lagos, also called for the reforestation of deforested areas in the country.

They added that there was the urgent imperative for government at all levels to embark on massive public enlightenment on the need for a sustainable environment.

Founder, Fight Against Desert Encroachment, Dr. Newton Jibunoh, said the country's environmental laws should be reviewed in line with prevailing environmental chal-

lenges.

Jibunoh said years of unregulated deforestation had exposed communities to the effects of desertification, pointing out that more areas were currently prone to desertification.

"We are in a serious crisis right now because the desert is still encroaching due to the absence of vegetation.

"We all need to act fast, and to act fast means that government should make construction companies and developers to plant two or more trees when destroying one," he said. The environmentalist said that there was a plan to lead a delegation to the National Assembly to ask federal lawmakers to legislate on tree planting.

# SANYO

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## Environment



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### Frozen bodies to be retrieved from Everest

A team of mountaineers are planning to retrieve the bodies of climbers who have lost their lives on Mount Everest.

It is thought as many as 150 bodies are still on the mountainside, beyond the reach of recovery because of treacherous climbing conditions.

Around 300 people have died along a perilous stretch of the world's highest peak known as the "death zone" because of its lack of oxygen and treacherous terrain.

The Nepali climbers, known as Sherpas, are also aiming to clean up decades-old rubbish from the mountain in what is being called the world's highest ever clean-up campaign.

Sherpas - the indigenous people who live in the Himalayas - are expert guides and porters who are known for their physical stamina and knowledge of the mountains.

Namgyal Sherpa, who will lead the operation - called Extreme Everest Expedition 2010, said no-one has ever tried to clean above 8,000m (26,246ft) before.

"This is the first time we are cleaning at that height. It is very difficult and dangerous," he explained.

The group will risk the zone's thin air and freezing temperatures to pick up empty oxygen bottles, gas canisters, torn tents, ropes, and utensils lying between the South Col and the 8,850m (29,035ft) summit.

"We'll bring down the body of a Swiss climber who died in the mountain in 2008 and cremate it below the base camp, for which we have got the family's consent," Namgyal added.

The team hope to bring five bodies down to the summit.

### Lafia residents keep untidy environment

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

RESIDENTS of Lafia, the Nasarawa State capital appear oblivious to the importance of a clean environment around them, as they have flouted all sanitary regulations, worsening the condition of living in the ancient town.

Also, owners of properties including government agencies are not conscious of their environment as they have always kept untidy surrounding with refuse littered around, and grasses overgrown to the doorsteps, Daily Trust can report.

This is worsened by the inability of concerned authorities especially the Nasarawa State Urban Development Board (NUDB) to enforce urban laws to apprehend defaulting residents and property developers. The NUDB is yet to say what its constraints are, while the people are having a field day turning the state capital into dump site.

But the state commissioner of information, Mamman Alakayi frowned that government has become a punching bag over the emergence of refuse heaps around all street corners and strategic locations in the state capital, explaining that a friendly environment is not the responsibility of government alone, since it deserves the effort of residents as well.

Alakayi wondered why residents will not keep their immediate surroundings clean, but expect that government should come around to do the cleaning and clearing of bush. He called on all residents and property owners to live up to sit up to their civic duties as he warned that concerned authorities are ready to wield the big stick this time around to punish defaulters of environmental laws.

Daily Trust spoke to some residents who expressed ignorance about their responsibility to the environment. "Whether there are laws, I don't them. I think it is the responsibility of government to come around and clear refuse, not that residents should be cleaning up the streets," a resident and shop owner along Shendam Road said.

The resident who gave her name only as Grace said, nevertheless that "All the same, we are the ones who generate the dirt, and suffer from its negative effect."



MOTORISTS escape the smoke and ash rising up from the Eyjafjallajokull volcano in Iceland, with one car carrying on oblivious to the gathering cloud

## 'Ash cloud didn't exist'

BRITAIN'S airspace was closed under false pretences, with satellite images revealing there was no doomsday volcanic ash cloud over the entire country.

Skies fell quiet for six days, leaving as many as 500,000 Britons stranded overseas and costing airlines hundreds of millions of pounds.

Estimates put the number of Britons still stuck abroad at 30,000.

However, new evidence shows there was no all-encompassing cloud and, where dust was present, it was often so thin that it posed no risk.

The satellite images demonstrate that the skies were largely clear, which will not surprise the millions who enjoyed the fine, hot weather during the flight ban. Jim McKenna, the Civil Aviation Authority's head of airworthiness, strategy and policy, admitted: "It's obvious that at the start of this crisis there was a lack of definitive data."

"It's also true that for some of the time, the density of ash above the UK was close to undetectable."

The National Air Traffic Control Service decision to ban flights was based on Met Office computer models

which painted a picture of a cloud of ash being blown south from the Eyjafjallajokull volcano.

These models should have been tested by the Met Office's main research plane, a BAE 146 jet, but it was in a hangar to be repainted and could not be sent up until last Tuesday - the last day of the ban.

Evidence has emerged that the maximum density of the ash was only about one 20th of the limit that scientists, the Government, and aircraft and engine manufacturers have now decided is safe.

### Kuje chairman vows to sustain monthly sanitation

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

THE chairman of Kuje Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Mr. Danladi Etsu Zhin has said that his administration will continue to ensure there is full compliance by his people to sustain the monthly sanitation exercise in order to enhance clean environment.

Zhin, who was speaking while inspecting the last Saturday monthly sanitation exercise at the council, noted that clean environment protect human beings from all forms of disease infection that are dangerous to human lives.

He observed that for someone to

achieve hundred percent clean environments there is need for government agencies, stake-holders and non-governmental organisations in sensitizing the public on the dangers/importance of clean environment as well as indiscriminate dumping of refuse.

According to him, the council on assumption in office has recruited over 300 women and also procured a compactable refuse truck for evacuation of refuse within the metropolis of the council.

The council boss however identified lack of proper sensitization of people and enforcement as the major problem facing some area councils,

saying there was need stake-holders, traditional rulers, religious leaders as well as Non Governmental Organisations come together to enlighten the public on importance of sanitation.

"For us to achieve hundred percent sanitation programme, people need to be thoroughly sensitized until is gotten to their knowledge on the dangers of dirty environment in the society," he said.

The council chairman expressed happiness with the residents of the council for the level of their compliance in the sanitation exercise and assured that the council will its best to improve water supply at the council.

## Environment



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# Fire guts Philippine shanty town

A huge fire sweeping through a shantytown outside the Philippine capital has left around 7,000 people homeless and destroyed at least 300 houses.

Firefighters in Manila were tackling the intense fires which razed homes to the ground in Quezon City on Sunday afternoon.

Fuelled by strong winds and scorching temperatures, the fire spread rapidly throughout the slums, fire chiefs said.

At least two people were injured.

Metropolitan Manila Fire Marshal Pablito Cordeta

said this evening that around 200 firetrucks were still battling the fire.

The fire, which began around 3pm local time, was still burning at nightfall.

Liquid petroleum, sold in several stores in the shantytown, had further fuelled the flames.

Firefighters struggled to penetrate alleys, which were clogged by people trying

Residents wept as they watched their burning houses.

One homeowner, Glen Sardon, said: 'We failed to save anything except our clothes.'

Mr Cordeta said at least two residents were reported missing.

Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte said the De Los Santos College is being used as a temporary evacuation center for the affected residents.

Authorities have yet to determine the cause of the blaze.

Slum areas in the Philippine capital are vulnerable to fires because the houses, often made from salvaged wood, are built close together, sometimes even piled on top of one another.

PIC: KENNEDY EGBONODJE

## Sanitation offenders charged, fined

NO fewer than 22 persons were on Saturday charged to the Mobile Sanitation Court in Kubwa, Federal Capital Territory (FCT), for sanitation-related offences.

Mrs Victoria Oladele, a Nigeria Civil Defence and Security Corps officer in charge of the monthly environmental sanitation in Dutse Alhaji, a satellite town in Abuja, said that five persons in the area failed to undertake the exercise.

"Those five persons were charged to court out of many persons arrested. What we normally do is when we arrest defaulters, we ask them to pick dirt and cellophane materials.

"When they prove stubborn, we send them to the mobile court in Kubwa. Also, those private cars moving around will be fined for not complying with the order on the restriction of movement," Oladele said.

An official of the Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB), who pleaded anonymity, told NAN that no fewer than 17 offenders were tried in the mobile court located at the Federal Housing Estate in Kubwa. (NAN)

**When they prove stubborn, we send them to the mobile court in Kubwa. Also, those private cars moving around will be fined for not complying with the order on the restriction of movement**



THE beauty of tree flowers during rainy season.

## Abuja Green Society to plant 50,000 trees annually

By Nasir Imam

THE Abuja Green Society has said that the society is poised to plant about 50,000 trees annually in Federal Capital Territory.

The President of the Society, retired General Theophilous Yakubu Danjuma, stated this while receiving ten thousand seedlings of tree donated by the FCT Administration to the Abuja Green Society in his office, Area 11, Garki I District, Abuja.

General Theophilous Yakubu Danjuma

(Rtd) said the society was established two years ago with the mandate to checkmate some irregularities in the way and manner which some certain individuals misuse parks and recreational facilities in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

In his remarks at the occasion, The FCT Minister, Senator Bala Mohammed. The Minister reiterated that his administration will not relent in its efforts in ensuring that it tackles environmental problems in the Federal Capital Territory.

He therefore called on the residents of the

Federal Capital Territory to imbibe the culture of planting trees in their immediate environment to ward-off global warming.

Senator Mohammed restated that the trees fell along the Airport and Murtala Muhammad Expressway (Kubwa Road) would not be allowed to be repeated again in the Federal Capital Territory.

The Minister charged the Abuja Green Society to initiate a legal framework for the maintenance of parks in the Abuja metropolis to ensure that they are not abused.

## Bauchi farmers sensitised on weather, climate change

THE Bauchi State Agricultural Development Programme (BSADP) has embarked on massive sensitisation of farmers on weather and climate change.

Dr Aliyu Gital, the BSADP Programme Manager, said in Bauchi on Monday that the programme was aimed at promoting good farming practices.

Gital said the programme was also designed to caution farmers against planting early in the rainy season.

"It is desirable for farmers to commence planting by the

end of May to avoid recording losses at harvest," he said.

The Nigerian Metrological Agency (NIMET) had indicated that Bauchi would record more than 150 days of rain this year.

The statistics also indicated that the rain would commence on May 22 and end Oct. 25.

Meanwhile, residents of Bauchi metropolis have heaved a sigh of relief from the excruciating heat, following a heavy downpour on Saturday which lasted for

about 40 minutes.

The rise in the temperature to over 39 degrees Celsius in the past few weeks had exposed residents of the area to excruciating heat, forcing them to sleep outside.

The hot weather, coupled with the erratic power supply had also made life unbearable for the residents.

With the rains, farmers in the surrounding villages have started clearing their farms in preparation for the commencement of the planting season. (NAN)

# HEALTH REPORT

## Our efforts to eradicate malaria this year – FG

As Nigeria celebrate yet another malaria day, and having barely eight months before the 2010 deadline to eradicate malaria, Daily Trust reporter *Ruby Leo* speaks to the National coordinator for the National Malaria Control Programme, *Dr Folake Ademola - Majekodunmi*, on the progress and challenges of efforts to eradicate malaria

**W**HAT has the government done so far to reduce malaria?

Some people will hardly believe that we can eradicate malaria. It is doable. What is required is proper planning, getting everybody on board the train, especially at the level of leadership wherein examples are laid and direction is provided for people to work better.

