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Iwu kicked out of INEC

By Mohammed S. Shehu & Abbas Jimoh

PROFESSOR Maurice Iwu's controversial five-year tenure as Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) came to an abrupt end yesterday when Acting President Goodluck Jonathan asked him to proceed on "pre-disengagement leave with immediate effect." No reason was given for the surprise order, which came six weeks ahead of the expiration of Iwu's tenure on Sunday, June 13.

A statement by the Senior Special Assistant on Media and Publicity to the acting President, Ima Niboro said the directive was with immediate

“Professor Maurice Iwu has been asked to proceed on pre-disengagement leave with immediate effect

effect and that Iwu had been directed to handover to the most senior Federal Commissioner at INEC.

The statement said, "The Acting President, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, has directed the Chairman of the Independent Electoral Commission, INEC, Professor Maurice Iwu, to proceed on pre-disengagement leave

with immediate effect.

"The Acting President's directive is in consonance with Section 155(1) (c), which stipulates that the Chairman and members of the Independent National Electoral Commission shall hold office for a period of five years. Professor Iwu's tenure expires on 13th June, 2010.

"He has also been directed to hand over to the most senior National Commissioner, who shall oversee the activities of the commission pending the appointment of a substantive chairman." The Acting President thanked the outgoing INEC boss for his services to the nation and wished him success.

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MINISTER of Petroleum Resources Mrs Diezani Allison-Madueke unveiling the Nigeria Content Development Act to captains of the oil and gas industry at the NNPC amphitheatre, Abuja, yesterday.

Yarima: My wife is not 13

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Akor Ojoma

YARIMAN Bakura Senator Ahmed Sani spoke for the first time yesterday about the controversy surrounding his alleged marriage to a minor Egyptian girl, saying his wife is not 13 years old as is being claimed by some newspapers and women groups. He spoke just as the Senate ordered an investigation into allegations he had married a minor.

Speaking to *Daily Trust* on telephone from Egypt,

“If anyone decides to judge me according to rules other than those prescribed by Allah and the Holy Prophet, then he is wasting his time

the former Zamfara State governor however declined to state his wife's age, saying it amounts to an invasion of privacy to ask a man his wife's age.

Alhaji Ahmed Sani said in his life, he strives hard to be entirely guided by the injunctions of the Holy Qur'an and by the traditions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad. He said, "Whatever the Qur'an and the hadith of the Holy Prophet authorise, I try my best to live up to it. Whatever they forbid, I try my best not to do it. Those are the guiding rules of my life. So if anyone decides to judge me according to rules other than those prescribed by Allah and the Holy Prophet, then he is wasting his time

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ACF has failed the North- Balarabe Musa

... No, we've not —ACF

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

AS the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) marks its 10th anniversary today, the former governor of Kaduna State, Alhaji Abdulkadir Balarabe Musa, yesterday said in Kaduna that the forum has not done anything to address the problems of the region.

The ACF is celebrating its 10th anniversary today Thursday at the Arewa House in Kaduna. Former Head of State, retired General Yakubu Gowon is expected to be the chairman of the occasion.

In an interview with our correspondent, the former governor said the forum had not protected any of the basic interests of the people of

the North but only protected the basic interests of northern factions of Nigeria's ruling class and the powerful.

"You can see what they have done to their class in terms of political power, in terms of self enrichment. In terms of the people of the north, you can see that they have not done anything to address the problem of almajirici, they have not done anything to revamp the agricultural sector of the region which used to be the mainstay of the northern economy. You can see that the few industries that existed around Kano, Zaria, Kaduna and Jos are no more, they have all collapsed," he said. On education, he said, "In the case of the 40 year edu-

cation gap between the north and the south, they have not done anything about it and they know very well that the literacy level in the region means a lot. With this gap, you cannot expect the people of the north to participate equally in the affairs of Nigeria".

Asked whether he would attend the anniversary, he said, "They invited me but I am not going to attend it. They invited when they were starting the forum and I told them what I felt in writing. I told them that they were not going to represent the interest of the generality of the north but a class. Right from the beginning, I saw the ACF as a faction of the Nigerian ruling class from the North. They are a col-

lection of semi feudal conservatives. I never expected them to protect the basic interests of the north. I saw them as protectors of class interests with only imaginable expectations of protecting the interest of the north," he said.

Reacting to the former governor's observation, the National Publicity Secretary of the forum, Mr. Anthony Sani, said the forum had not failed the region. He said it had been giving voice to the region in many areas of national importance.

"It represented the North at the Oputa panel, the forum also submitted memo to the Uwais panel on electoral reforms and made recommendations to the National Assembly on constitutional amend-

ments. In addition, the forum gave memoranda to all northern leaders on almost every aspect of our socio-economic and political lives," he said. He said the forum also made efforts to bring peace to many communities like the Jukun/Tiv in Taraba, Tiv/ Alago in Nasarawa and Yelwa Shendam in Plateau State.

"That Jos North is still festering could not be enough reason to conclude that the ACF has failed in its mandate," he said. The spokesperson said the forum had not acted as an agent of division in the north. Rather, it tries to bring northerners together so that they can live up their challenges by unleashing their potentials.

PICTURE: AFOLABI SOTUNDE



GENERAL Manager, Mideast Aviation Academy, Abdallah Twerish (right) with Flight Instructor, Captain Alia Al-Twal, during their visit to Media Trust Corporate Head Office, Abuja, Tuesday.

LG chairman kidnapped in Rivers

THE Rivers State Police Command yesterday confirmed the abduction of the Chairman of Oyigbo Local Government Council, Mr Precious Ofoji.

Police spokeswoman, Mrs Rita Abbey, told newsmen in Port Harcourt that the chairman was seized by gunmen at about 8.15 p.m. on April 27. She said Ofoji was returning from a visit to Port Harcourt when the armed men blocked his jeep, fired into the air to scare people and forced him into their Toyota Camry. Abbey said the anti-kidnap unit of the command had started investigations into the incident.

"For now, no ransom demand has been made and no group has claimed responsibility for the abduction," she said.

The police image maker urged the people to give the command useful information that would assist it to track down criminals and their hide outs in the state. Abbey also said the command killed four men who attempted to kidnap a woman at Igbodo community in Etche Local Government Area on April 26, at 11 p.m.

She said the men ran out of luck when a police patrol team in the area confronted them while attempting to kidnap the woman, explaining that they died during a shoot out with the police. (NAN)

For now, no ransom demand has been made and no group has claimed responsibility for the abduction.

Al-Mustapha's family flays continued detention

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

THE continued detention of Major Hamza Al-Mustapha, the Chief Security Officer (CSO) to late General Sani Abacha cannot be justified, the family's spokesman, Alhaji Hadi Al Mustapha, said yesterday.

Briefing newsmen after a family meeting to appraise Al Mustapha's 11 years in detention, the spokes-

man said his brother was a victim of state persecution as there was no justification for his continued detention.

"We of the Al-Mustapha family, after appraising the misfortune that befell him, are convinced that his prolonged incarceration has a political undertone. We also believe that Major Hamza is a victim of state persecution," said the family.

The family noted that Major Mustapha was arrested over an alleged coup plot in 1998 and was subsequently absolved of the allegation. "Thereafter, he was formally charged before a court over allegation of an attempted murder in 1999 and as result of his continued incarceration, he is being deprived of his fundamental human rights," he said.

According to him, the case has attracted 13 judges within the last decade and equally suffered endless adjournments, making it the longest trial in Nigerian history.

The family said various attempts to rope Major Mustapha had failed following the confessions of principal witnesses that they were induced to implicate the former security chief.

Court insists on Ibori's arrest

From Monday Osayande, Asaba

A Federal High Court sitting in Asaba, Delta State yesterday refused to grant former governor James Ibori's application to restrain the Economic and Financial Criminal

Commission (EFCC) from arresting him.

The judge, Justice Ibrahim N. Buba, did not grant the order in respect of the request because there was insufficient material before him.

Consequently, he adjourned the case with No. FHC/ASB/CS/34/10 till May 10, 2010 to enable him entertain the oral application made by A.B Mahmoud (SAN) counsel to Attorney General of the Federation and Inspector General of Police who

applied to study Ibori's affidavits.

Mr. J.E Daudu, a counsel to Chief Ibori had urged the court to restrain the EFCC and other government security agencies from arresting Ibori pending the determination of the case before the court.

National minimum wage pegged at N18,500

By Francis Okeke

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan is expected to approve a new national minimum wage pegged at N18,500 by the Committee on National Minimum Wage headed by retired Chief Justice Alfa Modibbo Belgore, Daily Trust learnt last night.

A source in the 24 member committee which was set up 14th July last year said members wrapped up activities last week and submitted the recommendation to Acting President Goodluck Jonathan for approval.

The source added that even though organised labour led

by the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and Trade Union Congress (TUC) have argued for the N52,250 as minimum wage, N18,500 was finally agreed by the members of the committee. But the source said refusal by Jonathan and the Federal Executive Council to sign the proposed amount "may see the NLC and the other unions going to the trenches and grounding the country."

Jonathan may likely announce the increased national minimum wage as proposed in his address on this year's Workers' Day coming up this Saturday in order to build his political fortunes amongst ordinary Nigerians, the source added.

NLC had held several sensitisation rallies and lectures

across the country on what they called the need for a "living wage and the enactment of a law that ensures periodic upward review of salaries and wages at specified periods."

While inaugurating the committee last year, Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF) Alhaji Mahmud Yayale Ahmed the committee was "a response to the need to address the genuine and realistic needs of the Nigerian worker to live a decent life."

Ahmed added that committee was also "part of government's resolve to ensure that no government worker loses his or her job in these trying times especially with the ravaging effect of the economic meltdown."

FG set to appoint technical assistants on power

By Mohammed S. Shehu

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan would appoint technical assistants to handle different critical areas of power, his Special Assistant on Media and Publicity Ima Niboro has said.

Niboro stated this yesterday while briefing newsmen at end of the presidential action committee meeting on power at the Presidential Villa, Abuja.

"We had explained before that there is a new power structure coming on stream and the Acting President is going to appoint technical assistants who will handle different critical areas of power, technical assistant for generation, transmission so on and so forth."

"So this is just part of the meeting. The presidential committee of power briefed the acting president on how far it has gone. Generally we are moving forward on the issue of power."

Niboro said Petroleum Minister Deziani Alison Madueke had told the meeting that the country has sufficient gas to control power stations.

"So that will lead to some considerable improvement in power in the next few months."

"We also look at the issue of agro-power which dot most part of the north and south west. Many of them are structurally completed, what is required is the turbines and we looked at those issues and we are going to make sure that those turbines are put in place so that in the next few months they can be up and running."



THE CJN Hon. Justice Alloysius Katsina-Alu being assisted by the Benue State University Vice Chancellor, Professor Akase Sorkaa (R) and the Registrar, Dr. Timothy Utile during the conferral of the Honorary Doctorate Degree of Laws on him in Makurdi on Saturday.

Reps: Govs influenced voting on constitution changes

By Turaki A. Hassan

THE House of Representatives voting on constitution amendment was influenced by governors who might have ordered their political "god-sons" to reject a proposed amendment to some sections of the constitution which they thought will infringe on their political interests, Deputy Speaker Usman Bayero Nafada has said.

Nafada, who is also Chairman of the 44 member House committee on the review of the constitution, told journalists on the just concluded debate on the report of his committee that "We are politicians. We have godfathers."

I can see from the way the voting took place yesterday (Tuesday) that some were voting for their sitting governors. They were doing that because maybe the governors of their state have issued white papers on somebody and they do not want that to be invalidated. They want that white paper to remain valid.

And you cannot say they are wrong because as politicians they can vote the way they like. Some are planning to issue white papers on others, so if you vote in favour of the deletion they will not have the opportunity to do that. That was why they were voting the way they were voting and it is all politics."

Nafada said personally he was not happy

with what his colleagues have done but he stands by the decision of the House.

He said the House and the Senate will adopt harmonized positions and said by end of May everything will be ready."

Nafada further reiterated the determination of the National Assembly to create more states as that will be the next assignment the lawmakers will undertake after they are through with the electoral reform bills.

He said the creation of more states will bring government closer to the people and provide employment opportunities in the face of increasing population in the country and diffused the enormous diversity of the country.

Yar'adua: Case against N/Assembly for mention June 3

By Mika Bala

A Federal High Court in Abuja has fixed June 3 for further mention in a suit filed by a former Minority Leader of the House of Representatives against the Attorney General of the Federation (AGF) and the Executive Council of the Federation.

The court had slated yesterday for mention but Counsel to Farouk Adamu Aliyu and Sani Hussaini Garun Gabas asked for an adjournment to enable them serve the processes on the office of the AGF.

Justice Adamu Bello had at the last adjourned date granted leave to the duo to apply for judicial review of the

purported resolution passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives which declared President Umaru Musa Yar'adua capable of performing the functions of his office.

They are seeking a declaration that the Senate and the House of Representatives lack the constitutional powers to pass a resolution mandating Vice President Goodluck Jonathan to assume full Presidential powers as Acting President pending the return of the President from his medical leave in Saudi Arabia.

In a motion ex parte filed before the court, they are asking the court to quash the resolution purportedly passed by the respondents on January 27 2010 declaring the President capable of performing the functions of

his office.

They want the court to declare that the resolution purportedly passed by the respondents on January 27 2010, declaring President Yar'adua capable of performing the functions of his office is unreasonable, irrational, unconstitutional and unlawful.

The court on January 22 ordered the Executive Council of the Federation to within 14 days consider, pass and publicize a resolution in accordance with provisions of sec 144 of the 1999 constitution declaring whether the absence of President Yar'adua on medical ground since November 23 2009 makes him incapable of discharging the functions of his office.

'Everyone is free to aspire'

Remarks by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan at the PDP NEC meeting in Abuja on Tuesday

WITHIN these past months, simply from November last year till this period, we have challenges because of the health of the President. But we thank God that we are on course now. We are moving gradually and we will continue to pray for the recovery of Mr President.

Within this period, especially the past three or four weeks, we have challenges as a party, the chairman made reference to some of the issues. Also, we have to thank God that no matter the challenges, we have been able to stabilize. And I believe that is part of democratic setting. Sometimes they say that necessity is the mother of invention. Some of these help PDP to work together. I have always believed in PDP. People believe that PDP will split into fragments. No matter how we disagree, at the end of the day, PDP comes out stronger.

But I will sincerely plead with aggrieved party men and women that this is a very, very challenging period. It is period that people do things that sometimes they suppose not do. People say things that they suppose not to say. But most especially some of these are statements that people put across either through communication or text messages. Some of them are true, some half truths, but most of them are completely blatant lies. But nobody will be there to

explain things. They will say this man said so or that this man has done this, especially those of us who by divine providence and by your grace are holding offices of governors, acting President, chairman of the party.

Some of the statements ascribed to some of us are false, there are name dropping here and there. So, I will plead with our party members because probably, people are thinking more of 2011 election when a number of issues will come up. But whenever you heard some stories take pains to find out before you react.

I appeal very sincerely that as a party, we have the Constitution that guides our activities. As a nation, we have our Constitution and laws and this government emphasizes on the rule of law. We must follow our party Constitution in the way we do things; we must follow the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and other laws. And until a law is amended, we have no choice but to obey the law, so that our actions and inactions will be guided.

I know if we all follow our Constitution and other guidelines that the party will issue from time to time to guide our day to day activities and follow the laws of our land, most of these frictions would not be there.

But one thing I believe is that in every human society, there may



GOODLUCK Jonathan

be tendency for people to disagree on certain issues, even husband and wife will always disagree, but most important thing is how we resolve our crisis and PDP has that power to do so.

We believe that if we all don't work together, then we cannot win elections smoothly.

One major challenge we have as ruling party. From my little understanding of party formation in the country, PDP is the first party one can say is the truly national party.

We have other parties that can claim national, but with one leg, but PDP can claim to be truly national party with two legs.

I believe that level of success will have its challenges and the opposition would like to crack that and if you crack PDP, then it is easier for some people to play big. But if PDP is solid, then the opposition will have limited space to play. So we should not be tempted to divide among ourselves. We should work together.

I must be very frank in terms of political ambition; every human being is free to aspire to any office he likes. But within this period, while we are doing that, we should do it in such a way that it should not over heat the polity. There is something called mosquito campaign. You are free to be going round to sell and market yourselves, but let us not over heat the system. If we do that, we will create problems for the party.

One thing that I always feel sad about whenever I travel out, the question they ask us is our inability to conduct election that will be accepted by our own very people and international community. People and the media always misunderstand me when I put up argument that as at the time we conducted election in 2007, PDP had widest spread even in terms of campaign. We campaigned in every local government in this

country. In some local governments, more than one community was visited. No other party did that. Based on this, if politics is all about followership and since we have the largest followership, the chances of our winning are high and bright.

Probably there are certain tiny things that we are not doing the way it is supposed to be done by the electoral body that conducted the election. So people have the opportunity to raise these issues and make it look as if our elections are not credible. We promise this time around that every step provided by law will be followed to the letter so that at the end of the day somebody who loses an election will have no reason to go to court. Even if he or she goes to Court, things will be very clear. We don't want a situation whereby we who are called politicians will suffer and at the end of the day you elect an officer and next month you heard that the officer has been replaced by another person. Nobody enjoys that. We want a situation whereby if we get our election through, at least it should stand the test of time. We promise that we are going to do our best to conduct credible election. So we need maximum cooperation of all members of the party for a maximum success.

Speech transcribed by Muideen Olaniyi

Anti-terror bill passes second reading in Senate

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

A bill seeking to provide for comprehensive measures at combating domestic and international terrorism has passed second reading in the Senate.

Leading the debate on the general principles of the bill yesterday, Senate Leader Teslim Folarin said the bill is to ensure "Effective implementation of the convention for the prevention and combating of terrorism and suppression of financing of terrorism."

He said there is no existing anti-terrorism law that could check possible activities of terrorism in the country saying "For that reason Nigeria has failed to meet the requirements of

the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), established by the G7 summit held in Paris in 1989. Its main objective is to detect, prevent and suppress the financing of terrorism and terrorist acts."

Senator Folarin said Nigeria has only partially complied to two out of the nine special recommendations of the FATF set for fight against terrorism, adding that Nigeria is rated as non-compliant to 7 agreements provided by the international convention.

The bill has been committed to a joint committee comprising, committees on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters, Foreign Affairs and National Security and Intelligence for further legislative action and to report back in two weeks.

ANPP rejects tax increment

By Abbas Jimoh

THE All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) yesterday in Abuja has rejected the planned increment of the Value Added Tax (VAT) by the federal government as proposed by the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS).

The party said the plan, which will see the VAT being increased from 5% to 10%, is another ploy by the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to inflict more hardship on the already impoverished Nigerian masses.

National Publicity Secretary of ANPP Emma

Eneukwu told journalists that Nigerians have not forgotten how former President Olusegun Obasanjo's regime increased the same VAT from 2.5% to 10% before bringing it down to 5% after much outcry during his last days in the office.

While saying that the planned increment is targeted to enrich respective pockets of few individuals at the detriment of the millions suffering Nigerians, he urged Acting President Goodluck Jonathan and the National Assembly to dump the said proposal because it lacks human face and will continue to torture the Nigerian masses.



EGYPT, Cairo: The son and daughter of Sudanese Khater Abdullah Moktar, one of 26 suspected Hezbollah members, help their mother who collapsed after hearing her husband's jail term following his trial in the outskirts of Cairo, yesterday.

PIC:AFP

PHOTO: KENNEDY EGBONODJE

Yarima: My wife is not 13

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Prophet, then he is wasting his time, because those are not my guiding principles." The senator declined to answer further questions about his marriage, saying it is his private life.

The senator also said his new wife is schooling in Egypt and her parents are based in Cairo. After the marriage was contracted in Nigeria, she returned to Cairo to continue with her schooling, he said.

A political associate of the ANPP senator also alleged last night that the Zamfara State government is behind what he called "the smear campaign against Yarima." He alleged that "it is the Zamfara State government that is sponsoring the newspaper reports and the NGOs who are making noise on this matter. They think that if they can destroy Yarima's image, they would destroy the ANPP in Zamfara State which he leads."

The Senate's ordering of an investigation followed the laying of a petition from the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on the floor of the Senate by Chairman of the Senate Committee on Women Affairs, Senator Eme Ufot Ekaette (PDP, Akwa Ibom).

After the petition was laid on the table, Senate President David Mark directed that the issue be investigated by the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions to ascertain its veracity.

Senator Sani was alleged in the petition to have married a 13 year old Egyptian girl after paying a dowry of \$100,000 at a marriage ceremony that took place at the National Mosque, Abuja last month.

Senator Ekaette told *Daily Trust* that "We have done our part and we expect that after the public hearing to be conducted by the committee we will be in a better position to take a decision on the floor of the Senate."

Members of some women associations in the country also demonstrated at the Senate for two days calling for the immediate repatriation of the Egyptian girl as well as asking for punishment for Senator Sani.

Women Affairs and Social Development Minister Iyom Josephine Anenih also said yesterday that the ministry did not have full facts on Senator Ahmed Sani's alleged marriage to a 13 year old Egyptian girl, saying "till date we don't know the name of the girl, her image and other proofs concerning it and cannot act on what is still an allegation."

She said even when proven to be true, some aspects of the constitution still provide a lot of stumbling blocks to the successful prosecution of the case, citing section 29 sub-section 4 which she said is one of those that should be expunged. "That is why constitution review is handy now so that we can solve all these problems," the minister said.



SOUTH-WEST Peoples Assembly's President, Alhaji Ayinde T. Agidi, during his courtesy visit to Media Trust Corporate Head Office, Abuja, yesterday.

Sen Dansadau heads FCT land probe c'ttee

By Nasir Imam

SENATOR Sa'idu Dansadau has been appointed to chair a 12-Member Ministerial Investigation Committee on Lands Administration in the Federal Capital Territory.

Other members of the committee are: Ms. Jumai Kwanashe (Secretary), Engr. Gambo Umar, Mr. Toachi Ucheadu, Princesses Stella Aduah Ogiemwonyi, Mrs. Helen Oloja, Barrister Osita Abalowa, Mr. Dan Kunle, Alhaji Lawal Mijinyawa, Mr. Peter Okolo, Alhaji Sabo Ago and Mr. Odesunmi.

FCT Minister Senator Bala

Mohammed, who revealed this while lifting the embargo on land allocated and development control approvals from January 2007 to date, said that the lifting of the embargo was done in the public interest to enable genuine land owners appropriately take possession and complete all its processes.

He said the committee is to submit its report in three weeks and is expected to conduct verification exercise on all land allocations made from 2007 to date and Mass Housing allocations from 2004 to date with a view to sorting out and arresting the prevalence of multiple allocations, forgery and abuse of records at

the Land Registry and the Abuja Geographic Information Systems (AGIS).

Senator Mohammed said the committee will also recommend ways of repositioning AGIS to provide credible land data, plugging loopholes for fraud and leakages as well as establishing a sound institutional framework, good condition of service to enhance efficiency, transparency and accountability.

Responding, Chairman of the committee Senator Sa'idu Dansadau promised to discharge their duty to the best of their ability having in mind the interest of the FCT and the nation at large.

ACF leaders meet with Jonathan

By Mohammed S. Shehu

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan last night held an unscheduled meeting with the leaders of the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF).

ACF Chairman IBM Haruna led a five-man delegation to the meeting which held behind closed doors at Akinola Aguda House, the Acting President official residence.

The meeting which started at about 9pm, lasted for an hour. No details were available as at press time, but the ACF secretary Musa Shehu told *Daily Trust* that they went to invite the acting president to today's 10th year anniversary of the forum in Kaduna.

Similarly, Lt. Gen. Jerry Useni (rtd), who attended the meeting, told the NTA that they were also in the Villa to thank the acting president for holding the country together.

However, sources yesterday told *Daily Trust* that the meeting was facilitated by two former leaders, Gen Yakubu Gowon (rtd) and Alhaji Shehu Shagari.

Present at the meeting where Lt. Gen. Jerry Useni, Ambassador Abdullahi Ladan Shuni, Col. Musa Shehu (rtd). A source also said Jonathan is expected to hold similar meeting with the South/South leaders in Abuja.

Iwu kicked out of INEC

Continued from page 1

cess in his future endeavours. A source at INEC said the most senior Federal Commissioner at the commission was Barrister Victor Chukwuani, who may now act as chairman until Iwu's successor is appointed.

Presidency sources told *Daily Trust* last night that Jonathan decided to hasten Iwu's departure because the chairman was awarding many last minute contracts and was also rushing to conclude the recruitment of nearly 6,000 new staffers for INEC. Thousands of young men and women turned up in Abuja earlier this week for INEC's recruitment test and interview, which was so chaotic that many applicants fainted. The interview was subsequently cancelled, but there were stories earlier yesterday that INEC was moving to do a sneak recruitment test tomorrow, without a public announcement.

Professor Iwu was appointed to a five-year term by the Obasanjo regime in 2005. Under him, INEC conducted the 2007 general and presidential

elections, unanimously condemned by local and foreign observers as the worst in the world's history. Last month, some youths alleged to be hired staged a demonstration in Abuja urging the government to reappoint Iwu, who they said is the best person to deliver credible polls in Nigeria.

However, the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) together with several human rights and civil society groups staged a large counter demonstration urging the government to quickly sack him.

The Conference of Nigerian Political Parties (CNPP) said last night that Professor Maurice Iwu's retirement was a welcome development. It however demanded for "the full implementation of the core recommendations of the Uwais Report and the submission of the three Bills therein as Executive Bills by the Acting President." CNPP's publicity secretary Osita Okechukwu also said, "We subscribe to the recommendation that the NJC should publicly advertise for the office of the chairman and key officers of the Electoral Commission and submit three each to the NCS which in turn submits one each to the Senate. This is the irreducible minimum."

MSM unveils new party

By Abbas Jimoh & Abdulmutallib Abubakar

THE Mega Summit Movement (MSM) yesterday in Abuja formally unveiled the Social Democratic Mega Party (SDMP) as a replacement for the bungled Mega Party.

Speaking at the inaugural meeting of the association, protem national chairman of SDMP, Prof. Pat Utomi, said that the formation of the new arrangement is in line with the desperate cry of Nigerians in search for freedom from the bondage of a country that is so endowed but ranked among the poorest in the world led.

He said the SDMP will emancipate Nigerians from the current poverty and quagmire.

On the confusion that led to the collapse of the earlier arrangement, he said, "When the process of MSM started which is the vehicle opened its doors to all and invited all. The NDM started on its own saying it wanted to be seen as a broad base and which will ultimately led to a merger with MSM, because we are in democracy we said why not. In the last couple of day NDM members have left and some people are confused it with MSM. Nothing happened to the MSM and it has now come up with SDMP and it out to mobilize Nigerians from across its spectrum to do a job of salvaging our country."

Onovo orders probe of police contract

By Misbahu Bashir

INSPECTOR General of Police Ogbonna Onovo has constituted a project monitoring and implementation committee to probe all contracts awarded by the police from January 1, 2009 to date.

Police Force Public Relations Officer Emmanuel Ojukwu said the eight-member committee is headed by DCP Mbu J. Mbu and is to examine all documents relating to each contract awarded ascertain its origin, nature, duration and cost including the awarding authority.

"This development is to ensure proper execution of government contracts and utilization of public funds, and that the Police get good value for money paid to contractors," he said.

The committee is to physically inspect and monitor police projects and supplies throughout the country with a view to ascertaining the quality and quantity of the job. It is also to determine the financial outlay considering the amount that has been paid and the outstanding.

They are to ensure that all the terms of agreement in the contract are implemented to the letter in order to curb substandard execution.

The committee has the right to stop any contractor at any stage of the job that deviate grossly from the contract terms after series of warnings.



PROFESSOR Pat Utomi (left), Protem Chairman, Social Democratic Mega Party (SDMP) with Chief Olu Falae, Chairman, Mega Summit Movement, during a press briefing on the formation of SDMP in Abuja, yesterday.

I need no 'linkman' to return to PDP - Atiku

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

FORMER Vice President Atiku Abubakar has said he does not need a 'linkman' to return to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) of which he was one of the founding fathers.

Reacting to claims by the Adamawa State PDP that he has not been accepted back in the party, Atiku in a statement by his Media Office yesterday said "Those making the claims are living in the past when PDP contravened its own constitution by appointing the much dis-

credited "linksmen" to register and re-register members of the party at the expense of constitutionally recognized party officials."

The statement said "The Constitution of the PDP invests the Chairman and Secretary of the party at the ward level with the responsibility of registering members. Atiku was re-registered on April 7th 2010 by the undisputed chairman of the PDP in Yeli ward, Fidelis Kosa and the ward secretary, Mahmud Sanda who are recognized by all factions of PDP in Adamawa State and duly recognized by

the party at the local, state, zonal and national levels.

Only last week, the National Vice Chairman of the party in the North East, Mr. Paul Wampana announced the directive of the National Headquarters to state chapters to register returning and new members. Are these people superior to the party's national leadership?"

A faction of the ruling party in Adamawa state has rejected the return of Atiku to the party.

'Aviation college has no helicopter yet'

By Shehu Abubakar

THE Nigerian College of Aviation Technology (NCAT) Zaria has not yet taken delivery of any of the helicopters claimed to have been bought for the institution, Head of Public Affairs of the institution Mr Amadi Jude has said.

He was reacting to a report published by Daily Trust that the college rector Captain

Adebayo Araba flew into an Abuja hotel with a training helicopter meant for students of the institution.

Jude said despite government pronouncement that arrangements were being made to buy helicopters for the institute, the school is yet to take delivery of any helicopter.

He said the helicopter sighted at a hotel in Abuja does not belong to NCAT and was not flown to the hotel by either the rector or

any staff of the college. "The helicopter picture in the story may actually be that of an organization seen parked within the period in the precinct of NICON Luxury hotel, Abuja," Jude said. When contacted to authenticate the registered owners of the helicopter in question, officials of the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) at the Nnamdi Azikwe International Airport Abuja requested for time to verify the information.

EFCC probes Suswam's government

By Boco Edet

ECONOMIC and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has expanded its investigation in Benue state to cover the state government following documents received from 10 local government chairmen arrested for allegedly misappropriating over N900million excess crude fund allocated to their local council areas.

Daily Trust gathered that EFCC operatives have obtained original copies of allocations

made to the local governments in the state since 2007 from the Revenue Mobilisation and Fiscal Allocation Commission (RMFAC) to compare with those handed to the chairmen by Benue State Bureau for Local government and Chieftaincy Affairs.

Ten LG chairmen were suspended by the Benue State House of Assembly last month for allegedly misappropriating excess crude oil allocation and later arrested by the EFCC. They were released on administrative bail after pledging to return the monies and

produce relevant documents to aid the investigation.

Those under investigation include Joseph Akaaza-Markudi LG, Clement Agada-Ogbabibo LG, Iordue Orya-Oshongo LG, Jonathan Akputu-Kwande LG, Abaji Samuel-Gwer West LG, Iwar Simon-Gwer East LG, Innocent Onu-Otukpo LG, Odeh Ageh-Obi LG, David Separ-Ukum LG and Ameh Linus-Ohimini LG.

EFCC's spokesman Femi Babafemi said the case is still being investigated but declined further comment.

CJN Katsina-Alu bags honorary doctorate degree

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

THE Chief Justice of Nigeria Justice Aloysius Katsina-Alu was at the weekend conferred with an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree (Honoris Causa) by the Benue State University in recognition of his contributions to the development of the legal profession in Nigeria.

A statement signed by the Assistant Director Press and Information to Supreme Court of Nigeria, Mr. Akande Aweneri Festus said the university conferred the CJN with the honour alongside other awardees that include, Senate President David Mark, Former Civilian Governor of Benue State, Rev. Moses Adasu (Post humous award); the Managing Director and Chief Executive of

United Bank For Africa Plc, Mr. Tony Elumelu; and the Chairman of Dantata & Sawoe, Alhaji Abdulkadir S. Dantata.

Speaking at the event, Pro-Chancellor of the Institution Professor Ode Ojowu described Justice Katsina-Alu as an accomplished Jurist and a reformer of the Nigerian Justice System who happened to be the first indigene of Benue State to attain the position of CJN.

'Virgin Nigeria for name change next week'

From Nahimah Ajikanle Nurudeen, Lagos

THE new Chairman of Virgin Nigeria Airways Mr. Jimoh Ibrahim has said the airline would have its brand name changed by next week, just as he said that the

carrier is technically fit, but financially sick. Jimoh Ibrahim, the Chairman of NICON group, while speaking with journalists in Lagos, said the problem of the airline was financial, adding that the airline was going to experience a turnaround to stabilize its operations.

"There will be a name change and the name will reflect the image of our nation. Next week, I will brief the media on the new name. Whenever I buy any foreign company, I change the name to reflect Nigeria. Even if Virgin gives me their name for free, I will change

the name.

Agreed, Richard Branson came with this brand to Nigeria and there was problem and he backed out. So, I think there is a need for us as Nigerians to prove that we can do it. We have the capacity to do it", he said.

PIC: KENNEDY EGBONODJE



DIRECTOR General, National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA), Professor John Idoko, during his presentation at the workshop on HIV Prevention in Rural Communities in Abuja yesterday.

Exporter nabbed for stealing N1m

From Benjamin Auta, Lagos

THIRTY six year-old exporter, Ike Obodouchi, from Delta State and his friend were yesterday paraded by the Lagos State Police Command for allegedly stealing one million naira belonging to one Bashiru Aderemi Mohammed at the Alausa central mosque in Lagos.

Aderemi said he was sent by his boss to withdraw the money so that he could pay some people, who were working for him, but decided to stop and pray at about 2:20pm at the mosque.

"But while I was praying, the alarm system in my car went off and when I looked outside, I saw one of the suspects opening my car. I quickly rounded up my prayers and alerted the people who tried to closed the gate, but they drove off," he said.

He added that he heard gun shots from outside the mosque and thought he had lost the money, but that a Rapid Response Squad (RRS) team apprehended them and recovered the money.

Speaking with crime correspondents, Ike Obodouchi, said he was an exporter, but that things became difficult and he was invited into the business by his friend (second suspect) Daniel

Ugwu.

"I used to export palm oil and other things, but when my business crumbled, Daniel met me and told me to join him and his friends to do the kind of business they do, breaking into and stealing of cars. I only started the business in February and I have done it only 10 times. In every operation, I get between N20,000 and N40,000," he said.

Also speaking, 34 year-old Daniel Ugwu, who is from Ndokwa West of Delta State said he stated the "business" after he concluded his Secondary School at Alakuko High School in Ajegunle, Lagos State.

He added that he started as a Wharf rat and later graduated into robbery.

"He used to bring laptops and other goods whenever he returned from Europe, but when his business stopped moving, I told him about our business and he joined us," he said.

Daniel said his share from every operation was always between N60,000 and N80,000. The Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer Mr. Frank Mba advised Nigerians, especially motorists to be very careful and install security gadgets that would help in tracking and apprehending criminals.