In the last one year, we have been able to bring on board, the other two tiers of Government and indeed, leadership at the community level to enable us provide a very strong front in the fight against Malaria.

We have also been able to attract the cooperation and partnership of the faith based community. Sequel to the establishment of the Nigerian Inter Faith Action Association during the World Malaria Day last year, they have been able to hit the ground running and they have brought on board their competencies especially in mobilizing people to imbibe our programmes.

We are using this year's World Malaria Day to deepen plans so that we might be able to achieve the very ambitious goals that we have set for ourselves. Remember, that delivery time is just 8 months away, but we are up to the task.

We have started well by bringing every relevant stakeholder on board. The Government at every level, Religious and Traditional/Community leadership, the Civil Society, Private Sector, Development Partners etc.

**What are the goals of the malaria programme in the light of the heavy disease burden in Nigeria?**

Simply put, the National Malaria Control Programme aim to reduce the burden of malaria by half at the end of this year and 75% by 2015.

The immediate implication of this goal if achieved, is that we would have reduced all-causes of child mortal-

ity by 20% by the end of this year and if we continue in that path, we would be reaching near-zero deaths by 2015.

The achievement of these goals has far reaching effects on us as a nation. Firstly, the nation's health system will be spared the burden of taking care of those who would have been sick while savings from this in terms of resources, personnel, facilities etc can be diverted to other areas of our health needs. Indeed, if we achieve this, the Millennium Development Goals will be achieved ultimately

**H**ow do you intend to achieve these very ambitious goals? Are there any new initiatives in this regard?

Our initiatives are encapsulated in what we have termed as an integrated approach to attacking malaria.

The first approach is to enlist the support of all Nigerians. When everybody understands where we are going and what the essence of it all is, it would not be difficult to carry them along and get their cooperation.

Mass mobilization is the word. We intend to educate Nigerians along three major lines; firstly, our plans and programmes, secondly, provide health information and education that will enable them to make the right decisions about their health.

This will in the long run lead to a vast reduction in the incidence of illness among the populace. If people can take care of themselves to prevent their vulnerability, then we would have saved a lot because we know that prevention is better than cure.

**What is the third approach?**

Yes, the third item on our mass mobilization campaign list and perhaps the most important in terms of our strategies is the distribution of bed nets. We intend to place two mosquito nets in

every household in Nigeria.

These are not just the traditional mosquito nets, we are used to. They are long lasting nets that have been treated with insecticides. The major difference that they offer is that they do not just repel mosquitoes, they kill mosquito's instantly.

The nets are special and very efficacious in tracking down and killing mosquitoes. They are called LLIN (Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets). This is a new technology. They are ready to use and they require no treatment in that they are also dirt repellants and thus the nets are kept clean, longer than usual.

The nets are such that if you have it in a room, mosquitoes within a considerable circumference will gravitate towards it and be killed immediately. What I am saying is that mosquito will not be able to operate anywhere you have the nets, and that is aside the issue of sleeping under it.

The total number of nets involved is 62 million, out of which we have already distributed 19million in 10 States. So far, we are on schedule and are confident that by the end of the year, we will have distributed all, according to schedule in every State of the Federation.

**How do you intend to achieve this in the face of logistics and distribution problems?**

Yes. I understand your pessimism. We are not unaware of the difficult terrain that we will be working, and that is where adequate planning comes in. In any event, with our past experience in this country, we have to learnt to confront challenges.

Everybody is pessimistic: the politician, the policy maker, the worker, the student, the old, the young. Pessimism is one other challenge we must confront in order to move forward.

The programme involves the placement of over 61 million nets into about 31 million households in Nigeria and we intend to reach everyone. It is indeed a very gargantuan plan.

**L**et's talk about resources, who is funding the programme?

We have resources. One

major resource that is vital to the success of this programme is human resources. We have the people. Nigeria is blessed with people who have expertise in diverse areas and fields of human endeavour. We also have leadership support. Very importantly also is the goodwill and support of our development partners. This is also a direct result of the confidence they have in us to deliver. In the world of the Donors, if they do not have the confidence that you will do the right thing, they won't support you.

**What are the challenges?**

We have enormous challenges, but they remain what they are called: Challenges! Indeed, I will prefer to call them gaps, given the fact that we have resources and capabilities to deal with any problem, but they are such that they might not be enough to clinically end the problems, so the gap between the demand and the supply is the challenge.

For example, there are about 4 or 5 States for which we do not have either the Nets or the promise of funding so far. This is because of the nature of pooling of resources for the Nets Campaign whereby, development partners indicate which States they want to support and some States also have taken up the gauntlet to provide the resources required for their own Nets.

We will not because of the lacuna, put on hold the distribution plans for the more than 30 States. We will rather continue to look for resources to bridge the gaps.

**What other measures are in place for treatment of malaria?**

Before now, we used to treat malaria with chloroquine. You need to give kudos to Nigeria when talking about malaria treatment. There was a study that showed that malaria has started developing resistance to chloroquine and based on that, we took the bold step of phasing it out. Based on research in this same country, a policy was developed in 2005 recommending the use of Artemisinin based Combination Therapies (ACT) for the treatment of uncomplicated malaria.

Since the commencement of the implementa-



DR Folake Ademola - Majekodunmi

tion of the policy in 2006, about 28 million doses of ACTs have been provided for distribution to all the states of the federation by the federal government and development partners. This is worthy of applause. If the states take it up from there, there will not be any need for anybody to buy malaria drugs in the market again. In any event, we are going to get there very soon.

**Is the government going to provide malaria drugs free to the people?**

That is where we are heading. We have a couple of initiatives in this regard, which will come on stream and crystallize to free case management of malaria in Nigeria very soon. With the drugs we are providing at this point in time, we will be providing free case management of malaria with ACTs for about 80% of cases.

Not just that, there is a new initiative with which, working with the private sector malaria drugs will be almost free even on the shelves of pharmacy shops.

It is called (AMFM) meaning Affordable Medicines Facility Malaria. It is essentially a global subsidy for malaria drugs.

**C**an you explain what these translate to Nigerians suffering from malaria?

As I earlier said, it is an initiative towards the reduction of the price of ACTs. Championed by the Global Fund, it will reduce the manufacturer sales price of ACTs to public, profit and not for profit sector buyers

of malaria drugs.

The Global Fund will do this by negotiating a lower price for ACTs and then paying a large proportion of this directly to manufacturers on behalf of buyers. The agreement in this regard has been signed and Nigeria is one of the countries where the first phase of it is being piloted.

The sum total effect of this is that the cost of each treatment dosage will reduce by more than 20 times its original price. As a country, we thought it is right for us to take up the little cost remaining on the drug. The only other issue that might be outstanding is probably the cost of carriage and handling.

**W**hat are you doing about Mosquitoes?

The Anopheles mosquito is the primary cause of malaria because it is the harbinger of the virus that causes malaria. Essentially, if we must eradicate malaria, we have to deal with the mosquito and in order to do this effectively we are working on an initiative called integrated vector management.

Asides the bed nets, we will be using indoor residual spray and environmental management to deal with the mosquitoes. It will ensure that mosquitoes are not allowed to live in our areas. Perhaps the most potent vector management tool we can deploy is to ensure proper hygiene and sanitation around our dwelling places.

## CITY NEWS



HOTLINES: 0803-3493-462 & 0703-8927-513  
email: citynews@dailytrust.com

## Police raid Mabuchi, arrest residents

By Ogechi Ohalee

POLICEMEN from Utako Police Station on Sunday raided Mabuchi, Abuja at 8 pm and arrested suspects, including residents of the area.

One of those arrested, Malam Musa, a resident, said he left his apartment to buy soft drinks when he was accosted by policemen.

"They were asking me questions as well as harassing me with a gun and I showed them my identity card but they took me to Utako Police Station, where I was detained," he stated.

Mrs. Ihuoma, another resident, complained that she sent her junior brother to buy detergent soap and was shocked to learn that he had

been arrested by policemen for no just reason.

"He didn't commit any crime and there was no justification for his arrest, hence I rushed down to the station to express my disgust as well as bail him," she added.

Ihuoma said such unwarranted raids should not be allowed in a democratic society, as it will send negative signals to the international community.

Reacting, the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) of Utako, Chief Superintendent Ogedegbe, said the police raid was meant to ensure that lives and property are secured.

He said the police at Utako got information about an intending robbery attack on residents by hood-

lums and raided prostitutes in the area, suspected to aid such persons in order to avert the robbery.

"In the raid, we recovered marijuana as well as dangerous weapons and I want to use your medium to advise residents of the area to be wary of such miscreant and to desist from patronising prostitutes," the DPO said.

He recalled an incident when hoodlums vandalized a police outpost in Mabuchi that was repaired and lamented that residents of Zone 6 in the area suffer most in the hands of the hoodlums.

The DPO assured Mabuchi residents of their security, adding that the police are doing their best to secure them.

## FRSC warn officials over bribe taking

By Ogechi Ohalee

THE Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) has warned their officials against taking bribes in the course of their duties.

The warning was given Thursday by Samuel A. Obayemi, FRSC's public education officer, who said there is no hiding place for corrupt officials.

He said the commission is more determined than ever to reduce accidents on high ways and to assist accident victims.

"One of the primary functions of the commission is to carry out rescue operations during road accidents, adding that FRSC officials, irrespective of their ranks are always

ready for round the clock services.

According to him, special marshals do not receive salaries from the commission but are volunteers like the Red Cross, who are men and women of proven integrity that are gainfully employed in their respective professions.

However, a group of FRSC officials in the rescue team have called on the commission to pay them allowances during their operations, especially at night and to arrange suitable places for them to rest.

"We all relax inside an ambulance while on wait for rescue operations and this does not augur well with married women," he said.

## Fadama: 22 communities prepare LDP projects

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

THE FCT Fadama III Project Coordinator, Alhaji Abdullahi Danladi Salisu, Friday disclosed that about 22 communities groups have so far prepared their local development plans projects.

Salisu, who spoke at a one day sensitisation workshop for Fadama user groups/associations at Gwagwalada, explained that the local development plans which is actually the funding instruments for each group is meant to make them draw up projects plans that are of useful to them.

According to him, out of the 22 local development plans, ten groups have been given the nod to implement their plans by the National Fadama Coordination Office.

"Fadama community associations/groups cleared are expected to make some monetary beneficiary contribution, while Fadama III Association is ever ready to carry them along," he disclosed.

He said 15 communities association including Alheri Special village, Yangoji, Pache community at Yaba, Land is Life association at Karu, Takushara Fadama Association at Orozo, Paikon-Kore, Mamagi, Kekeshi as well as others have been cleared and will also received disbursement funds for their projects.

Fadama Project Coordinator however lamented that the Fadama III project is making effort to ensure there is absolute ownership by the communities in choosing some projects.



FCT Fadama III Coordinator, Alhaji Abdullahi Danladi Salisu (centre) addressing a group at Yebu village in Kwali Area Council recently.