2011: DIG warns officers against inducement

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

AHEAD of the 2011 elections, officers and men of the police have been warned against receiving inducements from politicians. The Deputy Inspector General of Police in charge of Operations, Mr John Hamza Ahmadu in company of the AIG in the zone gave the warning yesterday while addressing the Kwara State Police Command in Ilorin.

Ahmadu, who warned the officers against compromising their professional ethics, said anyone caught could be dismissed or jailed. He also warned politicians to warn their supporters to restrict campaigns to their manifestos and play the game according to the rules. The DIG expressed satisfaction with the level of preparedness of the command and commended the state's Police Commissioner Alhaji Muhtari Ibrahim for his efforts.

Wamakko donates vehicles to police

From Abdulfatai Abdulsalami, Sokoto

SOKOTO State Governor Aliyu Wamakko has donated 30 Hilux vehicles purchased at N168 million to the police in the state. Presenting the vehicles to the Minister of Police Affairs Alhaji Adamu Maina Tuesday in Sokoto, the governor said every responsible government should be concerned about the security of its

people, adding that adequate security provides a conducive atmosphere for leaders to perform their duties.

Governor Wamakko said the donation was a sign of his commitment towards improving the working condition of the police in the state. He urged well-meaning groups and individuals to support the government in ensuring security of lives and property in the state.

FCE students protest over excursion fee

From Halima Musa, Kano

STUDENTS of the Department of Social Studies in the Federal College of Education, Kano, have protested over the N6,000 excursion fees fixed by the school authorities for a five day trip to some northern states. The students were asked to pay N6,000 each for their transportation and make extra arrangement for their feeding during the trip.

The spokesman for the students, who spoke to our correspondent in Kano said the excursion would only compound problems for the students. He maintained that because of financial constraints, some students found it difficult to even pay the school fees.

"We were asked to pay N6,000 and five days feeding fee which will be nothing less than N4,000. This is too much for us and it will only compound problems for the children of the poor who are battling hard to study", he said.

The spokesman who pleaded for anonymity added that, "The school should not make education unaffordable to the children of the poor. They should stop introducing programmes that students can do without," he said.

Another speaker, whose son is a student of the school said the excursion was an additional burden which the school wanted to impose on parents.

"They are now asking us to pay at least N10,000 for this excursion and after that we will be required to pay school fees again. This is bad," he said.

He added that the school should understand that life was not as easy as it used to be, saying some of the students were studying under difficult conditions.

He said instead of making the excursion compulsory, the school should make it optional. Responding, the Deputy Registrar of the school Mr John Ochege said the excursion was part of the course programme and very essential to the students.

He said the excursion was similar to the teaching practice which students in their second and third year in school go out to do.

"This excursion is compulsory and it is essential to the students. It is like the teaching practice they go out to do in their second and third year in school. We can't say the teaching practice should stop because it will involve going out to some local government areas," he said.

Ondo students threaten to march against IBB

From Adewale Giwa, Akure

ONDO State students have threatened to stage a one million march to protest against the presidential ambition of former military Head of State retired General Ibrahim Babangida.

The students under the aegis of the National Association of Ondo

State Students (NAOSS) vowed to do everything possible to make sure that the former president does not win the election in 2011.

The association in a statement by its National President, Mr. Temidayo Temola, said it would mobilize students of Ondo State origin from every higher institution in the country to protest

against IBB's interest. The group urged Nigerians both at home and abroad to work against the former president's ambition. The students said it would be disastrous for Nigerians to back IBB, who annulled the most peaceful and credible election ever conducted in the country.

'IBB bastardized the nation's

economy through obnoxious programmes like SAP. During his tenure, there were several cases of human rights abuses.

We are warning politicians, who are rooting for IBB to stop it as we are ready to resist any attempt by desperate politicians to launch IBB's campaign in this state," the group added.



PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE

DEPUTY Speaker, House of Representatives Usman Bayero Nafada (left) with House member Muhammed Sani Takori during a press conference on the Amendment of 1999 Constitution at the National Assembly, Abuja yesterday.

KESIEC ready for Kebbi LG poll

From Isma'il Adebayo, Birnin Kebbi

THE Kebbi State Independent Electoral Commission (KESIEC) yesterday said it was ready for the state local government election slated for June 5, 2010.

Chairman of the state electoral commission Hajiya Ada Sani Ka'oje, who spoke with our correspondent in Birnin Kebbi yester-

day also denied an allegation by some political parties in the state, that they were not being carried along by the commission.

She said to ensure a smooth election in the state, the commission had embarked on voters education and had posted electoral officers to all the 21 local government areas of the state.

Hajiya Ada said the commis-

sion had held meetings with all stakeholders in the state including representatives of all the political parties who had shown interest of participating in the election to ensure that it is conducted peacefully.

"We have had useful discussions with the political parties on the local government election and 25 political parties have

shown interest in the election. We don't have any problem with any political party, that is why we were surprised to hear that we are not carrying them along in our preparation for the election. This is not true," she added.

Hajiya Ada said KESIEC had always been fair to all political parties to ensure that relative peace is maintained in the state.

Jigawa govt assists 18 law students with N4m

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Dutse

THE Jigawa State government has assisted 18 law students from the state with N4.230m to be used as registration fees into the Nigeria Law School, President,

National Association of Jigawa State Law Students (NAJLAWs) Mallam Adamu Isyaku Farin-Dutse has said.

Speaking to our correspondent shortly after collecting the cheque yesterday, Mallam Dutse

said each of them would get N235,000.

He added that each of the students would also be given a Lab top and N20,000 as maintenance allowance by the state government. He said the present

administration in the state had been assisting law students and called on the students to reciprocate the gesture by paying attention to their studies.

"You should also be good ambassadors of Jigawa State

Nasarawa to restore electricity in 4 communities

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

NASSARAWA State Governor Aliyu Akwe Doma has promised some communities in the state, electricity. The governor made the pledge yesterday while on a tour of the communities.

During the governor's "Meet the people tour" which took him to Toto Local Government Area and Gadabuke Development Area, the people agitated for the restoration of the electricity line that runs through Nasarawa, Gababuke, Toto and Umaisha communities.

The governor, who led members of his State Executive Council (SEC) including the Secretary to the State Government (SSG) and the Information Commissioner Timothy Anjide said the state government would collaborate with the Federal Government to ensure the completion of the rural electrification project.

He expressed satisfaction with the progress and quality of work on on-going projects in the areas, particularly the Toto-Umaisha road, which is almost ready for commissioning.

Doma added that the state government had constructed multi-purpose primary healthcare clinics, rehabilitated and upgraded schools in the areas.

W/Bank to partner Kogi on polio

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

THE World Bank has said that it will assist the Kogi State government to eradicate polio from the state.

The leader of the World Bank Mission of States' Partner team, Dr Abubakar Deon, said this yesterday when he led officials of the Mission on a courtesy visit to the state's Ministry of Health in Lokoja.

Calling on stakeholders in the state to put in more efforts towards eradicating polio from the state, Deon said the visit would afford the team the opportunity to visit local government areas, where polio was still endemic and find ways of assisting them.

The Commissioner for Health Dr Dorcas Onunmiyan, praised the World Bank for partnering with the state on polio eradication and attributed the success recorded in the health sector to assistance from the state government, local government authorities, traditional rulers and other relevant agencies.

while in the school, avoid all acts capable of tarnishing your image and that of the state.

The present administration has spent a lot of money on your education so I implore you not to disappoint it," he said.

ICAN denies complicity in Kogi audit scandal

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

THE Kogi State branch of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) yesterday denied the alleged complicity of its members in the financial scandal trailing the recent

staff audit in the state. The Chairman of the branch, Usman Mohammed, made the denial in Lokoja at a news conference on the accountants conference slated for next month.

It would be recalled that 29 accountants of state's ministries and parastatals were last year suspended for allegedly

diverting N500million to their private accounts monthly during the staff audit exercise. Mohammed said none of the 35 members of the institute in the state was found wanting, saying, "We have a disciplinary arm that looks into persons found not following the tenets and practice of ICAN".

...Holds Northern districts conference

ARRANGEMENTS have been concluded by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) to hold the 5th edition of the Northern Districts Accountants Conference at the Confluence Beach Hotel in Lokoja, Kogi State

from May 2 to 6 2010. A statement from the chairman of the Local Organising Committee of the conference, Mr. Fred Okonta said it is inline with ICAN's tradition of providing platform for enlightened discourse on topical issues. He said

the theme of this year's conference is, "The Financial Crisis in a Developing Economy: The Role of Chartered Accountants".

Mr. Okonta, who is also the Chairman of Abuja chapter of the institute, further said the confer-

ence is expected to take a critical look at the impact of agriculture on the nation's economy and revenue generation as a tool for socio-economic and infrastructure development in the country. Okonta said various speakers have been invited

to deliver papers at the conference including, Prof. B.C. Nwankwo, Dr. J.O. Omuya and Mrs. Ifeko Omoigui among others. About 600 chartered accountants from around the country are expected at the conference.

PIC: OLADIPUPO ODUNEWU



The new Oluwole urban market complex in Lagos set for commissioning by Governor Babatunde Fashola of Lagos State.

Goje warns govt health workers

From Aliyu M. Hamagam, Gombe

GOVERNOR of Gombe of State, Alhaji Danjuma Goje has threatened to deal ruthlessly with any health worker found wanting in the course of discharging his/her duties in government own health facilities.

This was stated by the governor who was represented by his Deputy, (Dr) Lazarus Yorio during the state health council meeting in Gombe yesterday.

According to him, the state government is committed to ensuring that health care delivery is made available to the people, adding that with the completion of the General Hospital in Kashere, the number of secondary health facilities in the state would increase to 18 against the seven inherited by the administration.

He added that the government would be committed to its contributions to the Malaria control booster project, saying the present administration had remitted N18 million under the Health System Development Projects.

Goje remarked that over 500 students of the state undergoing various health related courses in the higher institutions of learning across the country were placed on salary grade level 4 to 9 depending on the course.

Delivering a paper, the consultant, North/East Midwifery Service Scheme, Dr Danjuam Sule said good health is not only the absence of diseases but also a state of being in complete physical, social, economic and mental being, therefore the responsibility for one's good health could not be for government alone.

Police orders Plateau PDP caretaker c'ttee to seal office

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

THE Plateau State police command has ordered the PDP caretaker committee in the state to close its office and stay action on all activities leading to the conduct of a congress in the state.

The caretaker committee had been working on conducting a congress for the party in the state as mandated by the national secretariat.

The police also withdrew all security personnel attached to the committee.

Acting Commissioner of Police Ikechukwu Aduba in a statement said both the order and withdrawal of security from the caretaker were in respect of a court order. A state High Court in Jos had last Friday granted the prayers of Prof. Dakum Shown to declare the caretaker committee illegal.

The police said, "In clear recognition of the order of the court and in keeping with democratic ideals, tenets and rule of law, the Plateau state caretaker committee under the leadership of Chief Abu King Shuluwa should cease to exist."

The police enjoined the caretaker committee and the Prof. Dakum shown exco to continue to exploit all available remedies within the confines of the law to pursue their grievances and to desist from any act that may lead to breakdown of law and order in view of the crises in the state.

The police commissioner warned that the command would not hesitate to visit the full weight of the law on any person that violates the order.

Chairman of the caretaker committee, Abu King Shuluwa when contacted said as far as he was concerned, no court had issued the police an order of execution of the judgment, more so as he filed an appeal to the judgment and applied for a stay of execution. He said he would brief Abuja to know the next course of action to take.

Robbers kill police escort in Aba

From Johnkennedy Uzoma, Owerri

THE police in Aba, Abia State said yesterday that a gang of armed robbers Tuesday killed mobile policemen in the town. They were attached to the Mopol 48 Squadron in Ahoda, Rivers State.

But witnesses told *Daily Trust* that three policemen were killed when they ran into the armed robbers at Osisioma where they were attacked and a shoot out ensued. Passers-by and residents of the area scammed for safety.

None of the armed robbers was killed in the gun duel as they all escaped.

The Public Relations Officer of the Abia State Police command Ali Okechukwu, an ASP, confirmed the incident to *Daily Trust* but said only one mobile policeman was killed in the incident.

He said the policemen were on escort from Mopol 48. He did not name the dead or what they were escorting.

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Group tasks women on child upbringing

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

THE Al-Muminat Organization has urged women to give adequate attention and training to their wards and children to make them grow into responsible adults.

The National Treasurer of the Organization Hajjia Khadijah Yusuf made the call during the organization's camping programme for women and children at the Queen Elizabeth School, Ilorin.

Hajjia Khadijah said the world was currently faced with the challenges of fraud, instability, promiscuity, sexual

abuse especially of minors, gambling, robbery and assassination among others mainly because the home which is the foundation of the society had been left unattended to.

She warned that the situation of the world would remain as it is unless women seek necessary Islamic education, imbibe obedience to their husbands within the limits set by Allah and show interest in the activities of their children and neighbourhood.

She stressed the need for them to be concerned about other peoples' children because of peer group influence that could negatively impact on

their own children either in school or in other gatherings.

Principal of the Tahood Junior Secondary School, Basin Ilorin, Hajjia R. O. Abdullahi, urged women to help other families around them. Hajjia Abdullahi advised other Islamic organizations in each state of the federation to facilitate programmes that would improve the quality of education of Muslim women in their localities.

"All hands must be on deck to rid the world of the social vices that have eaten deep into the fabric of our society," she said.

I'm out to salvage Nasarawa – Al-Makura

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

A Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) governorship aspirant in Nasarawa State, Alhaji Umaru Tanko Al-Makura has said his aspiration to the seat was motivated by a desire to salvage the state from what he called "a naive cabal."

"We had a noble vision for the state at creation predicated upon the ideals of progress, justice and equality. Our recent experiences, however, have shown that the affairs of the state are handled by a seemingly laissez-faire or naive cabal with ideals that are anything but progressive, who don't seem to share our common aspirations. Today, the state is witnessing stagnation in many more ways than one", Al-Makura said in a statement.

Titled, "Accepting the Challenge of Leadership", the statement which was directed at the electorate said the development aspirations of Nasarawa people for a state of their own had been cornered by a leader-

ship without vision. The statement said the desire for a wind of positive change, with individuals and pressure groups urging him to contest for the seat blew the way of the state. The reasons for the pressure, he said, are that "majority of our people have become, especially in recent times, increasingly discontented and disenchanted with the way public affairs, more specifically the issues of accountability and transparency, are being conducted." The statement said the current mood of the people suggests a consensus for an immediate departure from "the current pathetic and ugly state of affairs in which our people, through no fault of theirs, have most unfortunately, found themselves."

He said he accepted the challenge to spearhead the struggle of the people for a remarkable change, noting that if elected, his government would be committed to executing the social contract with the people through improvement of their living conditions.

1,000 leave AC for PDP in Edo

From Vincent Egunyanga, Benin

OVER 1,000 supporters of the Action Congress in Edo North Senatorial District of Edo State have left the party for the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

This took place at a ceremony in Igara, Fugar and Agenebode area of the state as the party leadership continued their sensitisation and mobilisation tour of all the senatorial districts.

Edo North is made up of three main ethnic communities including Owans, Akoko Edo and Etsakos.

Receiving them, the state chairman of the PDP, Chief Dan Orbih, thanked the people for the high turn out, stressing that the PDP was wax-

ing stronger in the state.

He reminded the people that a founding member of Action Congress, Atiku Abubakar, has also left the party for the PDP because the AC had nothing to offer the society, calling on the people not to be in opposition to the Federal Government.

He urged the Oshiomhole led administration to do something about the high rate of kidnapping, armed robbery and high cost of living in the state. The PDP chairman reassured party supporters that there would be no more imposition of candidates in the state.

He said all those seeking elective positions on the party's platform should be ready to face tough primaries.

Forum lauds barring of Edo Speaker from confab

A group under the aegis of Afemai Peoples Forum (APF) has commended the just concluded Nigerian Speakers conference for preventing the controversial Speaker of Edo State House of Assembly, Bright Omokhodion, from participating at the Speakers' conference recently held in Makurdi, Benue State.

The Edo Speaker was barred because of his controversial entry into the position, as the conference picked holes in the removal of the previous Speaker, Zakawanu Garuba.

The APF said the action by the Conference of Nigerian Speakers was a plus for democracy and congratulated them for taking a bold

step to save the nation's democratic institutions.

"We the entire members of Afemai Peoples' Forum hereby congratulate the Conference of Speakers in Nigeria for preventing Bright Omokhodion, the Speaker of Edo State House of Assembly from attending their meeting which held over the weekend in Makurdi, Benue State", the statement signed by the National chairman, Isah Aliyu said.

The group noted that by preventing Omokhodion from the meeting, the Speakers of the other 35 Houses of Assembly in Nigeria had demonstrated that the sanctity of democratic institutions runs paramount in their hearts.



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- The Associate Director provides technical inputs to the technical team in order to assist in developing program goals and objectives as well as M&E tools and strategies and provides monitoring data to strategically inform the decisions on project performance and future direction to the project. The Associate Director documents best practices and success stories; prepares documentation for potential program users and public relations purposes; and submits timely, high quality quarterly reports to USAID.

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- Master's degree or higher in health system research, program evaluation, or related field relevant to monitoring and evaluation.
- A minimum of 5 years senior-level experience in monitoring and evaluation of large internationally funded health programs, including the use of data to inform decision-making, planning, resource allocation, and other strategic initiatives. Preference given to candidates with USG experience and experience in HIV/AIDS and/or capacity building of civil society organizations.
- Proficiency in evaluation design and development of indicators. Good working knowledge of descriptive, inferential, and advanced statistics. Ability to obtain, analyze and interpret data and present findings in oral and written form.
- Experience in quantitative measurement of program impact; experience in communications-based training.
- Demonstrated competence in assessing priorities and in managing a variety of activities in a time-sensitive environment, and in meeting deadlines with attention to detail and quality.
- Willingness to travel within Nigeria as required.

Please note that this position is contingent upon funding. Relocation assistance and allowances are not available.

Applicants should apply by May 3, 2010 via the MSH web site at <http://jobs-msh.icims.com/jobs/3343/job>. Applicants not able to submit their CVs through this website may email their CV, cover letter, and three professional references to mshnigeria@msh.org.

Suitable candidates living with HIV/AIDS will have an added advantage.

Women are encouraged to apply.

Priest: Imported solutions won't develop Africa

From Ibrahim Chonoko, London

A UK-based clergyman, Joe Kapolyo, has advised African leaders against relying on "imported solutions" in their quests to develop and industrialize the continent.

In a review of the book 'Industrialization and National Prosperity' in London, Kapolyo said "imported solutions" to Africa's problems would only enhance the development and industrialization of their countries of origin.

"There has been no shortage of ideas to develop

Africa", he said, "the only problem is that most of those ideas have come from the West and now increasingly from the East", he lamented.

He said what Africa needed to do was to appropriate ideas from various sources and "give them a format and accessibility that will make them useful in African universities, institutes of technology and in the market place".

"When good ideas are translated into action, things begin to happen", Kapolyo stressed, and commended the author of the book, Mr Lawrence Ekeh for presenting

pragmatic data and information that could lead to the development and industrialization of Africa.

Kapolyo, who is from Zambia, lamented that in Africa, political leaders sometimes place the acquisition and maintenance of power above the welfare of their people and countries, hence the dismal level of development in the continent.

For real development to take place in Africa, its leaders must initiate and implement policies and programmes that would promote the welfare and well-being of their people and countries.



DIRECTOR General, National Agency for Food, Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC), Professor Paul Orhii (left) with Director General for Trade, European Commission Mr. Peter Thompson, during his courtesy call on NAFDAC in Abuja, yesterday.

Mark spends N40m on 2000 Benue students

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

TWO thousand students in Benue State have benefited from this year's David Mark Scholarship Scheme (DMSS) where the sum of N40 million was spent on various academic fees.

Speaking during the award ceremony in Otukpo Senate President David Mark assured that "As long as I live, I will continue with this scholarship, this will represent part of my own little quota to the education of Nigerian youths". My expectation is that in the next ten years, we shall not have children or wards

whose minimal education will be less than the Ordinary National Diploma (OND).

According to Mark "You need this minimal education to rise above inter-ethnic struggles and strife; you also need this minimal education to rise to the top in any vocation of life you may choose."

Mark urged the students to do more by focusing on their studies, adding that, Earlier in his speech, Agaja Benard, who spoke on behalf of the beneficiaries, said Mark put smiles on the faces of the underprivileged in the communities.

Senate approves N138bn World Bank loan for FG

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

THE request of Acting President Goodluck Jonathan to take N138 billion (\$915m) loan from the World Bank was approved by the Senate yesterday.

Jonathan requested for the loan in a letter to the Senate out of which government intends to utilise N27 billion (\$180 million) to finance part of the 2010 budget deficit while the balance is to fund 'critical infrastructures' in the country.

Chairman of Senate Committee on Public Accounts Senator Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan (ANPP, Yobe North) said, "In as much as I support the loan, I want to know what exactly are those projects that the money will be used for. I think it will also be proper for the government to tell us the communities that will benefit from the loan in the rural areas development scheme."

Chairman of Senate Committee on Information and Media Senator Ayogu Eze (PDP, Enugu North) said, "We

found out that it was a worthwhile development to support our Acting President request to draw from the World Bank. The loan will support development of our energy sector, support opening of the rural areas, support the governors in providing infrastructures. We look back at it and consider it in order.

The 2010 budget is made up of deficit of about N1.5 trillion and economic analysts doubt government's capability at funding such huge gap in the revenue projection.

Nigeria to boost naval ties with Spain, Pakistan

By Misbahu Bashir

MINISTER of Defence Adetokunbo Kayode has said that the Nigerian Navy and their Spanish counterpart will strengthen their relations.

Also, the Pakistani High Commissioner in Nigeria Asif Duraiz told the minister that his country has the capacity to train Nigerian Navy and will be interested in boosting the Nigerian submarine command centre.

Spanish Ambassador in

Nigeria Angel Losada and his Pakistani counterpart visited the defence ministry in Abuja.

The minister said Nigeria and Spain will review their naval strategies as well as improve joint army operations, adding that the Nigerian air force needs support of Spain on air hardware's.

Kayode said Nigeria will sign an outstanding agreement with Pakistan when approval is sought from Acting President Goodluck Jonathan.

He told the two ambassa-

dors that government is making effort to improve the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria (DICON), Kaduna.

Ambassador Losada told the minister that Spain will offer military support to Nigeria to secure the Gulf of Guinea and as second largest business partner it will give industrial support to Nigeria. Pakistani envoy said his country has viable defence industries that produce a lot including ships and air craft and will assist Nigeria.

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Online Reactions

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON www.dailytrust.com



IGP Ogonna Onovo

Police arrest 56 suspects over Rimi's death

THIS is all campaign after election. The Nigeria Police usually springs into action after the deed has been done. So far, the report of who murdered his wife 2 years ago has not been released. I'm sure his own case will not be an exception.

Alkasim Wudil
alkasimhussien@yahoo.com

Haba, Police. His wife was killed two years ago and no suspect was arrested and now you came out with 56 suspects. May God guide the investigators and the suspects.

Abdullah I S.
ishaqmako@yahoo.com

Nigerian Police...over 50 arrested in connection to Rimi's death. That sounds funny and interesting. We are only interested on unveiling the real culprits and not the number of arrests made. By the way, who killed Rimi's wife (Sa'adatu) and the Great Sheikh Ja'afar Mahmud Adam?

Nasir Bala Kazaure
elnaseerkz@yahoo.com

PDP crisis: Govs win round one

CONGRATULATIONS, governors. You may have crossed the first bridge in the struggle, but be rest assured that if what you are pursuing is not in the best interest of Nigeria but rather an attempt to releasing your personal and selfish interests, then know that the evil that men do, do not longer live after but rather with them. Remember,

as you plan, God also has plans for Nigerians and as it is often said, God is the best planner.

Ndanusa Babakatcha
nbabakatcha@yahoo.com

Jonathan has the support of the people while the so-called-governors are mostly candidates for prison. We shall see who will laugh

last. Jonathan 2011. No vacancy!

Phil Smart
ragolissmart@yahoo.com

As intriguing as this story gets, I still believe the acting president is making a very big mistake and will sorely regret his decisions. The haste with which he wants to become president at all costs is

unbelievable. How could Goodluck, a political minor raised by Obasanjo begin to think of utopia in such a rapid haste? I would advise the governors to resist any intimidation and political harassment by the acting president and uphold the laid down rules and regulations.

Abubakar Tanimu Umar
whatlegacy@yahoo.com

Jonathan: Everyone is free to aspire

MR. Acting President, if what I read is indeed your statement, then my loyalty and support to you is as that required by the military. But I hope it has no any strings attached to it because our leaders today are very good at making very good speeches, while inside they hope to be the sole beneficiaries of the intended outcomes of such speeches. May the sustainer of the universe see Nigeria through this critical period of electioneering particularly with the character of the PDP as a party that we know.

Ndanusa Babakatcha
nbabakatcha@yahoo.com

The Acting President has said the reality...that every one is free to aspire for any post in Nigeria. The issue of the zoning formula of the PDP does not arise because the Nigerian constitution is supreme to any other constitution. Everybody has the right to contest for any post in Nigeria provided it is in accordance with the Nigerian constitution. I believe that the issue of zoning the presidency is violating the 1999 constitution (Section 132). Is the PDP's constitution greater than our constitution? Please Nigerians need interpretation.

Kabir Ibrahim Gusau
ahlulzikri@yahoo.com

Of course I agree with Jonathan



ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan

that failure to abide by PDP's constitution is the basis of their crises and I guess that is what the Nnamani's and Masari's are calling for. In fact, it is even the basis for the imposition of candidates on Nigerians by the PDP and I see no sign that they will change that in the near future. Hence, let us all pray for the end of PDP's dominance and pray for better leaders.

Usman Ahmed Danbaba
dababa1986@yahoo.com

Mr. Acting President, it is quite interesting that your political ambition towards 2011 election should pose a problem to the nation. You say that you will abide by the constitution and we hope

that that was not mere propaganda. Any way we hope we will be made aware of your decision regarding the presidential ticket soon.

Yusuf A. Olaniyan
yusufakanji1988@yahoo.com

Jonathan needs not surround himself with bad advisers that may probably consume him because he is a beneficiary of zoning and a rigged election. If he really wants it badly, why can't he contest on the platform of another political party and allow Nigerians to decide who they want?

Idrees
jikangoye@yahoo.com

But that's not the PDP position for now! Lest the Acting President forgets, PDP position for now is anyone from the north until at least the year 2015. It is unfortunate in such a large gathering of PDP officials, the Acting President made this comment and no one remind him there and then. That one I think is another PDP position about to be violated.

Adzu Midlu
adzumails@yahoo.com

Mr. Acting President, you have to be specific that any PDP member from North can aspire without hindrance, because this ambiguous expression is open to many interpretations and needs to be re-visited very well.

Zanna Baruwa Gashua
bukar.zanna@yahoo.com

For every reason, I believe the PDP's constitution is not unconstitutional as it constitutionally produced the 4th-round of presidential flag bearers in this republic, and under the same zoning formula. We can therefore not bastardize the constitutional zoning formula of the PDP and at the same time ascribe legitimacy to this government by virtue of the fact that it was conceived through the same process.

Isa Mariri
isamariri@yahoo.com

Malcolm X's killer freed after 44 years



THE late Malcolm X

THE Nigerian government and the Prison authorities should try to copy or learn from the American prison system so as to decongest our prisons and at the same time reform the prisoners so that after release they will be useful to themselves and to the community.

Stephen Aiyenigba
duro_662005@yahoo.com

For how long will we keep planning to destroy ourselves? Education should be given priority

especially in the north. This will reduce this kind of barbarian act against humanity. Where did they get the weapons from and who were they planning to kill? Illiteracy is killing us. We must learn to co-exist peacefully together.

Habila
habilakohon@yahoo.com

What were these people planning to do? Please police, don't let them go free.

Ndakolo
itry_m@ymail.com

Aliyu Gusau's strange remarks

IT is really discouraging that in Nigeria everything has been politicized. The man should have known well that his state-

ment can wreak havoc on the larger society and not just the banking reforms which is meant to rid the banks of corruption

and with which Nigerians are happy.

Ismaila Ashir
ismailamuhammadashir@yahoo.com

Telecoms: NCC introduces price cap – SIM registration begins Saturday

SIM registration is good for the industry but it is going to be a barren exercise without the Biometric records of Sim-card owners. Going by the state of the country presently, many people do not have definite addresses/Zip code or biometric ID cards.

With thirty thousand naira

you can walk up to any Road Safety agent and obtain ten drivers' licenses in ten names and register ten SIM cards, therefore the proposed registration is an indirect way to further enhance the use of SIM by fraudsters.

Lanre Obalisa
firstwavenet@hotmail.com

Kano's unusual GRA

IN my own opinion if we are really serious about what is happening in this country, the GRA does need not to ask for such things from government because all the people who contribute to the fail-

ure of this country usually live in such places. Let them use what they have made to develop their areas.

Imam Inuwa Gwale
iigimam@yahoo.com

Why are we not screaming? I will scream

Sometime last year, one of Nigeria's most respected elder statesmen Chief Emeka Anyaoku came on national television to lament the cost of administration to this country. He said the reason Nigeria was not developed and may not become developed in the foreseeable future unless something is done about it is that we spend too much of our money on administration. He said a situation whereby the country spends about sixty million naira and forty million naira monthly on each member of the senate and on each member of the Federal House of Representatives respectively, cannot give room for any meaningful development.

I say it was the Right Honourable Chief Emeka Anyaoku himself who said this publicly on TV. I heard him right with my two ears and saw him with my *koro koro* eyes. Nobody saw and heard him and told me what he said. The following day I rushed to see what will be on the front pages and in the OP-ED pages of our newspapers. There was nothing. The few papers that bothered to report the story at all buried it in some obscure corners of their papers. Pundits and commentators said nothing. I felt like carrying a placard and engaging in a one-man demonstration denouncing the rape of Mother Nigeria by those who are supposed to protect her best interests. I wanted to go to the Eagle Square at the Three Arms Zone in Abuja and scream

Why are our own colonial brothers and sisters more inconsiderate than the *oyibo* overlords?

obscurities at those members of the Senate (aka the *Sinnate*) and those of the Federal House of Representatives and those in the Executive who are either allowing the serial rape of Nigeria or are turning a blind eye to it.

When Anyaoku made that remark I also expected that the following day, spokespersons of the two arms of the legislative assembly will come out to vigorously deny that statement. I also thought that the Revenue Mobilisation and Fiscal Allocation Commission will come out to say that the elder statesman was not entirely correct and proceed to give what each of the *legislators* was actually costing the common till. But nothing of the sort happened. Which of course means that Anyaoku was correct in every material particular. In fact if you add what the *sinnators* and *representatives* members get from the constituency projects which they execute personally using their companies; the *chua-chua* they get from their oversight functions; the allowances they get for merely sitting to do their committee work; the money they make from special interests trying to 'lobby' them; the money they get not to impeach a president; what they get to lubricate their passage of some legislation; what they receive to promote certain causes and what they get to filibuster another legislation; and finally, what they get from what they build into every year's

Idang Alibi

ldangalibi@dailytrust.com; 08036938729

budget which has always ballooned our appropriation for each year, one may discover that at the end of the day each *sinnator* takes home about a hundred million every good month and his counterpart in the House goes home with about eighty million. Surely, law making in Nigeria must be one of the best paying jobs in the whole wide world. I do not think that Carlos Slim, Bill Gates and Warren Buffet earn this type of income every month.

A few days ago Acting President Goodluck Jonathan signed into law the appropriation bill for 2010. How many of us are aware of the fact that in that law, the National Assembly has appropriated a princely sum of nearly N100 billion as its recurrent expenditure? Yet no one is screaming about it. Is there nothing that shocks the complacent people of this raped country anymore? Have we all been hypnotized by those who govern us? Just what is responsible for this collective stupor that has come upon us? Why is no one screaming? Are our throats patched or stitched by our rulers? If we can not do anything about it, can we not just make noise for record purposes so that years later our children will not rebuke us for living with this type of outrage and not doing anything even tepid about it? Do we regard it as good luck the fortune of those who are privileged to be making laws for us and we are merely waiting for our turn? If we spend so much on administration how can we even begin to think of joining the league of developed economies in the next ten short years as we seem to be day-dreaming now? What has come over us? What is responsible for this paralysis of will to do something about the cost of our governance?

By the way, the National Assembly has within its fold some few members who used to sound as if they were radicals or activists or consciences of the nation when they were not yet members. My friend Ezeuche Ubani is in the lower House. What has he to say about the amount he gets every month, an amount that is the annual income of over 6000 Nigerians? Does he not feel compelled by his conscience to reject what he gets every month when millions of Nigerians die every day because they cannot afford treatment for a common ailment like Malaria? Is no one radical enough to commit class suicide in order to be on the side of Mother Nigeria? Even when the colonial masters whose mission here was to appropriate the resources of the colonized for the development of the economy of the Imperial country were not so heartless. They tried to leave something behind for the development of the conquered land.

Why are our own colonial brothers and sisters more inconsiderate than the *oyibo* overlords?

If the need for class solidarity dulls the senses of members of the National Assembly (sorry, National Assembly) why do ordinary Nigerians appear indifferent to the way our common patrimony is shared? We have a member of that House who has become nationally famous for declaring in bombast the ever-increasing chasm between growing opulence of the few and the grinding poverty of the vast majority. Let someone please engage in some 'irrational irritability' on behalf of all of us.



By Abdul-Lateef Adegbite

Jos crisis and the challenge of nation building

I must commend *The Companion* for providing this forum for a dispassionate discourse of the recent unfortunate Jos violence which erupted on March 7, 2010 resulting in the killings of a large number of innocent Nigerians mainly women and children. This was not an isolated incident. Indeed, for nearly a decade now, Plateau State once a haven of peace and climatic serenity has been turned into a theatre of mindless and destructive violence, earning Nigeria a bad name in the comity of Nations.

We must first ask why has peaceful Jos of old suddenly become synonymous and notorious for communal violence. Hitherto most commentators have tended to mischaracterize the incidents as religious, describing them as products of Muslim-Christian conflicts and tensions. This was a wrong diagnosis of a serious pandemic disease.

In consequence wrong prescriptions were put forward from time to time. Alas, the terrible disease lingered, increasing in intensity as the years rolled by.

Perhaps many people especially foreign media correspondents covering the crises were misled by certain patterns of destruction, as combatants went for religious symbols burning Mosques and Churches, attacking and killing frightened citizens who took refuge in these places of worship. However, in-depth study of the incidents would have revealed that religion was no more than an opportunistic virus of a larger disease that had afflicted the people of Plateau.

Indeed, far more deadly viruses were at work which had eaten deep into the corpus of Plateau State; these include struggle for local resource control (agrarian versus pastoral demands), ethnicity

The secret behind this historic audacity and emergence of President Barack Obama is the full reign of the American Constitution and Laws

(Berom versus Hausa/Fulani), poverty, misgovernance, and legal collusion that apparently sanctions settle/indigene dichotomy.

It would seem clear from the discourse so far that the perennial Jos crisis is rooted in economic and political factors. Jos people are fiercely competing for dominant positions in the political space, as well as access to economic opportunities. Indeed, in the religious sphere, the leadership of the two dominant faiths, Christianity and Islam are not at loggerheads, rather they are in continuous dialogue through the interfaith structures they have put in place. There is, therefore, no violent struggle between Christians and Muslims to win souls in the Plateau.

In effect, it is the resolve of the dominant ethnic groups which happen to be respectively Christian and Muslim to either maintain or reverse historic

economic advantages, or retain their dominance in the political sphere that has continually precipitated clashes of claims and demands resulting in communal conflagration on the Plateau.

What then is the way out? Additionally, is there a political will to achieve a permanent solution in the Jos imbroglio? If the answer is in the affirmative, then we must look for the solutions not only at the local level of Plateau State, but also at the national level. The solutions must be holistic, traversing socio-economic and political spheres:

1. Abundance of opportunities must be created in Education, as well as provision of jobs for the youths, and wealth for all sections of the Plateau Community.

2. Access to socio-economic opportunities must be fair and equitable. Divisive policies and structures such as settlers and indigenes dichotomy must be demolished. Similarly quota system and even the principle of federal character which tend to compromise merit must be re-visited in the ongoing efforts to review the Nigerian Constitution:

Our new ethos should be Equal Opportunities for all Nigerians.

3. Federal and State Authorities should support inter-religious dialogue and co-operation through generous funding. In this regard, comparative religious study should be made compulsory at all levels of education so that every Nigerian student would know the fundamentals of his or her religion as well as those of others. This policy would promote mutual understanding, respect and tolerance among the adherents of the various faiths.

4. The Nigerian State should be true to the Rule of Law for only this doctrine can guarantee our present and future as a Nation. Equality before the law should replace ethnic bias and favours. Equal laws should provide the last line of defence and security for every Nigerian, no matter where he or she is resident. Only in this way can the Nation displace tribe or ethnic origin in the consciousness of the people.

My thesis is that the Jos crisis calls for an empirical solution that would be applicable to any part of Nigeria for virtually every section of the Country is a candidate for violent eruption, if any policy goes wrong or a particular group feels cheated. Therefore the Constitution and the Law should come to our permanent rescue.

The United States of America is what it is today because US Constitution and the Laws make it so. You cannot violate the law with impunity in America. Every American has the right to seek to be what he or she wants to be. This is what has made it possible for a black man to aspire to be the President and first Citizen of the wealthiest and most powerful Nation in the world; he emphatically succeeded in his ambition. The secret behind this historic audacity and emergence of President Barack Obama is the full reign of the American Constitution and Laws.

Dr Adegbite, CON, the Seriki and Baba Adinni of Egbaland is Secretary - General Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs made these remarks at a recent forum in Lagos.



Your Letters

Send your letters to letters@dailytrust.com

Re: About Kano's unusual GRAs

Somebody should please advise Saka Raji Audu to take off the veil of sycophancy from his eyes and realize that France Road, Zoo Road and Ibrahim Taiwo Road have never been part of Kano GRA. What is wrong in a people to demand government to address

their problems? Besides, when has Corporate Social Responsibility come to substitute good governance?

If residents of the areas he mentioned in his write-up are happy with government for locating projects in their domains, why should we, residents of Bompai, be asked to resort to self help? Are we not citizens of the same Kano? Are we not paying tax? Are we not beneficiaries to the federal grant that is received monthly?

Then, somebody should please inform this Saka that his

sponsors should concentrate on addressing our problems rather than pointing accusing fingers at *Daily Trust* or its reporter. I have not seen one place that Saka was able to show that the report was biased or inaccurate. The pictures in the piece have shown the level of decay in the area and no one can dispute that, not even Saka's masters.

Kudos *Daily Trust* your reporters are doing what other journalists could not do.

Usman Mohammed Bompai GRA.

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

Yariman Bakura has done no wrong

IT'S now a common knowledge that the Child's Right Act, 2003 is in flagrant conflict with Section 38 of the Constitution. As per Islamic law, even an infant can get married. So, why all the razzmatazz that Sen. Ahmad Sani has married a 13 year old Egyptian? He is only exercising his constitutionally provided, safeguarded and guaranteed right to freedom of religion (refer to ss.38/46). It's a truism that there's nothing more frightening than ignorance in action, yet senate should leave the Yarima alone!

ALIYU Jatau, Jama'are, Bauchi State, 08022335921.

On Yarima

SINCE getting married to a 13 year old girl is a violation of children's right; women over 30 years of age should also be forced to marry.

YAHAYA M. Agode, Tudun Wada, Kontagora, Niger State, 08056403787.

First things first

I advise the Acting President Chief Goodluck Jonathan that he should take registration of voters more seriously than elections. It is known that rigging during registration opens the way to rigging the election.

MUSA A ja'e, Rano, Kano State, 08089034987.

Question for Kogi governor

IF you leave office, are there things you can point to as your achievement in office? Former Gov Audu was doing so recently; and he sounded credible.

SAM Audu, Kaduna, 08065028727.

Mr Acting President

YOU can't eat your cake and have it. Don't forget you are part of the agreement on the issue of PDP zoning formula. Why do you want to turn your back on it now?

07032738427.

Re: Aliyu Gusaus strange remarks

YOUR editorial on the comments made by NSA on the two organisations of the government he is serving should have asked him to resign his appointment, since he is not satisfied with the way they are run. Majority of Nigerians are satisfied with the CBN governor's reforms; other Nigerians are equally entitled to loan facilities instead of a situation where bank executives siphon depositors' money as loans in the end such billions are written off as bad debt.

MAINASARA Yusufu Sayaya, 08037879547.

Those who sow the wind

HOUSE of Reps members will surely reap the benefit or otherwise of their decision to keep the power to appoint INEC Chairman with the President, when they are no longer in the House. History has a cunning way of reminding one of one's actions.

M. Aliyu, Abuja, 08032797272.



By Gbenga Kayode

Does Nigeria need re-branding?

There is no individual or group that can dispute the world-class, impactful, and constructive contributions of Nigerians, young and old, male or female, in several areas of human endeavour to the advancement of humanity thus far. Mention outstanding human contributions to the fields of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), Sciences, Medicine, Entertainment, Arts and Culture, Finance, and Scholarship in the international system today, one cannot but feel delighted at hearing or reading about sterling feats being accomplished by such worthy Nigerian ambassadors both at home and abroad.

But then, do all these unique achievements overshadow the vile things few Nigerians have continued to do either deliberately or otherwise to soil the image of the country in the eyes of the world? No. Rather, most members of the international world prefer to dwell on the negative traits being exhibited by these few unpatriotic Nigerians, by labelling the nation with all sorts of misnomers. Whoever is still in doubt about the urgency of the need to put our house in order as a nation and do something about the way the world perceives Nigeria and Nigerians should endeavour to read or listen to the deliberate, slanted reportage of Nigerian socio-political life in the foreign media, including online news platforms and discussion fora.

There is, therefore, no doubt that Nigeria actually needs what is known as country branding, a programme initiated by Prof. Dora Akunyili, the Minister for Information and Communications. This becomes necessary, at least against the backdrop of the global distaste against Nigerian, as instigated by the highly embarrassing and controversial movie, *District 9*, released in 2009, which was later banned by the Nigerian authorities.

Cheerless to recall though, pundits have said the movie was simply a metaphor for the supposed crass ineptitude manifesting in a life of want, scarcity, inflation, corruption, mixed blessings, darkness, horrible financial lending terms for businesses, dodging kidnappers, among other warped thematic preoccupations of the film producers.

Even long before the unfortunate and utterly unprecedented incident, involving a young Nigerian, 23-year-old Farouk Abdulmutallab, son of the immediate past Chairman of the First Bank of Nigeria Plc, who attempted to blow up an American airline, Delta in Detroit, United States December 25, 2009, the country's reputation, comparatively, was at its low ebb, despite that many Nigerians have helped, and still do to create a better world on different continents of the world.

The potentially destructive incident jolted certain Nigerians, who hitherto had probably thought there was no need for any rebranding efforts by the present Administration to the reality that the country had received yet, an impactful bash on its battered image in the eyes of the world. Since there purportedly, was no clear-cut official response on suicide bombing attempt from the Federal Government, largely induced by absence of President Yar'Adua, who incidentally travelled to Saudi Arabia on a medical trip, moments after the incident was broached to the global community, before the country could actually comprehend the enormity of the crisis in its hands, the United States instantaneously, gave Nigeria a damned verdict by adding it to the unenviable list of terrorist nations to be closely monitored and placed under surveillance at all times.

It, therefore, would be an understatement to say that Nigeria currently needs to redeem its image and consequently boost its national profile in the comity of nations, particularly because of the many benefits attached to doing so.

Granted that Nigeria, in 2004, had attempted to launder its image, starting from foreign lands, but the effort resulted in marginal or no success, as it was supposed to have been disappointingly executed. Some had alleged that the project at the time was deployed as a conduit pipe for diverting public funds into private pockets.

However, bearing in mind the eternal truth inherent in the aphorism that "Charity begins at home", the current endeavour kicked off by the Akunyili-led Ministry of Information and Communications seems to be different at least in a significant way. The chief anchor of the programme had pointedly declared thus: "We rather believe that we should tackle the problem from within rather than from outside."

Kayode, a media professional, wrote from Lagos

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

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Utako District, Abuja
09-6726241, 6715364

Controlling traffic in hazardous wastes

The Nigeria Customs service (NCS) recently detained the captain and two crew members of the ship, MV Nashville, alleged to be carrying toxic wastes at the Tin can Island in Lagos. An official of the NCS, said that the representative agent of the shipping line was among those arrested. The vessel is said to have sailed from The Netherlands.

The Minister of Environment, Mr John Odey declared at a press conference in Abuja that the National Environmental Regulations Agency (NESREA) on April 6 2010 received an alert from The Netherlands regarding a Nigeria-bound vessel carrying a container with toxic materials with. According to the Minister, all relevant and security enforcement agencies were duly informed for surveillance. When the vessel was detected entering Nigeria's territorial waters, it was closely monitored and escorted till it berthed at the Tin Can Island port, where a physical examination of the container carried out by a joint inspection team led by the Director-General of NESREA revealed that the container was full of items that contradicted the declaration in the Bill of Laden. The items discovered in the container include Used Acid Lead Batteries (UALB), used fridges, used tires, broken television and radio sets (of 1970s' and 1980s model), and used computers.

Wastes from toxic materials have been classified as hazardous to human health by the Basel Convention to which Nigeria is a signatory. Hazardous wastes such as the items discovered in the MV Nashville are said to have medical implications for humans and his environment. Experts say that their high radioactive content could cause a variety of health and environmental problems, including congenital heart diseases, cancer, and leukaemia. The Basel Convention was informed by the need to control trans-border movement of hazardous wastes and their disposal because of the risks they pose to human health and the environment.

Article 4 paragraph 1 (e) which deals with "General obligations" of the Basel Convention prohibits the "trans-boundary movement of hazardous wastes or other wastes to a state or group of states... that are parties, particularly developing countries". In a case of illegal traffic of hazardous wastes such as this, involving MV Nashville, article 9 paragraph 3 of the Basel Convention provides that the state of export shall ensure that the wastes in question are (a) taken back by the exporter; and (b) otherwise disposed off in accordance with the provisions of the convention within 30 days from the time the state of export was informed about the illegal traffic.

It is therefore incumbent on Nigerian authorities to ensure that the hazardous wastes of the MV Nashville are returned to where they were generated without delay. Appropriate measures as provided by the convention should also be taken up to make certain that the export country complies. We urge countries and entities that generate hazardous wastes especially in the developed world to devise and implement environmentally sound technologies to manage and store their hazardous wastes and not dump them in developing countries with little or no expertise to deal with them.

Security agencies at the Nigeria's seaports should be vigilant and increase upon their surveillance on cargo vessels that import goods, which have been classified as hazardous to human health, but masked in documentation. Similarly, there should be collaborative efforts among security agencies including the Nigeria Ports Authority (NPA), the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NMAASA), the NCS, National Intelligence Agency and the State Security Service (SSS) to forestall and combat trans-border movement of hazardous wastes in to the country.

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IDB meeting in Jeddah: Rewarding excellence (I)

A meeting of the Selection Committee of the Women's Advisory Panel of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia from April 17 to 18, 2011. The Committee was charged with the responsibility of selecting individual women and organisations who are achievers in development for an annual award – the "IDB Annual Prize for Women's Contribution to Development". The Women's Advisory Panel WAP which has 12 members from various countries was established to advise the IDB on mainstreaming women into development. My humble self is privileged to be a member of the Panel which has distinguished women from all walks of life as members. Among them are Dr Saleha Abedin from Pakistan of the Dar Hikma College Jeddah, Mrs. Arwa Yahya Al Deram a development worker from Yemen, Mrs. Sharifa Aminah Al Khared from Malaysia, an accomplished business woman, Dr Raeda Qutob a medical doctor from Jordan, Dr Mudi Bint Mansour Al Saud a university lecturer and member of the royal family from Saudi Arabia. Others are Honourable Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development in Uganda, Mrs. Syda Bhumba, Mrs. Aicha Bah Diallo, a UNESCO Adviser from Guinea Conakry, Mrs. Abda Yahia El Mahdi from Sudan, the Managing Director of a consultancy firm, Dr Suhaima Hoosen, a development worker from South Africa, Dr Ingrid Mattson from the United States who is a lecturer of Islamic Studies and the President of the Islamic Society of North America and Dr. Sema Ramzanoglu an Adviser to the President of Turkey.

When the WAP held its last meeting in Jordan last year, it discussed the need to focus on youth development and to empower young women who are the future leaders of their families and communities. Members explored various topics and finally settled for Female Youth Development as the topic for the 5th Annual IDB Prize for year 1430-1431 corresponding to 2009-2011. The topic also falls within the ambit of the Bank. The IDB is an institution that fosters the economic development and social progress of member countries and Muslim communities in non-member countries individually as well as jointly in accordance with the principles of Shari'ah (Islamic Law). Its main function is to provide various forms of development assistance for poverty alleviation through human development. The Annual IDB Prize for Women's Contribution to Development, is therefore one of the many forms through which IDB helps in fostering the socio-economic development of women to help them become the future leaders of development in their own communities. It also

Civil Society Watch

By Hajiya Bilkisu (mni)

stems from the essential belief that recognizing and celebrating the successes of exemplary individual women and organizations that are contributing to development will encourage them in turn promote the socio-economic development of their communities.

The award is very competitive and the selection process which is rigorous and meticulously done is always given to independent consultants who develop the selection criteria and

It is the first women's private non-profit university and it also maintains a strict adherence to the education and development of women in keeping with Islamic law and ethics in all its endeavours

shortlist candidates for the Selection Committee's consideration. For the 5th Annual IDB Prize for Women's Contribution to Development, the IDB commissioned Jeddah based Effat University (EU) as its consultant to undertake the screening and short listing processes. EU which was established by late Queen Effat, the wife of the late Saudi monarch King Faisal, shares IDB's vision. It is the first women's private non-profit university and it also maintains a strict adherence to the education and development of women in keeping with Islamic law and ethics in all its endeavours.

Both institutions thus believe that the Annual IDB Prize for Women's Contribution to Development is one of the best methods of educating women, organizations and communities to appreciate the value of women's contributions to the socio-economic development of their societies. The Prize is in two categories, for organisations and also for individuals. After developing the criteria it was widely advised in various countries. For the organizational prize the IDB stated as follows: "Recognizing organizations and individuals that have encouraged and supported the development of female youth to make a positive change in their lives and communities. The 5th edition of the IDB Prize for Women's Contribution to Development aims to honour an organization or an individual that act as a model for other institutions in supporting the development of female youth to become leaders, decision makers, policy makers, researchers, employers,

and activists through innovative, sustainable outreach projects and activities. To ensure that it remained youth focused priority was given to nominees between the ages of 15 to 30 years.

Two hundred and fifty applications received were in three languages (Arabic, English and French). The Effat consultants established three sub committees to process the applications in each language. It was also decided that, during the screening and short listing processes, a bonus would be given to young women serving young women as the former would be considered the role-models for women's contribution to development. Since the applications received were in three languages (Arabic, English and French), three subcommittees were formed

to handle the applications in each language. All the Sub-Committees met and shortlisted five organizations and five individuals.

The outcome of this rigorous screening assignment was presented to the five members of the Selection Committee of WAP. They were joined by a staff of an IDB affiliate organisation responsible for Commerce and Industry and the officer in charge of the Prize at IDB headquarters Dr Riad Ragueb. For accountability and transparency the names of the consultants and the members of the Selection Committee will not be disclosed. The applications short-listed were so good and motivating that the Selection Committee members had a difficult time deciding on the winners. They deliberated for two days and finally came up with the following result.

For the organisational prize, the Committee selected three. One of them is a non governmental organisation NGO from one of the Gulf States. It is a youth focused educational club that aims to produce a generation of young women (15-26 years) that are confident, responsible, ambitious and ready to lead. The workshops and courses the NGO provides emphasise the importance of being armed with the necessary tools and skills, not only to be a successful leader, but also to be able to compete in the professional market and to be able to lead a financially stable life, thus focus on attaining leadership. It has between 60 and 100 participants.



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4	Diamond Bank Nigeria Plc	265
5	Ecobank Nigeria Plc	186
6	ETB Plc	42
7	Fidelity Bank Plc	66
8	First Bank of Nigeria Plc	8,155
9	First City Monument Bank Plc	95
10	Fm Bank Plc	121
11	Guaranty Trust Bank Plc	367
12	Intercontinental Bank Plc	365

S/NO	NAME OF BANK	NO. OF RETIREES
13	Oceanic Bank International Plc	274
14	Bank PHB Plc	170
15	Skye Bank Plc	342
16	Spring Bank Plc	107
17	Stanbic IBTC Bank Plc	656
18	Standard Chartered Bank Nigeria Plc	9
19	Sterling Bank Plc	24
20	Union Bank of Nigeria Plc	1,725
21	United Bank for Africa Plc	1,917
22	Unity Bank Plc	463
23	Wema Bank Plc	572
24	Zenith Bank Plc	417
		17,146

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PETROLEUM EQUALISATION FUND (MANAGEMENT) BOARD

Plot 622, Cadastral Zone, AG Ambassadorial Conclave, Central Business District, P.M.B. 450 Garki GPO. Abuja.
Tel: (09) 460-6100, (09) 523-7833, 08077097114, 08077097124, 08077097126



REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL PROPOSAL AND PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR THE AWARD OF CONTRACT TO IMPLEMENT A BUSINESS SOLUTION

The Petroleum Equalisation fund (Management) Board intends to award contract for implementing an Integrated Business Solution for the followings:

1. Collection Management
2. Claims Management
3. Marketers Reconciliation

The Board hereby request for **Technical Proposals** from interested companies for the purpose of pre-qualifying in the bid round.

The Board is the Government agency responsible for the equalisation of Petroleum Products Prices across the nation by collecting allowances on refined and imported petroleum products and reimbursing marketers cost of transportation of petroleum products across the length and breadth of the country.

Our Objectives include;

1. To automate fully the processes of accruing and collecting allowances for delivery of locally refined or imported petroleum products into the tanks of marketers.
2. To monitor distribution of petroleum products by trucks within the country.
3. To register the loading of trucks with petroleum products and track the movement of the truck as well as the content, confirm proof of delivery and trigger a workflow process for reimbursing the marketer for cost of transportation.
4. To automate the process of reconciliation between what is owed to the Board by the marketer and vice versa.
5. To provide a full reporting framework for all activities related to the above
6. And integrate solution to the Board's ERP (SAP Business One)

SCOPE OF WORK

The following requirements have been identified and should serve as guide. However, proposed solution may not be limited to them:

1. Implement a tank gauge solution using accurate volume measurement (physicalization) devices.

2. Track the entry and exit of trucks from depots using tracking devices.
3. Track the movement of trucks using GPS, GPRS, RFID and /or any other applicable technology.
4. Business workflow Software
5. Reporting Software.
6. Development of Application Programs to Interface with SAP Business One using SAP B1 Software Development Kit (SDK) or any other integration approach.
7. Training.

QUALIFICATIONS

To be considered for participation in the Bid round, interested companies must demonstrate through the solution proposal that they have the technical competence, are capable and have resources available to provide the required service.

The proposal should also include:

- i. Company Profile and Organizational structure, including names, resumes and telephone numbers of key personnel.
- ii. Verifiable list of previous similar works successfully carried out within the last 3 years with the names of clients, evidence of award and practical completion.
- iii. Evidence of Incorporation of the Company by Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC).
- iv. Company Tax Clearance Certificate for the last 3 years
- v. VAT Registration and evidence of past VAT remittances
- vi. Experience/ Technical Qualification of Key Personnel with copies of certificates.
- vii. Audited annual financial report of the company for the last 3 years
- viii. Evidence of Financial Capability (Bank Statements for the last 6 months) credit worthiness and readiness to instruct bankers to supply financial information on the company as may be required.
- ix. Evidence of compliance with the Pension Reform Act 2004.

All proposals are to be submitted in sealed envelopes marked "Business Solution Project" addressed to the Executive Secretary, Petroleum Equalisation Fund (Mgt) Board, Plot 622 Ambassadorial Conclaves, Central Business District, Abuja. All submissions should reach her not later than three weeks from the date of publication.

signed
MANAGEMENT

Lagos Office: Plot 887 Balarabe Musa Crescent, Victorial Island, Lagos.

Tel: (01) 262-4386, (01) 811-7415 **customer service line:** (09) 780-3723

Website: www.pef.gov.ng

INTERNATIONAL

Egyptian court convicts 26 men of Hezbollah links

EGYPT yesterday convicted 26 men it linked to Lebanon's Hezbollah of planning attacks inside the country, in a case that has underscored Sunni Arab concerns about the rising influence of the Iranian-backed group.

Judge Adel Abdel Salam Gomaa of Egypt's emergency state security court said investigations had proved the group intended "to strike Egypt's economy, destroy the bonds between its people and create chaos and instability throughout the country."

The court sentenced the men

-- who included Lebanese, Palestinians, Egyptians and one Sudanese -- to jail terms from six months to life. Some were convicted in absentia.

Among those tried was Sami Chehab, also named as Mohamed Youssef Mansour Ahmed, who received a jail term of 15 years. He was present in court, placed with the others inside a cage.

Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah last year confirmed Chehab was a member of the group, which has both political and military wings and is now part of Leba-

non's government, but denied the man committed any crime. Nasrallah said Chehab was only helping equip Palestinians in their fight against Israel.

Defense attorney Montasser Zayat said three of those convicted received life sentences, which he said in Egyptian law was equivalent to 25 years.

"This verdict is cruel and does not fit with the documents put forward," Zayat said. No appeal would be possible but President Hosni Mubarak would be able to reduce any of the sentences if he

chose, he said.

Rights groups say Egypt has used "exceptional" courts like emergency and military courts to secure guilty verdicts and point to swift and often harsh sentences passed by the courts against Islamist militants in the 1990s.

Egypt's relations with Hezbollah have been strained since the group called Egypt a "partner in crime" with Israel against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

Some Arabs have criticized Egypt for what they say is Cairo's support of Israel's blockade of

Gaza.

Egypt, the only Arab state to share a border with Gaza, has said Nasrallah was trying to create chaos in the region to serve the interests of others, an apparent reference to Iran.

Cairo has long had strained relations with Tehran and the two countries do not have full diplomatic ties.

Nasrallah had said no more than 10 people had cooperated with Chehab, rather than the 26 Egypt accused.

Pilot error blamed for 2007 crash that killed 114

THE pilot of a Kenya Airways flight that crashed and killed all 114 people on board three years ago didn't notice the plane was banking right and when he did finally notice he turned farther right, triggering a downward spiral, an investigative report released Wednesday found.

The crash of the Boeing 737-800 on May 5, 2007, occurred during a thunderstorm less than two minutes after take-off, but the report said weather did not likely cause the crash. Instead it blamed "spatial disorientation" by the pilot.

The report said the pilot didn't adhere to standard operating procedures, had poor situational awareness and "reacted inappropriately in the face of an abnormal situation."

No instrument scanning was done by the crew during the initial roll, and because it was night, the pilot had no visual references to correct the situation, the report said.

The report, which was released Wednesday by the Cameroon Civil Aviation Authority, was conducted with the help of the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board and Boeing experts in the United States.

The report said the Kenya Airways pilot had recurring performance deficiencies going back five years before the crash.

Kenya's acting Transport Minister Amos Kimunya said the government is "satisfied" that the report is complete but declined to comment on whether it was a fair document. Kenya Airways chief executive Titus Naikuni said he echoed the minister's sentiments but the airline also differed with the report's conclusions on its training for pilots of its Boeing 737 fleet and the procedures they follow.

About 90 seconds into the flight, after the pilot noticed the rightward drift, he said "we are crashing." Seconds later a young first officer mistakenly told the pilot to turn right, before correcting himself and saying "left, left, left."

Congolese man wants Belgium to ban 'racist' Tintin Au Congo

A Congolese man is trying to get controversial cartoon book Tintin Au Congo banned in Belgium over its racist and offensive depiction of Africans. Bienvenue Mbutu, a Congolese national living in Belgium, has asked the Belgian courts to ban the book, but has said he would accept a ruling that the book must display a warning about its content.

Mr Mbutu has also tried to have the book banned in France. Australia must protect foreign students from attacks, say China and India "Tintin's little (black) helper is seen as stupid and without qualities. It makes people think that blacks have not evolved," he has been quoted as saying.

A court in Belgium, home to the book's author Hergé, is due to rule on the matter next week. The book has attracted strong criticism for its crude racial stereotypes in recent years. Three years ago the UK's Commission for Racial Equality called for the book to be banned, saying it contained imagery and words of hideous racial prejudice.

In the book, a black woman bows to Tintin and says: "White man very great. White mister is big juju man!" Written in the late 1920s it was the second Tintin adventure created by Hergé, who later said it was a youthful sin which reflected the prejudices of the time. Now UK editions are sold alongside adult books and bear a band of paper around the outside, warning the content is offensive.

Rwanda rebels deny link to opposition chief



RWANDAN United Democratic Forces Chairperson Victoire Ingabire Umuhiza.

RWANDAN rebels based in the Democratic Republic of Congo denied yesterday any links to a Hutu opposition leader arrested in Kigali for having ties to their group and for denying the 1994 genocide.

Victoire Ingabire, a likely challenger to Rwandan President Paul Kagame in August presidential elections, was arrested on April 21 on suspicion of denying the mass killings and of "collaborating with a terrorist organisation."

Rwandan authorities have also announced the arrest of three alleged members of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) rebel group on suspicion of complicity with Ingabire.

"The reality is that there is no form of collaboration between the two organisations," the FDLR said

in a statement.

It said the three men in question were deserters who had been "corrupted" by Kagame's regime.

"Such claims serve only to sow fear, terror, disarray and tension within the organisations that are struggling against this regime, to make them lower their guard and give up," the rebel group added.

The FDLR has been active in eastern DR Congo for 15 years. Some of its older members are accused of taking part in the 1994 genocide.

The charges against Ingabire stem from remarks made after her return to Rwanda in January, in which she called for the trial of those responsible for the death of Hutus in the genocide. The opposition chief has since been granted a conditional release.

International

Italian mountaineer dies falling off church steeple

A veteran Italian mountaineer died after falling off a church steeple attempting to change light bulbs. Marco Da Pozzo was killed after falling from the steeple in the chic ski resort of Cortina D'Ampezzo in the Dolomites of northern Italy during a routine maintenance operation.

He and other climbers had been recruited by the parish priest to carry out some minor maintenance work and to replace some of the bulbs on the 220 ft high steeple of the Church of St Filippo and St Giacomo, a local landmark which is lit up at night.

But Mr Da Pozzo, 43, lost his footing and fell 15ft-18ft, smashing into the side of the steeple as he tumbled. He was knocked unconscious and left dangling from the end of a rope.

A mountain rescue helicopter was immediately called and performed the difficult task of retrieving him and flying him to a nearby hospital, but he was dead on arrival.

Friends and family paid tribute to the well-known climber, who in 2004 reached the summit of the world's second highest mountain, K2.

"He was outstanding, one of the strongest climbers I know," said Franco Gaspari, the president of the local alpine guides association.

"He was wearing a safety harness, but he slammed hard against the outside of the bell tower." Mr Da Pozzo worked as a mountain guide in the Dolomites and was a member of a local climbing group nicknamed "the Squirrels".



AN oil skimmer collects oil from a leaking pipeline that resulted from last week's explosion and collapse of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico near the coast of Louisiana.

Russia publishes previously secret files on 1940 Katyn massacre

RUSSIA'S state archive has published previously secret files on the 1940 massacre of Polish officers by the Soviets at Katyn Forest, following an order by President Dmitry Medvedev, it said.

"On the order of Russian President D. A Medvedev, electronic copies of authentic archival documents on the 'Katyn

Problem' from 'Packet No. 1', which were held for decades in the Communist Party archives, have been published on the website of the state archives," it said in a statement.

The documents in question had been declassified in the 1990s but until now had only been available to specialised researchers and had never before

been shared online, a spokesman for the state archives said. Poland has long demanded that Russia open all its files on Katyn and the issue has strained relations between the two former Communist neighbours.

Some 22,000 Polish officers were executed by Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin's secret police at Katyn, in western Russia,

and a number of other places in present-day Russia, Ukraine and Belarus in April-May 1940.

Polish president Lech Kaczynski was heading to Katyn for a ceremony marking the 70th anniversary of the massacre earlier this month when his plane crashed, killing all 96 people aboard, including many top Polish officials.

Swiss MPs to vote on new ex-dictator cash law

SWISS lawmakers will soon vote on legislation that would make it hard for dictators to stockpile cash in Swiss bank accounts, and one of the first beneficiaries could be relief agencies helping Haiti recover from its devastating earthquake.

The law would allow Switzerland to give aid groups in Haiti at least \$4.6 million claimed from Swiss bank accounts by former

Haitian dictator Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier, the Swiss government said yesterday, as it announced that parliament was ready to vote on the legislation.

"With the law, cases such as ... Duvalier will not happen again," said Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy-Rey.

She said the legislation received strong support in the preliminary steps, making

approval likely as soon as a vote can be scheduled.

In a ruling which embarrassed the government, Switzerland's top court decided Jan. 12, just hours before a devastating earthquake struck Haiti, that \$4.6 million must be returned to Duvalier's family because the statute of limitations on any crimes committed by the Duvalier clan would have expired in 2001.

The Swiss government rushed out an emergency decree saying the funds are of criminal origin and should go to aid agencies working in the impoverished Caribbean nation.

It decided to keep the money blocked in a Swiss bank pending passage of the law making the aid transfer possible.

The law, which the government said would work retroac-

tively, would make it easier for assets belonging to deposed dictators to be repatriated to national governments.

The current rules only allow Switzerland to return cash when asked by a national government pursuing its own criminal investigation — a handicap in countries where amnesty laws, corruption or weak legal systems hinder prosecution of past leaders.

Ex-Pakistani leader Musharraf plots return from exile

PERVEZ Musharraf, Pakistan's former military ruler, is plotting a return from exile in London to launch a new political party despite threats he will face criminal trial.

General Musharraf seized power in a bloodless coup in 1999 and stood down as president after losing elections nine years later.

His planned return will draw comparisons to the return of Benazir Bhutto, the country's former prime minister who ended her own self-imposed exile in 2008 only to be killed in a suicide attack weeks later as she left a rally in Rawalpindi.

A close aide in Islamabad said supporters had begun the proc-

ess of registering a new political party, the All Pakistan Muslim League.

Mohammad Ali Saif, a lawyer who served as a minister under the military ruler, said he would act as leader of the party until Mr Musharraf, 67, was ready to return.

"When he decides to come

back he will come back. We are already working on his behalf. He left voluntarily so he can come back any time he chooses," said Mr Saif. Allies of Mr Musharraf are being investigated in Pakistan for their role in the assassination of Ms Bhutto.

A United Nations report published earlier this month con-

cluded her death could have been prevented had Mr Musharraf's government not failed in its duties. Before returning, Ms Bhutto had said she feared him more than any other threat.

The government of Asif Ali Zardari, Ms Bhutto's widower, says it wants to question the former dictator over her death.



BENUE STATE UNIVERSITY, MAKURDI

(Office of the Registrar)

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT: VACANCY FOR THE POST OF VICE-CHANCELLOR

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the post of Vice-Chancellor, Benue State University, Makurdi, which will fall vacant by 3rd November, 2010. In accordance with the practice of the University, the process of filling the position has commenced. Interested candidates are to note the following information:

The University

Benue State University was established by the Benue State Government with the enactment of the Benue State University Edict No. 1 of 1991. It is situated along the Makurdi-Gboko road.

The University took off in 1992/1993 academic year with four Faculties i.e. Arts, Education, Science and Social Sciences. Two Faculties, Law and Management Sciences came on stream in the 1993/1994 academic year. Postgraduate School took off in the 1998/1999 academic year while the College of Health Sciences was established in the 2003/2004 academic year. The University also has three Centres, namely, Centre for Continuing Education, Centre for Gender Studies and Centre for Peace and Development Studies. The University has a total student population of 24,136 at various levels of study i.e. Undergraduate, Postgraduate, Sub-degree and Remedial (Science/Technical only) and Pre-French. The University has a total staff strength of 1,796 made up of 623 Academic staff, 386 non-teaching senior staff, and 789 junior staff respectively. It has internet services and can be reached on www.bsumarkudi.com or the email address info@bsumakurdi.edu.org.

Job Definition

The Vice-Chancellor is the Chief Executive and Academic Officer of the University, ex-officio Chairman of the Senate, Chairman of Congregation and in the absence of the Chancellor, presides at Convocation of the University. He/she is an ex-officio member of the Governing Council. The Vice-Chancellor shall, among other duties:

- (i) promote research, teaching and high standard of academic excellence;
- (ii) regulate the admission of students, subject to the guidelines and procedure approved by Senate;
- (iii) be responsible to Council for the maintenance of peace, law and order on the campus;
- (iv) be competent at all times to advise the Council on all matters affecting the University;
- (v) be responsible for the maintenance of discipline.

Qualities and Qualifications

The candidate for the post of Vice-Chancellor is required to possess the following qualifications and qualities:

- (I) Good University education;
- (ii) Distinguished scholar of the rank of Professor

- (iii) Proven exemplary leadership qualities that will command the respect of staff and students alike;
- (iv) Proven prudence in the management of human and material resources;
- (v) Outstanding moral character, probity and integrity;
- (vi) Good public relations to build the necessary bridges of understanding between members of the University community on the one hand and the immediate and wider communities on the other;
- (vii) Outstanding emotional, physical and mental stability;
- (viii) Drive and clear vision for the development of the University.

Method of Application

Vision Statement

In not more than four pages, each candidate is required to present his/her Vision Statement for the University.