## Woman asks court to dissolve 'inserious' relationship

By Romoke W. Ahmad

A woman, Ekaette Udok, last Friday appealed to an Abuja Upper Area Court to dissolve the six-year old relationship she contracted with her lover, Okechukwu Okeke, over his non interest in marrying her.

She told the court that since the affair started, her man has not shown any sign of commitment and seriousness to their relation-

ship, hence her decision to take the issue to court.

"I am urging the court to grant the separation for the sake of peace because since we started living together there has never been peace or love between us and for me not to continue wasting my time as a woman," she said.

The lover, who was not present in court, wrote an undertaking to the court, vowing never to con-

tinue with the relationship with the lady.

He told the court that the lady can take any legal action against him if she sees him in her place again.

Presiding Judge Issa Alhaji Yahaya pronounced their separation and ordered that each party should go their separate ways for the sake of peace.

In another case yesterday, a married woman, whose hus-

band filed a divorce petition was certified fit of any health problem by the Nyanya General Hospital.

Ruling on Micah Gado's petition was put on hold because his wife Mary complained of pains all over her body during the last hearing.

Judge Issa Alhaji Yahaya granted her request to seek medical attention and she was referred to Nyanya General Hospital, where

the results showed she was healthy.

Her husband had earlier told the court that she lied to him several times that she was pregnant and wants to divorce her because of her troubles.

The woman denied given her husband troubles and will not contest the divorce petition.

The judge separated both parties and ordered the woman to pack her belongings from the man's house.

# 135 fined for flouting environmental law

By Usman A. Bello & Hussein Yahaya

ONE hundred and thirty five persons were on Saturday convicted by an Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB) mobile court for flouting the 'no movement' restriction during the FCT monthly environmental exercise.

Head of AEPB's Legal Department, Ahmed Ismaila, said those arraigned were found guilty of violating the no movement restriction.

He said 29 were convicted in

Nyanya, 18 in Karu, Gwagwalada 24, Kubwa 40, Kwali eight, while 16 arraigned in Lugbe.

According to him, the defaulters were fined after pleading guilty in the mobile courts set-up in the city centre as well as area councils to ensure that residents effectively participate in the sanitation exercise.

"With the sensitisation put in place by the board, residents especially in area council and satellite towns will no longer have excuses that they are not

aware of the exercise," he added.

Meanwhile, residents of Bwari have been advised to comply with the environmental law or face sanctions.

Saka Umoru, an officer of AEPB, gave the warning Saturday after monitoring the monthly environmental sanitation at Bwari.

Saka told City News that several people including water vendors did not obey the restriction order, adding that those arrested were prosecuted.

In another development, an AEPB taskforce at the weekend arrested 40 cows in Abuja.

Special Adviser to the board's director, Titus Ndawa, said the cows were arrested at Central Mosque on Saturday's afternoon, while the headsmen ran away to evade arrest, adding that they came from Gishiri village to graze inside the city.

The special adviser informed that the cattle rearers mobilised their members to AEPB's enforcement office at Area 3 in the night

to forcefully release the cows but were repealed by members of the task force on duty.

Titus advised cattle rearers to take their cattle to isolated area for grazing and not within Abuja metropolis, saying AEPB's Act prohibit grazing in the city and that whoever is caught will be prosecuted.

"We have held meetings with the leaders of the headsmen, where we informed them of the law prohibiting cow grazing in the city," he said.

## Lovers jailed for stealing N.25m

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

AN Abuja magistrate court yesterday sentenced a man and his girl friend to six months and one year imprisonment respectively for jointly stealing N250,000.

The lovers, Ibrahim Saleh, 28, Blessing Friday, 22, were jailed for jointly committed the offence in April 15.

Police prosecutor, Ahmed Mohammed, had earlier told the court that on April 15, one Abubakar Sadiq Mohammed of Suite B19 Emab Plaza, Wuse, Abuja, reported to the police that the accused persons conspired to steal N250,000 belonging to Yemario Link Telecommunication Limited.

"Blessing Friday of Mpape, Abuja, connived with Ibrahim Saleh of Gishiri village, Abuja, and stole N250,000 from Yemario Link Telecommunication Limited," the prosecutor said.

According to the prosecutor, Saleh instructed his girl friend, Blessing, to go into the shop and steal the said money, which they later shared equally.

He said during police investigations, N125,000 was recovered from Blessing, while her boy friend's share could not be recovered, adding that they committed offences punishable under Sections 79 and 287 of the Penal Code Law.

When the two-count charge was read to the accused persons, they pleaded guilty and pleaded for leniency.

Based on their confessions, the prosecutor asked the court to try the lovers summarily under Section 157 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

In her ruling, Magistrate Idayat Akanni sentenced Blessing to six months imprisonment or to pay N2,000 as fine, while her boy friend, Ibrahim, was sentenced to one year imprisonment without option of fine for abating crime.

She also ruled that the accused (Ibrahim) pay N125,000 as compensation to the complainant.



CHAIRMAN of Crescent Mission in the FCT Dr Umar Ndogi (right) presenting a certificate to one of the graduates in Abaji Sunday.

## Islamic school graduates 14 at Abaji

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

FOURTEEN students of Madarasatul Miftahu-Dinil Islamiyyah, Abaji, Sunday graduated from the school.

Speaking at the occasion, the school's proprietor, Malam Abdullahi Mohammed Bello, said the graduates earned their certificates after reading the Holy Quran, Hadith, Fiq'u and Ahlari.

He disclosed that the school has

over 150 students that cut across various neighbouring towns and villages of the council.

According to him, the major constraint of the school is lack of seriousness from parents to pay their children's school fees on time, adding that it took the goodwill of Senator Adamu Sidi Ali to provide Islamic/exercise books as well as pay monthly seven recruited Islamic teachers that work in the school.

He said contributions from parents, friends and relatives as well as stakeholders from the council have assisted in the school's progress, adding that the school now indulges in computer training as well as English courses so that its students can easily acquire computer knowledge.

Also speaking, Alhaji Abubakar Salihu Slan, who chaired the occasion, called on stakeholder, parents to always contrib-

ute generously to the propagation of Islam.

He advised the graduates to always read their Holy Qur'an and transmit their knowledge to the younger ones.

Highlight of the occasion was the presentation of awards to Senator Adamu Sidi Ali, Malam Muhammad Tauheed, as well as Alhaji Musa Sokodabo for their contributions towards up lifting Islam at the council.

## Security guard in court over stolen oil

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A security guard was yesterday arraigned before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly aiding and abetting two men suspected to have stolen 14 cartons of engine oil.

Theophilus Bako, a guard attached to Honda Place Limited,

Abuja, was arrested by the police on April 14.

Prosecutor Emmanuel Hoseni told the court that on April 14, one Makus Julius, a chief security officer attached to Honda Place Limited, Abuja, reported to the police that the accused aided the escape of two arrested thieves.

"The accused committed an

offence punishable under Section 86 of the Penal Code law," the prosecutor said.

He said during police investigations, it was discovered that the two suspected thieves were arrested and handed over to the accused, who aided their escape.

When the one-count charge was read to the accused, he denied it and said he was on patrol when

the accused persons ran away.

Magistrate Abdul Dogo granted the accused bail in the sum of N50,000 with a reliable surety in like sum, who must reside within the court's jurisdiction and swear to an affidavit to produce the accused in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to May 17 for hearing.

PIC: ABUBAKAR SADIQ ISAH

# PDP suspends Sidi Ali, 29 others in Abaji

By Abubakar Yakubu

THE Peoples Democratic Party in Abaji Area Council yesterday suspended Senator Adamu Sidi Ali and 29 other party members for allegedly engaging in anti party activities during the recent council polls in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

The decision was taken under Article 21:1 of the party's constitution as amended, according to PDP Chairman Alhaji Idrisu Gana.

Chairman of Abaji PDP chapter, Alhaji Idrisu Gana said the punishment will serve as a deterrent to other erring members.

He said party members from Abaji Central ward testified that Senator Sidi Ali

allegedly worked against the PDP chairmanship aspirant's victory, which led to the party losing votes at the ward.

Gana also accused the speaker of the legislative arm of the area council, for serving as an agent for Action Congress in the last council poll, adding that his ward members testified to that fact and he did not contest it while present at the meeting. Others suspended were PDP executive in either state or area council level.

In his address, the council Chairman, Alhaji Yahaya Musa Muhammad expressed dismay at the action of the PDP members, whom he accused of working seriously against his re-election.

"Senator Ali was not immediately available for comments.



FROM left, FHA's Head of Public, Private Partnership, Barrister Hajara Kadiri Sagif, Managing Director Sam Ayadi and Engr David Kpue during a fire preventive workshop in Abuja on Friday.

## Group wants FCT representative in federal cabinet

By Nasir Imam

A non-governmental organisation, Movement for the Development of Abuja (MDA), yesterday called on acting President Goodluck Jonathan to pick an indigene of the Federal Capital Territory in his cabinet.

The group appealed to the acting president to pick a name among the nominees sent to him as a way rewarding the indigenes of the territory.

Chairman of the movement, Yakubu Pam Gam, in a statement, said although substantive portfolio ministers have been announced, it will good if a minister of

state is given to an FCT indigene that has administrative experience and is a politician of repute.

He said despite assurances to that effect, an FCT representative to the Federal Executive Council have not been appointed, adding that the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria empowers the president to do make such appointment vide Sections 2, 14, 147(3) and 299.

The movement's leader congratulated the acting president for constituting a team within a short time and prayed that God will give the new team the wisdom and courage to deliver democratic dividends to Nigerians.

## Two charged with engine oil theft

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

THE police yesterday arraigned two youngsters before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly stealing 14 cartons of engine oil belonging to Honda Place Company, Abuja.

Adeniyi Simon and Tunde Hafeez were accused of collaborating with Danladi and Tanimu, both now at large, to commit the crime on April 14.

Police prosecutor Emmanuel Hosseini told the court that on April 14,

Makus Julius, a chief security officer of Honda Place Company, reported to the police that the accused persons jointly stole 14 cartons of engine oil.

"During police investigations, it was discovered that Adeniyi Simon and Tunde Hafeez connived with Danladi and Tanimu, both now at large, to steal 14 cartons of engine oil from the store," the prosecutor said.

He stated that the offences committed are punishable under Sections 79 and 288 of the Penal Code Law.

When the charges were read to the accused persons, they denied them and requested for bail, which was not objected to by the prosecutor.

In his ruling, Magistrate Aminu Abdullahi granted each of the accused persons bail in the sum of N100,000 with a responsible surety in like sum, who must reside within the court's jurisdiction and swear to affidavits to produce the accused in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to May 17 for hearing.

## Man denies stealing money from car

By Usman A. Bello

A 47-year-old man, Jonathan Chukwuma, Thursday denied before an Abuja magistrate court that he stole money from a car belonging to one Ifeanyi Umeh.

The police prosecutor told the court that on April 25, Ifeanyi reported to the police that on April 18, the accused of Plot 589, Kashim Ibrahim

Wuse 11, forcefully collected his car key and absconded with it, adding that the complainant kept N250,000 inside the car's pigeon hole.

He said when the accused returned with the car after three hours, only N32,000 out of the said N250,000 was found inside the pigeon hole.


The accused denied the charge and requested for bail, which was not objected

to by the prosecutor.

Magistrate Grace Eisape Adebayo granted him bail in the sum of N100,000 with two surety each in like sum.