Each applicant should submit 30 copies of his/her application accompanied by 30 copies of his/her curriculum vitae both signed and dated.

Note: Each application should include the names and addresses of three referees. Each of the referees should be contacted by the applicant to forward direct to the Registrar, under confidential cover, the reference report properly sealed and marked at the top hand corner of the envelope "Referee's Report for the post of Vice-Chancellor".

Tenure of Office

The Vice-Chancellor shall hold office for a single term of five years.

Conditions of Service

Conditions of Service are similar to those applicable in federally owned Universities save as the Governing Council of the University may modify from time to time.

All applications should be submitted under confidential cover and addressed to:

**The Registrar & Secretary to Council
Benue State University
P.M.B. 102119
Makurdi**

The sealed envelopes containing the applications should be marked "Vice-Chancellor" at the top left-hand corner and must reach the Registrar within six weeks from the date of this publication.

SIGNED
T. I. Utile, Ph.D
Registrar & Secretary to Council

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA



UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROVISION FUND

UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROVISION FUND

INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS

To Provide Rural Broadband Internet Service (RUBI) in One Hundred and Nine (109) Unserved/Underserved Locations In Nigeria

1. In its bid to address the lack of a robust and resilient telecommunications infrastructure in the rural / semi-urban areas of the country, as well as the government determination to realize a knowledge based economy and society, enrich the lives and living conditions of the rural / semi-urban populace, the Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF) is providing subsidies to support the establishment of core delivery mechanisms for Broadband services in the rural / semi-urban areas of Nigeria.
2. The objective of the RUBI project is to facilitate broadband network roll-out in rural areas, by extending broadband internet access to 109 locations (one in each Senatorial district) that will enable end users within 10km radius have access to the internet at broadband speed (at least 256kbps).
3. This project is in six Lots of 18 per six geopolitical zone of the Federation and one (1) in FCT. Thus, Separate proposal should be submitted for each zone and clearly marked accordingly. Proposal that is not in line with the lots will be rejected.
4. The successful proponent is expected to:
 - i. Provide wholesale Internet Bandwidth Service to USPF's Community Communication Centers (CCC), Cybercafés, Rural Internet Service Providers (RISE), Institutions etc in rural communities of Nigeria.
 - ii. Establish Internet Distribution Hub that will ensure efficient bandwidth distribution network and Broadband Internet access to rural communities.
 - iii. Provide Internet Pooling Service that would assist in lowering the cost per kbps of bandwidth as it will enable bulk purchase of bandwidth from International Satellite Bandwidth providers
 - iv. Ensure Public-Private-Community-Partnership.
5. The details of scope of work, eligibility and tender delivery instructions as well as other details are contained in the RFP on our website www.uspf.gov.ng. Interested bidders are advised to view the content of RFP from USPF website before purchasing hard copy from USPF.
6. Interested Firm should submit their proposal to the undersigned on or before **June 10, 2010 by 4.00 pm**

All proponents are to note that failure to comply with the tendering instructions shall lead to disqualification.
7. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of N100, 000.000. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security (Bid Bond) of N200, 000.00. Proposal without bid Bond shall be rejected. The tendering fee of N100, 000.00 should be in draft in favour of the Universal Service Provision Fund. The Technical and Financial proposal must be in separate envelopes and must be marked clearly **USPF/RFP/RUBI/2010/ TECHNICAL** and **USPF/RFP/RUBI/2010/FINANCIAL**.

Director / Secretary,
 Universal Service Provision Fund,
 Universal Service Provision Fund Secretariat
 Nigerian Communications Commission Head Office, 7th Floor,
 432, Aguiyi Ironsi Street,
 Maitama District,
 Abuja.

For further clarification on the RFP, please send your enquiries to Engr. O.Y. Asaju on 094617462

Signed:

FUNSO FAYOMI ESQ
 Director / Secretary
 Universal Service Provision Fund

Website: <http://www.uspf.gov.ng>

THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA



UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROVISION FUND

INVITATION FOR PROPOSAL (IFP)**To Establish a Network Operating Center (NOC)**

1. The Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF) proposes to establish a Network Operating Center (NOC) in Abuja to monitor her various ICT subsidized project nationwide, amongst which are; the Community Communications Centers (CCC) and the School Access Program (SAP).
2. The NOC is aimed at monitoring and maintaining the quality as well as availability of services of the various USPF assisted projects in each of the six (6) geopolitical regions of the country from a central location.
3. The NOC project is also aimed at ensuring that all computers and associated IT devices are working optimally in all USPF assisted project locations, additionally, the NOC should also be able to be able to provide systems usage statistics and be able to generate various reports.
4. The NOC is also expected to be capable of interfacing with other systems in use at the NCC/USPF such as the Spectrum Monitoring and Management System, and be able to provide reports in electronic formats.
5. The details of scopes of work, eligibility and tender delivery instructions as well as other details are contained in the RFP on our website www.uspf.gov.ng. Interested bidders are advised to view the content of RFP from USPF website before purchasing hard copy from USPF.
6. Interested Firm should submit their proposal to the undersigned on or before **June 10, 2010 by 4.00 pm**

All proponents are to note that failure to comply with the tendering instructions shall lead to disqualification.
7. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of N100, 000.000. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security (Bid Bond) of N200, 000.00. Proposal without bid Bond shall be rejected. The tendering fee of N100, 000.00 should be in draft in favour of the Universal Service Provision Fund. The Technical and Financial proposal must be in separate envelopes and must be marked clearly **USPF/RFP/NOC/2010/ TECHNICAL** and **USPF/RFP/NOC/2010/FINANCIAL**.

Director / Secretary,
 Universal Service Provision Fund,
 Universal Service Provision Fund Secretariat
 Nigerian Communications Commission Head Office, 7th
 Floor,
 432, Aguiyi Ironsi Street,
 Maitama District,
 Abuja.

For further clarification on the RFP, please send your enquiries to Engr. O.Y. Asaju on 094617462.

Signed:
FUNSO FAYOMI ESQ
 Director / Secretary
 Universal Service Provision Fund

Website: <http://www.uspf.gov.ng>



Universal Service Provision Fund

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Title: Community Based ICT Connectivity Projects INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS FOR USPF FUNDING TOWARDS EXTENDING ACCESS TO ICTs IN UNSERVED AND UNDERSERVED AREAS OF NIGERIA

(BOTTOM-UP PROJECTS)

I. Background, Goals / Objectives

One of the objectives of the telecommunications policy of the Federal Government is "To ensure that public telecommunications facilities are accessible to ALL COMMUNITIES in the country."

In order to facilitate extension of modern communications facilities to unserved and underserved areas and in institutions such as schools, hospitals etc, the Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF) was established under the Nigerian Communications Act of 2003.

In carrying out its mandates, the USPF is currently implementing some projects. These projects are conceptualised and designed for implementation in various unserved and underserved communities by USPF (Top-Bottom Projects). Please refer to the USPF website (www.uspf.gov.ng) for existing USPF projects. Although the current projects being implemented by USPF are achieving their targeted objectives, the FUND is desirous of Bottom-Up Projects expected to be conceptualized, designed and implemented by various individuals, community organizations, NGOs, private business entrepreneurs, etc. This is to ensure rapid deployment of needed ICT services in the unserved and underserved areas.

The 'Bottom-Up' Project Initiative is to encourage beneficiaries to conceptualize and initiate ideas for universal access projects rather than from the USPF. Under this approach, the USPF aims to provide support to members of the public who, acting on their own initiative, have conceptualized and designed ideas for Information and Communications Technology (ICT) projects based on their creativity and imagination - as opposed to those designed by the USPF.

Accordingly, the USPF invites proposals from interested parties seeking financial support (grants / subsidies, loans, etc) to enable them implement new or expand on their existing ICT projects to unserved and underserved communities.

2. Project Design and Specifications

The design and specifications of the proposed project depends entirely on the imagination or preferences of the proponents. However, those Bottom-Up projects offering unique value propositions or innovative features over existing standard-design USPF projects will receive priority consideration.

Thus, the USPF will consider for support any project that will deliver new connectivity for communities that lack ICT connectivity and/or value added services. The proposed project should be able to deliver clear and felt benefits to the community it proposes to serve. In addition to providing connectivity to communities, projects aimed at using ICTs for poverty alleviation, wealth creation, employment generation, improving understanding between different ethnic/religious groups, empowering citizens or improving governance will be given priority. As the assistance from USPF is available only for a limited period of time, sustainability and affordability of the project will be a key element on which evaluation will be made.

3. Instruction to Proponents (Bidders)

In addition to any other information that may assist USPF to take appropriate decisions on the proposals, the bidders should address the following key elements in the proposal:

- Organization Profile of the bidders with proof of its registration as a legal entity.
- Information about ICT projects carried out in the immediately preceding three years. If any.
- Technical and administrative manpower available to implement the project and their relevant experiences with respect to ICT service delivery.
- The project proposal detailing feasibility Study/ Financial proposal and project budget. The Project budget should itemise ICT materials and facilities required specifying the individual cost items and the proportion of the cost expected to be financed by USPF.
- The proposal should specifically address the sustainability and affordability strategy of the intending project
- Technical details of the proposed projects which should contain the following information:
 - The nature of the Products and Services to be delivered
 - The Need and targeted beneficiaries
 - Goals and Objectives
 - Scope of Work- the coverage areas
 - Methodology - deployment strategy
 - Technology approach: Technical specifications and schematic diagrams of the project details
 - Time frame detailing the actions and the time scales. This should address how the project will be implemented from the date of approval till it reaches the level of sustainability serving the targeted beneficiaries.

4. Deadline for Submission of Proposals

Interested bidders wishing to respond to this Invitation for proposals should submit Five (5) bound hard copies of the Technical and business Proposals plus electronic copy either by hand or through registered courier service, not later than 4:00 p.m. [June 10, 2010] to the following address:

The Director/ Secretary
Universal Service Provision Fund
USP Secretariat
Nigerian Communications Commission Building
423 Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama Abuja

The Technical and Financial proposal should be in separate envelope and should be marked "Ref No. USPF/ Bottom-up Project 2010/01."

For further clarification on the RFP, please send your enquiries to Mr. O. N. Ugama on 094617452.

Signed:

FUNSO FAYOMI
Director/Secretary, Universal Service Provision Fund

THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA



UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROVISION FUND

INVITATION FOR PROPOSAL (IFP)**For Backbone Transmission Infrastructure (BTRAIN) Project**

1. The universal Service Provision Fund (USPF) has provided funds in the 2010 appropriation to facilitate the project implementation of connections to National Transmission Backbone Infrastructure under its Backbone Transmission Network (BTRAIN) Project.
2. The BTRAIN Project is aimed at harnessing the enormous capabilities of information and Communications Technology (ICT) that would assist the country meet the millennium Development Goal (MDG) target which includes: creating economic opportunities, poverty reduction, managing the processes of providing basic services (e.g. healthcare, education) at lower cost, greater availability, dependability and coverage, facilitating access to information etc in the rural and semi-urban areas.
3. This project will be coordinated with other government initiatives, including the Nigerian Communications Commission's (NCC) Wire Nigeria (WIN) Initiative, and the NCC's State Accelerated Broadband Initiative (SABI).
4. The BTRAIN project is designed to address the dearth and inadequacies of fiber optic backbone networks and transmission links in rural Nigeria as well as accelerating the build-out of backbone transmission infrastructure in rural and semi urban areas. The selected bidders will be required to roll-out optic fibre cable in identified unserved and underserved rural and semi-urban areas.
5. The USPF secretariat is seeking to engage the services of reputable Telecommunication companies/firms with requisite technical and administrative competence on the above stated objectives
6. The details of scope of work, eligibility and tender delivery instructions as well as other details are contained in the RFP on our website www.uspf.gov.ng. Interested bidders are advised to view the content of RFP from USPF website before purchasing hard copy from USPF.
7. Interested Firm should submit their proposal to the undersigned on or before **June 10, 2010 by 4.00 pm**
8. All proponents are to note that failure to comply with the tendering instructions shall lead to disqualification.
9. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of N100, 000.000. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security (Bid Bond) of N200, 000.00. Proposal without bid Bond shall be rejected. The tendering fee of N100, 000.00 should be in draft in favour of the Universal Service Provision Fund. The Technical and Financial proposal must be in separate envelopes and must be marked clearly **USPF/RFP/ BTRAIN /2010/ TECHNICAL and USPF/RFP/BTRAIN/2010/FINANCIAL**.

Director / Secretary,
 Universal Service Provision Fund,
 Universal Service Provision Fund Secretariat
 Nigerian Communications Commission Head Office, 7th
 Floor,
 432, Aguiyi Ironsi Street,
 Maitama District,
 Abuja.

For further clarification on the RFP, please send your enquiries to Engr. O.Y. Asaju on 094617462

Signed:
FUNSO FAYOMI ESQ
 Director / Secretary
 Universal Service Provision Fund

Website: <http://www.uspf.gov.ng>



UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, ABEOKUTA

ALABATA ROAD, P.M.B. 2240, ABEOKUTA, OGUN STATE

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

INTRODUCTION

The University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (UNAAB) is desirous of undertaking a Pre-qualification exercise for the under-listed Projects. Consequently, the University wishes to invite reputable contractors to indicate interest in the Pre-qualification for the Projects. The Projects are as follows:

S/N	PROJECTS	NON-REFUNDABLE PRE-QUALIFICATION	Equipment	Model	Manufacturer	Non-Refundable Pre-Qualification
1	Construction of Dam UNAAB/CW/2010/23	N 100,000.00	PCR workstation (UV (DNA) Chamber)	Dual UV automatic power shut off, fluorescent and germicidal UV 220-240V	LABCAIRE UK	N 20,000.00
2	Construction of Campus Roads UNAAB/CW/2010/24	N 100,000.00	Thermocycler	Autocalibrated, 96 wells graphical colour display and programme storage	TECAN Austria	
3	Rehabilitation of Campus Roads UNAAB/CW/2010/25	N 100,000.00	Biophotometer	BT photometer UV1101, W/3 filters, Ea for ss and ds nucleic acids, wavelength 200-828nm, 220-240V	COLE-PHA RMA, USA	
4	Construction of Sports Complex Phase III - UNAAB/CW/2010/26 Lot1 Construction of Grand Stand Lot2 Construction of Swimming Pool	N 50,000.00 for each Lot	Complete Electrophoretic system	Vertical/Horizontal units with gel casting apparatus, removable UV transparent tray with variable delivery	SHANDON UK	
5	Construction of 500-Seater Computer Central Laboratory Building UNAAB/CW/2010/27	N 50,000.00	Stomacher 400	400 circulator with bag rack and strainer bag	Seward UK	
6	Construction of Veterinary Teaching and Research Farm Facilities	N 20,000.00	pH Meter	Fisher, PHK- 460-505D	Hannah Instrument	
7	Supply of 27-Seater Toyota Coaster Bus UNAAB/SS/2010/04	N 20,000.00				
8	Supply and Installation of Veterinary Teaching and Research equipment UNAAB/SS/VET/2010/01	N 20,000.00				
						Non-Refundable Pre-Qualification
LOT 2	Binocular microscope	Olympus model CHT with Immersion oil and space bulb			Olympus C x 21, Japan	N 20,000.00
B.	Bacteriological Hood	Filter with UV 9 class 2 Type B3 PVC interior, filter status indicator			HEPA Lab, UK	
C.	Automatic Blood Gas Analyzer	Stat Profile® Critical care express Analyzer with 6 x 7 cartridges			Nova Biomedical Waltham, USA	
D.	Multi-channel pipettors (8-channel) 5µl - 50µl	PT/3560 with Pipette tips			BIOHIT USA	
E.	Multi-channel pipettors (12-channel) 0.5ml 1ml	Cat. Log. No. 3114000.12 with Pipette tips			Eppendorf USA	
F.	Gyrotor	Multi-purpose shaker, variable speed range 0-250 rpm Dimension: 17"W x 7"D x 13.5"H			Hannah Instrument	

INVITATION

Contractors are hereby requested to indicate their interest in participating in the Pre-qualification exercise following which only qualified contractors will be invited to competitively tender for the works. Intending Contractors are to pay a non-refundable Pre-qualification Processing Fee as indicated above, quoting the Project title. Only companies with proven track records in similar works will be qualified to competitively tender for the said works.

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

To be considered, potential companies are required to be registered with UNAAB and collect a Pre-qualification Screening Questionnaire from the PHYSICAL PLANNING UNIT of the University. Non-registration with the University will automatically disqualify the applicant.

Intending Contractors must submit all the under-listed, verifiable documents:

- Evidence of Company Registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission.
- Certified True Copies of Memorandum and Articles of Association of the company with CAC07.
- Corporate profile, to include: CVs, and copies of Credentials of Company and Technical Staff indicating Qualification and Year(s) of cognate experience and registration with necessary professional bodies.
- Evidence of registration in the appropriate category with the University of Agriculture, Abeokuta.
- Evidence of payment of tax for the last three (3) years, duly stamped.
- Copy of VAT registration and evidence of past VAT remittances for completed projects.
- Current Company's audited Statement of Accounts, duly stamped by registered Auditor.
- Original Bank Statement for the past twelve months.
- Bank Reference from reputable banks with evidence of Overdraft facilities of at least Ten Million Naira and Cash at Bank of at least Ten Million Naira (N 10 m) for Projects (1-3) and Two Million Naira (N 2 m) for Projects (4-7).
- Verifiable evidence of similar jobs, successfully executed or being executed within the last Five (5) years, indicating type, cost, location and evidence of award and completion.
- List of equipment to be used for the projects listed as: owned, hired or leased with evidence.
- Company's registered address, functional contact address and GSM phone number(s).
- Reference Letters from Three (3) previous clients of similar projects, satisfactorily completed.
- Original copies of documents should be available for sighting on demand during the opening of the Pre-qualification documents.
- A sworn Affidavit certifying that:
 - the documents submitted for the Pre-qualification exercise are not only genuine, but correct;
 - the Director(s) seeking for Pre-qualification had never been convicted by any Court of law;
 - the company is not bankrupt;
 - none of the officials of UNAAB or BPP is a former or present Director of the company.
- Evidence of payment of non-refundable Pre-qualification Fees.

SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

The pre-qualification documents arranged in the order listed above, are to be submitted in five copies, A4 size, paged and neatly bound and sealed in two envelopes with the outer envelope marked "SECRET Pre-qualification for..." (Quoting the appropriate project's name boldly written on the top right hand corner of the envelope) and delivered to:

The Registrar,
University of Agriculture, Abeokuta,
P.M.B. 2240, Abeokuta, Ogun State.

To reach him not later than Two (2) weeks, from the date of this publication.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- This invitation for Pre-qualification is NOT an invitation to tender for the Projects.
- Failure to comply with the above requirements would automatically result in disqualification.
- The University reserves the right to verify the authenticity of any claim made on the Pre-qualification document submitted by companies.
- The University reserves the right to reject any Pre-qualification document and is neither committed nor obliged to give reasons for the rejection of any of the companies responding to this invitation.
- Only contractors that have been Pre-qualified and found suitable will be invited to competitively tender for the Projects.

(Signed)

Adeleke Adeboye
for: Registrar



2010 CAPAM AFRICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE



THE OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF THE CIVIL SERVICE OF THE FEDERATION

In collaboration with

THE COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT (CAPAM)

Will Hold

The African Regional Conference of the Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management

Theme: "GOOD GOVERNANCE, ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRUST"

DATE: 17th - 19th May, 2010

VENUE: Transcorp Hilton, Abuja

CAPAM was established in 1994 to facilitate the exchange of information and knowledge on public administration between Commonwealth countries and beyond. The origin of CAPAM lies in the initiative to define and promote the practical requirements of good governance, just and honest government and the fundamental political values outlined in the Declaration of the Commonwealth Heads of Government at its meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe in 1991.

As a non-profit association, CAPAM represents an international network of over 1100 senior public servants, Heads of Government, leading academics and researchers located in over 50 different countries across the Commonwealth. This professional network promotes good governance in public administration through knowledge sharing and capacity building in the areas of citizen centred delivery; leadership development and growth; and public service management and renewal.

The 3-day event provides a unique platform for senior public servants, experts, academics, researchers, and other key stakeholders across the Commonwealth, to share knowledge and experience, with a view to advancing the cause of good governance in their respective jurisdictions.

The forum will, amongst others, explore the key issues in enhancing trust and accountability in governance, through a network of relationship building, involving

citizens and political leaders, political leaders and the public service, as well as the public service and citizens.

The Conference will be attended by a large number of delegates across the Commonwealth. As the host country, the Offices of the Head of the Civil Service in the 36 States of the Federation and the FCT are to support the event with adequate national representation.

List of participants from the States and the FCT should be forwarded to the LOC secretariat on or before 12th May, 2010.

Registration fee for each Nigerian participant is \$800 to be paid at the point of registration.

For enquiries, please contact:

Prof. Simon O. Ogamdi
Permanent Secretary (Special Duties)
Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation
Federal Secretariat Complex
Abuja
Telephone: 08037189731

OR

Secretary, Local Organizing Committee,
Room 423, Block A
Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation
Federal Secretariat Complex
Abuja.
Telephone: 08035914784



FinBank

FINBANK PLC

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

	GROUP		BANK	
	14 Months to 31 December 2009 N'million	8 Months to 31 October 2009 N'million	14 Months to 31 December 2009 N'million	8 Months to 31 October 2009 N'million
GROSS EARNINGS	72,386	30,778	68,586	29,185
Loss before taxation	(148,826)	(96,481)	(147,106)	(95,865)
Taxation	(272)	(237)	(100)	(122)
Loss after taxation	(150,097)	(96,718)	(147,206)	(96,987)
Non-controlling interest	327	(11)	-	-
Profit attributable to shareholders	(148,770)	(96,729)	(147,206)	(96,987)
APPROPRIATIONS				
Contingency reserve	83	51	-	-
Retained earnings reserve	(148,687)	(96,780)	(147,206)	(96,987)
Retained loss transferred to general reserve	(148,770)	(96,729)	(147,206)	(96,987)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2009

	GROUP		BANK	
	31 December 2009 N'million	31 October 2009 N'million	31 December 2009 N'million	31 October 2009 N'million
ASSETS				
Cash and balances with Central Bank of Nigeria	9,940	6,279	9,222	6,002
Treasury bills	7,076	26,419	7,076	25,872
Due from other banks	35,509	91,952	34,500	91,413
Loans and advances to customers	44,485	93,329	50,072	93,329
Insurance receivables	402	145	-	-
Investment securities	28,980	18,294	24,847	12,786
Investment in subsidiaries	-	-	6,263	4,851
Other assets	14,593	68,429	10,897	62,887
Investment property	64	-	-	-
Property, plant and equipment	18,098	15,777	14,906	15,415
	187,198	318,625	187,843	312,346
LIABILITIES				
Customer deposits	197,041	236,087	196,429	236,087
Due to other banks	5,681	18,952	5,307	15,530
Claims payable	332	262	-	-
Liabilities on insurance contracts	321	207	-	-
Income Tax Payable	1,583	1,408	865	862
Other liabilities	23,837	30,318	21,477	29,804
Long term Borrowings	50,000	-	50,000	-
Deferred tax	1,201	1,213	1,109	1,109
Retirement benefit obligations	3,050	1,172	3,042	1,164
	283,046	296,215	278,216	284,557
EQUITY				
Ordinary share capital	8,806	8,806	8,806	8,806
Preference share capital	1,633	1,633	1,633	1,633
Share premium account	122,806	123,774	122,806	123,774
Revaluation reserve	1,853	1,208	1,208	1,208
Retained earnings	(285,234)	(111,511)	(258,157)	(110,951)
Other Reserves	3,736	3,878	3,518	3,518
Attributable to equity holders of the parent	(126,600)	27,387	(120,386)	27,789
Non-controlling interest	748	21	-	-
	(125,852)	27,408	(120,386)	27,789
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	187,198	318,625	187,843	312,346
Contingent liabilities	65,012	92,446	65,012	92,446

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 7 April 2010 and signed on its behalf by

Dr. Theo Osanekpo (SAN)
Chairman

Suzanne Irocha
Managing Director

Abdurahman Yunusa
Executive Director

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF FINBANK PLC

We have audited the financial statements of FinBank Plc ('the bank') and its subsidiaries ('the group') as at 31 December 2009, from which the summarised financial statements were derived, in accordance with International Standard on Auditing. In our report dated 7 April, 2010, we expressed an unqualified opinion on the financial statements.

Directors' Responsibility for the summarised audited Financial Statements

The Directors are responsible for preparing and presenting an appropriate summary of the financial statements in accordance with Section 355 of the Companies and Allied Matters Act CAP C20 LFN 2004 and Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act CAP B3 LFN 2004.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summarised financial statements based on our procedures which were conducted in accordance with International Standard on Auditing (ISA 800), "the Independent Auditors Report on Summary Audited Financial Statements".

Opinion

In our opinion, the accompanying summarised financial statements of FinBank Plc (the bank and the group) as at 31 December 2009 are consistent, in all material respect, with the financial statements from which they were derived, in accordance with Statements of Accounting Standards applicable in Nigeria and in the manner required by the Companies and Allied Matters Act of Nigeria, and relevant Central Bank of Nigeria circulars.

Other reporting responsibilities

In accordance with Circular BSD/1/2004 issued by the Central Bank of Nigeria details of insider related credits are as disclosed in the financial statements.

Contraventions

During the period, the Bank contravened certain section of the Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act, Cap B3, LFN 2004 and circulars of the Central Bank of Nigeria. The particulars thereof are set out in note 42 to the financial statements.

Notice to Readers

For a better understanding of the Bank's financial position and the results of its operations for the period and of the scope of our audit, the summarised financial statements should be read in conjunction with the financial statements from which the summarized financial statements were derived and our audit report thereon.

Akinola Williams Deloitte

Chartered Accountants
Lagos, Nigeria
7 April, 2010



UNAUDITED PROFIT & LOSS ACCOUNTS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2010

	GROUP			BANK		
	March 2010 N'million	March 2009 N'million	% Change	March 2010 N'million	March 2009 N'million	% Change
Gross Earnings	12,499	17,341	-28%	11,628	16,318	-29%
Profit Before Taxation	1,165	2,637	-56%	1,027	2,326	-56%
Provision for Taxation	(175)	(369)	-53%	(154)	(326)	-53%
Profit After Taxation	990	2,268	-56%	873	2,001	-56%

The sharp decline in performance was occasioned by the large amount of provision for Risk Assets and other known losses revealed during the recent regulatory examination that are not expected to re-occur in the ordinary course of business in the future.

By order of the Board of Directors

DR. NECHI EZEAKO, FCIS
Company Secretary
Finbank Plc



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

HEADQUARTERS, MABUSHI, ABUJA

INVITATION FOR TENDER

The Federal Ministry of Environment, with the assistance of Ecological Fund Office (EFO) is implementing some projects under the Presidential Afforestation Initiative in the dry lands of the country to combat desertification and ameliorate the impacts of drought.

The Federal Ministry of Environment is therefore inviting interested contractors to submit bids/tenders for any of the following jobs:

LOT 1(a-c) Model Village Development in Eight (8) Frontline States:

- LOT 1a Borno and Yobe
 LOT 1b Katsina, Kano and Jigawa
 LOT 1c Kebbi, Sokoto and Zamfara

Scope of Work

- Provision of solar powered boreholes
- Establishment of community plant nursery
- Establishment of community woodlots, windbreaks and roadside plantations
- Development and supply of alternative energy materials and energy saving devices - solar cookers, solar street lights, improved woodstoves (Save 80, Wonderbox)
- Construction and equipping of Environmental Education and Public Awareness and skill acquisition centers
- Construction of VIP toilets
- Training of local people on the fabrication and maintenance of alternative and energy saving devices.

LOT 2 Roof Catchments Rain Water Harvesting in three (3) Frontline States of Adamawa, Bauchi and Gombe

Scope of Work

- Construction of underground water tank
- Construction and installation of overhead water tank
- Provision and installation of rooftop gutte
- Provision and installation of solar powered pump
- Reticulation and provision of hand pumps

LOT 3(a - d) Supply of Project Monitoring Vehicles

- LOT 3a Supply of 3nos 4WD Jeep, Full option, 2.7 Litres, and V6 Engine
- LOT 3b Supply of 2nos 2.0 GLS, 4WD Jeep, AT, Fully Tropicalised Engine, 2000CC 16V DOHC, Shiftronic Gear System, Tilt Adjustable Steering, Front & Rear Flaps/Roof Carrier, Fabric Upholstery, 2010 Model.
- LOT 3c Supply of 7nos 2.7 Litres Engine, Double Cabin (4WD), Power Steering, AM/FM CD Player, 5 Speed Manual, SRS Air bags, Heavy Duty Suspension and Tropicalised Engine.
- LOT 3d Supply of 6nos 2.4 Litres Engine, 4WD, Double Cabin, Power Steering, AM/FM CD Player, Side Step, back step, 5 Speed Manual, SRS Air bags, Heavy Duty Suspension and Tropicalised Engine.

LOT 4 Development of Data Bank for Desertification Management

Scope of Work

- Biophysical field survey and mapping of selected sites
- Socio-economic survey of selected sites
- Production of aridity index maps
- Procurement of GIS hard and soft wares
- Installation and commissioning of Desertification GIS Laboratory and Data Bank

LOT 5(a - g) Establishment of Plant Nursery (1 million capacity) 2nos in each of the 11 Frontline States and 1no in each of the 8 Buffer States and FCT

Frontline States

- LOT 5a Adamawa, Bauchi & Gombe
 LOT 5b Jigawa, Kano & Katsina
 LOT 5c Kebbi, Sokoto & Zamfara
 LOT 5d Borno & Yobe

Buffer States & FCT

- LOT 5e Benue, Taraba & Plateau
 LOT 5f Kaduna, Nasarawa & Niger
 LOT 5g Kogi, Kwara & FCT

Scope of Work

- Construction of plant nursery shed
- Construction of nursery store/office
- Provision of solar powered borehole
- Provision of nursery tools
- Raising of assorted forest tree seedlings
- Raising of assorted economic tree seedlings

3. TENDER REQUIREMENTS:

To qualify for consideration, applicants are required to submit the documents stated herein after, failure to submit any of the under listed documents may lead to the disqualification of the applicant.

- (i) Certificate of Registration with Corporate Affairs Commission (Limited liability only)
- (ii) Provide details of Company's profile including the Curriculum Vitae of the key professional staff and other resources,
- (iii) Company's current Tax Clearance certificate for the last three (3) years. (State Tax Identification Number TIN)
- (iv) Verifiable evidence of previous experience in jobs of this Magnitude/nature. (Attach Letter of Award and Certificate of Completion)
- (v) List of Equipment Owned.
- (vi) Evidence from the company's Bankers as to its financial capacity to undertake the works, if awarded.
- (vii) Name/e-mail Address and phone number of contact person.
- (viii) Company Audited Account for the last 3 Years.
- (ix) A Letter authorizing the Federal Ministry of Environment to verify claims with relevant agencies or bodies.
- (x) Evidence of VAT Registration and Remittance.
- (xi) Any other information that would be of advantage to the company.

4. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- (I) Notwithstanding the submission of tender data the Federal Ministry of Environment is neither committed nor obligated to include your company or any bid list or award any form of contract to your company or agent.
- (II) The advertisement shall not be considered as commitment on the part of the Federal Ministry of Environment; nor shall it entitle potential companies to make any claims whatsoever or seek any indemnity from the Federal Ministry of Environment by virtue of such company having responded to the advertisement.
- (III) In addition to the above requirements, contractors interested in LOTs 4 are requested to provide the information indicated below:

LOT 4 (Development of Data Bank for Desertification Management)

- Evidence of competency in Land Resources Survey and Mapping
- Evidence of competency in GIS and Remote Sensing
- Evidence of previous work conducted and maps produced

5. **Submission Deadline:** Completed Financial and Technical Tenders are to be submitted in two Separate Envelopes Marked Financial Bids or Technical Bids respectively. Each of the Envelopes are to contain one original and two duplicate copies of the Tenders respectively, and Both Envelopes Enclosed in a Larger Envelope Marke CONFIDENTIAL on the Top Left Corner and Written Tender for (Specify LOT) at the Centre.

The Tender Addressed to the Secretary, Ministerial Tenders Board, Federal Ministry of Environment, Room B301 (3rd Floor), Mabushi, Abuja. To reach him on or before 12Noon on Monday, 31st May, 2010. While the Bids will be opened by 2:00p.m. on the same date at the Ministry's Conference Room, Mabushi, Abuja.

NOTE: Only the Technical bids will be opened on the date mentioned in this publication while the Financial Bids of the Bidders that passed the Technical Evaluation would be opened on a date that would be communicated to these Companies

(Signed)
 Permanent Secretary

FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

Headquarters, Mabushi, Abuja

**ESTABLISHMENT OF CACTUS OPUNTIA PLANTATIONS IN SELECTED STATES****INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION**

1. Introduction: The Federal Ministry of Environment, with the assistance of Ecological Fund Office (EFO) is desirous of establishing Cactus Opuntia Plantations in some selected States under the Presidential Afforestation Initiative in the dry lands of the country to combat desertification and ameliorate the impacts of drought.

2. Scope of Project:

- Site Identification & Survey
- Site Preparation
- Planting of Cactus Opuntia in selected sites
- Site fencing
- Provision of solar powered water supply system
- Community mobilization and Awareness campaign

3. TENDER REQUIREMENTS:

Interested, and reputable companies are required to submit the following Pre-qualification documents. Failure to submit any of the underlisted documents may result in the disqualification of the Contractor.

- (i) Certificate of Registration with Corporate Affairs Commission (Limited liability only)
- (ii) Provide details of Company's profile including the Curriculum Vitae of the key professional staff and other resources.
- (iii) Company's current Tax Clearance certificate for the last three (3) years. (State Tax Identification Number TIN)
- (iv) Verifiable evidence of previous experience in the jobs of this magnitude/nature. (Attach letter of Award and Certificate of Completion)
- (v) List of equipment owned.
- (vi) Evidence from the company's Bankers as to its financial capacity/Bank Support to undertake the works, if awarded.
- (vii) Name/e-mail Address and phone number of contact person.
- (viii) Company Audited Account for the last 3 Years.
- (ix) A Letter authorizing the Federal Ministry of Environment to verify claims with relevant agencies or bodies.
- (x) Evidence of VAT Registration and Remittance.
- (xi) Any other information that would be of advantage to the company.

4. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

(I) Notwithstanding the submission of tender data the Federal Ministry of Environment is neither committed nor obligated to include your company or any bid list or award any form of contract to your company or agent.

(II) The advertisement shall not be considered as commitment on the part of the Federal Ministry of Environment; nor shall it entitle potential companies to make any claims whatsoever or seek any indemnity from the Federal Ministry of Environment by virtue of such company having responded to the advertisement.