The magistrate ordered that the sureties must be civil servant of not below grade level 08 and must reside within the court's jurisdiction with fixed addresses.

The case was adjourned to May 3 for hearing.



### THE NIGERIAN NAVY

APPLICATION FOR NIGERIAN NAVY BASIC TRAINING SCHOOL BATCH 19 (NNBTS 19)  
(For SSCE/NECO/GCE/NCE/OND/RN/RM Applicants)

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**GUIDELINES**


- Interested candidates are advised to apply online at [www.service.nigeriannavy.gov.ng](http://www.service.nigeriannavy.gov.ng).
- Candidates are to complete form online and make payment at either: **Intercontinental Bank or Sterling Bank.**

**METHOD OF APPLICATION**

- To complete the form:
  - Visit the website [www.service.nigeriannavy.gov.ng](http://www.service.nigeriannavy.gov.ng).
  - Click on start application and complete the application form
  - Click the save button to submit application online
  - Print out the Pay4ME acknowledgment slip and take it to any branch of Intercontinental Bank or Sterling Bank to make payment of N1000.00 only excluding bank charges.
  - Take the payment receipt given at the bank to the website to complete the application.
  - Print out your Parent/Guardian consent form and Attestation of Local Government Form.

**QUALIFICATIONS**

- Candidates must be holders of SSCE/NECO/GCE/NCE/OND/RN/RM equivalent only. Candidates must be between the ages of 18 - 22 years for holders of SSCE/NECO/GCE and between 18 - 26 years for holders of OND/NCE/RN/RM by 31 December 2010. Male candidates must not be less than 1.68 metres tall while female candidates must not be less than 1.65 metres tall. Zonal recruitment exercise will hold between 5 - 19 July 2010.
- For further information see the instruction page on the website or call the following support lines: 09-870 4817, 09-870 8475 and 08078406568 or e-mail: [navy.support@swglobal.com](mailto:navy.support@swglobal.com).



APPLICANTS ARE TO CAREFULLY READ THE GUIDELINES ONLINE.

**ONLINE REGISTRATION STARTS ON 3rd May 2010**

**ONLINE REGISTRATION CLOSES ON 11th June 2010**

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## Inside Politics

# Plateau PDP: Shuluwa c'ttee asks court to stay judgement

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

CARETAKER committee of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in Plateau State has filed for a stay of execution of the judgment of a high court which upheld a suit praying for its dissolution last week.

The suit for the stay, filed at the high court in Jos yesterday by counsel to the Abu King Shuluwa committee Solomon

Umoh and Garba Pwul, sought for a stay of execution "of all the orders granted by way of reliefs in the judgment at the state high court pending the determination of the appeal which was also filed by the caretaker committee yesterday."

The committee in its appeal of the judgment asked the appellate court to set aside the decision of the lower court and to dismiss the suit filed by Prof.

Dakum Shown at the high court.

It said it was complaining about the decision of the lower court to hear the matter brought to it by Shown and pass judgment in the manner it did, and advanced nine reasons why it is appealing the judgment of the lower court.

The committee said the high court headed by Justice Mohammed Sirajo erred in law when it assumed jurisdiction and

determined the suit brought by Shown when the suit was incompetent.

The appellants also expressed dissatisfaction with the cause of action of Shown, who they said sought to secure the enforcement of the PDP constitution when the power to do so is only solely imbued with the PDP.

They said the lower court erred when it observed that Shown and members of his exco

were not given fair hearing, saying having noted that there was no allegation against them it was wrong for the court to invoke the doctrine of fair hearing in that matter.

They also argued that the court erred when it set aside the inauguration of the Plateau PDP caretaker committee as a court has no "vires to grant a relief which has not been specifically asked for."

PIC: AFOLABI SOTUNDE



FROM left: Senator Umaru Tsauri with former Speaker, House of Representatives Aminu Bello Masari and Alhaji Bindawa Sule Katsina at the PDP Reform Forum meeting in Abuja.

## C'ttee to coordinate IBB campaign groups

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

GROUPS campaigning for the return of former president Ibrahim Babangida have agreed that the steering committee of IBB Democratic Coalition be re-energised to oversee the activities of the organisations in all the six zones from the ward level.

The decision is contained in a communiqué at the end of a meeting of the coalition in Jos, which was attended by former minister of finance Alhaji Abubakar Muye, former governor of Gombe State Abubakar Hashidu, former governor of Rivers State Rufus Adah George and former commissioner in Rivers State Dacoster Orlu.

They agreed that the action plan for the organisation be issued

immediately to enable the spread of campaign to all corners of the country.

The communiqué, signed by the national coordinator Alhaji Danladi Pasali and national secretary Dr. C.M. Nwogu, said the meeting encouraged all members to spread the news about the intention of the former military president to stand for president in 2011.

They said the former president has the vision and foresight to lead Nigeria, and urged members to "indefatigably participate in every activity leading to the nomination of IBB as the PDP flag bearer."

Others at the meeting include son of the former military ruler, Mohammed Babangida, Mr. Princewill Atata, Dr. Sulei-man and Captain Ahmed Ciroma.

## Ex-councillors say no need to remove Yar'adua

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

THE Association of former Councillors and Ward Leaders has warned against the removal of ailing President Umaru Yar'adua from office describing such moves as distractive and dangerous to the stability of the country.

Briefing newsmen at the weekend, National Coordinator of the group, Elder Mike Omohimua, said some "selfish" politicians in the country have resolved to distract acting President Goodluck Jonathan with the issue of substantive presidency rather than allow him to move the nation forward.

"We now have an acting president who is now standing in for

the substantive president, and the question is why not allow the acting president to concentrate on governance in order for him to build upon President Yar'adua's legacy, which they both started together as president and vice president? Because we may be deceiving ourselves when we try to separate the acting president from President Yar'adua. For us as a body, the acting president must be allowed to concentrate so that at the end of the day both of them would have written their names in the book of history," the group said.

On moves to invoke Section 144 of the constitution to declare President Yar'adua permanently incapacitated, the group said,

"that aspect of the constitution is...a no go area, because even if you want to invoke that aspect of the constitution, it would take you much energy that could have been used for other better things."

The former councillors urged newly-appointed ministers to concentrate on nation building rather than anti-Yar'adua politics, saying, "What was the problem was the fact that there appeared to be a vacuum in governance of the country when the president was on medical vacation, but today there is somebody in-charge, nobody is above sickness and we feel they ailing president be allowed to manage his health rather than heat up the polity."

## Shekarau lambasts PDP

From Muhammad Abubakar, Bauchi

THE All Nigeria People's Party (ANPP) held a special conference in Bauchi on Sunday where Kano State governor Ibrahim Shekarau lambasted the ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP) for what he called failure to solve the nation's problems after 11 years in power.

Shekarau said former President Olusegun Obasanjo spent eight years in power without solving any of the problems bedeviling the country and also his successor President Umaru Yar'adua has not done anything tangible yet.

The governor said he would declare his presidential ambi-

tion as soon as his party gives the go-ahead. He said when elected as president, he would focus on human capacity development which, according to him, was the basis for national development.

The conference was attended by ANPP national secretary Senator Sa'idu Kumo; governors of Borno and Yobe states Ali Sheriff and Ibrahim Gaidam; Senators Bukar Abba Ibrahim, Ahmed Aruwa and Mohammed Ahmed; former Bauchi deputy governor Muhammad Garba Gadi; and state party chairman Alhaji Sani Shehu.

In his address, Kumo urged party members not to lose hope as the party was waxing stronger in the state and has the potentials to win the 2011 general elections.

## Youths endorse Rimi's son for Reps

From Hisham Habib, Kano

NASSARAWA youths in Kano State have endorsed Nura Abubakar Rimi, son of the late former

Governor Abubakar Rimi, as Nassarawa Federal Constituency's candidate for the House of Representatives in next year's elections.

Nura's endorsement followed a resolution of the youths' caucus meeting in Kano at the weekend. Spokesman of the youths Alhaji Mustapha Jarfa told *Daily Trust*

that the decision to rally round support for him was informed by the good work of his late father.

Jarfa, who is also a youth leader of the Santsi faction of Kano PDP,

said endorsing Rimi's son to go to the National Assembly was to immortalise the late politician, who he said, did a lot to improve the lot of the common man.

## LAW

## Legal Quote

'Democratic equality before the law is seriously threatened by the fact that legal assistance may only be purchased at a market price. Dubious is the value of rights and claims that cannot be exercised. Therefore, free of charge or inexpensive legal advice is clearly a democratic necessity' - Czeslaw Znamierowski, (1936)

# Al-Mustapha: Not an ordinary trial

By Adelanwa Bamgboye

**T**HE trial of Major Hamza Al-Mustapha, the former Chief Security Officer (CSO) to the late Head of State, General Sani Abacha can not be said to be an ordinary trial, considering the length of time and the personalities involved in the alleged crime.

Except for only one of the accused persons - Mr. Mohammed Rabo Lawal - all the accused persons have occupied one political position or the other in the country.

The victims also have occupied political appointments, such as the late Senator Abraham Adesanya, a NADECO and Afenifere chieftain, and Mr. Alex Ibru, a former minister, during the Abacha regime. Hence the two parties (defendants and victims) are men of timber and calibre.

Major Hamza Al-Mustapha, Gen. Ishaya Rizi Bamaiyi, the former Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Bamaiyi and others were arrested and detained since 1999 (over a decade ago) when they went to face the Special Investigation Panel (SIP), Abuja, which was set up by the Government of former President Olusegun Obasanjo.

They were subsequently sent down to Lagos, sometime in 1999, where they were first dragged before an Ikeja Chief Magistrate's Court that remanded them in prison custody on holding charge, before they were formally arraigned before the Lagos



MAJOR Hamza Al-Mustapha

of Police in both Oyo and Lagos States, Mr. James Danbaba and Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP) who doubled as the Officer in Charge of the Mobil Police Unit (OC MOPOL) then at the Presidential Villa in Aso Rock, Mohammed Rabo Lawal.

All the crime were allegedly committed during the Abacha regime.

International human rights norms recognize the need for awaiting trial inmates to be in detention provided it is applied fairly, rationally and sparingly.

Awaiting trial inmates are also referred to variously as 'awaiting trial detainees', 'remand prisoners', 'remandees', 'untried prisoners' and 'unsentenced prisoners'.

Some of the reasons given by the courts for throwing out their application for bail were that it was to ensure that they did not abscond; that they do not commit further crimes pending their trial; and that they do not intimidate witnesses or otherwise interfere with the lawful collection of incriminating evidence.

It is not impossible to find that in many instances, ATIs have been held for years before being judged not guilty of the crime with which they were charged. Hence, the decision to detain a person, (as in the case

of Gen. Bamaiyi ) before being found guilty of a crime is a draconian ruling for a court.

In some cases ATIs would have been detained for longer period than the maximum punishment stipulated for the alleged offence.

Investigation also shows that ATIs suffer from neglect, not just abuse and unsafe conditions of confinement as they are denied access to many of the facilities, rights and privileges granted to convicted inmates. In some cases, such deprivations amount to an inducement to plead guilty in order to obtain better conditions of confinement.

Initially, during each of the court session, Major Hamza Al-Mustapha and all the other accused persons were often dressed as if they were attending a party. Their well ironed dresses always matched with shoes and cap.