(III) In addition to the above requirements, contractors are requested to provide the information indicated below:

- Evidence of existing collaboration with any foreign country where Cactus Opuntia is popular in combating desertification to facilitate the procurement of planning materials

(IV) The Federal Ministry of Environment reserves the right to make available the Tender documents to qualified bidders only.

5. Submission Deadline: Completed Pre-qualification document must be forwarded in sealed envelope marked on the top left hand corner **CONFIDENTIAL** and boldly written **PRE-QUALIFICATION: ESTABLISHMENT OF CACTUS OPUNTIA PLANTATION IN SELECTED STATES** to reach:

**The Secretary,
Ministerial Tenders Board
Federal Ministry of Environment,
Room B301 (3rd Floor) Mabushi, Abuja.
Not later than 12.00 noon on Monday 17th of May, 2010.**

6. Formal Opening of Bids: Opening of all bids is scheduled for 2.00p.m. at the Conference Room, federal Ministry of Environment, Mabushi, Abuja.

(Signed)
Permanent Secretary.

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ABUJA-NIGERIA
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PUBLIC NOTICE

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2. We are aware of this and our staff are out investigating them. Some of them have registered with the National Lottery Regulatory Commission (NLRC) and are therefore operating legally.
3. Many others are however yet to legitimize their operations. We are in contact with them to do so to ensure that they are operating according to the guidelines set by the commission.
4. The Commission will soon publish the list of all legitimate operators alongside those operating illegally.
5. We therefore advice all illegal operators to come forth and regularize with the Commission in their own interest.
6. We assure the public that the Commission will always ensure Legitimacy and Transparency in the operations of all forms of lottery in Nigeria.

Signed:
PETER IGHO, MFR
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
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FOCUS ON INSURANCE

In this special edition, Daily Trust re-examines the place of Insurance in the Nigerian economy. This is in view of the fact that the 49 Insurance companies have been performing abysmally. Their contribution to the nation's Gross Domestic Products (GDP) is less than one percent. We also look at the performance of the sector on the floor of the Nigerian Stock Exchange and its slow growth in the North, among other things.

Business Editor

Why insurance sector is not growing

• 'We want Islamic Insurance'

By Jibrin Abubakar

EXPERTS have attributed the misfortune of the insurance sector to the collapse of manufacturing industries in the Northern Nigeria. They say there is also the dearth of skilled professionals in the sector. Other problems include lack of public awareness and religious factor.

The insurance sector contributes less than one percent to Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Hundreds of companies in the North have closed shop over the years due to what the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) attributed to lack of power supply.

According to the Managing Director of Anchor Insurance Limited Mr. Ademayowa Adeduro: "The challenge of insurance in the North is as a result of the dearth of skilled professionals. Most of the human capital in the insurance comes from the South. There are a few people in the North who have deep knowledge of the insurance market."

"The religion is also hindering the growth and development of insurance in the North where most northerners see insurance as ungodly. Some in the North don't accept insurance, they say, God is their insurer. The challenge of infrastructure and low socio-economic activities also affects insurance growth in the North. Even the few thriving industries particularly textile industry in Kano and Kaduna have closed down. These are the things that attract insurance business to a place but when the economic base

of a region is weak, insurance cannot thrive there. The North is known for textile, hides and skin but these industries are dying so there is to some extent no insurance capacity in the North to some extent. Even the Kaduna auto plant is not doing too well, so insurance capital in the north is low."

Mr. Adeduro added: "Another critical point is the incessant cases of religious and other crises in the North. This is killing business in the North, not only insurance business per se. Some businesses are moving to the South and that is removing business from the North. Some people would advance low awareness as being responsible for the slow growth of insurance in the North or even Nigeria, but what we lack is enforcement. A lot of Nigerians know about insurance but they need prompting - enforcement. We need more of deliberate efforts to enforce the provisions of the law on insurance in Nigeria."

But some economists and operators of northern extraction have called for the introduction of Islamic Insurance. They argued that conventional insurance system is ungodly and urged companies to start takaful product. The takaful product is an Islamic insurance system different from conventional insurance practice.

Malam Usman Muhammad Zunnurain, an Islamic scholar, a lawyer by profession and the deputy dean, faculty of Law, Bayero University Kano told Daily Trust in an interview: "Yes, we have Islamic alternative to the conventional insurance. If you go to Malay-



sia and other Middle Eastern countries, they have what is called Attakaful-Islamiy.

"Takaful is like a cooperative arrangement; people of the same profession or business come together and say, we are facing a lots of risks and problems, why not do something that will assist us and our professions. They can agree on setting some minimal amount every day with the intent of assisting any one among them that find himself in problem."

"So there is this arrangement called attakaful. This attakaful has been institutionalised by the noble prophet (SAW) himself. There was a time when some group of people where on a journey and some of them ran out of foodstuff, the noble prophet (SAW) ordered for a piece of cloth to be spread and whoever that was having some food item with him was asked to drop it on the piece of cloth. After collecting all that were with them, it was further shared between them all. That is a kind of takaful, and that is the insurance that is accepted in Islam. It is not somebody trading on your risk but you are putting it on the basis of ta'awun (helping one another)."

When Daily Trust sought further clar-

ification from Islamic scholars, it was learnt that Insurance is unlawful due to involvement of Riba (interest), Maisir (gambling) and Gharar (uncertainty).

"Takaful, the Islamic alternative to insurance, is based on the concept of social solidarity, cooperation and mutual indemnification of losses of members. It is a pact among a group of persons who agree to jointly indemnify the loss or damage that may inflict upon any of them, out of the fund they donate collectively."

The Takaful contract so agreed usually involves the concepts of Mudarabah, Tabarru' (to donate for benefit of others) and mutual sharing of losses with the overall objective of eliminating the element of uncertainty," said Alhaji Teslim Sanusi, the President, Nigerian Council of Registered Insurance Brokers (NCRIB), the umbrella body for all brokers in Nigeria.

According to the National Insurance Commission (NAICOM), the insurance penetration improved from 4.3 % in 2006 to 6.9 % in 2008, while Nigeria's insurance ranking improved from 65 to 61 globally. In addition, total capitalization of the industry grew from N200billion in 2006 to N550billion in 2008 while gross premium also improved from N94billion to about N180billion.



CBN EXCHANGE RATES

	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)
CFA	0.2802	0.2902	0.3002
DANISH KRONER	26.4351	26.3227	26.6123
EURO	196.8078	197.4749	198.142
POUNDS STERLING	228.2422	229.0158	229.7895
RIYAL	39.336	39.4694	39.6027
SDR	221.1679	223.9244	224.6808
SWISS FRANC	137.1293	137.5941	138.0589
US DOLLAR	147.51	148.01	148.51
WAUA	222.2933	223.0468	223.8003
YEN	1.3661	1.3714	1.3767

Bureau de Change Rates

BUYING	
Dollar	N151
Euro	N203
Pound	N234
SELLING	
Dollar	N152
Euro	N206
Pound	242.56

Source: S&P Bureau de Change, West Zone 4, Abuja.

STOCK MARKET INDEX

Date:	Wednesday, April 28, 2010
Index:	25,607.30
Deals:	8,018
Volume:	662,309,263
Value:	N 4,997,437,143.69
Cap.:	N6,193,777,996,549.57

Star Feature

Mallam-Madori trains build nation

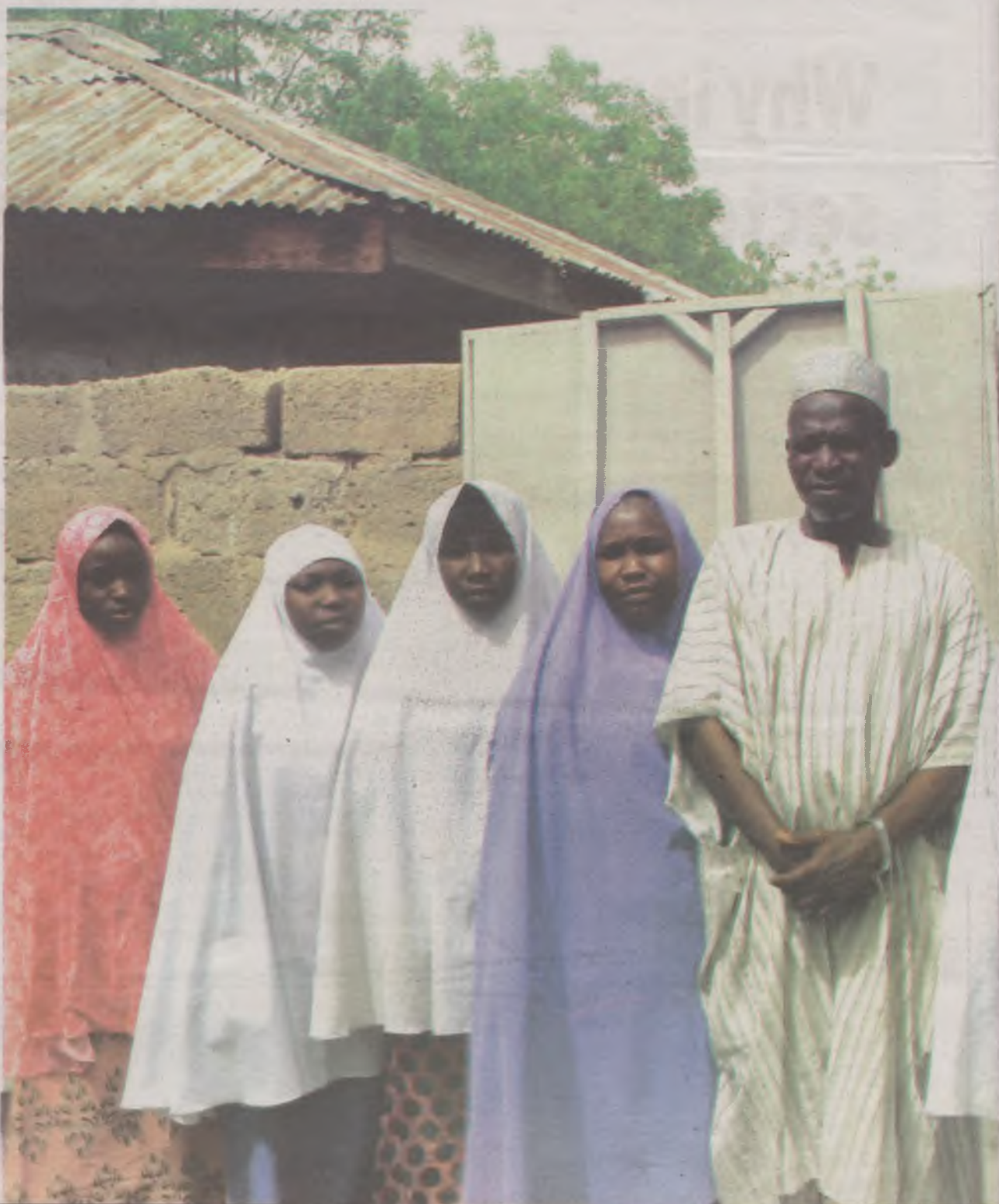
A visit to Mallam-Madori by this reporter reveals the neat way by which railways can be said to build nations.

By Tadaferua Ujorha who was in Mallam-Madori

Alhaji Abdulfatai Tijjani is the Chairman of the Yoruba community in Mallam Madori. His roots lie in Ede in Osun State, but now he sees Mallam Madori as home. He arrived in the 1970s, and instantly went into the bread business. Today, he is the towns baker. He is married to Haulatu, a Hausa lady with whom he has three children. His children speak both Hausa and Yoruba just as he does. He is also married to Fatima, a Yoruba lady. His house is a warm mini Nigeria set up in one of the oldest wards in Mallam Madori, where Hausa and Yoruba echo all day long. Mohammed Hassan, who is partly Yoruba and partly Hausa tells *Daily Trust* 'There is no tribalism in Mallam Madori'. He attributes this to the railways which endowed the town with a cosmopolitan character, by bringing in a diversity of groups. Alhaji Mohammed Saleh, the District Head confirms this point by saying 'It is true, there is no tribalism in Mallam Madori. For instance, in the 60s Igbo's were harassed in many other parts of the north, but here nothing happened to Igbo's. We are a friendly and welcoming people'. When Abdulfatai Tijjani first arrived Mallam Madori he married a Hausa lady from Maigatari. This lady no longer lives with him. According to the Chairman there were well over 3,000 Yoruba's in Mallam Madori a while ago. He says that the number has fallen a bit recently. Most of the Yoruba who arrived the town by train hailed from the

present Oyo, Ogun, Ekiti, and Lagos states. He was attracted by the economic potentials of the area and travelled down. Mallam Madori has since become home to the town's chief baker, who lives in the popular Tudun Gana quarters. Gana is a word with Kanuri origins, another pointer to the mixed origins, and multicultural character of Mallam Madori.

LAST week saw me in Mallam-Madori, a railway town in Jigawa State. An unusually good road takes you from Kano right up to Mallam Madori. It is nice to see that we can get the roads right when we make up our minds to do so. The good ride was a bit embarrassing, because I had prepared my mind and body for a bad jolt and a bump. Only to find this beautifully tarred road. An equally good road takes one up to Maigatari which is a border town, and hosts an amazing market. Mallam Madori was born with the coming of the railways in 1930 when a series of migrations began to occur into the area. According to recent literature written by Michael Gboun "The Kano-Nguru railway line extension got to the present Mallam Madori in 1930, according to Alhaji Muhammad Gauyama-Madaki. After the construction, many farm settlers living close by were attracted to the site of construction. Mallam Madou, among others, also moved his village to the site of the railway station. People also migrated from Dakido village, Talaku Dunari and Hadejia. These families united and founded Mallam Maduri, taking after Mallam Madu." Trains served as magnets, attracting development in a strong way, founding towns in the process. It happened at Mallam Madori, and in many other places across the country. Every day, a train went from Kano to Nguru, coursing through Mallam-Madori, carrying goods of all sorts, for the area was fertile for business. Then the train made a return trip



WHAT Mallam-Madori brought together: Alhaji Abdulfatai Tijjani (middle) and family. Haulatu is to his right, while

His house is a warm mini Nigeria."

from Nguru to Kano, as it still does today. Groundnut pyramids flourished at Mallam-Madori, my contacts tells me. That was truly a golden era. Today, people have abandoned the cultivation of groundnuts, and focus more on

growing Sesame seeds, the District Head says. The groundnut pyramids attracted many investors to Mallam Madori. These included John Holt, UAC, G.B Ollivant, CFAO, Halawi brothers, Ahmed Tabet etc. A stream

of great economic activities has narrowed to a painful trickle today. The District Head says that the groundnut pyramids ceased to be in the 1970s. He adds that some of the reasons for this include changes in the climate, a reduction in the rainfall, as well as the non availability of fertilizer. He also showed that

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PIX:TADAFERUA UJORHA



THE tracks stretch from Kano, through Mallam-Madori, and reach Nguru.

a manner of speaking. The railway station looks forlorn under the intense afternoon sun, and the staff are almost taciturn. So it makes sense when they say I should not mention their names in the story. The train passes once a week. So there's nothing doing at midweek, except to chew sugarcane which abounds. There is some humour in this for the sugarcane itself is like a train with coaches, when viewed horizontally. In less than 80 years, the golden era of railways has come and gone, reduced to this sorry state. One of the staff mentions that the office telephone has since collapsed. So, he has to use his cell phone to communicate with other stations, to know if a train is approaching. This made one wonder what happens if there is no network, or he runs out of credit. Or if there is an emergency. Or if a train derailed. Or when his battery is down, what next? Things hardly get more ridiculous, or more farcical than this. The salary paid railway workers is small, they all chorus, arguing for a salary increment. Another staff says that they



ALHAJI Abdulaziz Lawal, Village Head of Mallam-Madori.

have not received their overtime allowance for a very long time, and they hint that there are quite a number of allowances which they have also not received yet. Most of them have to do overtime duty from time to time.

They argue that other categories of workers across the country do receive their allowances. The absence of locomotive engines, and an insufficient supply of diesel, explains why only two trains run in a week, another says.



Fatima is on his immediate left.

udden availability of roads had a negative on the railway system.

t that time the trains brought a multicultural crowd into Mallam-Madori. Yoruba, Igbo, Lebanese, Syrians and e from Yemen came by train, and soon

settled there, doing business and spreading their culture. Descendants of some of these groups are still in the town. Today, the trains run just twice a week, as opposed to everyday, as it was in the past. Things have gone downhill, in



RAILWAY station, Mallam-Madori.

Business/Finance

FG cannot handle non-oil revenue issues lightly- Finance Minister

From Isa Umar Gusau and Yahaya Ibrahim, Maiduguri

NIGERIA'S government is faced with economic slump and for that, the federal government cannot afford to handle issues concerning non oil revenue accruing to the country with kid gloves, Minister of Finance, Mr Olusegun Olutoyin Aganga, said in Maiduguri yesterday.

Aganga spoke at a two-day zonal sensitization workshop on destination inspection scheme for Nigerian importers and other stakeholders in the north east geo-political zone.

"Permit me to advocate for a change in the attitude of our importers and other stakeholders to do the right thing at the right time, in line with the national policy of re-branding Nigeria. At a time like this when government is faced with pressures of global economic recession, the issue of revenue accruing to its non oil sector cannot be taken lightly. This requires transparency on the part of every importer, using Nigerian import points for business transactions" the minister said, noting that non oil revenue will help the country to achieve its developmental needs.

Represented by the director, Home Finance in the federal ministry of finance, Baba Gidado Mohammed, the minister hammered on the need for importers to change their attitudes and regularly pay customs duties to government to reduce dependence on the oil revenue. He alleged that some importers had devised ways of defrauding government through "over invoicing" which leads to capital flight and "under invoicing" by importers to evade appropriate duties adding that some of them abuse quality and quantity assurance, give poor description of goods, duplicate final documents, bring in prohibited items amongst others.

Aganga said the Nigeria Customs Service has introduced e-payment and e-remittance system for importers to pay government appropriate levies to boost non oil revenue. He said his ministry thought it wise to sensitize stakeholders nationwide on changes and challenges regarding importation. The Minister noted that destination inspection which was started in 2006 helps in the assessment, quality and prohibition control of imports on arrival in Nigeria at the point

of discharge in ports or land borders. He explained that the scheme is "characterised by scanning operations

and cargo monitoring on imports into the country" and that it "is also designed to eliminate port conges-

tion by putting in place mechanism for quick and efficient cargo clearance" in ports and land borders.

Governor Ali Modu Sheriff represented by his deputy, Adamu Dibal tasked boarder security

agencies to mount surveillance on land boarders to check smuggling of weapons and prohibited goods.



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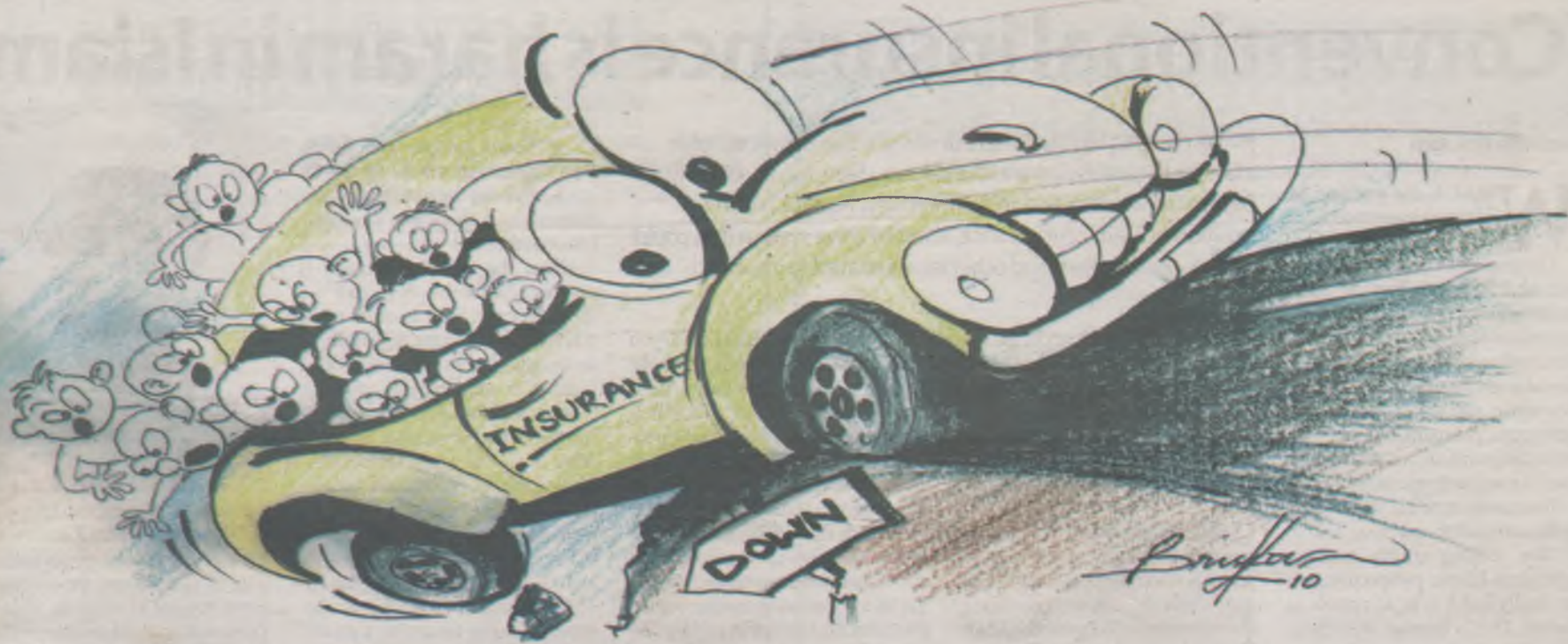
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Too slow to grow

From Kayode Ekuundayo, Lagos

THOUGH the insurance sub-sector started the year 2010 with 17.95 million shares valued at N11.64 billion exchanged in 209 deals, this was far below what it recorded in January 2008. In that month of the year, investors staked N41.485 billion on 9.424 billion shares. Unfortunately due to global financial meltdown, the stocks plummeted by December to 4.535 billion shares valued at N3.850 billion and by the end of 2009, all the four sectoral indices in the nation's stock market had depreciated.

The NSE food/Beverages Index dropped by 32.63 points or 5.83 per cent to close at 526.71, NSE Banking Index dropped by 159.45 or 32 per cent to close at 339.32, the NSE Insurance index dropped by 391.59 points or 61.13 per cent to close at 249.01 while NSE Oil/Gas Index dropped by 433.52 points or 60.1 per cent to close at 288.06.

Market capitalization which was N9.56 trillion went down by 26.5 per cent to close the 2009 with N7.03 trillion. In the first week of April, Insurance stocks surprisingly upstaged the banking stocks pulled 421.39 million shares exchanged for N531.81 million

Unfortunately, the industry has not met the expectation of many investors who see the insurance industry as the next growth sector, the performance of the industry, in spite of considerable improvement in the economy, remains far below optimal.

According to Frank Ogamien, a stockbroker, insurance stocks have been performing abysmally adding that the industry stocks have crashed in line with the general trend in the market.

He said the sector was worse hit compared to other sectors of the economy by the global financial crisis due to poor perception of the sector.

"A few reasons could be

advanced for this. First, there is wrong perception of the sector. It makes the volume of stocks traded daily in the market shallow. Secondly, the recent merger which was imposed by National Insurance Commission (NICOM) on the insurance companies reflected negatively on the stocks of the sector. Some merged compulsorily while others were asked to leave the business", he said

Ogamien also said there is low understanding of the business generally and not until people change their perception about insurance business in Nigeria, trading in stocks of the sector would continue to be eroded.

"As a matter of fact, those ones that have merged are not performing better either, their operations are still very sluggish though this could be attributed to downturn in the global financial activities generally", he said.

He said since there is apathy on the side of Nigeria to the level of understanding insurance business, there is tendency to have poor financial result.

"And when there is poor financial result, it automatically rubs on the stock prices because it is the result the insurance or any quoted company on the floor of the Nigerian stock Exchange presents to the market that the stockbrokers use to either push up or down the stock prices and that explains why the insurance stock has been in a poor state all this while", he said

Since the beginning some of insurance stocks were trading at par value. Specifically, not less than 10 of them opened the year on 50 kobo per share and till today they are still trading at 50 kobo. An analyst believed that if not because of the rule that guide the market, some of the stocks particularly insurance sector would have been traded less than the price. Stocks like Confidence Insurance, Consolidated Hallmark Assurance, Equity Assurance, Great Nigeria Insurance, Guinea Insur-

ance, Investment and Allied Assurance, Linkage Assurance; Regency Alliance Insurance, Sovereign Trust Insurance and Universal Insurance have been on par value since last year and they are still there till Friday.

It was also discovered that out of 30 insurance stocks that listed on the floor of the exchange, 20 of them are currently trading below N1.00 and this has low turnover. During the first quarter of the year, insurance sector which started the year with a turnover of 46.224 million shares valued at N47.069 million in 388

deals in contract to a total of 155.599 million shares valued at N243.682 million in 851 deals exchanged during March which is the end of first quarter. Consequently, trading volume and value rose by 109.375 million or 237 per cent and N196.6134 million or 418 per cent, respectively.

Meanwhile, the market recorded a turnover of 10.73 billion shares valued at N91 billion in 185,643 deals in March in contrast to a total of 7.86 billion shares valued at N54.1 billion in 133,112 deals exchanged during February.

However, trading volume and value rose by 37 per cent and 68 per cent, respectively. In February, trading value rose by 11.1 per cent while trading volume dropped by 9 per cent over the January figures. Total turnover during the first quarter of the year was 26.9 billion shares values at N191.8 billion exchange in 614,949 deals. In the comparable period during 2009, the market recorded turnover of insurance stocks of 19.03 billion valued at N106.91 billion in 420,808 deals, which is about 55.7 per cent in terms of market capitalisation.

Insurance stocks' position during the first quarter of 2010

STOCKS	Price as at 31/12/2009	Price as at 31/03/2010	Change in Naira	Change in %
African Alliance	0.87	0.50	-0.37	-43
AIICO	0.79	1.28	+0.49	+62
Confidence Insurance	0.64	0.64	0	0
Consolidated Hallmark	0.50	0.50	0	0
Continental Reinsurance	1.15	0.97	-0.18	-15.7
Comerstone Insurance	0.52	0.57	+0.05	+9.6
Custodian and Allied	2.86	3.99	+1.13	+39.5
Equity Insurance	0.50	0.50	0	0
Goldlink Insurance	0.95	0.79	-0.16	-16.8
Great Nigerian Insurance	0.50	0.50	0	0
Guaranty Trust Assurance	2.15	3.54	+1.39	+64.7
Guinea Insurance	0.50	0.50	0	0
Intercontinental Wapic	1.10	0.96	-0.14	-15.4
International Energy	0.63	0.55	-0.08	-12.7
Investment and Allied	0.50	0.50	0	0
Lassaco Assurance	0.59	0.50	-0.09	-15.3
Law Union and Rock	0.51	0.54	+0.03	+5.9
Linkage Assurance	0.50	0.50	0	0
Mutual Benefit	0.64	0.58	-0.06	-9.4
N.E.M Insurance	0.52	0.59	+0.07	+13.5
Niger Insurance	0.97	0.78	-0.19	-19.6
Oasis Insurance	1.49	1.02	-0.49	-46.1
Prestige Insurance	4.00	3.42	-0.58	-14.5
Regency Insurance	0.50	0.50	0	0
Sovereign Trust	0.50	0.50	0	0
Staco Insurance	1.25	0.50	-0.75	-60
Standard Alliance	0.55	0.50	-0.05	-9.1
Unic Insurance	1.10	0.81	-0.29	-26.4
UnityKapital	2.38	0.56	-1.82	-76.5
Universal Insurance	0.50	0.50	0	0

Business

Focus on Insurance

'Conventional insurance is haram in Islam'

From Halima Musa, Kano

WHAT is the position of Islam on insurance?

Looking at the concept of insurance, what the basis is, these are companies dealing in risks. They insured your risks so that whenever an unforeseen contingency happens, they will intervene and pay you compensation. Meanwhile, you are expected to be paying some premium, on the basis of paying the premium; you are having a cover. You are being covered of the risk on the consideration that you are paying the company the premium.

Now looking at this arrangement from Islamic perspective, you can hardly find it to be acceptable to Shariah. This is because Shariah, in its pristine nature does not allow any transaction which has some elements of uncertainty. If there is any element of uncertainty which we technically call Garar (uncertainty) from the Shariah perspective, then that Garar tainted whatever contract it enters into.

Looking at this thing; these are the people who are dealing in risk; the risk is not definite that it will happen, is quite uncertain. So on that basis of Garar, you find that insurance might not be acceptable in Islamic law of contract or transaction generally.

Secondly, on the issue of paying your premium in expectation of the happening of an accident or some-

Malam Usman Muhammad Zunnurain is an Islamic scholar, a lawyer by profession and the deputy dean, faculty of Law, Bayero University Kano. In this interview he explains the position of Islam on insurance, an alternative system that could be accepted in Islam and other issues related to insurance.

thing that would bring about the risk that has been covered, you are still doing something that can be likened to gambling, gambling in a clear cut text of the Holy Quran has been prohibited. God says gambling and alcoholism are prohibited from Shariah perspective.

So, looking at the uncertainty, you are just speculating whether it will happen or not; somebody is going to gain and somebody is going to lose; there is then some element of gambling which Shariah can hardly accept. The problem will even be more pronounced when you are dealing with life insurance because it is dealing with your death which has been predestined by God. Somebody is insuring his life that if he dies, the annuity or whatever should be paid to his family. That can hardly be acceptable from the Shariah perspective. In a nutshell, this is the stand of Shariah on the conventional insurance system.

Is there anything closer to insurance that can be acceptable from the Shariah perspective?

Yes, we have Islamic alternative

to the conventional insurance. If you go to Malaysia and other Middle Eastern countries, they have what is called Attakaful-Islamiy. Takaful is like a cooperative arrangement; people of the same profession or business come together and say, we are facing a lots of risks and problems, why not do something that will assist us and our professions. They can agree on setting some minimal amount every day with the intent of assisting any one among them that find himself in problem. So there is this arrangement called attakaful. This attakaful has been institutionalised by the noble prophet (SAW) himself. There was a time when some group of people where on a journey and some of them ran out of foodstuff, the noble prophet (SAW) ordered for a piece of cloth to be spread and whoever that was having some food item with him was asked to drop it on the piece of cloth. After collecting all that were with them, it was further shared between them all. That is a kind of takaful, and that is the insurance that is accepted in Islam. It is not somebody trading on your risk but you are putting it on the basis of ta'awun (help-

ing one another).

Some people are saying insurance is the same with saving for unforeseen contingencies, is there any similarity between the two?

Even the issue of banking is another Pandora's box that we shouldn't open here, because when you talk about the interest given to the savers or borrowers; whether it is Riba (interest) or not, is something which is contentious among the jurists but the most preferred view is that interest is Riba. To say that when you are entering into insurance with an insurance company, is just like you are saving for the rainy day, is not like that. Look at the concept, how do they operate? What are the facts on ground? The facts on ground are that you are expected to pay some premium and you are expected to comply with certain conditionality that they give you. If you default in paying the premium, they will not refund your previous premium; they will not refund the payments you made to them.

That's what tells you that it is not the same with saving because if it is saving, you will be paid back your money. So if they are paying you, it is not like saving. You are paying premium because they are rendering you a service; a service that does not exist. This is the element of Garar we are talking about.

Secondly, when there is this problem, certain profession are involved



MALAM Usman Muhammad Zunnurain

like actuaries; somebody that will come and take the actual happening and give analysis that you are within the bounds of given to you by the company or you violated the conditions. Once you are in violation, whatever premiums you have been paying have gone like that. This is the kind of things that Islam will not condone.

Is it possible to have the takaful system in Nigeria?

Well, one should be optimistic at all times but despite our optimism, we should still be realistic in our analysis. Look at Jaiz bank, for how many years up to this time it couldn't take off, it is still in the pipeline; which is even a little not complicated. It is straight forward and a profit earning venture.

Takaful-islamiy in most cases is based on assistance and cooperation; you are trying to assist your brother.

Insurance is not against Islam – NCRIB President

Alhaji Teslim Sanusi is the President, Nigerian Council of Registered Insurance Brokers (NCRIB), the umbrella body for all brokers in Nigeria. In this interview, he bars his mind on the challenges and prospects of insurance in Nigeria and specifically in the North.



ALHAJI Teslim Sanusi

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

Following the poor growth of insurance in the North, is the NCRIB partnering insurance companies to help deepen the market?

The NCRIB is deeply concerned with the poor acceptance of Insurance generally in Nigeria and more so in the North and is prepared to facilitate its better acceptance. Among other things, the Council is already fortifying its Northern Area Committee to take up the challenges of promoting insurance growth in the region. The Area Committee, which has its executives operating majorly in Kaduna and Kano, has designed strategies for propagating insurance in the region. Aside from the aggressive public awareness crusade being planned for major news media, it has also identified strategic targets like the religious organiza-

tions, market associations, road transport workers and other notable groups. The Area Committee is to be used as the arrow heads of the corporate awareness and publicity campaign of the Council under my tenure of office. These measures would not only assist our members but also the insurance companies who operate in the region.

Would you say, the marketing drive of insurance companies in the north is good enough compared to the efforts put in the south?

As you are aware, there is more concentration of insurance companies in the southern part of the country than in the North. This rea-

son could be said to be historical as well as economic. Naturally, most of the companies concentrate their marketing efforts more in the southern part until most recently. The situation is now changing as more opportunities are unfolding for the industry in the North. But be that as it may I think more efforts have to be harnessed to prospect the Northern insurance market. Companies should begin to look at opportunities in the area of micro insurance as well as takaful insurance, to cater for the peculiarities of people in the region.

What would you say is responsible for the slow development of insurance in the North?

The same reason adducible for low insurance penetration in Nigeria generally could be approximated to that of the North. Specifically, however, one could identify traditional / religious belief and poverty as major hindrances.

Most people are uninformed about the place of planning or mitigating risk with insurance. They quickly rationalize that such venture were heretical to the doctrine of Islam. Similarly, the issue of pervasive poverty is another hindrance. In a situation where the disposable income is low or nonexistent, insurance is not likely to do well.

How can we develop the northern insurance industry?

We can develop insurance in the North first, if the people have a change of orientation. Insurance is not only for the rich. If anything, the poor needs insurance more. Also, insurance is not anti-Islam as it is popularly held and that is why you now have the takaful insurance. It is a testimony that even in Islamic Arab nations such as Egypt, Algeria and Tunisia, you have high insurance penetration. On the other hand, the insurance industry itself must be ingenious and creative about marketing insurance in the North in such a way that it will meet the peculiarities and challenges of the regions. We must understand the people as well as products that would suit them. Takaful insurance should be well developed and publicized to counter anti-Islamic impression about the insurance.

But could you give insight into what takaful insurance is?

It is noteworthy that Islamic finance has developed mainly in two directions namely Islamic banking and Islamic insurance (Takaful). While information about Islamic banking is being increasingly disseminated, features, models and structures of Takaful are little known

particularly in Pakistan.

All human beings are invariably exposed to the possibility of meeting catastrophes and disasters giving rise to misfortunes and sufferings such as death, loss of limbs, accident, destruction of business or wealth, etc. Notwithstanding the belief of all Muslims in Qadha-o-Qadr, Islam provides that one must find ways and means to avoid such catastrophes and disasters wherever possible, and to minimize his or his family's financial losses should such events occur. One possible way out is to buy an insurance cover as in the conventional system.

Different views have been expressed about the status of conventional insurance from the point of view of Islam. An overwhelming majority of the Shariah scholars believe that it is unlawful due to involvement of Riba (interest), Maisir (gambling) and Gharar (uncertainty). Takaful, the Islamic alternative to insurance, is based on the concept of social solidarity, cooperation and mutual indemnification of losses of members. It is a pact among a group of persons who agree to jointly indemnify the loss or damage that may inflict upon any of them, out of the fund they donate collectively.

Business

Focus on Insurance

Insurance sector to employ 250,000 Nigerians

MR. Fola Daniel, Commissioner for Insurance, National Insurance Commission, said in Sokoto that the insurance sector would create about 250,000 jobs in two years to curb unemployment in the country.

Daniela stated this at the introduction of six compulsory insurance products for the North West.

He said that the industry was more than ready to contribute meaningfully to the growth and development of the nation.

"We have about 52 insurance companies and the mandate given to them is that they must recruit a minimum of 5,000 agents.

Some of them have the capacity to recruit 10,000 agents or more. We are given minimum of two years and many of them have recruited nearly half of that which means the 5,000 figure is not ambitious.

"If the 52 insurance companies will recruit an average of 5000, you will see that we are certainly going to attain 250,000 before the end of next year," he said.

He said the Insurance companies since January 2009 had started recruiting graduates and giving them adequate training to educate the masses on issues of insurance.

He said the employment strategy

was an avenue for the industry to contribute to the growth and development of the economy.

"If you take 250,000 unemployed youths away from unemployment then we are helping the economy.

"When you have multitude of youths unemployed then you can think of crime and criminality because a guy who spend so many years in school and came out without a job is prone to bad influence.

"We are providing an avenue to reduce crime by reducing unemployment and also taking them to the field that is vibrant and will help

boost the economy," he said.

On challenges in the industry, he noted that the insurance industry over the years had witnessed a level of progress. He noted the issue of non-payment of claims by few operators in the market gave the industry very bad publicity.

"The Commission is confronting this frontally and I am pleased to state that the issue of non-payment of claims by insurance companies is now becoming a thing of the past.

"We are ready to cancel certificate of any insurance company that failed to pay claims and on time. We insist that cheques must be given within

the period of 90 days.

"NAICOM has had cause to sanction some firms found engaging in unethical behavior in recent past to serve as deterrent to others and would not hesitate to do that again would the need be," he said.

Daniel said that the commission would always ensure to protect the consumer from falling prey to unscrupulous operators.

He called on stakeholder to join the Commission on its effort to ensure that insurance industry played its vital role in the development of the nation's economy. (NAN).

'Journalists need insurance cover to work'

MR. Dan Manjang, the Special Adviser to Plateau Governor on Media, has appealed to relevant authorities to work out an insurance cover for practising journalists in view of the risks they face.

Manjang made the appeal in a condolence message in Jos on Wednesday following the death of two journalists -- Nathan Dabak, Deputy Editor, and Sunday Bwede, Reporter, of the Light Bearer Newspaper.

He said journalists were exposed to several hazards in the course of carrying out their duties, noting that the insurance was necessary in addition to other fringe benefits.

The special adviser described the loss of the two journalists as a big blow to the Nigeria Union of Journalists.

"If pressmen could be hacked to death in such a cruel manner without justification, then it poses a serious security challenge to the nation," he said.

Manjang appealed to security agencies to brace to the challenge of apprehending and bringing to justice the perpetrators of the murder.

He said the Plateau Government would explore all peace-building mechanisms and would not be deterred in sustaining the current peace efforts. (NAN).



'Insurance products in Nigeria are recycled products'

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

INSURANCE is not developing in Nigeria because insurance companies in Nigeria just pick up old products and redress them for sale to the insuring public, Mr. Livingstone Magorimbo, managing director and chief executive officer, Cornerstone Insurance Plc has said.

Magorimbo, who is on secondment to Cornerstone was until his current appointment, the Managing Director of Zimnat Life Assurance Company, a life assurance company with operations in Zimbabwe.

Addressing the press in Lagos for the first time since he assumed office, February 1, 2010, Magorimbo said: "Insurance companies in Nigeria just pick up products developed decades ago, rename them and re-intro-

duce them into the market. Most of the companies have the same products with different names and prices."

"Accordingly, this is crippling the growth of insurance market in Nigeria because the product does not excite the insurers."

He said with more robust products, awareness and effective insurance distribution channels; Nigeria can grow its insurance penetration.

According to him, though Nigeria has one of the least developed insurance markets in Africa, the opportunities are huge if the insurance market is properly developed.

On his vision for Cornerstone, he explained that he would want to see a Cornerstone that excites insurers with products, pay genuine claims promptly and provide a fulfilling career for staff.

He said Cornerstone would introduce a culture of rewarding staff comparable to no other company in the industry.

On how he would do this, he explained that, staff's career part will be defined at the entry level, thus, every staff has a career part clearly define and can project where he or she would be in the future.

Besides introducing new products, he said Cornerstone would pay particular attention to distribution channels preferring insurance agents and bank assurance channels.

He lauded CBN's effort at ensuring that banks stick to their area of core competence. According to him, if that happens, banks would hands off insurance business and leave it to the professionals and the insurance industry would be the better for it.

Operators urged to benefit from Local Content Law

DR. Teslim Sanusi, the President, Nigerian Registered Council of Insurance Brokers (NCRIB), has urged insurance practitioners to fully maximise the benefits of the Local Content Law on Oil and Gas.

Sanusi gave the advice in Lagos on Tuesday at the NCRIB's 'Brokers Evening' sponsored by the Cornerstone Insurance Plc.

He said that the council fought and ensured that the bill contained a clause that gave the brokers an opportunity to underwrite any oil and gas business coming into the country.

According to him, this means that any insurance policy to any insurance company must be routed through the brokers.

"The signing into law of the local Content Bill brings to an end the council's concerted efforts at improving the industry. We should therefore, maximise the unfolding benefits in local content policy of the Federal Government.

"I reckon that the business horizon in the sector is broad enough to accommodate all practitioners," Sanusi said.

The president commended the Federal Government and the National Assembly for passing and signing the bill into law.

According to him, this will address the agitation for the participation of indigenous companies in the oil and gas industry as well as arrest the huge drain in the nation's Gross Domestic Products (GDP).

Sanusi said that Cornerstone Insurance Plc had always been broker-friendly, adding that the sponsorship would afford them the opportunity to interact and know the brokers' feelings toward its operations.

Mr Livingstone Magorimbo, the Managing Director, Cornerstone Insurance Plc, said that the company paid N1.7 billion claims in 2009.

(NAN)

Business/Pension

Pension most regulated sector in Nigeria –Expert

Alhaji Hamidu B. Muhammad is the head of Business Development Department of Premium Pension Limited. He was in Kano to attend the retirees' forum organized by the company. He answered questions on the new contributory pension scheme, the operations of the Premium Pension Limited and how the sector is contributing to growing the Nigerian economy.

From Halima Musa, Kano

HOW much is the asset and capital base of Premium Pension Limited?

The capital base of our company is N1 billion out of which N600 million has been fully paid up.

Assets under management are well over N100billion.

In terms of prompt payment of pension benefits, how far have you gone?

We have paid over N1 billion to about 4000 retirees.

The global financial meltdown is gradually easing out, to what extent did it affect pension sector, especially the Premium Pension Limited?

Because of the diversification of our investments the effect was not felt much, during the crisis we even declared profit to the RSA holders and paid dividend to our shareholders. There was a profit (or funds surplus) about N1 billion made on the pension assets and we declared dividend of 10k per share.

What has been the contribution of pension sector to the growth of the Nigerian economy?

Because of large capital of the pension fund, it is one of the components that drive the economy.

What role has the National Pension Commission played in supporting the growth of the industry?

Pension industry is the most highly regulated industry we have in Nigeria. The structure of the operators in the industry makes it more efficient and effective in terms of checks and balances. As a PFA you can't hold the assets, they are kept with the Pension Funds Custodians. It can only be invested based on the instruction from the PFA.

The administration, management and investment of the assets are well regulated through different guidelines and directives from PENCOM. There is on sight and off sight examination being carried out by PENCOM periodically. PENCOM was declared the best regulator in 2009 by *This Day* newspaper.

What point are you making by organizing the retirees forum?

To pass information to prospective retirees on the process and procedures in accessing retirement benefits with



ALHAJI Hamidu B. Muhammad

minimal delay. This is in line with the company's objective of providing pension advisory services to clients. This event is the fifth in the series.

What would you say about state government participation in the contributory pension scheme?

The states are making some progress in complying with the new contributory pension scheme.

What in your view will enhance the performance of pension funds administrators in the new pension scheme?

Introduction of multiple funds to enable people have choice based on their risk appetite.

How do you alley fears of Nigerians on the contributory pension scheme and its operation?

Payment of pension benefits is promptly done. Premium pension alone has paid over N11billion to about 4000 retirees.

What makes your PFA different from other PFAs?

Our Core Values are: Care, integrity, trust, ethics, transparency and professionalism.

Business/Aviation

Domestic airlines going under

FROM Nahimah Ajikanle Nurudeen, Lagos

DOMESTIC airline operators in Nigeria are facing financial difficulties exemplified with the recent crisis that hit one of the country's giant airlines - AeroContractor.

Feelers in the industry say Aero has been locked in discussions with its bankers for some months now, the situation that has now aggravated to a point where it is difficult for the airline to operate.

But a statement from Oceanic Bank says the airline's account with the bank remains operational, just as it reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Aero, thus dismissing insinuations that the airline's account had been frozen.

There has been report that the airline is yet to offset its N30billion non performing loan, running for six months now.

According to reports, failure of the both parties to agree on a resolution that will allow debtor airline to continue in business made Oceanic took unilateral decisions on the morning of Friday 23rd April, 2010, which have prevented Aero from paying her suppliers and lessors [including Canadian Helicopter Company (CHC)].

According to the airline, it has approached the Minister of Aviation Mrs. Fidelia Njeze, the National Security Adviser Lt Gen (rtd) Aliyu Mohammed and the Director General of NCAA, Dr. Harold Demuren, in the belief that they will intervene as an arbitrating party between Aero and Oceanic.

Aero, for its part, needs to complete the full cycle of turnaround that was started last year. The company has new management with a new vision, and is in the process of bearing the fruits of financial success.

The managing director and the CEO of the airline Shaf Syed said: "Despite the difficult situation that Aero finds itself today, I am sure the strategic importance of Aero Contractors to the national economy will be appreciated and good sense will prevail all around. We have every confidence that Aero will be able to set itself on a good platform and we look forward to a bright future, serving a third of the Nigerian Oil & Gas industry and 1.5 million passengers each year."

In the same vein, recently, Union Bank put a caveat emptor on IRS airline over its N3billion accrued debts, even as First bank Plc earlier

placed advertorial for winding up of the airline.

Between 2000 and today, over 10 airline operators have closed shops, noticeably; Aviation Development Company (ADC), Al-barka Air Services, Amako Airlines, Dasab Airways, Sosoliso, Okada Air, NICON, Concord Airways, Nigerian Airways and most recently, Bellview, Capital and Afrijet airlines. Also, it is an open fact that there is still unsettled dust in Virgin Nigeria which brought in Jimoh Ibrahim as the new owner of the airline.

Other airlines like Arik Air, Associated Airways, Dana Air, Chanchangi Airlines and Landover Aviation Services are still battling for survival as none of them is exempted from the list of debtors to the various aviation agencies.

An analyst and expert in the industry, Olumide Ohunayo expressed dissatisfaction over the taken of Virgin Nigeria by Jimoh Ibrahim based on his antecedent performance in the defunct EAS Airways which was renamed NICON Airways.

Mr. Ohunayo said: "It is with trepidation that the news got to the industry that NICON group has bought Virgin Nigeria, considering the calamitous entry of the group some years ago through the liquidated EAS airlines, which has prompted staff of EAS airline to go to court seeking redress for unpaid salaries and allowances. Should the affected workers continue to wait for the judicial process or go for a quick regulatory intervention since NICON has returned to the industry through Virgin Nigeria?"

He added: "Luckily, Virgin Nigeria is not listed on the Stock Exchange, the share price would have taken a drastic nosedive with that announcement based on that sad experience, coupled with sole-owner-manager syndrome that has bedevilled our domestic carriers which made almost all of them fail the NCAA financial audit with accompanying crippling debt, that has been detrimental to profitability and necessary public finance or public support in coveting critical public expenditure travel."

The question experts are asking is whether the airline can go it alone, or they will require a special intervention fund in the form of bail-out.



AERO is groaning under accumulated debt.

Business/Agric

World Bank approves N5.4 bn grant for agriculture in Kaduna

THE World Bank has approved a grant of \$35.6 million (about N5.4 billion) for commercial agriculture in Kaduna State.

The state coordinator of the programme, Alhaji Dalhatu Mustapha, disclosed this to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Wednesday in Kaduna.

Mustapha said the grant would be disbursed within the period of five years through a value-chain-approach to 10,000 farmers engage in commercial agriculture.

He said the amount included a counterpart -funding of \$6 million (about N900 million) from the state government.

The coordinator said \$10 million (about N1.5 billion) of the amount had been set aside for the provision of 45km access roads to the benefiting farms located in different parts of the state.

According to him, about N900 million will be used to provide electricity to the farms for processing of fruits and dairy products.

Mustapha said communities, schools and health facilities located within the farm areas would benefit from the electricity supply. He said post harvest activities would also provide employment for youths in the the neighbouring communities.

"We have identified processing centres for commodities, where some will be processed into semi-finished and finished goods.

"We have also selected some areas for the provision of market information kiosks equipped with ICT facilities for marketing of such goods even at the international level," he said.

Mustapha said the marketing centres would provide access

to international markets, prices, value and volumes as well as locations of commodities.

He said the bank identified maize, dairy and fruits producers and processors as 'commodity interest groups'.

According to him, the beneficiaries are grouped into associations for easy organisation and access to the grant after meeting various conditions of the bank.

Mustapha said 10,000 farmers were expected to benefit at the end of the programme.

NAN learnt that officials of the Kaduna State Agricultural Development Programme (KADDP) and consultants from the bank would train the farmers on high crop yields. The training would include the use of improved seeds, fertiliser applications, processing and marketing skills.



FG set to revitalise oil palm production

THE Federal government has launched a Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) project in order to improve the income generating potential of oil palm in West and Central Africa.

The CFC is an inter-governmental financial institution established within the framework of the United Nations with the aim of supporting commodity dependent developing and least developed nations.

Launching the project in Abuja on Wednesday, Dr Mohammad Abubakar, Permanent secretary, Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry, said the initiative was developed by UNIDO following the request of the Nigerian and Cameroonian governments.

Abubakar said the project was aimed at promoting the development as well as sustainable production and utilisation of oil palm in West and Central Africa.

He said the project would encourage sectoral linkage to improve and ensure variety and technology transfer for effective production and processing of oil palm.

Abubakar also said the project would attract support from institutions to improve research and development of oil palm in both sub-regions.

"To achieve this laudable objective, three pilot commercial demonstration processing units will be established as basis for technology transfer and technical skills upgrading in Akwa Ibom, Ondo and Imo states.

"For the project to achieve the desired results in each of the three pilot centres, stakeholders will benefit from training, exchange of experience and technology transfer from Malaysia and Indone-

sia," he said.

Abubakar noted that funding for the project was shared among Nigeria, Cameroon, UNIDO and the private sector.

According to him, Nigeria is to provide \$500,000; Cameroon \$800,000; UNIDO \$300,000 while the private sector is to raise \$140,000.

Chief Michael Oruh, the leader of the Cameroonian delegation, said the implementation of the project would go a long way in alleviating poverty.

He also said that the project would promote the industrialisation of palm oil sub-sector in the region, adding that his country was ready to continue cooperation with the Nigerian government.

Speaking on behalf of the private sector, Mr Charles Ugwu, former Minister of Commerce and Industry, stressed the need for all stakeholders to embrace improved palm seedlings for maximum yields.

Ugwu urged government to work out modalities to compensate communities eager to replace old palm trees with improved varieties.

He noted that it was only in Nigeria that palm trees of more than 60 years were still in existence. (NAN)

AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY AVERAGE PRICES AS COLLECTED BY
ABUJA SECURITIES AND COMMODITY EXCHANGE
ON APRIL 26, 2010

COMMODITY	VARIETY	LOCATION	PRICE/TON (Naira)
PALM Produce	Palm Oil	Benin (Edo State)	180,000.00
		P.K.O	185,000.00
COCOA	Palm Kernel	Akure (Ondo State)	53,000.00
			430,000.00
MAIZE	White	Bodija (Oyo State)	425,000.00
			56,122.00
MAIZE	Yellow	Mangu (Plateau State)	68,361.00
			47,000.00
MAIZE	White	Dawanau (Kano State)	52,000.00
			51,000.00
SORGHUM	Yellow	Dawanau (Kano State)	51,000.00
			46,000.00
SOYABEANS	White	Dawanau (Kano State)	46,000.00
			46,000.00
SOYABEANS	RED	N.A	
		Gboko (Benue State)	50,000.00
SESAME	Dawanau (Kano State)		57,000.00
		Cleaned	148,000.00
SESAME	Uncleaned	Dawanau (Kano State)	137,000.00
			150,000.00
SESAME	Cleaned	Gboko (Benue State)	150,000.00
			N.A
SESAME	Uncleaned	Mangu (Plateau State)	160,000.00
			N.A
SESAME	Cleaned	Muna (Borno State)	150,000.00
			N.A
GROUNDNUT	Uncleaned	Dawanau (Kano State)	120,000.00
			113,000.00
GROUNDNUT	Shelled (Mai Bargo)	N.A	
		Muna (Borno State)	136,165.00
GROUNDNUT	Unshelled		120,000.00
			96,930.00
GROUNDNUT	Shelled (Agric)	Gboko (Benue State)	N.A
			108,000.00
GUM Arabic	Native		45,000.00
			N.A
GUM Arabic	Unshelled	Muna (Borno State)	N.A
			N.A
GUM Arabic	Grade 1		N.A
			N.A
GUM Arabic	Grade 2		N.A
			N.A
GUM Arabic	Grade 3		N.A
			N.A

N.A means Not Available

PALM Oil is from New Benin Market

PALM Kernel is from Ikpoba Hill market

Stakeholders will benefit from training, exchange of experience and technology transfer from Malaysia and Indonesia.

Business/Finance

Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

COMPANY Name	No of Deals	Quot. (N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
2ND-TIER SECURITIES				
CAPITAL OIL PLC	26	0.55	2,701,626	1,396,887.57
SECTOR Totals	26		2,701,626	1,396,887.57
AGRICULTURE				
FTN COCOA PROCES. PLC	13	0.92	219,421	201,867.32
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	7	0.87	288,543	251,032.41
OKITIPUPA OIL PALM PLC	1	6.21	1,000	5,900.00
OKOMU O/PALM COY PLC	3	19.52	241,000	4,704,320.00
PRESCO PLC	1	7.79	2,000	14,820.00
SECTOR Totals	25		754,964	5,177,949.73
AIR SERVICES				
AIR/SERV. AND LOG. PLC	5	4.33	60,500	249,260.00
NIG. AV/HAND. COY PLC	274	10.94	6,812,661	75,383,428.73
SECTOR Totals	279		6,873,161	75,632,688.73
AUTOMOBILE & TYRE				
DN TYRE & RUBBER PLC	1	0.50	100,000	50,000.00
R. T. BRISCOE (NIG.) PLC	7	5.99	38,406	218,914.20
SECTOR Totals	8		138,406	268,914.20
BANKING				
ACCESS BANK PLC	234	9.24	111,305,514	1,028,782,225.01
AFRIBANK NIG. PLC	73	2.30	978,002	2,215,150.36
DIAMOND BANK PLC	110	8.10	22,323,975	179,157,835.22
ECOBANK NIG. PLC	72	5.60	754,089	4,227,173.09
FIR/CITY MON. BNK PLC	82	7.60	9,151,155	69,708,535.50
FIDELITY BANK PLC	127	2.71	5,960,290	16,334,144.96
FIR/BANK OF NIG. PLC	1,430	15.42	36,826,473	570,091,904.01
FINBANK PLC	64	0.57	5,103,768	2,946,524.58
GTBANK PLC	706	17.54	34,144,451	560,542,944.28
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	72	8.36	2,260,776	18,902,532.37
INTERC. BANK PLC.	81	1.56	2,935,105	4,709,100.00
OCEANIC BANK INT. PLC	85	1.79	1,654,617	2,961,764.43
BANK PHB PLC	48	1.36	4,921,957	6,700,406.52
SKYE BANK PLC.	182	7.05	22,823,102	160,839,435.46
SPRING BANK PLC	18	0.98	546,806	537,921.04
STERLING BANK PLC	29	1.94	611,603	1,188,355.82
UNT. BK FOR AFR. PLC.	84	11.80	13,574,440	160,178,392.00
UN/BANK OF NIG. PLC	148	5.55	2,040,279	11,530,143.59
UNITYBANK PLC	19	1.04	471,802	481,310.98
WEMA BANK PLC	62	1.15	3,819,232	4,196,159.18
ZENITH BANK PLC	449	14.05	64,147,200	901,576,960.41
SECTOR Totals	4,175		346,354,636	3,707,808,918.81
BUILDING MATERIALS				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	113	19.05	2,205,762	42,349,627.49
BEN/CEMENT COY PLC	57	63.85	815,681	52,070,872.80
CEM. CO. OF N/NIG. PLC	61	18.90	1,580,616	29,722,124.64
NIGERIAN ROPES PLC.	1	9.14	1,033	8,976.77
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	11	41.95	43,315	1,726,535.90
SECTOR Totals	243		4,646,407	125,878,137.60
CHEMICAL & PAINTS				
BERGER PAINTS NIG. PLC	14	8.33	120,100	951,808.00
CHEM/ALLIED PROD. PLC	8	31.15	26,145	843,745.50
DN MEYER PLC	7	4.79	79,400	398,588.00
SECTOR Totals	29		225,645	2,194,141.50
CONGLOMERATES				
A. G. LEVENTIS (NIG.) PLC	27	3.85	427,934	1,683,232.59
CHELLARAMS PLC	1	11.53	1,000	10,960.00
PZ CUSSONS NIGERIA PLC	48	28.50	384,515	10,959,086.75
SCOA NIGERIA PLC	1	8.71	1,000	8,280.00
TR/NAT. CORP. OF NIG. PLC	41	0.51	4,675,792	2,345,533.97
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	44	47.92	388,303	18,616,934.23
UNILEVER NIG. PLC	72	25.65	935,460	24,045,938.71
SECTOR Totals	234		6,814,004	57,669,966.25
CONSTRUCTION				
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	112	7.60	3,776,865	28,742,102.15
G. CAPPA PLC	1	14.46	1,000	13,740.00
JULIUS BERGER NIG. PLC	76	55.69	1,895,225	105,572,254.72
M/VERSE RESOURCES PLC	9	0.50	2,174,500	1,087,250.00
SECTOR Totals	198		7,847,590	135,415,346.87
FOOD/BEVERAGES & TOB.				
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	19	44.65	203,513	9,086,855.45
BIG TREAT PLC	12	0.87	341,000	296,670.00
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	68	21.51	2,293,643	49,336,260.93
DANG. FLOUR MILLS PLC	271	19.73	3,123,027	61,621,861.03
DANG. SUGAR REF. PLC	153	17.50	3,032,356	51,572,121.27
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	98	67.50	1,072,062	72,919,815.14
HO/WELL FLOUR MILL PLC	22	7.89	236,907	1,892,046.26
NAT. SALT COY NIGERIA PLC	61	7.68	1,996,952	15,336,591.36
NIG. BOTTLING COY PLC	39	32.59	97,464	3,208,647.04
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	56	314.00	95,667	30,162,401.28
TANTALIZERS PLC	15	1.04	1,036,364	1,077,818.56
UTC NIGERIA PLC	15	1.27	267,393	339,589.11
SECTOR Totals	829		14,796,348	296,850,677.43
FOOTWEAR				
LENNARDS NIGERIA PLC.	1	3.85	800	2,928.00
SECTOR Totals	1		800	2,928.00
HEALTHCARE				
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	23	1.49	225,360	335,786.40
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	28	2.85	2,706,807	7,714,399.95
GLAXOS. CONS. NIG. PLC	16	22.39	1,127,281	25,239,821.59

MAY & BAKER NIG. PLC.	16	7.25	134,200	972,950.00
MORISON INDUSTRIES PLC.	1	11.67	1,000	11,090.00
NEIMETH INT. PHARM. PLC	52	3.24	1,098,186	3,590,717.30
PHARMA-DEKO PLC	1	4.73	1,000	4,500.00
UN/DIAG. & CLIN. SERV. PLC	6	0.72	412,900	297,288.00
SECTOR Totals	126		1,706,786	10,166,559.24
IND/DOMESTIC PROD.				
B. O. C. GASES NIGERIA PLC	1	10.22	490	4,757.90
FIRST ALUM. NIGERIA PLC	2	0.50	23,700	11,850.00
VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC	22	6.50	286,682	1,838,644.75
VONO PRODUCTS PLC	2	0.56	93,000	52,080.00
SECTOR Totals	27		313,672	1,907,332.65
INF. & COMM. TECH.				
CHAMS PLC	94	0.74	7,572,242	5,614,837.58
MASS TEL. INNOV. NIG. PLC	2	0.50	110,000	55,000.00
STARCOMMS PLC	28	1.96	3,168,991	6,330,622.35
SECTOR Totals	124		10,851,233	12,000,459.93
AIIICO INSURANCE PLC.	7	1.41	209,050	294,760.50
CONTINENTAL REINS. PLC	23	1.24	5,056,894	6,208,611.94
C/STONE INSUR. CO. PLC.	3	0.72	127,500	91,800.00
CUST & ALLIED INS. PLC	29	3.35	3,154,231	10,547,135.99
EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC	40	0.50	20,154,200	10,077,100.00
GRT/NIG. INSUR. COY PLC	3	0.50	419,000	209,500.00
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	2	0.82	103,000	84,460.00
GUAR. TRUST ASSUR. PLC	22	2.47	1,029,396	2,542,608.12
GUINEA ASSURANCE PLC.	1	0.50	25,000	12,500.00
CONS. HALLMARK INS. PLC	8	0.52	3,098,120	1,611,022.40
INT. ENERGY INS. COY PLC	43	0.60	4,285,906	2,571,543.60
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC.	20	0.51	761,810	394,160.10
L/UNION & ROCK INS. PLC	3	0.62	161,000	99,820.00
LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	2	0.50	180,000	90,000.00
MUT/BEN. ASSURANCE PLC	25	0.51	7,763,269	3,959,297.19
N.E.M. INS. CO. (NIG.) PLC.	44	0.61	24,926,848	15,437,077.28
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC.	31	1.32	2,241,689	2,959,029.48
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC.	6	3.81	141,002	545,755.90
REG. ALLIANCE INS. COY PLC	4	0.50	700,000	350,000.00
SOV. TRUST INSURANCE PLC	2	0.50	20,000	10,000.00
STACO INSURANCE PLC	13	0.54	491,300	265,302.00
STAND. ALLIANCE INS. PLC	42	0.53	4,820,865	2,472,662.33
UNIC INSURANCE PLC.	16	0.74	125,967,500	93,215,950.00
UNIV. INSURANCE COY PLC	4	0.50	264,000	132,000.00
INT. WAPIC INSURANCE PLC	18	0.92	929,612	841,745.00
SECTOR Totals	411		207,031,192	155,023,841.83
MARITIME				
JAP/OIL & MARIT. SERV. PLC	125	1.41	4,855,900	6,950,821.22
SECTOR Totals	125		4,855,900	6,950,821.22
MORTGAGE COMPANIES				
ASO SAV. & LOAND PLC	46	0.51	7,465,930	3,816,884.30
RES/SAV. AND LOANS PLC	3	0.50	530,000	265,000.00
UN/HOM. SAV. & LOANS PLC	8	0.96	38,025	34,983.00
SECTOR Totals	57		8,033,955	4,116,867.30
OTHER FINANCIAL INST.				
CRUSADER NIGERIA PLC.	16	0.83	1,246,170	1,040,367.90
D/CAP. MAN. & TRUST PLC	1	2.02	1,000	2,020.00
ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC	3	0.85	251,000	213,350.00
SECTOR Totals	20		1,498,170	1,255,737.90
PACKAGING				
NIG. BAG MAN. COY PLC	138	3.04	1,396,035	4,251,621.40
BETA GLASS CO. PLC	2	15.20	15,566	224,773.04
SECTOR Totals	140		1,411,601	4,476,394.44
PETROLEUM(MARKETING)				
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC.	92	40.60	447,392	17,953,264.21
BECO PETR. PROD. PLC	24	1.58	548,804	895,454.02
MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC	6	69.79	1,966	144,048.82
CONOIL PLC	34	56.14	100,165	5,342,801.10
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC.	33	7.30	1,042,936	7,595,176.00
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC.	11	175.99	10,312	1,814,808.88
OANDO PLC	187	110.00	873,737	95,548,310.68
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	22	195.00	40,882	8,059,637.06
SECTOR Totals	409		3,066,194	137,353,500.77
PRINTING & PUBLISHING				
ACADEMY PRESS PLC.	1	6.19	84,000	519,960.00
LONGMAN NIGERIA PLC	14	10.43	233,058	2,428,915.94
UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC	3	7.89	7,600	57,000.00
SECTOR Totals	18		324,658	3,005,875.94
REAL ESTATE				
UACN PROP. DEV. CO. PLC	19	22.79	572,210	13,044,016.08
SECTOR Totals	19		572,210	13,044,016.08
ROAD TRANSPORTATION				
ASSOCIATED BUS COY PLC	7	1.00	56,500	53,675.00
SECTOR Totals	7		56,500	53,675.00
TEXTILES				
UNT NIGERIA TEXTILES PLC	1	1.42	115	155.25
SECTOR Totals	1		115	155.25
THE FOREIGN LISTINGS				
ECOBANK TRANS. INCORP.	32	18.50	3,438,281	63,670,970.22
SECTOR Totals	32		3,438,281	63,670,970.22
OVERALL Totals	8,018		662,309,263	4,997,437,143.69

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

GUARANTY	0.83
UTC	0.06
CONTINSURE	0.05
NIWICABLE	0.04

LOSERS

OANDO	4.50
FLOURMILL	3.49
J/BERGER	2.92
UACN	2.44

DIGEST

You may be eating the wrong five-a-day fruit and veg, doctors say



Five-a-day: The most popular fruit and vegetables which people eat as part of their daily diet may not be the healthiest, doctors warn

“No food is a superfood if it is not part of a healthy, varied and balanced diet”

the eyes, bone, heart, brain and immune system, cutting the risk of heart disease, cancer and diabetes.

They say that although carrots are rich in beta-carotene - a building block of flu-fighting vitamin A - sweet potatoes contain nearly twice as much.

Similarly, while it is easy to start the day with a glass of orange juice, a handful of papaya contains 15 times more beta-cryptoxanthin - another vitamin A building block.

Dr Keith Randolph, of U.S. vitamin pill manufacturer Nutrilite, said that while it was well known that many people do not eat enough fruit and vegetables, even those who ate the recommended five-a-day could do better.

“This data highlights the importance of not only the quantity but the significant impact that quality and variety of the fruits and vegetables can have.”

But Dr Emma Williams, of the British Nutrition Foundation, said: “No food is a superfood if it is not part of a healthy, varied and balanced diet.”

EATING your five-a-day? Good for you. But are they the right five-a-day?

Researchers say we should ditch carrots and oranges and buy some sweet potatoes and papaya

instead.

Our favourite fruits and vegetables are not necessarily the best for us, they claim.

Rather than making up our five-a-day with foods we know and like,

we should broaden our tastes and stock up on kale and blueberries, as well as sweet potatoes and papaya.

Not only will our palates appreciate the variety, they are

better for us than carrots, oranges and other favourites.

The researchers focused on phytonutrients - plant compounds believed to boost the health of

Laughter really is the best medicine as doctors find it can be as healthy as exercise

LAUGHTER can do as much good for your body as a jog around the park, scientists have claimed.

Doctors describe “mirthful laughter” as the equivalent of “internal jogging” because it can lower blood pressure, stress and boost the immune system much like moderate exercise.

A number of volunteers asked to watch just 20 minutes of comedies and stand up routines saw a dramatic drop in stress hormones, blood pressure and cholesterol. Like exercise, they also had their appetite stimulated. That means that the “laughercise” could be a way to reduce heart disease and diabetes. It is especially important to the elderly who may find it hard to perform more physical activities.

Dr Lee Berk, from Loma Linda University,

California, who led the study, said that emotions and behaviour had a physical impact on the body. He concluded “that the body’s response to repetitive laughter is similar to the effect of repetitive exercise”. “As the old biblical wisdom states, it may indeed be true that laughter is a good medicine,” he said. Dr Berk, who has been studying the effects of laughter for more than two decades, said that the high you get from a giggling fit was similar to the endorphin rush from exercise.

He has shown how it can reduce your risk of a heart attack and diabetes and generally regulate the body’s vital functions. It is also an important way to de-stress after a day’s work, he believes. In the mid-1990s, Dr Berk found that laughter increases the number

of natural killer cells in cancer patients. Natural killer cells are the body’s way of fighting tumours. For the latest study he had 14 volunteers watch either a stressful 20 minute clip of the war film Saving Private Ryan or an extract from a comedy or stand up routine.

Blood samples taken afterwards showed the reduction in stress hormones and increase in immune T cells for those who watched the comedy. Blood pressure testing showed it was down too with this group. In 1997, Dr Berk performed experiments with diabetic heart patients. One group watched a television comedy each day for one year, another did not. The difference in outcomes was stunning.

At the end of the year, the comedy-viewing group required less blood-pressure medication. Eight per cent of the comedy viewers had another heart attack, compared with 42 per cent of those who did not regularly view it.

An earlier study also showed that watching just half an hour of comedy a day slashes levels of stress hormones and compounds linked to heart disease. Levels of compounds linked to hardening of the arteries and other cardiac problems had also dropped, while levels of ‘good’ cholesterol - thought to protect against heart disease - rose.