Infact their case was so celebrated that it was a case that stops all other cases which might have suffered the misfortune of been fixed on the same adjourned date. The security operatives that normally accompanied the accused persons to the court often forced all the other surrounding court rooms to close shop.

After some few years in prison

custody as ATIs, their appearance and demeanour in court no longer inspire confidence.

In fact, they are more likely to be found guilty of the offense compared to if they had been admitted to bail. This is because they now have difficulty participating in their own defence. An incarcerated suspect cannot look for friendly witnesses and may have limited contact with their lawyers.

One of the witnesses who was to have testified as a prosecution witness (the armoury bearer) was killed somewhere in Lagos, before he could testify.

Also, Hadi, the younger brother to Major Hamza Al-Mustapha, has escaped assassination at least once. It would have been a case of attack from his brothers' enemies but there is no evidence to link these with the trial. Other people have also died.

The case has suffered setbacks and transfers from the lower court to the High Court up to the Supreme Court.

It is also difficult to ascertain the number of Judges that have handled the case, the latest being Mr. Justice Mufutau Olokooba, who himself was sitting at the Ikeja Judicial Division of the Lagos High Court but was recently transferred from the Ikeja Division to the Lagos Judicial Division of the Lagos High court (where the accused persons were first arraigned).

The first indication that the matter would be protracted emerged when the counsels to the accused persons were alleged to have employed delay tactics by

pleading with Justice Christopher Segun (CJ as he then was) through their lawyers to be allowed to sit down in the CJ's court during the court's proceedings. This pronouncement led the CJ to disqualify himself from the case which was consequently transferred to another Judge.

When the trial finally commenced at the Lagos High Court, Igbosere, the erstwhile Chief Judge (CJ) of Lagos State, Justice Adetula Alabi, who also presided over the matter then, was accused of demanding \$10 million bribe from the accused before releasing them on bail.

**F**ollowing the allegation against Justice Ade Alabi who was later absolved of the bribery accusation by the National Judicial Commission (NJC), the case was reassigned to Justice Joseph Oyewole.

While Bamaiyi was standing trial before Justice Olunmi Joseph Oyewole at the Ikeja High court, he took ill and was able to secure an order of court to get medical attention in Dubai, at his own expense.

Upon his return to the country, he succeeded in getting his trial separated from that of the other accused persons with whom he had been standing a joint trial.

Perhaps this was why his trial was giving an accelerated hearing.

Specifically Bamaiyi was slammed with a fresh four-count charge; he was alleged to have conspired with other persons to assassinate Chief Alex Ibru and Mr. Isaac Porbeni. He was also alleged to have inflicted grievous body harm on the duo.

The then Lagos State Director of Public Prosecutions, Mrs. Bola Okikiolu-Ighile, November 2007, began a fresh prosecution of Bamaiyi. Since their arraignment only Gen. Ishaya Bamaiyi, the former COAS who was brought to court in chains has been discharged and acquitted after nine years incarceration, since the prosecution failed to prove the charges against him beyond reasonable doubt. He was adjudged not guilty. At this stage of their trial, it may not be wrong to say that Mustapha's case is now in the hands of God, more so since he is still standing trial along with Mr. Mohammed Rabo Lawal and Alhaji Lateef Shofolahan over the murder of Alhaja Kudirat Abiola, wife of the late MKO Abiola, the acclaimed winner of the June 12 election.

**In some cases, such deprivations amount to an inducement to plead guilty in order to obtain better conditions of confinement**

High Court, Igbosere to stand trial, over the attempted murder of Mr. Alex Ibru, The Guardian publisher.

Those arraigned along with the duo and also remanded in prison custody as awaiting trial inmates includes the former Zamfara State Military administrator, Col. Jubril Bala Yakubu, retired, former Commissioner

**At this stage of their trial, it may not be wrong to say that Al-Mustapha's case is now in the hands of God**

filing frivolous applications all in the bid to delay the trial.

The charges against them were amended more than three times until the case was eventually transferred to the High Court.

At a point a former Chief Judge of Lagos State, Justice Christopher Segun (retd), who presided over the matter, referred to the accused persons as 'Crimi-

## Law

# We succeeded in keeping this country together despite all odds

Alh. Inuwa Abdulkadir, Attorney General of Sokoto State spoke with ADELANWA BAMGBOYE, on the Child Rights Acts, and other topical issues.

## - Sokoto attorney-general

**YOU have been the AG of Sokoto State for some time now and what would you say are the challenges of justice administration in your state as a case study of what is obtained in other part of the country?**

You see, it is all about appreciation of governance. Governance generally means nothing but service to the people, it is about service towards development and not evil manifestation that I am a Governor, I am the President or I am the Attorney General with retinue of personal aids who carries big names around. You see, we all know that being Attorney General is the most tasking political appointment in any State because if you have to do your job as Attorney General, certainly in any kind of situation, you will have to step on the toes of so many people it is human people will not want to abide by the law and your work is to enforce the law, you are the chief law officer.

Let me give you an example, if you do not have a governor who does not understand governance generally, he will have serious conflicts with the Attorney General especially when the Attorney General is ready to do his job as Attorney General and primarily as a lawyer and being more of a minister in the temple of justice and not as an appointee of somebody. You see, many a times, who ever is in position of leadership especially executive leadership, will want to do things the way he want to do it or he may be under tremendous and immense pressure to do certain things for political reasons and because you as the Attorney General is leveled, his political friends may be involve in any offence or the other or one certain things or the other and which he may want to stop such person being recommended for prosecution or being brought to justice, in this kind of situation, the Attorney General must say bold and clear that this is unconstitutional and the Governor may not like it and you end up in having if the Governor is so naïve in some situation, is either you leave your job or you do the bidding of the Governor against the law and against yourself because anything you do which is wrong is against yourself, against the law and against the Governor because it will impact on him latter in life after he leave that office, so you are not helping the system. Some other politicians and other colleagues will start to see you as somebody who can not overrule the Governor which is not so. For me, I can say that my Governor has been on the good side for considerable part of his tenure and he knew what governance is and certainly he knew the role of Attorney General and what is expected of Attorney General and when you have to certainly

listen to the advice of the Attorney General. Some of these things, legal opinions are being obtained on such before decisions are carried out which really reduces some of the task of having to reverse the decisions of government. We have a very good understanding of what the law is all about though the governor is not a lawyer but I don't have problem in that respect and in other part of the country, when you appoint a non-practicing lawyer as Attorney General, you will always have these problems. What I mean by a non-practicing lawyer is that there are people who were just called to the bar, they are lawyers but they are involved in other things which has nothing to do with law, they are not in touch with the profession and they are not in touch with the law, certainly you will have problem by just appointing people like that because they are up to ten years at the Bar as provided by the law, you will have problem because they will just be there to fill in the gap.

**What can you say are your achievements?**

I am a lucky person, before I venture into private practice in 1998, I was working and started my carrier in the Ministry of Justice for some time and I had considerable exposure of the working of the ministry. So, I am very conscious and aware of what I left behind and for a day, I have never left the profession even when I was doing my politicking. If I am not in advocacy, I am in some filed of legal practice and also I have never left NBA, as a matter of fact I was part of the vanguard that resuscitated the NBA after the 1992 debacle in Port-Harcourt. For this, I am in touch with the profession and I am in touch with my colleagues. So, when I came back and in fact before I was appointed, I was the Vice chairman of my branch, so I know the problems and it was very much easier for me when I went back as Attorney General in the ministry. I knew the problem we inherited with the former administration. They failed to respect the rule of law, not only the lawyers in the ministry were respected but generally the civil service is ignored in certain key decisions of government and so, mine was to create a team work which was lacking at the time I arrived.

I reorganised the department in the ministry and couch them in a manner that able lawyer should be involved in the working of the ministry, I mean the basic training we acquired while in the Law school even is a letter you as the senior drafted, if the junior detect some typographical error or in terms of substance and I created a situation where we have an interface and interaction among the whole lawyers in the ministry at various



Alh. Inuwa Abdulkadir

intervals where we discuss various issues that affect the ministry and how we should operate in the ministry. And some important and very tropical cases that come both criminal and civil in the ministry, apart from the fact that we don't have enough manpower in the ministry, we also engage the services of private legal practitioners who normally in working relationship with other state counsels, will discuss thoroughly, debate and have conference on cases before they are assigned to a particular counsel to handle in court. This enhance the productivity of the counsels in the ministry and again I attended the 1995 course on Legal Drafting at the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Practice and believe me that was the last time any state counsel was sent on any training and so when I came part of my recommendation is to retrain lawyers because we are more on academic assets, you have to update your knowledge; everyday you search for new knowledge if you are a lawyer. As I am talking to you, I make sure that we not only look at training but international and it is an on-going thing, by the end of the year and December to be precise, almost all the counsels in the ministry must have attended one training or the other within or outside the country.

This is a motivating factor to motivate the counsels in the ministry in putting their best in the ministry because they are applying knowledge. This also in term of facilities, law reports and other law books that the lawyers require for their daily businesses, we are acquiring them and apart from

that we want to go into information technology because plans are in the pipeline before the end of the year for us to set our systems in the ministry in terms of getting the law reports judgments of various courts through various digital means and this will help because now time is of essence you don't need to wait for till next week to have your own weekly law report, there is something like the law pavilion which you get instant judgment of the Supreme court in your mails and we can not afford to keep our lawyers away for so long in term of getting to know the new judgment in the Supreme court and we are lucky that within this period the division of the court of Appeal has been established in Sokoto which will raise the standard of practice not only for lawyers in the ministry of Justice, but also other lawyers in the state and it is of great challenges because that will make lawyers in the state to sit up because hitherto, you have to start with Kaduna to file briefs and to argue your case but now not only the lawyers, even the Judges and the Khadis have to work extra hard because they know even it's a coma they omitted in their judgment, somebody we just say let us go the Court of Appeal is there, so this is serving much as a lot.

We treated a number of complaints both in civil and criminal matters which are simple, which requires some mediation and reconciliation and also some kind of indigent people who can not take matters to court, who can not finance litigation, their issues are being resolved through the department of Citizenship Right. Some

involve issues of simple custody of children which they don't need to go to court and expose themselves, we mediate among them and they resolve issues and so also in the issue of marriages and other simple civil matters. We also normally get this kind of complaints from the Sultan's palace because few people do believe in their traditional rulers and normally when issues are brought to the Sultan for intervention and resolution among some people even outside Sokoto, if they are strictly legal, the Sultan normally refer them to the ministry which we assist and even at times when it has to end with litigation. Also, we have increased the assistance we normally give the Legal Aide Council because they are not properly being funded so we give them some money annually to facilitate the little they can in helping indigent persons that are normally charged to court on offences that require legal representation.

**What is your comment on the state of the nation?**

I want to agree with so many people that one of the greatest and important achievements in the last 50 years was the fact that we were able to surmount a lot of turmoil particularly the challenge of keeping this country together; we are able and we succeeded in keeping this country together despite all odds. Notwithstanding some sensational reports that we read in the papers at times.

**The apex court has fixed 4th June as Judgment day in the case concerning the governorship election in Sokoto State, is this date not too far going by the plethora of cases that have come up as a result of this matter?**

We feel it is a good example to other Courts and the attitude of the SC in this regard is that they want to see that justice is done and that should be the attitude of all other courts because they (Justices of the Supreme Court) were very patient with the counsels in the matter and they gave everybody opportunity to be heard and all motions were presented to the Court.