Culled from telegraph.co.uk

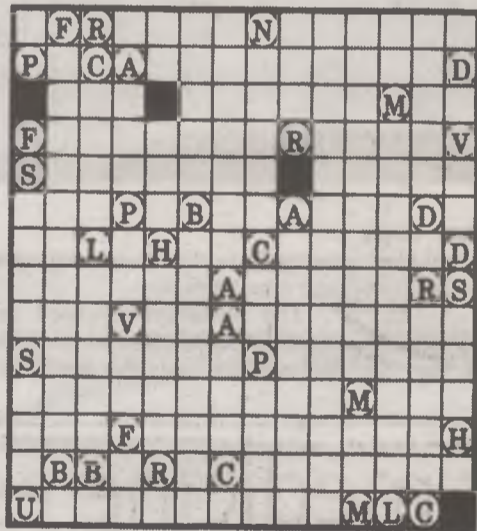
Sign Language



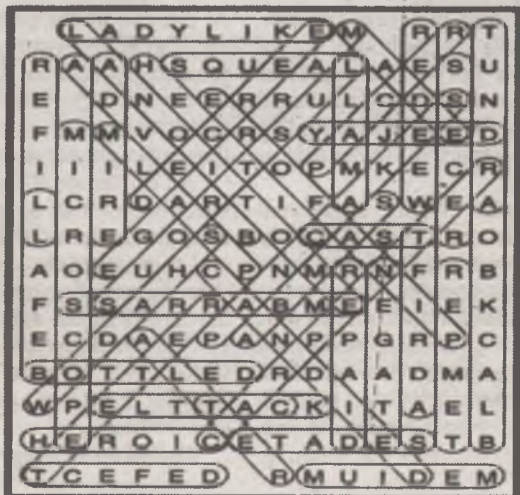
Junk? A marketing guru is required for this business.
Photo location: Kashmir, India, by Tom Chapman
Culled from telegraph.co.uk

TANGLEWORDS 2

- | | | |
|------------|--------|-----------|
| Academic | Lumpy | Ravel |
| Acute | Maple | Recipe |
| Advice | Memoir | Refine |
| Awakened | Menace | Region |
| Bacteria | Mohair | Seethe |
| Bare | Nephew | Steamship |
| Before | Passé | Stovepipe |
| Binoculars | Peewee | Unlike |
| Caret | Police | Veneer |
| Caught | Pupil | Vermin |
| Collection | | |
| Cooperate | | |
| Deepen | | |
| Delicacy | | |
| Discreet | | |
| Diver | | |
| Flavor | | |
| Foam | | |
| Frail | | |
| Heap | | |
| Highland | | |
| Homework | | |
| Lounge | | |



SOLUTION TO TANGLEWORDS



1

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.

138

				8	2		6	
5		1			4	9		
	3							2
7			2					
1	8			3			5	9
					9			8
	6							1
			8	9			6	7
	4		1	2				

Solution to Sudoku 137

4	5	2	1	7	8	6	9	3
6	8	1	9	2	3	7	4	5
3	9	7	6	5	4	2	8	1
9	7	5	2	4	1	8	3	6
8	4	6	7	3	5	9	1	2
1	2	3	8	9	6	4	5	7
7	1	4	3	8	2	5	6	9
5	3	9	4	6	7	1	2	8
2	6	8	5	1	9	3	7	4

News Extra

'We've found Noah's Ark'

... Claim evangelical explorers on mission to Mount Ararat

As believers in the literal truth of the Bible, they knew it was there. Even so, the explorers who say they found seven large wooden compartments beneath snow and volcanic debris near the peak of Mount Ararat can be forgiven their excitement.

'It's not 100 per cent that it is Noah's Ark, but we think it is 99.9 per cent that this is it,' said Yeung Wing-cheung, a filmmaker working with the 15-strong team of fundamentalist Christians exploring the Turkish mountain.

There are no external images of the site and the Hong Kong-based group refuse to say precisely where they made their discovery until the Turkish government designate it an archaeological site.

They said wood taken from the site, which is more than 13,000ft above sea level, dates to 2,800BC. If it is the ark, the discovery would be the greatest in the history of archaeology and bear out one of the most famous stories in the Bible.

The team of Turks and Chinese researchers from Noah's Ark Ministries International in Hong Kong say they made the discovery on Ararat - the biblical resting place of the ark - in October.

At a press conference Tuesday to announce the discovery, another team member, Panda Lee, said: 'I saw a structure built with plank-like timber.'

'Each plank was about eight inches wide. I could see tenons, proof of ancient construction predating the use of metal nails.'

'We walked about 100 metres to another site. I could see broken wood fragments embedded in a glacier, and some 20 metres long.'



THE snow-capped peak of Mt. Ararat. The discovery is said to have been made 12,000ft up the mountain which lies in eastern Turkey



THIS picture released by the evangelical group claims to show one of the explorers examining part of a structure which they claim might prove the existence of Noah's Ark on Mount Ararat.

The structure had several compartments, some with wooden beams, the team said.

The wooden walls of one compartment were smooth and

curved while the video shown by the explorers revealed doors, staircases and nails.

The team said the wood appeared to be cypress although,

according to the Bible, the ark was built from gopher.

The group ruled out identifying the find as a human settlement, saying none had been found so high up in that area. They are keeping the exact location secret.

Four years ago and following a decade of research, U.S. national security analyst Porcher Taylor claimed a satellite image revealed a baffling 'anomaly' on the mountain's north-west corner that he believed to be the remains of the Ark.

But Mike Pitt, a British archaeologist, said the evangelical explorers had yet to produce compelling evidence.

He added: 'If there had been a flood capable of lifting a huge ship 4km up the side of a mountain 4,800 years ago, I think there would be substantial geological evidence for this flood around the world. And there isn't.'

Nicholas Purcell, a lecturer in ancient history at Oxford University, said the claims were the 'usual nonsense'. He added: 'If floodwaters covered Eurasia 12,000ft deep in 2,800BC, how did the complex societies of Egypt and Mesopotamia, already many centuries old, keep right on regardless?'

According to Genesis, the first book in the Old Testament, Noah was told to build the ark by God, who wanted to flood the world to punish sinners.

The story was widely seen as fact until the 19th century, when scientists began to question the evidence for a worldwide flood.

The search for the physical remains of Noah's Ark has held a fascination for Christians, Jews

and Muslims for hundreds of years. But despite various claims no scientific evidence has ever been found.

God's Command

In the Bible, the story of Noah's Ark appears in chapters six to nine of the Book of Genesis.

It tells how God, spurred by the wickedness and corruption of man, vows to send a great cleansing flood. Deeming Noah to be the only righteous man worth saving, God commands him to build a vast ship, the ark - capable of saving himself, his family and a representation of the world's animals.

When Noah has completed his task, and God has sent 'two of every sort' of animal to the Ark, the flood waters rise until all mountains are covered and



life (except fish) is destroyed. When the flood subsides, the animals leave the Ark and God vows to never again send a flood to destroy man. The story can also be found in the texts of Judaism and Islam. Although considered a historical event, most scholars and archaeologists do not believe in a literal interpretation of the Ark story. The vessel was said to measure '300 cubits, by 50 cubits, by 30 cubits', which translates to up to 515ft long, 86ft wide and 52ft high.

FLOATING FACTS

■ According to Genesis, the Ark was 450ft by 75ft and 45ft high - that is taller than a three-storey building and with a deck area the size of 36 tennis courts.

■ A replica of the Ark is being built at Frostburg, Maryland. Work began 30 years ago.

■ Christians argue that Noah needed 40,000 animals to represent

every kind of creature. Sceptics say Noah would have needed room for at least 1.5million species.

■ The story may be based on an earlier, and very similar, Babylonian flood tale from the Epic of Gilgamesh.

■ Noah, or Nuh, is one of the main prophets of Islam. In the Koran, his wife is said to drown in the flood.



News Extra

Malcolm X killer Thomas Hagan freed on parole

...45 years after

The only man to admit his role in the assassination of U.S. civil rights leader Malcolm X has been freed on parole.

Thomas Hagan, 69, was freed from a New York prison Tuesday 45 years after he took part in the murder.

The attack took place as Malcolm X was beginning a speech at Harlem's Audubon Ballroom on February 21, 1965.

The former Nation of Islam member confessed to being one of the three men who shot Malcolm X in front of a crowd of hundreds - including several of his young children.

Two accomplices created a distraction in the audience before the gunmen opened fire.

However Hagan always insisted that the two men convicted with him were not involved.

Who Was Malcolm X?



Malcolm X rose to fame as an militant voice for black empowerment who urged African-Americans to claim civil rights 'by any means necessary'.

He called white people 'blue-eyed devils'. But after breaking with the Nation of Islam in 1964 and making an Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca, he began renouncing racial separatism.

After he was killed at age 39, a New York Times editorial called him a 'twisted man'. Time magazine described him as a demagogue whose 'gospel was hatred'.

But his stature grew after his death with sales of 'The Autobiography of Malcolm X', written with Alex Haley, and later with Spike Lee's 1992 film 'Malcolm X', starring Denzel Washington, as shown above. By 1999, Malcolm X was on a postage stamp.



A police sergeant holds Hagan down as he is examined by doctors after being wounded after the murder

They, too, maintained their innocence and were paroled in the 1980s.

No one else has ever been charged, a fact that has perpetuated debate and theories surrounding the slaying.

Hagan was sentenced to life in prison for what he described two years ago as the deed of a young man who 'acted out of rage on impulse and loyalty' to religious leaders.

The assassins gunned down Malcolm X out of anger at his split with the leadership of the Nation of Islam, the black Muslim movement for which he had once served as a prominent spokesman, said Hagan, then known as Talmadge X Hayer.

Malcolm X had spoken out against its leader, Elijah Muhammad, in comments that some of Muhammad's followers denounced as slander.

Hagan said in 1977 that at the time of the shooting 'I thought I was fighting for truth

and right'.

His decision to speak out aimed, unsuccessfully, to get his co-defendants' convictions overturned.

The Malcolm X & Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center, an organisation founded by the civil rights leader's late widow, hasn't taken a position on Hagan's parole.

However another group, the

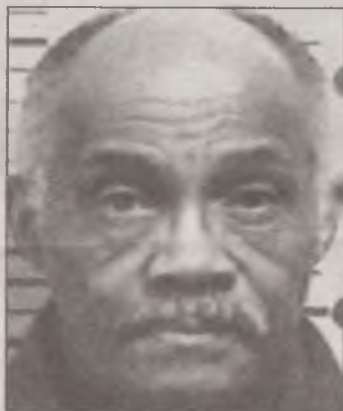
Malcolm X Commemoration Committee, criticised the decision saying the crime was too serious to allow for his release.

'(Malcolm X) was and still is an enormous international figure and revolutionary hero,' said spokesman Zayid Muhammad.

He told the parole board he hopes to become a substance abuse counsellor.



CIVIL rights leader Malcolm X (left) two years before he was murdered and (right) Thomas Hagan, one of his killers, pictured in 2008. Hagan has been freed on parole



THOMAS Hagan struggles with police outside the New York ballroom where, moments earlier, he had gunned down Malcolm X

All the president's emails

In a unique experiment in democratic transparency, Barack Obama - a BlackBerry owner, and the first American president to use email while in office - has agreed to copy G2 in on his otherwise highly confidential electronic communications. Each week, we present a selection from recent days:

To: Timothy Geithner <secretary@treasury.gov> Subject: Re: idiot bankers and stupid Republicans

Tim - it's important that we play our hand carefully. We need to move forward in a spirit of compromise - not actual compromise, just the spirit of compromise. If the Republicans want to be obstructionist on Wall Street reforms, they must face the consequences of acting against America's best interests. If the banks don't want to cooperate, we have a number of sanctions at our disposal. But this is not the time to ask for our \$700bn back. That's weeks away. Be cool, B.

To: Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell <mitch_mccconnell@senate.gov> Subject: working together

Hey Mitch - glad to hear about your recent conversion to bipartisan politics. With the Democrats representing the needs of the American people and you representing greedy bankers maybe we can, in a spirit of compromise, reach agreement on much-needed reform. Glad to have you on board. BHO

To: Gordon Brown <g.brown@parliament.uk> Subject: Re: be honest...

No, really: I thought you were fine. How many more of these debates have you signed up for, by the way? Any chance you can conjure up an emergency to get you out of the next one? My advice is, keep attacking Cameron on substance. As for the other guy, the "British Obama", why don't you have your people cook up a story about him being born in a foreign country? B

To: Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell <mitch_mccconnell@senate.gov> Subject: Re: working together

Yes, you're right, I did forget we also had to talk about my Supreme Court nominee, and no, I will not consider Sarah Palin. Hang on to those bipartisan thoughts, and we'll speak next week. BHO

Culled from guardian.co.uk

Job vacancies



Family Health International is a public health and development organization working to improve the lives of the world's most vulnerable people. Our 2,500 staff work in 55 countries conducting research and implementing programs that advance public health and build local capacity to address development problems. Since 1971, Family Health International has been a global leader in family planning and reproductive health and, since 1986, in the worldwide response to HIV/AIDS. Our research and programs also address malaria, tuberculosis, and other infectious and chronic diseases. Our partners include US and international agencies, governments, foundations, research institutions, and individual donors.

In Nigeria, FHI is currently engaged in providing public health services and undertaking research in HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria and reproductive health in partnership with the Government of Nigeria, under funding from the United States aid programs as well as from the Global Fund and private foundations and corporations. To strengthen our operations we are seeking qualified Nigerian candidates for the following position:

Position title	No. required	Location(s)
Monitoring and Evaluation Department		
Monitoring and Evaluation Officer	1	Cross River Zone
Health Policy and Systems Management Department		
Community Health Specialist	1	Cross River Zone
Medical Services Department		
Senior Medical Services Advisor	1	Bauchi Zone
Shared Services Department		
Receptionist	1	Borno Zone

Monitoring and Evaluation Officer

The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, under the supervision of the zonal Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Officer and Zonal Manager, and with technical oversight from the Director of Monitoring and Evaluation, will be responsible for implementing monitoring and evaluation activities for the zonal office.

Key Responsibilities

- Work with other staff in the zonal office and local implementing partners to ensure that zonal monitoring and evaluation activities are appropriate and meet donor and project M&E needs
- Work with the zonal level M&E staff and government counterparts to provide support and guidance on program/project monitoring and evaluation activities and on US Government and Government of Nigeria reporting requirements
- Provide support to sites in the zone, including interacting with site program managers, M&E focal persons, M&E officers of SACA/SASCP, other implementing agencies and local research groups on M&E needs and ensure that these parties understand and can support these requirements
- Work with local partners to support correct implementation and use of monitoring and evaluation tools, and adherence to complete, correct and timely reporting
- Conduct routine monitoring visits to project sites, including conducting data quality assessments using official tools
- Assist in the preparation of monthly reports and provide supportive supervision
- Assist in the development and maintenance of computerized data capture of the program and provide technical assistance and training to staff responsible for data entry at the sites
- Provide technical assistance to M&E officers of SACA/SASCP in integrating FHI data into the national HMIS
- Document lessons learnt and best practices in monitoring and evaluation, according to USAID and PEPFAR guidelines
- Represent FHI and make presentations at professional meetings and conferences related to monitoring and evaluation
- Remain informed of current issues regarding monitoring and evaluation of programs in the HIV/AIDS/STI fields by reviewing current literature and being alert to any implication of such research for project and program activities

Minimum Requirements

- MD with 3 years work experience or similar degree in monitoring and evaluation, or an MPH with 3 years work experience
- Experience in monitoring and evaluation in reproductive health or HIV/AIDS programs in developing countries
- Experience working with local partners, including NGOs and CBOs, and knowledge of the local context
- Familiarity with USAID programs is preferred

Community Health Specialist

The Community Health Specialist will provide technical assistance in the design, implementation, and evaluation of all aspects of community health as well as LGA-based health management, especially with respect to integrated HIV/AIDS, S/RH, TB and malaria at the LGA and state levels.

Key Responsibilities

- Coordinate and provide technical assistance for health system strengthening for the implementation of the LGA HAST model of HIV/AIDS, S/RH and TB care activities, as well as the integration of malaria, MCH and all aspects of community and LGA management of health services
- Work with PHC coordinators, LGA TB supervisors, LACA coordinators, LGA malaria officers and other program officers in the LGA to monitor guidelines and recommendations related to the implementation of health system strengthening strategies in the LGA
- Facilitate the transfer of appropriate skills to community health workers at the PHC, community volunteers, TBAs and people living with HIV and families for HIV/AIDS, STI, TB, malaria, MCH and the prevention, care and support for other diseases
- Work with implementing agencies (community-based organizations), LGA PHC coordinators, LGA TB supervisors, LACA coordinators, LGA welfare/women development officers and PHC personnel to facilitate the implementation of high quality HIV/AIDS, STI, TB, malaria and MCH services including OVC and NCD activities within the LGA
- Work with other staff of the GHAIN Medical Services Department to ensure synergy relevant to the implementation and documentation of the LGA HAST model and health system strengthening components of state programs
- Work with the State TB Control Program, SACA, State Malaria Program and other organizations relevant to the LGA health management and health system strategies
- Ensure close collaboration with other PHC and disease control programs within the LGA
- Remain informed on current program strategies in the field of HIV/AIDS, S/RH, TB, malaria, MCH, health systems strengthening, etc

Minimum Requirements

- MBBS with at least 3 years post-NYSC experience in community health practice with experience in care and support for HIV/AIDS, STI and tuberculosis at the primary health facility or community level

- Postgraduate degree in public health
- Sound understanding of the district health systems, LGA TB technical areas and experience with ART programs
- Familiarity with the Nigerian public sector health system, NGOs and CBOs

Senior Medical Services Advisor (SMSA)

The SMSA will help provide overall technical guidance and support to implement high quality HIV/AIDS care and support activities at the state level.

Key Responsibilities

- Provide technical leadership and support for HIV/AIDS clinical management and home-based care strategies and approaches within programs
- Assist the Associate Director Medical Services and the Zonal Manager in coordinating the design and implementation of components related to clinical management of HIV/AIDS and home-based care, including the use of antiretroviral treatment in field level projects and programs
- Provide technical assistance in HIV/AIDS care and support capacity building at the state level
- Assist the Associate Director/Medical Services and the Zonal Manager in developing guidelines, tools and recommendations for the implementation, evaluation and monitoring of HIV/AIDS care and support programs
- Contribute to the development of lessons learnt from programs and projects related to HIV/AIDS care and support and apply these lessons to modify existing program and improve the design of new programs
- Represent FHI Nigeria to donors and government officials on issues of HIV/AIDS care and support at the state level
- Remain informed on current programs in HIV/AIDS care and support and related development field by reviewing current literature and staying alert to any implication of such experience and research for departmental activities

Minimum Requirements

- MBBS with a minimum of 5 years post-NYSC experience in clinical and home-based care
- At least 3 years experience in care and support for HIV/AIDS at the clinic or community level
- Sound understanding of HIV/AIDS technical areas
- Experience with ARV programs and familiarity with the Nigerian public sector health system and NGOs and CBOs

Receptionist

The Receptionist will provide both secretarial and receptionist services by monitoring and operating computer work, typing, office filing systems, receiving visitors, answering calls, opening and directing official mail.

Key Responsibilities

- Answers telephone calls in an appropriate, clear and friendly manner
- Take and relay messages or forward calls
- Welcome and direct visitors to the office appropriately
- Receive and send correspondence, keep fax log and any correspondence
- Perform office equipment tasks such as making arrangements for telephone and e-mail services
- Obtain quotations for required services and arrange for repairs of office equipment
- Maintain cleanliness around the FHI office premises

Minimum Requirements

- 1-3 years work experience as secretary or receptionist
- Typing speed of 50 words per minute
- Good interpersonal relationship skills
- Good command of English
- Ability to use the computer especially Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint software
- Ability to use the internet and email facilities

Method of Application

Interested candidates should forward their suitability statement (application) and resume (CV) as a single MS Word document within 10 days from the date of this publication to:

- MandEjobs@ghain.org for Monitoring and Evaluation vacancy
- Healthpolicyjobs@ghain.org for Health Policy and Systems Management vacancy
- Sharedservicesjobs@ghain.org for Shared Services Department vacancy
- Medservicesjobs@ghain.org for Medical Services Department vacancy

Only applications sent electronically (i.e. by e-mail) with the job title and location clearly indicated as the subject of the mail will be considered, and only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Please do NOT send more than one application.

Failure to follow these instructions will lead to automatic disqualification.

DISCLAIMER: Family Health International (FHI) does not test/interview candidates for a fee and all our tests/interviews are conducted in the country office Abuja or our zonal offices.

ENVIRONMENT environment@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 07041632079

Scientists discover underwater asphalt volcanoes

By Nasir Imam, with agency report

ABOUT 10 miles off the Santa Barbara coast, at the bottom of the Santa Barbara Channel, a series of impressive landmarks rise from the sea floor.

They've been there for 40,000 years, but have remained hidden in the murky depths of the Pacific Ocean--until now.

They're called asphalt volcanoes. Scientists funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and affiliated with the University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB), the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI), University of California at Davis, University of Sydney and University of Rhode Island, have identified the series of unusual volcanoes.

The largest of these undersea Ice Age domes lies at a depth of 700 feet (220 meters), too deep for scuba diving, which explains why the volcanoes have never before been spotted by humans, says Don Rice, director of NSF's Chemical Oceanography Program, which funded the research.

"They're larger than a football-field-long and as tall as a six-story building," says David Valentine, a geoscientist at UCSB and the lead author of a paper published on-line this week in the journal *Nature Geoscience*.

Rain reduces heat in Lokoja

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

RESIDENTS of Lokoja, the Kogi State capital, were happy that yesterday's heavy rain reduced heat in the city.

The rain, which started around 11.00 am, lasted for more than two hours.

Many of the residents who spoke to our correspondent said the rain was a manifestation of their prayers and fasting against what they described as unbearable heat in the metropolis.

"We're very much convinced that Almighty God has indeed answered our prayers. Rain is more important to us in Lokoja than people in other towns because of the excessive heat in our domain. Lokoja is generally known to be a very hot city. Some would say the weather here is too harsh, but that is how God has designed it. Few weeks ago, both Christians and Muslims resorted to prayers and fasting so that rains would fall and in effect reduce the heat. We thank God that the blessing has come, the heat is reduced and we can easily sleep inside our houses again," said Yakubu Haruna, a resident.

They however prayed that more rains fell so that heat would not resurface sooner than expected.

NOSDRA governing board inaugurated

By Mustapha Suleiman

MINISTER of Environment Mr. John Odey yesterday in Abuja inaugurated the newly constituted governing board of the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA).

In his remarks, the minister said that the inauguration of the Board is an important milestone in the efforts of the present administration to carry out historical changes in the development of the oil producing region of the country.

He said that the Board is expected to further intensify the speed and efficiency with which the agency approaches its mandates of

tackling the spate of oil spillage in Nigeria.

"As we all work towards creating better and cleaner environment, we should bear in mind that being appointed on this Board is an opportunity for us to contribute immensely to the goal of having healthier environment for our people. This goal can be achieved alongside our push to attain greater economic growth. I therefore urged members of this Board to consider their role as a crucial national assignment. With the calibre of persons on this Board, I am confident that you will offer your best as well tested and trusted citizens," said the minister.

In his inaugural address, Chairman

of the Governing Board, Capt. Idahosa Okunbo said, "membership of the board is strategically constituted of stakeholders in all spheres of government, with emphasis on the marine resources industry; both operators and regulators, in order to ensure a very robust faculty for meaningful policy discussions, direction and implementation."

He assured that the Board Members with its wealth of knowledge would assist in the promotion and understanding of the agency's objectives both in the upstream and downstream of the oil and gas industry.

The Board members are sixteen in number and are to commence work immediately.



PARIS from the Eiffel Tower

Lafia drainages can't drain stormwater

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

THE little drainage system in the metropolis of Lafia, the Nasarawa State capital cannot drain storm water from the rains as the network is blocked by indiscriminate dumping of refuse by residents, shop owners and officers in government offices.

Lafia has a perfect network of drainage, although it does not cover all sections of the town as only a few places have this infrastructure. But the purpose for which the drainage system was constructed has not been achieved as indiscriminate behavior by residents, traders and workers has blocked all the drainages,

preventing storm waters from being drained

out of the metropolis anytime it rains.

Our correspondent who went round the metropolis, yesterday, observed that that the drainages have all become dump sites as they were all stuffed with solid waste swept from adjoining houses, shops and government offices.

Daily Trust also observed that this indiscriminate attitude is further worsened by ladies hired by the Nasarawa State Urban Development Board (NUDB), to sweep major roads including the federal roads running through the metropolis as they have all the while being sweeping refuse from the roads into the drainages.

Even when concerned residents clear up

the drainages during the general sanitation exercise which comes up at months ends, they only heap the waste besides the drainages without the disposal vans of the NUDB coming around to evacuate same. The development ends the same refuse heaps into the drainages, waiting for the next sanitation exercise during which the same process would be repeated.

State commissioner for information, Mamman Alakayi has always called for discipline from residence towards the environment, whether or not government was there to enforce urban laws, since they are the ones to suffer the negative effect from the indiscriminate use of public facilities.

Environment



environment@dailytrust.com
HOTLINE: 07041632079

Climate change and food challenge

By Tina A. Hassan

CLIMATE change has gradually dominated discussion in almost every country of the world because of the challenge it poses to the survival of individuals and whole nations.

In recent times, whole countries have been threatened by changes in climatic conditions ranging from draught, delayed rainfall, continuous melting of the polar region causing severe flood in some countries and speculation about the acid rain.

Early this year, the food Agricultural organization (FAO) reported that Mongolia experienced a severe change in climatic conditions that caused a great loss to farmers who are predominantly pastoralists because many of their livestock died after temperatures in the country dropped to -50 degrees centigrade killing 1.7 million heads of livestock and putting 21, 000 herder families at risk of hunger.

The body also said food security and sustenance is under threat from climate change in Mongolia as the country is threatened by Dzud, a weather condition of intense cold followed by a rapid fall in temperatures of -50 to -40 degrees centigrade.

This goes to show how much impact climate change is influencing food production and food security in the world as evident in the Copenhagen climate change conference where leading world nations who are the largest emitters of the damaging Green House Gases (GHGs), could not reach a definite commitment how best to manage such emissions in order to contain climate change and the ozone layer depletion.

In Nigeria, the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET) released a statement on the weather changes that reveals that the weather is gradually changing for the worst because of the impacts of climate change caused by Green

House Gases.

These changes in the weather have continued to affect crop production and the cost of food production in general and the resultant rise in the prices of agricultural farmers.

It is important for government and all stakeholders in agriculture especially policy makers to take into consideration the impacts of climate change on agricultural activities and to include methods of mitigating climate challenges in order to boost food production and sustenance.

Dr. Ken Ife of the African Business roundtable observed that despite the fact that climate change has been forecasted long ago, many nations especially in Africa are not taking the challenge seriously, he noted that the way forward for Nigeria to overcome the challenge of climate change is for the nation's leader is to take the bull by the horn and promote climate friendly policies.

"Climate change would reduce global food production by about 30 percent and it is inevitable except that the impact may differ from region to region and its impact on food security would definitely be felt by the different world economies.

If the depletion of the ozone layer is the singular cause, then it may be felt in a uniformed patten especially in countries that are situated close to the coastal regions and the arctic regions because it would cause a rise in the sea levels due to more melting of the ice in that region" he said.

According to him, "people in the coastal region would be severely affected if the impact is not well managed and in the case of local climatic effects, acid rain is one prominent phenomenon that would be visible and this would affect both the land (soil) and crops."

He advised that as a way forward out of the climate challenge especially to food in Nigeria, government must diversify its source of energy instead of solely depending on fossil fuel because it also contributes to climate change through

carbon gas emission instead, Nigeria can begin to look into tree planting, biofuel and bioethanol as well as embarking on massive organic fertilizer sourcing to boost agriculture with the required infrastructures in place.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) said the impact of climate change would affect rain fed crops and reduce crop yield by 50 percent in 2020.

IFAD warned that the ever increasing population of the earth means that the demand for food in also on the increase in developing countries and this has created the need to double production by 2050 to meet the demand and poor rural people can play very central role in climate change mitigation since they are the custodians of the base of natural resources.

The report noted that impacts of climate change is already being felt through economic loses among the rural poor which is evident in the increasing cases of crop failures and livestock deaths.

Desertification and bush burning among others are contributors to climate change because of the emission of dangerous that deplete the ozone layer.

The ozone layer is a region in earth atmosphere which protects the earth from dangerous gases and rays like the Ultra violet rays, Gama rays among others that are very harmful to the earth's atmosphere if allowed free access into the earth. The battle has definitely been drawn for the challenge of food and it is left in the hands of the leadership of the Nigerian people to ensure that Nigeria stays above water even as African is fighting a stiff battle with mother nature and is at a vulnerable position.

Desertification and other unhealthy environmental practices must definitely be curtailed if Nigeria must meet the 2015 target of the Millennium Development Goal (MDGs) of fighting hunger and poverty.

CRUZE CONTINUES!

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IBADAN: 08055780133, 08025142656, 08034833895

PORT HARCOURT: 084-297785, 08038788883, 084-755818, 08058257864

ABUJA: 08035508568, 08034715533, 07042200946

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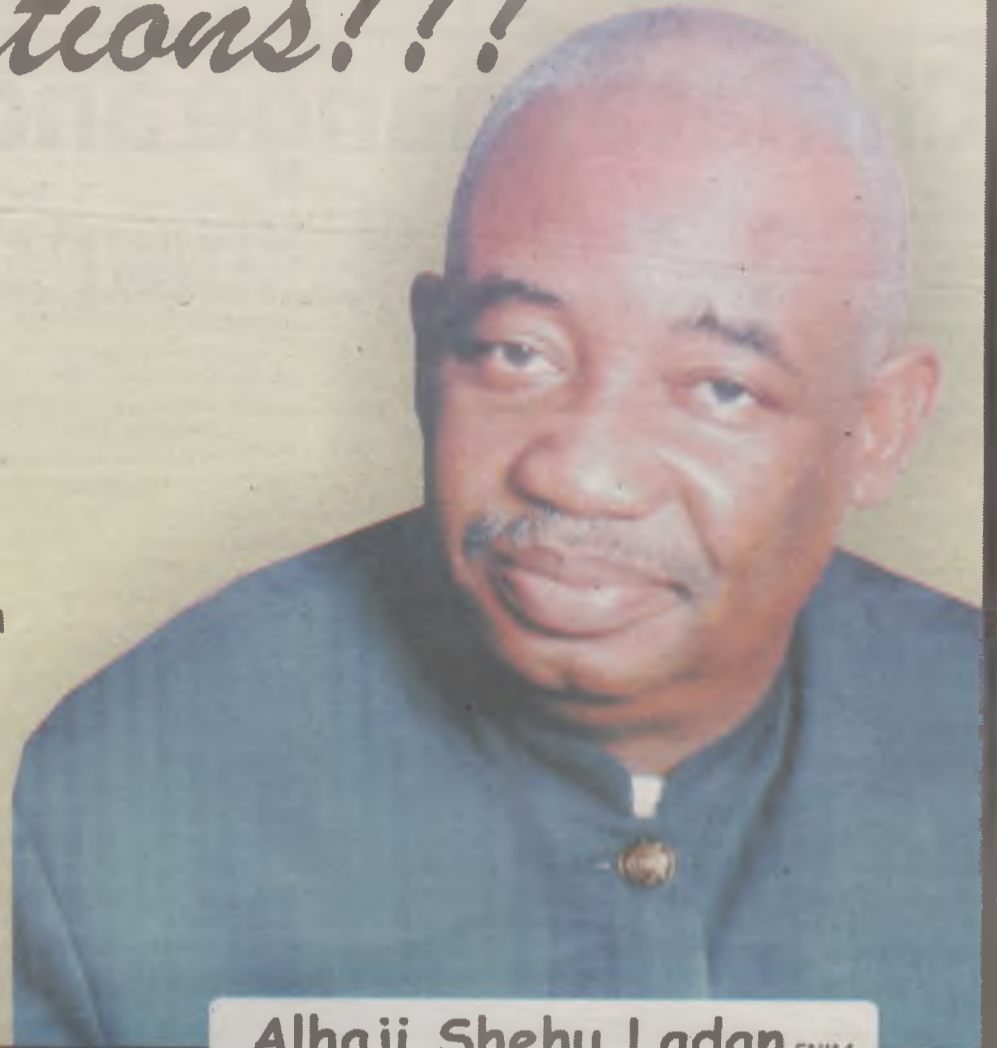
EMAIL: nmi@cfao.com

Congratulations!!!

On behalf of the entire family of **Late Sa'in Zazzau Mallam Muhammadu Mazadu**, we wish to express our heartfelt congratulations to **Cigarin Zazzau Alhaji Shehu Ladan** over his well deserved appointment as the **Group Managing Director (GMD)** of the **Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC)**.

We have no doubt in our mind that you are equal to the task. We sincerely wish you Almighty Allah's continued guidance now and always.

T. A. Bayero
(For the Family)



Alhaji Shehu Ladan FNIM
GMD NNPC

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Turbaning as the **Sardauna of Koton Karfe**

On behalf of the entire Staff of **ASIO**, we join your numerous well wishers to felicitate with you on this joyous ceremony.

We wish you Allah guidance, protection and prosperity.

Congratulations!

Signed: **Allh. Aliyu Yahaya ASIO**



NASARAWA STATE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2009

RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Financial Statement have been prepared in accordance with provision of the Financial (Control and Management) Act 1958 as amended. The Financial Statement complies with generally accepted accounting practices.

Responsibility for the integrity and objectivity of the Financial Statements rests entirely with the Government.

To fulfil accounting and reporting responsibility, the Accountant-General is responsible for establishing and maintaining an adequate system of internal controls, designed to provide reasonable assurance that the transactions recorded are within statutory authority. They also, properly record the use of all public financial resources by the Government.

Efforts were made to ensure that this Financial Statement fairly reflect the financial position of Government as at 31st December, 2009 and its operation for the year ended on that date.

PRINCE ALIYU ABDULLAHI IDDE, MIM, FCN4
Accountant-General
Nasarawa State

AUDITOR-GENERAL CERTIFICATION

In compliance with section 125 sub-section 2 of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, I have examined the Accounts and the Financial Statement of Nasarawa State Government of Nigeria for the year ended 31st December, 2009. Proper returns have been rendered by ministries and departments and their related parastatals in conformity with the Public Finance (Control and Management) Law of 1958. I have also obtained all information and explanations necessary in the discharge of my responsibility.

The audit was conducted in accordance with auditing requirements as specified in the Audit Law (chapter] 2) of Nasarawa State of Nigeria, 1996. In addition, projects and programmes were verified in line with the concept of Performance in Audit. In the discharge of my responsibility as required, by section 125(5) of the same constitution, the financial statements have been certified subject to comments contained in this report.

In my opinion, projects and programmes executed were satisfactory in consideration of funds employed. Furthermore, the financial statement (Nos. 1 – 3) and related schedules give a True Fair View of the State of the affairs of Nasarawa State Government as at 31st December, 2009.