I believe that in fairness to them, the date given for the ruling (4th June) was very reasonable because this is not the only matter before the Supreme Court. I believe that at the end of the day justice will be seen to be done. What ever the Supreme Court may decide will be final and will be the guide to other Court, not only of the Courts but also the guide to the Constitution. It will be anarchical for instance when this matters are before the Supreme Court for any Court to move or take any action or make any pronouncement, because this will bring about anarchy and the judgment itself, only God knows what will happen.

## SPORT

Toro to NFF:  
Stop politics  
now

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# Blatter blasts Nigeria over Amodu

## ■ Amodu: Lagerback will use my players

FIFA president, Sepp Blatter, has lashed out at Nigeria and Ivory Coast football authorities for changing their coaches a few weeks before the World Cup.

South Africa also recently replaced Joel Santana with his Brazilian compatriot and Carlos Alberto Parreira to take charge of Bafana Bafana, hosts of the tournament in June.

But the Swiss administrator is particularly irked by the changes in Nigeria and Ivory Coast who sacked their coaches after the Africa Cup of Nations in Angola in January.

The Ivorians fired Bosnian Vahid Halilhodzic last month and replaced him with Swede Sven Goran Eriksson while his compatriot Lars Lagerback replaced Shaibu Amodu as Super Eagles boss in February.

Blatter insists despite the talented players in both squads, bad decisions like late coaching changes could affect the performance of both teams at the tournament.

"The talent of African players is at least as great as that of players from other countries, including Brazil and the Americas," he said.

"What is missing is tactics. But how can they have this if they change the coach a few months before the start of the biggest competition in the world?"

"This continuity is missing because it is so important to feel the soul of the country where you are

coaching, and how can you do this in a few months?"

Meanwhile, embattled Amodu has said he will be surprised if Lagerback goes to the World Cup with less than '15 to 18' of the players he took to the African Nations Cup in Angola.

Amodu was vociferously criticised by fans and media for taking 'benchwarmers' and 'unfit' players to Angola. But Lagerback's provisional squad of 44 includes all but two of the players Amodu invited, with the recuperating Yusuf Mohammed, and fellow defender Obinna Nwaneri the only exclusions.

But there has been little of the vituperation that followed Amodu's squad release, and the former BCC coach said he will be surprised if Lagerback makes any radical changes.

"I will be surprised if he goes to the World Cup with less than 15 to 18 of the players I took to Angola," Amodu told SuperSport.com exclusively.

"He has invited the same players because any good coach will know that you have to manage the resources you have properly.

These are the same players I was managing creatively with all the different problems they were having with their clubs and we were getting results, but people were clamouring for drastic changes.

"It does not work that way."



AMODU said he would be surprised if Lars Lagerback goes to the World Cup with less than 18 players he took to the African Nations Cup in Angola.

## Kanu leaving Pompey for free

SUPER Eagles skipper Nwankwo Kanu is set to leave Portsmouth at the end of this season, but the lanky star is expected to make his exit from Fratton Park for free.

This is sequel to an evaluation of the cost for each player at Pompey, with detailed results at the weekend showing that Kanu's contract will come to an end with the last kick of the season and he would, subsequently, become a free agent, but fellow-Nigerian, John Chu-kwudi Utaka is going

for three million pounds.

In contrast with Papiolo's free agent status in the coming weeks, the financial report states that Portsmouth rate their squad at £30 million as they invite offers for every player.

Pompey's administrator Andrew Andronikou has brought in football agency Icon Sports Management to sell their players just three weeks before the Wembley showpiece.

The For Sale fax dropped on the desks of managers yesterday with

midfielder Kevin Prince Boateng the top valued player at £5 million.

The former Tottenham midfielder has injury problems but is still highly-rated by the doomed outfit.

Versatile player, Marc Wilson is rated at £4 million, which is more than interested clubs have said they will pay, while Algerian winger, Nadir Belhadji is at the same price.

Some of the fees have stunned potential buyers - with Pompey remarkably looking to make a profit on some players who signed for

nothing.

Pompey want £3 million for Tal Ben Haim, who joined them on a free transfer, and the same figure for John Utaka whose wages have been draining them.

Even young hopeful Joel Ward, who made his debut recently, is down on the list as available to go for nothing along with veterans Kanu and Angelos Basinas.

Pompey have astonishingly revealed that they value their players at a combined total of under £30m.



KANU



## PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

**CUSTOMS, IMMIGRATION AND PRISONS PENSIONS OFFICE (CIPPO),  
GWAGWALADA ABUJA.**

(A) This is to inform all retired or downsized officers of the three (3) paramilitary services i.e (Customs, Immigration and Prisons) who had earlier applied for payment of arrears of pension benefits that CIPPO is embarking on a Nation-wide payment of arrears of Pension benefits such as:

- ❖ Short payment of Gratuity
- ❖ Short payment of Monthly Pensions
- ❖ Arrears of Monthly Pensions
- ❖ Omission of Monthly Pensions,
- ❖ Death benefits etc to affected officers/Next- of-kin **WHO HAD EARLIER APPLIED FOR SUCH CLAIMS.**

(B) It should be noted that only the affected Officers/Next-of-kin - those who had earlier applied - for such claims are expected to come forward with the following:

- ❖ Original copy of retirement letter
- ❖ Pensioner's identity card
- ❖ Next-of-kin identification letter from the affected service
- ❖ Letter of introduction from Local Government Area, Traditional Ruler, etc. **(For Next of Kins only)**
- ❖ Bank details
- ❖ Two (2) passport sized photographs
- ❖ Driver's License and National identity card.
- ❖ Any other document that may assist the officials in the interview process.

(C) The exercise is scheduled to hold as follows:

- Date: Tuesday April, 27th to Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2010
- Time: 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. daily
- Venue: To hold at the following Centres

### NATIONWIDE PAYMENT CENTERS

S/NO	STATE	CENTER	VENUE	COORDINATOR	TEL PHONE NO
1	LAGOS	LAGOS	NPS State Headquarters KIRIKIRI TRAINING SCHOOL	A.A.AMINU	08034536661
2	GOMBE ADAMAWA BORNO YOBE BAUCH	GOMBE	NPS State Headquarters GOMBE	TSABTA G.S	08023254795
3.	OYO KWARA EKITI ONDO OSUN OGUN	IBADAN	NPS State Headquarters IBADAN	LEKE A.O	08052182636, 07031994100
4.	EDO DELTA ANAMBRA	BENIN	NPS State Headquarters BENIN	AYOKA S.O	08033921717
5.	KANO KASTINA JIGAWA KADUNA	KANO	NPS State Headquarters KANO	I.A. ANOKAM	08028404117
6.	IMO BAYELSA RIVERS	OWERRI	NPS State Headquarters IMO	S.O.ADEBANJO	07072111156
7.	ABIA ENUGU EBONYI A/BOM CROSS RIVER	UMUJAHIA	NPS State Headquarters ABIA	E.O. FOWOWE	08037211377
8.	SOKOTO KEBBI ZAMFARA	SOKOTO	NPS State Headquarters Sokoto	A.A.MAGAJI	08037465364
9.	BENUE TARABA NASARAWA PLATEAU	MAKURD	NPS State Headquarters Makurdi	I.M. ABDULAH	07082302483, 07033238694
10.	FCT NIGER KOGI	KUJE	NPS State Headquarters KUJE	B.G.KAIGAMA	08055071865

**SIGNED  
MANAGEMENT**

# Toro to NFF: Stop politics now

By Orkula Shaagee

TWO-TIME former Secretary General in the then Nigeria Football Association (NFA) Alhaji Sani Ahmed Toro yesterday urged members of the Federation's board members led by Alhaji Sani Lulu Abdullahi to stop playing politics now and concentrate on preparing the Super Eagles for resounding

**Toro said it was wrong for the Federation's chiefs to engage in politicking**

outing at the South Africa 2010 World Cup.

Reacting to the resolution by football administrators from the North East geo-political zone to endorse Lulu and some board members for a second term, Toro said it was wrong for the Federation's chiefs to engage in politicking at the detriment of the country's preparation for the World Cup next month.

According to the former Commissioner of Sports in Bauchi State, the board is wasting time on what would not materialize at the end, as Nigerians have known their antics and would vote according to their conscience; stressing that what Nigerians want at the moment is how the Super

Eagles will reach the semi-final of the 2010 World Cup.

"People are so impatient, this is the same people that set up electoral committee and instead of them to wait for the guidelines to be released they are busy going round to campaign. They should be patient and wait for the guidelines before starting the camping.

"My advise is that they should concentrate on preparing the Super Eagles to reach the semi-final of the World Cup as they promised Nigerians. What Nigerians want is how the Super Eagles will be able to reach the semi-final of the World Cup is South Africa.

"Whatever happened in Gombe or any other part of the country will not work, during the



**SANI Toro** elections proper Nigerians will vote based on their conscience," Toro stated.

## Pique wants packed stadium for Inter clash

BARCELONA defender Gerard Pique has urged fans to fill the Camp Nou stadium and cheer on the Spanish side during their Champions League semi-finals second leg against Inter Milan.

"I hope the Camp Nou makes history. I hope it will be a Camp Nou as it has never been seen before, that there is not one empty seat and when the players enter the pitch they hate their profession for 90 minutes," he told a news conference on Monday.

"What I want is for the fans to encourage Barcelona and that there be zero violence. That the fans be with us and so they will feel alone," the Spanish international added.

Barcelona are looking to overcome their 3-1 loss to Inter Milan during the first leg.

Pique said the match will be "the most important game of the recent history of Barcelona" but he believes his side can bounce back against the Italian side.

He said playing at home gave Barcelona an advantage and declined to comment on Inter

Milan coach Jose Mourinho. Mourinho is on the bench and can do nothing because it will be 11 players facing off against 11 players," he said.

Meanwhile, Inter president Massimo Moratti has accused Barcelona of creating unnecessary tension ahead of tomorrow's return leg.

The Catalans felt hard done by over some refereeing decisions in the first leg at the San Siro last week as Inter claimed a 3-1 win that put the Italian champions in the driving seat to qualify for the final of the competition.

Anticipating the big match with Inter, the Barca players wore t-shirts reading 'we will try our best' at the end of Saturday's league match with Xerez.

But Moratti thinks the gesture was not merely a rally cry. He told Sky Sport 24 this morning: "They are really up for this match. After all, it is a Champions League semi-final. But I think they are putting pressure on the referee by doing so..."



**BARCELONA defender Gerard Pique has urged the public to fill the Camp Nou stadium and cheer on the Spanish giant against Inter Milan.**

## Echiejile quits Rennes

NIGERIA international defender Elderson Echiejile will quit French club Rennes as a free agent this summer with a host of French and Spanish clubs tracking him, his representatives have specially informed MTNFootball.com

"His contract at Rennes will be up in the summer and already he has attracted interest from clubs in France, Portugal and Spain," said the player's older brother and representative, Emmanuel Echiejile.

It is believed that Echiejile will commit to a pre-contract agreement very soon, with another top French club the most likely destination.

After featuring in as many as 16 matches for Rennes last season, the 22-year-old defender has been completely frozen out this term following the arrival of a new coach, Frederic Antonetti, from Nice.

A top source told MTNFootball.com that the former Insurance of Benin star is being sidelined "not for football reasons" by Antonetti.

Former schoolboy international Echiejile teamed up with Rennes in August 2007 after featuring at the FIFA Under-20 World Cup in Canada.

Echiejile has been selected in a 44-man provisional squad for the 2010 World Cup after a superlative showing at the Africa Cup of Nations in Angola earlier this year.



**ECHIEJILE**

## Lagerback to meet Eagles in Abuja

LARS Lagerback's planned introductory meeting with his squad will now hold in Abuja next month following the refusal of European clubs to release players for this week.

The Nigeria coach has yet to meet with his team with just over two months to the World Cup and had planned the London gathering to speak with his players.

NFF President Sani Lulu Abdullahi however said over the weekend that that arrangement had to be shelved.

"The clubs have told us that they are at a very critical stage in the season and cannot afford to release their players even for one day to travel to London, so we decided to reschedule the meeting," Lulu said.

The new date is now expected to be between May 19 and 20 with the players scheduled to be hosted to a farewell dinner on the night of May 20 before heading off to London for their planned camping and friendly international against Colombia the day after.

"The Abuja meeting is very central to the World Cup plans of the NFF," Lulu said. "At the meeting, we will make everything clear to the players regarding camp allowances, match bonuses and the philosophy of the World Cup programmes."

## Nnaji: FIFA backs NFF

WORLD football governing body, FIFA has cast a solid vote of confidence on the Nigeria Football Federation for its handling of the case involving one-time Board Member of the Nigeria Premier League, Barrister Ray Nnaji.

Nnaji was disqualified from contesting the election of the Nigeria Premier League on certain grounds and ill-advisedly took the matter to an ordinary court of law, which contravenes tenets of football dispute resolution. The case was eventually thrown out and he was promptly slammed with a ban from all football activities by the Nigeria Football Federation.

Apparently not happy with the decision, the failed litigant wrote to FIFA, which in a letter dated 23rd April, 2010 responded, inter alia:

"After a thorough analysis of the facts reported in your correspondence, we have to inform you that this seems to be an internal matter, which does not come under the remit of the FIFA authorities.

"As a consequence of the above, FIFA is not in a position to intervene in this matter."

The letter was signed by FIFA's Director of Legal Affairs, Marco Villiger and Head of Corporate Legal, Fabienne Frei.

## NFF allays fears over training site

THE Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) has poured cold water on concerns about the suitability of the country's World Cup training base in Durban, South Africa.

The local press have knocked at the facilities at the Hampshire Hotel in Durban, which will be home to the Super Eagles during their stay at the World Cup from June.

However, chairman of the NFF technical committee, Taiwo Ogunjobi, told MTNFootball.com that they are satisfied with their choice of training camp in South Africa.

"There is no cause for alarm.

We are satisfied with the camp site. It is one of the hotels duly approved by FIFA," said Ogunjobi.

"The last time we were in South Africa, we stayed in that hotel and there were no problems. We are making a final inspection visit soon and we believe that some of the things we pointed out to them, like parameter fencing around the hotel, would have been fixed by then."

He added: "Those who are raising concerns are not technical people. We are okay with what we have." Nigeria are due in Durban on May 31 after a training stint in England.



DURHAM batsman Ben Harmison cuts a ball to pick up some runs as Hampshire wicket-keeper Nic Pothas looks on during the Clydesdale Bank 40 match between Durham Dynamos and Hampshire Royals at the Riverside in Chester-le-Street, England on Sunday.

## CRICKET:

# GCI Old Boys win Express Discount tourney

By Adeolu Johnson, Lagos

THE popular saying that form is temporary and class is permanent was exactly what cricket enthusiasts in Nigeria witnessed at the 9th edition of Express Discount Knockout Series Final at the prestigious Tafawa Balewa Cricket oval which saw defending champion Government College Ibadan Old Boys Cricket Club (GCI/OBCC) retain their trophy by beating Ibeju Lekki Cricket Club (ILCC) by 21 runs.

The Seun Odeku-led side won the toss and chose to bat first scoring 203 runs in 40 overs for loss

of 9 wickets with Adegbola Kunle one of Nigeria's brightest prospects in Cricket posting 60 runs off 88 balls in 133 minutes as he got support from his fellow team mates Gill Ramit and Okusanya Tayo who scored 38 runs and 32 runs respectively.

Sean Phillips took 2 wickets for 18 runs in 3 overs while wicket keeper for Nigeria's Cricket National team Ademola Onikoyi accounted for 3 run-out in the first innings for ILCC I.

Second Innings was left for Ibeju Lekki Cricket Club 1 to reach the 203 runs target set by their opponents but the duo of Adeoye

Wale, Captain of Nigeria's Cricket National team and former player of the National team Okusanya Tayo both took 4 wickets and 2 wickets respectively to reduce the champions of the regular season to 182 runs in 40 overs for loss of 9 wickets.

Bejide Jide top scoring chart for his side with 49 runs while the duo of Phillips Sean and Olympio Seye both contributed 36 runs and 33 runs as they lost by 21 runs which is their second loss in a week.

The back to back victories achieved by the Ibadan based team in both finals of Irish Smart Technology Super 4 and the 9th EDL

knockout series is a testimony of the quality GCI/OBCC parades as the in-form team in Nigerian cricket.

Sunday's final was not all about good bowling, great batting, fantastic wicket keeping and superb fielding as the T.B.S Oval also witnessed the presence of important dignitaries from nooks and crannies of the country such as Managing Director, Express Discount Limited Kwesi Sagoe who doubles as the President of Nigeria Cricket Federation, Chairman, Lagos State Cricket Association, Mr. George Wiltshire and Managing Director, Irish Smart Technology, Mr. Yinka Fisher.

## NBBF postpone league by one week

By Ismaila Lere

THE newly constituted league board of the Nigeria Basketball Federation had its inaugural meeting in Abuja on Sunday and agreed among others to shift the dunk-off date of the 2009/2010 NBBF/DSTV Premier League by one week.

According to chairman of the league board, Muktar Khaleh, "our first meeting was very fruitful and it was well attended as all the members turned up except the President of the Coach's Asso-

ciation, Sani Ahmed who was represented by Coach Adamu Kuta of Niger Potters basketball club of Minna.

"The board unanimously agreed to shift the commencement date of the present season by one week, so the new date now will be May 8, 2010.

"The request was at the instance of the club representatives on the league board and you all know that the club owners are integral part of the Nigeria basketball family.

"We have mandated the per-

son who helps the federation to carry out over sight function in the Lagos office to begin repair of works at the Lagos Sports Hall and we believe the league will start on that day as representative of the sponsor on the league board was also on ground.

"We want to categorically say we are working on the same page with the sponsor, the clubs and every stake-holder and we believe that with the new spirit exhibited by everybody at the Sunday inaugural meeting Nigeria basketball will be the greatest beneficiary.

"The other important agreement reached at the meeting was the cancellation of road trip for this season because of time limitation as we are mindful of our teams who will represent the country at both the FIBA Africa Zone-3 elimination and the FIBA Africa Champions Club competition.

"We using this medium to thank the NBBF board especially our president, Tijjani Umar for setting up the league board and we promise not to disappoint in carrying out our duties.

## Lagos Rugby League kicks off May 1

By Adeolu Johnson

THE Lagos Rugby League will kick across various centres on May 1 with six teams vying for honours.

Coordinator of the championship, Mr. Ntiese Williams told Trustsports that the competition would be played from May to September 2010.

He gave the names of the six participating teams as Cowries who are defending champions, ECO II, Lagos Rugby Club, Adax Rugby Club, Young Lions Club and Police Rugby team.

He said the total number of 30 matches would be played at the Nigeria Institute of Sports ground and the Unilag pitch.

Ntiese explained in preparation for the championship, the Chairman of the Nigeria Rugby Federation, Mr. Kelechi Mbagu has kitted all the players and an additional sum of N100,000 to support each team.

He said as prelude to the championship, a seminar was organized for the referees to update their techniques, terminologies and the laws and rules of the game.

"The new laws learnt at the seminar," the Coordinator explained.

He said the tournament was not held last year because the bickering and power play that went on among members.

"But we are glad that peace seems to be returning to the federation we can now regroup and forge ahead," he added.

## Lagos fiesta: Ibeju/Lekki lead with 19 gold

IBEJU/LEKKI Local Government has taken a giant leap over other contenders in the 2010 Lagos State Sports Festival with 19 gold, 10 silver and 16 bronze medals for a total medal haul of 45.

In second place is Ikosi/Isheri Local Council Development Area with more medal haul of 46 but short of one gold medal of 18 as against 19 for Ibeju/Lekki, Ikosi/Isheri LCDA has accumulated a total of 14 silver and 14 bronze medals. Followed in third place is Ejigbo Local Council Development Area with 8 Gold, 5 Silver and 6 Bronze medals.

Fourth on the medal table is Itire/Ikate LCDA with 7 Gold, 6 Silver and 12 Bronze medals while Yaba LCDA occupies the fifth position with 6 Gold, 5 Silver and 3 Bronze medals.

Surulere Local Government; Oto/Awori LCDA; Somolu; Lagos Island East and Lagos Mainland occupies the sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth positions respectively just as fourteen other LGs and LCDAs have won for themselves silver and bronze medals leaving thirty-four others without a medal.

Chairman of Ikosi/Isheri LCDA, Hon. Kunle Soname is optimistic that his council will come out top at the end of the festival on Friday.



## Lyon need spirit of Bernabeu to see off Bayern

THE spirit which saw off Real Madrid earlier in the competition will be revived if Lyon are to fell Bayern Munich tonight and book their place in a first Champions League final.

Trailing 1-0 after the first leg in which the Germans had to play most of the game with 10 men after Franck Ribery's sending off, Lyon striker Lisandro Lopez and coach Claude Puel said the Ligue 1 side need to up the ante.

"The team must change its attitude, its mentality. We played too defensively. We must have a more positive mind-set. We need to change tactics if we are to progress," Lisandro told reporters.

The Argentine said Lyon should be inspired by their performance at the Bernabeu in the first knockout round when a 1-1 draw gave them the edge against Real Madrid after a 1-0 win in the first leg.

"We've made it once, we can do it again. That day, we all wanted to go through."

Puel said Lyon were likely to be a better team now that they have their backs against the wall.

Puel, however, has some defensive woes before the clash at their Stade Gerland, with centre back Cris doubtful with hip and knee pains, Mathieu Bodmer ruled out injured and Jeremy Toulalan suspended after picking up a red card in Munich.

Following their scrappy 1-1 league draw against Borussia Moenchengladbach on Saturday, Bayern must up their tempo and they will have to do that without playmaker Ribery, suspended following his red card in the first leg.

Ribery will be joined on the sidelines by Croat Danijel Pranjić, who is also suspended.

As Bayern chase an unprecedented treble for a German team with domestic honours also in their sights, they are also concerned about a potential weakness in their central defence.

Martin Demichelis and Daniel van Buyten picked up injuries in

the game against Gladbach and are racing against the clock to be fit for the match.

Captain Mark van Bommel will add steel to the midfield with the Dutchman returning to Champions League action after sitting out a suspension in the first leg.

### Probable teams:

**Olympique Lyon:** 1-Hugo Lloris; 13-Anthony Reveillere, 4-Jean-Alain Boumsong, 3-Cris (or 41-Maxime Gonalons), 20-Aly Cissokho; 41-Maxime Gonalons (or 17-Jean Makoun), 6-Kim Kallstrom; 10-Ederson, 8-Miralem Pjanic, 19-Cesar Delgado; 9-Lisandro Lopez.

**Bayern Munich:** 22-Hans-Joerg Butt; 21-Philipp Lahm, 6-Martin Demichelis, 44-Anatoliy Tymoshchuk, 26-Diego Contento; 10-Arjen Robben, 17-Mark van Bommel, 31-Bastian Schweinsteiger, 25-Thomas Mueller, 11-Ivica Olic, 18-Miroslav Klose.

**Referee:** Massimo Busacca (Switzerland)



LISANDRO... the Lyon striker thinks his side must change its attitude and mentality.

## Five things Bayern must do to finish off Lyon

AFTER winning their home leg 1-0, Bayern Munich are in a great position to earn an aggregate victory over Olympique Lyonnais. Goal.com gives a run-down of what Louis van Gaal's men must do in order to advance to their first Champions League final since 2001...

### 1) Keep the Ball

To borrow an old adage, you can't lose the game if you don't lose the ball. Certainly, Louis van Gaal believes in such a mentality, and has passed it on to his players. In Champions League play, only Barcelona have averaged a higher percentage of possession than Bayern, who boast one of the finest midfield quartets in Europe. Even after Franck Ribery's sending off in the first leg, Bayern dominated possession, and in doing so diminished the chances of Lyon

scoring.

In order for Bayern to keep the ball away from Lyon's attackers, two conditions must be met: 1) they must be fearless in front of a hostile crowd; and 2) they must never be complacent. If Van Gaal's men can keep their cool and maintain their focus throughout the match, it will be very difficult for them to lose.

### 2) Be Patient

In the second leg of each of their previous knockout round encounters, Bayern conceded early goals, each time putting them on the verge of elimination. Even when down 3-0 away to Manchester United, die Roten remained impressively composed. A lesser side may have collapsed and lost by five or more goals, but with Van Gaal at the helm, the Bavarians were able to pull themselves together. Given a full 49 minutes to outscore United

by two, Bayern stuck to their game plan, got the goals they needed, and advanced to the semi-finals.

Even if they go 4-0 down against Lyon, Bayern cannot resort to desperate tactics. Their unwavering faith in Van Gaal's system has served them well thus far, and should be enough to see die Roten through to the final.

### 3) Attack on the Right Side

How does one neutralise the threat of Aly Cissokho, Ederson, and/or Michel Bastos? The answer is simple: keep them busy. Throughout the first leg, Philipp Lahm marauded up the right flank, linking with Arjen Robben and Bastian Schweinsteiger, and keeping Lyon's favoured left side on their heels. Ederson, and later Bastos, were barely ever able to touch the ball, and while Cissokho was solid in defence, his attacking qualities

were never put to use. If Lyon are unable to use the left side of their attack, the scales will be decidedly tipped in favour of Bayern.

### 4) Score First

Before the semi-finals, Bayern had conceded opening goals in four of their previous five Champions League matches. In each of those fixtures, die Roten successfully battled back to earn the results they needed, but not without tremendous effort. If Bayern stick to their attack-first game plan and manage to score the opener, it will be nearly impossible for Lyon to reverse the deficit. The French side would need to outscore their visitors by three goals over the rest of the match: a near impossible task.

### 5) Never, Ever Lose Hope

Robben may be a trump card, but Bayern's ace in the hole is their collective belief in themselves.

Twice before, the Bavarians faced critical Champions League fixtures without the Dutchman available to play, and on both occasions, they managed to win despite conceding early on. The first was December's 4-1 rout of Juventus in Turin, a match that Bayern had to win in order to advance to the knockout round. More recently, die Roten edged Manchester United with a 2-1 home victory.

While Robben's influence cannot be denied, it would be foolish to write off Bayern as a one-man team. Where there has been a will, there has always been a way for the Bavarians, be it through Robben, Mark van Bommel, Miroslav Klose or Ivica Olic. As long as Bayern maintain their confidence, no matter how difficult the situation becomes on Tuesday, someone will step forward to make the difference.

## THE TUESDAY COLUMN

Sanusi Abubakar

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## A generation to define our tomorrow?

"There is a mysterious cycle in human events. To some generations much is given. Of other generations much is expected. This generation of Americans has a rendezvous with destiny."  
-- Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1936

Recent clamour for generational power-shift in Nigeria is but manifestation of the age-old struggle between the forces of yesteryears trying to hold on to what they are comfortable with, and those of their offspring impatient for a new order. It is a welcomed development in our political discussions and in our attempts to resolve pending issues so as to move forward. However, to avoid generating more heat than light, let us define our concepts more clearly.

What exactly is a generation? To avoid getting lost in the jungle of the different meanings and usage of the term, from religious texts, to Physics, Biology and Mathematics, I shall stick to what people are alluding to in the context of the debate. At one time, a generation means the entire body of individuals born and living at about the same time, e.g. the post-independence generation. Nowadays, it more often refers to "a body of individuals born about the same time", usually 30 years among human beings, being the average period between the birth of parents and the birth of their offspring. However you define these groups they are bound to overlap, rendering classification unruly and untidy. So, we generally introduce a major event of happening as the defining moments, when one generational set ends and the other begins. The end of the World Wars has been used to define the Post-War generation in Europe. Famines, earthquakes, the World War, the Wind of Change that swept the colonial masters out of Africa at about the same time, even our own civil war that ended in 1970 could be used as cut-off points. It is assumed that such group of individuals, because they are of the same approximate age, should have similar ideas, problems, attitudes, prejudices and even territorial instincts. (This is true even in cyberspace, but I shall come to that later.)

Important as the generational groupings often are, they are still difficult to distinguish from each other and are often involve in inter-, and intra-generational conflicts. Thus when Major Chikumah Kaduna Nzeogwu led the attacks on Ahmadu Bello in Kaduna, and his mates elsewhere dealt with Balewa, Akintola, Ribadu they effectively ended the rule of those who did their apprenticeship, struggles and even started to build post-independent Nigeria. The Counter-coup, unrest and civil-war that followed effectively announced the arrival of the Gowon, Murtala, Danjuma, Buhari, Babangida and their generation. Except for the 4 and a half-year interruption of the Shagari and his people, the IBB Generation, to use the current parlance, has been in power up to the end of Obasanjo's presidency. No wonder the uproar when he was said to have castigate the youth, though the transcribed version I read sounds a lot softer.

Most of the criticism centre on IBB, his policies while in power for eight years and what others, like Issa Aremu in yesterday's *Daily Trust*, called the "age of his ideas". So we must ask ourselves how old are his ideas really? More to the point, how old are his political, economic and social ideas? Does he support genuine democracy, where people actually elect those to lead them? Would he support an end to rigging, thug and manipulation? Would he come clean on the

June 12th issue? The "Maradona syndrome" or even label does not give people hope? SAP and American style "lean" government is leading to state that cannot provide for their people, and some are looking as if they cannot survive. Has he abandoned the northern elite's dominant disregard for the people, believing they should be the ones to think for and decide everyone? They often surround themselves with praise singers with little or no regards for what anyone else thinks. And these gate-keepers can do and undo, the worst would be a slap on the wrist. These questions are applicable to Atiku, Aliyu Gusau, and the rest of them.

But these also apply to the ideas of the younger generation. Are Goodluck Jonathan's ideas any younger or any more relevant? Soludo lied and mislead the nation; El-Rufa'i saw nothing wrong with signing C of O's for his wives and kids arguing that, after all they are Nigerians, as if that explains anything. Ribadu made some impact but selectively, and Farida has continued with the same selectivity, if the NSA is to be believed. Who messed up the new-generation banks and executed the largest scam in our banking history? The IBB generation? Who are most of the Yahoo-Yahoo boys, the drug smugglers and so on?

The issue really is: would the ideas we wish our leaders to espouse lead us to the promise land? Some ideas are aged, there are no doubts. They are in serious disconnect with the exigencies of our survival and would not take us to where we wish to go. It is this disconnect that is leading to the collapse of education, the rise in crime rates, the stupid regurgitation of borrowed ideas with no connection to our realities.

This generation, in this case meaning this times we live in are changing, and our ideas and preoccupation are not in sync with it. For the first time in human history more people, globally speaking live in cities. Their problems are lack of jobs, poor or non-existent housing, inadequate health care, lack of sports and recreational spaces, high transportation costs and insecurity. Some even lack identity (so as to secure loans or other services) and have no sense of belonging, or any rights where they now reside. Refuse files high, water, sanitation are unavailable. The environment is changing in unpredictable ways, and new diseases are emerging daily. Those under 25 years of age are almost two-thirds of our population with less than half in school.

The generation of Awolowo, Ahmadu Bello and Azikiwe sold their ideas to the nation, built the rudiments of the Nigerian state and secured our independence. The one following it should have gone back to the barracks after executing the war "To Keep Nigeria One". They did not, and we are still suffering the consequences. The current crop of leaders has defined their mission effectively as that of looting the nation. Before we go any further we are right to start examining the policy relevance and efficacy of the ideas, policies and institutional arrangements being proposed to tackle new realities. That should be the main measure of the age of such ideas. I quite agree with IBB, we all have a role to play in defining the path. But it is the generation of today's youth that would be left to deliver tomorrow. This generation must start examining the age of its ideas. And we have every reason to be worried. The "old school" at least has a school, and schools have values, targets and standards. Can we say the same about the "new breed"?

“ But these also apply to the ideas of the younger generation. Are Goodluck Jonathan's ideas any younger or any more relevant? Soludo lied and mislead the nation; El-Rufa'i saw nothing wrong with signing C of O's for his wives

## SPORTS REPORT



WAYNE Rooney

## Rooney scoops PFA award

Wayne Rooney's glittering season continued when he was named English soccer's players' player of the year on Sunday.

The England and Manchester United striker, who has scored 34 goals for his club this season, was the clear winner of the main award ahead of fellow nominees Cesc Fabregas, Didier Drogba and Carlos Tevez.

That made it four years in a row it has gone to a United player fol-

lowing two for Cristiano Ronaldo and one for Ryan Giggs.

The 24-year-old Rooney missed United's 3-1 win over Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday with a groin strain which might also rule him out of the final two league games of the season but he should be fit to lead England's attack at the World Cup.

Aston Villa midfielder James Milner won the Professional Football Association's (PFA) young player of the year award.



ROGER Federer and Yves Allegro of Switzerland talk tactics in their doubles match

## Federer posts doubles win in Rome

Roger Federer opened his clay-court season with a doubles victory yesterday at the Rome Masters.

The top-ranked player paired with Swiss Davis Cup teammate Yves Allegro to beat Johan Brunstrom of Sweden and Jean-Julien Rojer of the Netherlands Antilles 6-4, 7-6 (4).

Federer never dropped his serve and showed off effective volleying skills in his first match inside the new 10,500-seat stadium at the Foro Italico.

Federer and Allegro will next face sixth-seeded Simon Aspelin of Sweden and Paul Hanley of Australia.

In singles, Federer will open against 40th-ranked Ernests Gulbis today.

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