ALH. GARBA ADAMU (CNA), FCNA
Auditor-General
Nasarawa State

002 - NASARAWA STATE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA
CASH-FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2009

	DECEMBER, 2009	DECEMBER, 2008
	N	N
A. CASH-FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
RECEIPTS:		
Statutory Allocation	24,200,014,388	23,674,067,891
Value Added Tax (VAT)	4,186,855,258	3,843,148,045
Paris Club Debt Refunds		10,471,625,617
Internally Generated Revenue	1,498,732,803	862,727,121
Miscellaneous	3,253,630	1,995,247
TOTAL RECEIPTS	29,888,856,079	38,853,563,921
PAYMENTS:		
Personnel Emoluments	4,872,506,558	5,757,288,224
Educational Services	2,743,181,589	2,897,215,482
Transport Services	84,007,556	103,871,407
Health Services	1,838,553,615	1,241,436,983
Agricultural Services	717,181,715	269,460,610
Consolidated Revenue Funds Charges	5,179,107,619	5,115,230,234
Other General nature	10,949,335,121	4,216,310,467
TOTAL	26,383,873,773	19,600,813,407
NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATION	3,504,982,306	19,252,750,514
Purchase/Construction of Assets	8,478,907,193	21,538,154,051
Purchase of Financial Market Instrument	(8,478,907,193)	(21,538,154,051)
Net Cash Flow Investments	(4,973,924,887)	(2,285,403,537)
CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING:		
Proceed of Loans/Borrowings	5,394,000,000	5,417,151,277
Dividends Received	2,603,542	
Repayment of Loans	(1,642,586,829)	(1,979,875,990)
Net Cash Flow from Financing	3,754,016,713	3,437,275,287
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash	(1,219,908,174)	1,151,871,750
Opening Cash Balance	1,820,825,712	668,953,962
CLOSING CASH BALANCE	600,917,538	1,820,825,712

003 - NASARAWA STATE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2009

NOTES	DECEMBER, 2009	DECEMBER, 2008
ASSETS	N	N
Cash and Bank Balances 1	600,917,538	1,820,825,712
Remittances In-transit 2	4,675,594,277	6,057,585,253
Imprest 3	1,327,990	1,243,600
Staff Loans and Advances 4	1,808,265,518	1,825,400,447
Station Balances 5	(44,170,144)	(2,383,930,788)
Deposits 6	1,068,112,730	1,068,112,730
Sundry Debtors 7	23,446,659	23,446,659
Investments 8	418,434,699	418,434,699
	8,551,929,267	8,831,118,312
LIABILITIES		
PUBLIC FUNDS:		
Consolidated Revenue fund 9	207,418,862	387,437,049
Capital Dev. Funds 10	916,020,150	314,072,085
Station Deposit 11	1,595,430,634	1,595,430,634
Bank Loan 12	5,833,059,621	6,534,178,544
	8,551,929,267	8,831,118,312

004 - NASARAWA STATE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA
STATEMENT OF CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2009

ACTUAL '08	PARTICULARS	NOTES	BUDGET '09	ACTUAL '09	VARIANCE
N			N	N	N
888,068,275	Balances as at 1st Jan.			387,437,049	
	Add Recurrent Revenue				
715,151,462	Taxes		1,328,500,000	829,125,926	499,374,074
86,094,923	Fines and Fees		6,362,610,000	438,147,199	5,924,462,801
27,458,985	Licences		123,952,500	101,586,929	22,365,571
20,377,862	Earnings and Sales		1,383,805,000	121,041,736	1,262,763,264
13,943,890	Rent on Govt. Property		131,250,000	6,227,471	125,022,529

0	Interests and Dividends	255,000,000	2,603,542	252,396,458
0	Re-imbustments			0
1,995,247.	Miscellaneous Income	42,500,000	3,253,630	39,246,370
23,674,067,891	Statutory Rev. Allocation	33,310,000,000	24,200,014,388	9,109,985,612
Q	Revenue from Parastatals	600,000,000		600,000,000
25,427,158,535	Total Revenue (a)	43,537,617,500	26,089,437,870	17,448,179,630
	Less Recurrent Expenditure			
5,757,288,224	Personnel Costs	3,124,979,068	4,872,506,558	(1,747,527,490)
9,399,756,545	Overhead Costs	5,309,486,425	10,835,136,612	(5,525,650,187)
5,767,345,625	Grants, Cont/Subventions	4,373,000,000	5,794,228,385	(1,421,228,385)
5,115,230,234	Public Debt Charges	3,133,030,131	3,993,398,180	(860,368,049)
100,858	Pension and Gratuities	350,000,000	886,749,273	(536,749,273)
26,039,721,486	Total Recurrent Expenditure (b)	16,290,495,624	26,382,019,008	(10,091,523,384)
(612,562,951)	Operating Balance (a - b)	27,247,121,876	(292,581,138)	27,539,703,014
	Appropriation/Transfers			
1,000,000,000	Capital Dev. Fund		500,000,000	
387,437,049	Balance C/F		207,418,862	

005 - NASARAWA STATE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA
STATEMENT OF CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2009

ACTUAL '08	PARTICULARS	NOTES	BUDGET '09	ACTUAL '09	VARIANCE
N			N	N	N
2,257,452,474	Balances as at 1st Jan 2009			314,072,085	
	Add Capital Receipts				
3,843,148,045	Value Added Tax (VAT)		4,000,000,000	4,186,855,258	(186,855,258)
	Transfers From CRF		14,791,577,189		14,791,577,189
	Grants		6,000,000,000		6,000,000,000
	Miscellaneous Receipts		4,938,587,016		4,938,587,016
	Loans Draw Down		5,000,000,000		5,000,000,000
10,471,625,617	Paris Club Debt Refund				0
6,280,000,000	Special Grants & Loans		1,000,000,000	5,394,000,000	(4,394,000,000)
22,852,226,136	TOTAL CAPITAL RECEIPTS(a)		35,730,164,205	9,894,927,343	25,835,236,862
	LESS CAPITAL EXPENDITURE				
383,621,636	Agric & Natural Resources		916,500,000	120,091,742	796,408,258
84,410,139	Water Resources & Rural Dev.		683,500,000	87,814,000	595,686,000
6,048,197	Livestock & Veterinary		92,500,000	13,900,121	78,599,879
11,150,638	Forestry and Wildlife		37,600,000		37,600,000
54,450	Fisheries		50,000,000		50,000,000
1,499,733,434	Commerce and Industries		1,300,000,000	79,150,025	1,220,849,975
	Tourism and Hotel Dev		169,500,000		169,500,000
	Housing & Urban Development		894,000,000	1,211,513,762	(317,513,762)
12,350,605,561	Works & Transport		10,958,194,205	4,832,251,553	6,125,942,652
530,686,663	Education sector		1,335,000,000	175,061,109	1,159,938,891
	Science & Technology		321,170,000	328,151,753	(6,981,753)
662,625,030	Health Sector		703,000,000	33,386,903	669,613,097
1,051,213	Information		190,000,000	11,456,000	178,544,000
	Judiciary		500,000,000		500,000,000
16,462,381	Sport Commission		744,000,000	22,996,900	721,003,100
33,261,497	Tourism, Art and culture		2,290,000,000		2,290,000,000
	State Boundary Commission		5,000,000		5,000,000
684,823,902	Water Supply		1,990,000,000	202,900,693	1,787,099,307
	Urban Development Board		3,232,000,000	364,187,129	2,867,812,871
	Lands, Survey & Town Planning		1,315,000,000	12,000,000	1,303,000,000
	Local Govt. Audit		25,000,000		25,000,000
	Nas. State Environ Protection Agen		100,000,000		100,000,000
	Pension Commission		40,000,000		40,000,000
4,355,866,289	SSG's Office		1,190,000,000	296,480,280	893,519,720
	Ministry of Justice		128,000,000		128,000,000
2,050,000	Ministry of Finance		4,177,000,000	1,017,000	4,175,983,000
	Board of Internal Revenue Service		390,000,000	16,034,700	373,965,300
	Nasarawa State House of Assembly		1,848,000,000	575,849,723	1,272,150,277
	Ministry of Women Affairs		142,000,000		142,000,000
	Local Govt. Serv. Commission		51,000,000		51,000,000
	State Audit		50,000,000		50,000,000
40,032,600	Farm mechanization Agency		40,000,000	94,663,800	(54,663,800)
	Civil Service Commission		23,000,000		23,000,000
	Head of Service		100,000,000		100,000,000
200,000	Teachers Service Commission		45,000,000		45,000,000
	Local Govt. Community Development		122,000,000		122,000,000
	NASIEC		80,000,000		80,000,000
	Judicial Service Commission		60,200,000		60,200,000
92,933,455	Town and Country Planning(L&S)				0
782,536,966	Town and Country Planning(NUDB)				0
	Urban Development Board				0
21,538,154,051			36,338,164,205	8,478,907,193	27,859,257,012
(1,000,000,000)	Consolidated Revenue Fund			(500,000,000)	
314,072,085	Balance c/f (a - b)		(608,000,000)	916,020,150	(2,024,020,150)

labour report

FCTA to strengthen relationship with labour

By Nasir Imam

THE FCT Administration has expressed its willingness to strengthen its relationship with the members of the organised labour in the Federal Capital Territory. FCT Minister Senator Bala Mohammed gave this assurance when the officials of the Trade Union Congress of Nigeria (TUC), FCT Council paid him a courtesy call in his office, Area 11, Garki I District, Abuja.

The minister reiterated that without industrial harmony there would be no growth in the society therefore industrial relationship should be predicated on synergy, rapport and understanding.

Mohammed further assured that his administration would pursue industrial relationship with the organised labour based on consultation and harmony.

He directed that the FCT Director of Establishment & Training to liaise with the labour officials

towards meeting some their request.

The Minister promised to provide an office accommodation for the Congress to enable it effectively pursue the welfare of its members.

Senator Mohammed however urged the Trade Union Congress of Nigeria to support the Federal Government under the leadership of Acting President Goodluck Jonathan to enable him move the country forward.

Speaking earlier, the Chairperson of the FCT Chapter of the Trade Union Congress of Nigeria, Abdul-Hakeem Aliyu called for the resuscitation of Labour Advisory Committee and sponsorships to international labour seminars.

The Chairperson requested that their members be nominated as Board members of the Agencies of the FCT Administration.

He expressed the loyalty of the members of the Congress to the FCT Administration leadership as well as the Federal Government.



LABOUR minister Chukwemeka Wogu

Group commends NDE on national growth

By Frands Okeke

MEMBERS of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have commended the management of the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) for its contribution to national growth through employment creation.

Led by its President and Vice President Mr. Joseph Danjuma Ngati and Bilkisu Sulaiman Ibrahim, the group said that most of the MDGs goals are in line with the mandate of the NDE, while pledging to carry out a public enlightenment and advocacy drive to sensitise Nigerian youths on job training opportunities being executed by the NDE under its job creation programme.

The corps members were one of the three groups that visited the NDE to hold talks with the directorate on moving the nation

forward. Other-groups are the Quick Intervention and Advisory Organization (QIA) as well as the Nigerian Capital Development Fund (NCDF)

Director-General of the NDE Malam Abubakar Mohammed said that the Directorate has been purposely working with friendly and co-operative institutions, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and even private individuals to further boost the realization of its mandate of job creation and poverty alleviation.

Mohammed told the leadership of QIA led by its Secretary General, Alhaji Shuaibu Gwada, that the core mandate of the NDE which is employment generation and the primary aim of the NGO which seeks to uplift the welfare of the generality of the Nigerian masses are complimentary because only healthy people can stand the rigors of training for self reliance.

Youths to benefit from skill acquisition centres in Bauchi

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

HUNDRED of youths are to benefit from skills acquisition training in three different centres built by Bauchi state gubernatorial aspirant Alhaji Sarki Abdullahi Adamu, Media Assistant to the aspirant Alhaji Sanusi Inuwa Mai Gado has said.

Alhaji Mai Gado who spoke with news men in Jos yesterday said "the three centres which are located in Toro, Tafawa Balewa and Ningi local government areas of the state will train youths including women on different skills such as weaving, hair dressing, carpentry as well as other related skills".

He added that the Tafawa Balewa centre will encompass Bogoro while Ningi will encompass Warju and Ganjuwa "but Toro considering its size will stand alone.

According to Mai Gado the skills will provide the teeming youths with the chance to fight idleness adding that "this opportunity will also allow them to learn the culture of self dependence where they

can also employ others to work for them as soon as they set up their own businesses when they graduate from the centres".

Speaking on the allegation that Alhaji Adamu who is popularly known as Dan China and contesting under the platform of the Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) that he doesn't have the educational qualification to contest for the number one seat in Bauchi state, Alhaji Mai Gado said "Alhaji Adamu attended Sabon Garin Narabi Primary school and later proceeded to Government Science Secondary School Toro and later moved to Gumau Secondary School where he completed his secondary education".

He added that he later obtained his OND in Secretarial Studies at the Kaduna State Polytechnic and later bagged his first degree in Public Administration from University of Jos adding "all these can be verified from the relevant institutions, so I don't know which qualification they are talking about". He said.

Workers' Day and challenges before the labour minister

By Francis Okeke

AS Nigeria celebrate Workers' Day this Saturday, a lot of Nigerians both in paid employment and the self employed look forward to pronouncements of increased wages for civil servants as well as an upward review of the national minimum wage. The national minimum wage as it stands today is N5, 500.

Both government and organised labour agree that this amount hardly takes anybody home and is far from what a decent living wage should be. To this end, expectations are high that government will announce an increment by whatever name to what workers currently earn.

Currently, a committee to fashion out an acceptable wage for workers as well as a process that will eradicate avoidable conflicts in future negotiations aimed at improving workers welfare is chaired by former Chief Justice Alfa Moddibo Belgore.

The committee is made up of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), Trade Union Congress (TUC) and members of the Nigeria Employers Consultative Assembly (NECA) as well as government representatives. Nigerian workers are expecting to hear concrete commitments to improved welfare.

But most importantly, workers under different unions are agitating for one thing or the other in the name of welfare improvement and have engaged the newly appointed Minister of Labour and Productivity Chief Emeka Wogu severally in trouble shooting meetings.

So far, the minister has shown ability in handling the various demands of the unions and making sure it doesn't escalate out of control but how long that will last depends on government's ability to respect the pledges it entered into and is faltering in carrying out.

His work will only be seen to have been completed if by the time he leaves office, most of the legitimate demands of workers are met as well as the implementation of agreements jointly reached by the unions and the government.

Even some unionists believe that Chief Emeka Wogu was undoubtedly prepared for the job of promoting industrial cordiality in the country as the minister of labour because of his immediate last national assignment as a commissioner at the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) where he was involved in the resolution of the hot disputes between some coastal states over ownership of oil wells.

Having served on several committees in the RMAFC including Oil and Gas, Legal Services, Revenue Allocation,

Tenders Board, Non-Oil and Royalties, Fiscal Efficiency and Budget and the Chairman of the Remuneration and Monetisation Committee, some workers believe that will make the much needed change if he approaches contending issues with sincerity.

Many Nigerians believe that the work of a minister of labour does not end in resolving disputes or increasing workers wages but that it should involve creating decent and sustainable jobs especially for the increasing army of unemployed or at best, underemployed youths.

Many will also argue that the job of job creation has been made easier for him with the structures on ground especially with the activities of the National Directorate of Employment (NDE).

Critics argue that NDE under the leadership of Mallam Mohammed Abubakar over the years has done commendably well in its various interventions and the minister just need to key into the resources available to move the quest for more jobs forward.

Whether the government announces an increment in workers' salaries this Saturday or not, Nigerians are of the belief that there is a need for government to create more decent and sustainable jobs and this is the challenge before the new minister.

EDUCATION

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NPC solicits support on education survey

THE National Population Commission (NPC) has called on Nigerians to support its planned Nigeria Education Data Survey (NEDS) by giving proper information to interviewers during the exercise.

Chairman of the commission Chief Samu'ila Makama, who made the call in Abuja while addressing journalists, said the aim of Nigeria Education Data Survey is to provide reliable up-to-date data in support of the education policy.

He said the Nigeria Education Data Survey is intended to collect additional information on education and to strategically link it with data from the 2008 National Housing Survey in order to create a broader data set.

He stressed that the nation's quest for development would remain a mirage if there was no substantial qualitative education.

"The conduct of the 2010 Nigeria Education Data Survey is the commission's modest contribution towards Nigerian's educational sector. The data to be generated will complement the data on literacy in the housing component of the 2006 population and housing census; this will provide a sustainable basis for realistic planning in the education sector.

"I therefore wish to appeal to the respondents in the selected households to extend maximum cooperation to the interviewers and answer all the questions truthfully. All information volunteered will be treated with confidentiality and will not be divulged for any other purpose," he said.

He explained that the data for the Nigeria Education Data Survey will be collected by 37 teams, one team per state including the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

He said the preliminary report of the survey would be published one month after the data has been processed and cleaned, while the main report would come three months after the preliminary report.

The commission is carrying out the NEDS in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Education and the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) while the U.S Agency for International Development (USAID) and United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) are the funding partners.



MINISTER of Education Professor Ruqayyatu Ahmed Rufa'i receiving the report of Federal Government Committee on E-Learning from the chairman of the committee and Executive Secretary NERDC Professor Godswill Obioma.

Minister advocates review of teacher education programmes

Stories by Abdullahi M. Gulloma

MINISTER of Education, Professor Ruqayyatu Ahmed Rufa'i, has stressed the need for the urgent review of teacher education programmes in tertiary institutions across the country in order to produce teachers with the required skills and competencies to cope with the challenges of the new Senior Secondary Education Curriculum (SSEC) scheduled to commence in September 2011.

Professor Ruqayyatu disclosed this in Abuja at a one-day roundtable on the Review of Teachers Education Programmes of Tertiary Institutions in line with the New Senior Secondary Education Curriculum, which was organised by the Nigerian Education Research and Development Council (NERDC).

She said that the new Senior Secondary Education Curriculum comprising of 42 subjects and 34 trade and entrepreneurship subjects, approved at the 54th National Council on Education (NCE) meeting this year, has thrown new content standards within each subject that makes it necessary for teachers to be re-skilled in the subjects and pedagogy.

She said if teacher education programmes in tertiary institutions are not restructured in line with the demands of the new Senior Secondary Education Curriculum, it will be difficult to produce teachers with the required skills and competencies to cope with the challenges of the new curriculum.

"Let me seize this opportunity to call on all relevant regulatory agencies of the tertiary education sector and indeed all Universities, Polytechnics and Colleges of Education to immediately commence the process of reviewing

tertiary education programmes to respond to local needs and at the same time meet the expectations of global best practices," she said.

Earlier in his address, Executive Secretary of NERDC Professor Godswill Obioma said that the underlying philosophy of the new Senior Secondary Education Curriculum is to ensure that every senior secondary school graduate is well prepared for higher education.

According to him, said secondary school graduates will be made to acquire relevant functional trade/entrepreneurship skills needed for poverty eradication, job creation and wealth generation that are capable of strengthening further the foundation for ethical, moral and civic value acquired at the basic education level.

Professor Obioma said programme specific contexts, the extant teacher education programmes in universities, polytechnics and Colleges of Education, geared towards the production of pre-service teachers for the senior secondary education level can no longer meet the challenges and demands for the new SSEC, hence the need to urgently overhaul the existing teacher programme and redefine the context and concepts in terms of philosophy, subject combination, mode of training, length of training and structure of training, among others.

He disclosed that the new SSE curriculum will come into force from September 2011 while the first SSE public examinations in line with the new curriculum is planned to take place in June 2014, adding that that all the public examination bodies including WAEC, NECO and NABTEB have been given copies of the draft curriculum to commence the process of restructuring the ensuing examination.

Teacher's council urges 'sound' academic activities

By Maureen Onochie

THE Registrar of Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria (TRCN) Professor Addison Mark Wokocho has called for the continued support for sound academic activities in the nation's institutes of higher learning to produce highly skilled and competent graduates.

Head of Information/Public Relations Division of TRCN Ojewuyi Muiyawa said in a statement issued in Abuja that the registrar made the call at the induction ceremony of over 200 education graduates of the University of Nsukka.

The statement quoted the TRCN registrar as saying that the organisation since "inception has embarked on programmes and activities that have yielded positive changes in the profession, however, it has become evident that more needs to be done and the councils institutional efforts alone are inadequate."

According to the statement, the registrar also stressed the need to bridge the gap between the various teacher unions and associations that promote stratified interests such as NUT, COESU, ASUP and ASUU.

NBTE accredits six programmes for Idah poly

SIX programmes offered by the Federal Polytechnic Idah have again been granted full accreditation by the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE).

The programmes include National Diploma and Higher National Diploma in Accountancy, National Diploma and Higher National Diploma in Business Administration and Management and National Diploma and Higher National Diploma Hospital Management.

The accreditation of the programmes will last for a period of five years effective from October 1, 2009 to September 1, 2014 when the courses will be due for another accreditation visitation.

EDUCATION

Why centre introduced mental arithmetic for students, by Prof Ale

Professor Sam Ale, a former President of National Mathematical Association of Nigeria (NMAN), is the Director-General of National Mathematical Centre (NMC), an agency under the Ministry of Education that is charged with the responsibility of promoting teaching and learning of mathematics. In this interview with Daily Trust, he spoke on how the centre is trying to simplify teaching of mathematics, among other things.

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma

HOW has leading the National Mathematical Centre been and what will you say are your greatest challenges?

I am glad that I am a mathematician so I am in an area relevant to me. I have been able to accomplish things I desired to have done many years ago when I was the president of Mathematical Association of Nigeria. These include popularization of mathematics, trying to get improvement and good performance in mathematics so that we can have better performance than we are having now. That has been part of the things we have wanted to do.

The presence of Nigeria is now being felt globally as far as mathematics is concerned. For the first time, we were able to go and represent Nigeria and since then, things went down but I am happy we have been able to bring it up by representing Nigeria in international mathematics scientist community.

Of course we have challenges. Funding is one of the serious challenges we are facing, and in this case we try to go out to look for funds. For instance, now we have the challenge of having funds to implement most of our activities because we want the National Mathematical

Centre to be in every state of the federation. This is the basic challenge we are having now and I hope that we will overcome it before I leave so that so that we will have the centre in every state of the nation impacting into all schools from nursery, primary to higher institutions of learning across the country.

We must keep improving because mathematics being the basis of science. Nigeria is behind in science and technology, and we must take drastic actions to ensure that we improve teaching and learning of mathematics as a foundation for improvement of the nation's science and technology.

What are the measures you have taken to encourage teaching of mathematics, especially at the primary and secondary school levels?

The National Mathematical Centre is mindful of its responsibilities to the people of this country. We have done a lot to improve quality of teaching and learning of mathematics in institutions of learning across the country. We have been able to make materials that will help students to understand and learn mathematics.

For instance we have written a lot of books at different times. We have been able to write these books so that nobody will come out and say that he doesn't have any book to read in mathematics. Then we have also tried to look at the abstract nature of the subject. So when you talk of mathematical apparatus such as triangles, square, pentagon and so on, you will see their pictures which clearly explain these mathematical concepts.

Of course, we have also developed mathematical games so that one could be playing these games and learning mathematics. So, our basic concern for students, especially at the lower level is what they should learn and what should be taught to them and we have teachers who are teaching them. We also produce books for the teachers to carry out their duties effectively. What I am saying in effect is that the National Mathematical Centre has made it possible for teachers in primary and secondary schools to have quality books on mathematics that they can use

to teach students.

Apart from provision of books for the teachers, we've also devised means of encouraging them. The school fees issue is part of it. Nigerians who go for the mathematical competitions outside Nigeria are encouraged with rewards. That is, we take the students out to compete with their colleagues in foreign countries and at the same time exposed them to the best practices in these foreign countries.

As former president of the Mathematical Association of Nigeria, what were the problems you identified that constituted a major issue in mathematics?

At that time, I organized a programme titled war against poor performance in mathematics. Now in the centre, we have a mathematics improvement project. One of the obstacles of learning mathematics is because of the abstract nature of the subject, and so, people run away from the subject. When you set question from set theory, they begin to ask you what is set theory, they tell you that you are always talking about X all the time, what does X mean, what is X+Y and other difficult concepts. What we are doing now is to simplify it.

There are other numerous problems that are still there and we are still trying to overcome them in the mathematical improvement project. Again, in mathematics, the idea of competition was not there, we have introduced it. Although, in the other parts of the world, it has been there for a long time but Nigeria was not participating. Thank God that today we are participating. We are trying to find solutions to the problems that are on ground.

Has the simplification of the subject help in improving the ability of students to learn mathematics?

Learning is dynamic. Every time you keep improving and every time, we keep introducing new things. For instance, we recently introduced mental arithmetic for students to use their brains and their hands to be able to solve mathematical problems immediately. That is one area. We keep introducing new ideas. I can also say that those areas



PROFESSOR Sam Ale

and schools where we have intervened, there have been effective changes.

What is your assessment of the impact of the collaboration between National Mathematical Centre and Raw Materials Research and Development Council on improvement of mathematics in the country?

The collaboration has been helpful and is really yielding positive results. The concern Raw Materials Research and Development Council is the development of raw materials and the mathematical models that can be used for the development of these raw materials. So, we went into collaboration with them and basically at the tertiary level.

Basically, we are interested in the areas where lecturers in the universities can carry out research on raw materials using mathematical models and when they carry out these researches it helps them. The result is that we now have researchers who are working in these areas using mathematical models to be able to solve problems in raw materials.

You've talked about funding as one of the centre's major challenges, in what ways do you think Education Trust Fund can intervene?

Well, the Education Trust Fund has been very helpful, especially in the area of provision of infrastructure. If you go to the centre, you will see some structures that we built with the money given to us by the ETF. We have been able to use the money to reconstruct some build-

ings. We will appreciate it, if they can help us with more buildings because we still want more buildings in the centre.

One area that the ETF can also come in to assist is in on book development. We really want to develop books for tertiary education. Just as we have done in the primary and secondary level, so we want to do in the tertiary level. If they give us the money, we shall use it in that area.

Again, we have asked that the ETF should sponsor our workshops for as many as possible because we have many workshops that we want to conduct to raise the consciousness of our people on teaching and learning of mathematics. It will help us if ETF gives us funds to run all these workshops that we have planned at the tertiary level.

Majority of researchers and teachers don't get their functions effectively, what have you done to improve the welfare of workers in the centre?

Well, if we want to go far as an institution established to promote teaching and learning of mathematics, we must make sure that our workers are motivated. In National Mathematical Centre, we are worried about the welfare of our staff. We made it mandatory that staff must get their salaries on time. We also emphasised the issue of promotion so that they don't get stagnant in a particular position.

We have a very strong cooperative society where many of the staff go for one help or the other. Many of our staff have their own houses and they attend workshops and seminars to sharpen their knowledge.

One of the obstacles of learning mathematics is because of the abstract nature of the subject, and so, people run away from the subject.

CITY NEWS



HOTLINES: 0803-3493-462 & 0703-8927-513
email: citynews@dailytrust.com

Convict wants employer to retain his services

By Usman A. Bello

A 23-year-old steward, convicted for stealing his employer's money, yesterday pleaded with the court to persuade his employer to retrain his services.

Ephraim Samuel was sentenced to one-week imprisonment by an Abuja magistrate court for steal-

ing N80,000 from his employer, an offence punishable under Section 287 of the penal code.

Prosecutor Adamu Abdullahi had earlier told the court that on April 19, one Mrs T. Obioma reported to the police that the accused stole N80,000 from her saloon.

He said the accused confessed

to the crime during police investigation.

When the charge was read to the accused, he pleaded guilty and begged for leniency.

"I want the court to beg my madam to still retain my service and deduct the stolen money from my monthly salaries as I made a mistake by given the money to

419 people, who promise to open a business for me," he said.

The accused said he realised they were fraudsters after giving out the money to them.

The prosecutor urged the court to try the accused summarily under Section 157 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC).

Magistrate Aminu Eri sentenced

him to a week imprisonment or to pay N200 as fine. He said the court was lenient to him because he was a first offender, warning that if he re-offends he would send him to Kuje prison. The judge was however silent of the convict's request for his employer to retain him, as the employer was not in court when the sentence was passed.

Kwali chairman-elect pledges to provide infrastructure

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

THE newly-elected Kwali Area Council Chairman, Mr. Joseph Shazin of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), yesterday assured residents of the area that infrastructural development will be his first priority as he takes over the mantle of leadership of the council.

Shazin told journalists that people in the council have suffered neglect in the last two years due to infrastructural decay, especially in rural communities of the council.

According to him, 70 per cent of rural dwellers have no access to good health centres, electricity, potable water and good road network, which he said his administration will address.

He explained that when he embarked on his electioneering campaign across rural communities of the

council, he discovered that people in the rural areas have not been benefiting from the dividends of democracy.

"It was pathetic to discover that rural dwellers lack good road network, potable water and other social amenities," he said.

He said the council will look into the issue of youth and women empowerment, through the creation of a vocational training centre where they can acquire skills to become economically independent.

The chairman-elect promised that within his first 100 days in office, scholarships will be given to indigent students learning in various tertiary institutions of the country to reduce the burden on their parents.

He said that girl-child will also be accorded priority so that their parents can send them to school, instead of engaging them in hawking fruits and sachet water on the streets.



THE Kwali area council chairman-elect Mr. Joseph Shazin (centre) with FOMWAN members at Kwali recently.

PIC: ABUBAKAR SADIQ ISAH

Laptop thief jailed for a year

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

AN Abuja magistrate court Monday sentenced a thief to one year imprisonment for stealing two laptops.

Adamu Sani of no fixed address stole the laptops on April 16 and was arrested the next day by policemen.

Police prosecutor, Abu Okpanachi, had earlier informed the

court that on April 16, an assistant superintendent, Mike Edipo, received information that the accused stole two laptops.

"The accused stole the laptops and kept them in his Honda Civic car with registration number FH96ABC that was parked at a bank premises in Area 3, Garki, Abuja," the prosecutor stated.

He said when the police attempted to arrest the accused,

he abandoned his car and ran away, adding that the accused later sent one Franklin Ibe to remove the car for him.

According to the prosecutor, the police arrested Franklin as he attempted to drive the car from the bank premises, which led to the accused person's arrest on April 17.

He said during police investigation, the accused confessed to stealing the laptops

and given them to Franklin.

The prosecutor also stated that when the car was searched by the police, two stolen laptops and two locally-made master keys were recovered from it.

The accused pleaded guilty to the charges and begged for leniency.

Chief Magistrate Ademuyiwa Oyeyipo sentenced him to one year imprisonment without an option of fine.

Suspected burglar remanded in prison

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

AN Abuja magistrate court Tuesday remanded a 27-year-old labourer in prison custody over alleged house breaking and attempted theft.

Sani Muhammed of Area 1, Abuja, was accused of attempting to steal from a lady's apartment on April 21.

Prosecutor Yilkudi Dungji had earlier told the court that on April 21, one Joy Ibibor of Lugbe Zone 5, Abuja, reported to the police that while doing some shopping, she received information that the accused had broken into her house through the ceiling.

"The neighbour told her that the accused had broken into her apartment through the kitchen ceiling and packed her DVD player and television set," the prosecutor said.

He narrated further that the accused was caught red-handed while trying to leave the apartment with the electronic gadgets. He said the offence is punishable under Section 327 of the Penal code law.

When the charge was read to the accused, he denied it and requested for bail.

Magistrate Aminu Eri ordered that the accused be remanded in prison custody and adjourned the case to May 7 for hearing.

Security guard charged with evading arrest

By Usman A. Bello

A 21-year-old security guard was on Tuesday arraigned before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly escaping from police custody and being in possession of stolen property.

Onyia Ejike of Dutsen Makaranta was arraigned on a two-count charge of escaping from

police custody and being in possession of stolen goods, offences punishable under Sections 319 (A) and 172 of the penal code law.

Police prosecutor, David Udeh, told the court that on April 10, one Ifeoma Paul of Wuse Market informed the

police that on April 13, the accused brought 21 shirts,

three trousers and seven male under wears valued at N40,000 for sale.

He said during police investigations, the accused could not give satisfactory account of the items, adding that the accused escaped from police custody before he was later arrested.

The accused pleaded not guilty to the charges in court and

requested for bail, which was not objected by the prosecutor.

Magistrate Aminu Eri granted the accused bail in the sum of N50,000 with a surety in like sum.

The magistrate also ordered that the surety must live within

the council jurisdiction with a fixed address and adjourned the case to May 5 for hearing.

Man jailed for stealing cell phone

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

AN Abuja magistrate court Tuesday sentenced a youngster to two months imprisonment for stealing a cell phone belonging to one Balogun Rasaan.

The phone thief, Meshacle Amu of Kado village, Abuja, was caught red-handed with the stolen cell phone, as he tried to escape from the scene.

Police prosecutor Ahmed Mohammed had earlier told the court that on April 24, one Balogun Rasaan reported to the police that the accused stole his cell phone.

"You stole a Nokia cell phone valued at N30,000 belonging to Balogun Rasaan and immediately took to your heel, thereby committing an offence punishable under section 289 of the Penal Code," the prosecutor said.

According to the prosecutor, immediately the complainant discovered that his cell phone had been stolen, he chased the thief until he was caught and the phone recovered from him.

When the charge was read to the accused, he pleaded guilty and begged the court for leniency, promising not steal henceforth.

Based on his guilty plea, the prosecutor asked the court to try the accused summarily under section 157 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Magistrate Omolola Oladipo convicted and sentenced him to two-month imprisonment with an option of N2,000 fine.

...Another jailed for stealing car

By Bunmi Omolehin

AN Abuja upper area court has sentenced a middle-aged man, Idris Usman of Jabi Garage, to six months imprisonment for stealing a Honda Civic car.

Prosecutor Samuel Bulus had told the court that on April 14, 2010, one Atabo Ngtedes of No 13, Okforded Street, Wuse zone II, Abuja, reported to the police that the accused person entered his resident and stole his Honda Civic car with registration number EG 409 EKY.

He said that in the process of moving the car, the accused was intercepted by a police patrol team and arrested.

The prosecutor stressed that the theft, committed by the accused, is punishable under section 287 of the Penal Code.

When the charge was read to the accused person, he pleaded guilty and begged for court's leniency.

Upon his admission, the prosecutor asked the court to try him summarily and Judge Umar Kagarko sentenced him to six months imprisonment or to pay N12,000 as fine. The judge warned him against engaging in such activities in the future.

Bus conductor jailed for phone theft

By Usman A. Bello & Maureen Onochie

AN Abuja magistrate court Tuesday sentenced a 19-year-old commercial bus conductor to 14 days imprisonment for stealing a mobile phone belonging to Basil Onyebula.

Ukachukwu Obike of no fixed address was arraigned on a two-

count charge of joint act and theft, offences punishable under Sections 79 and 287 of the Penal Code Law.

Prosecutor Francis Tanko said Basil reported to the police that while he was at Wuse Bus Stop waiting to board a commercial bus, the accused and two others, now at large, jointly stole

his Samsung phone valued at N7,000.

When the charges were read to the accused, he pleaded guilty and begged for leniency.

"My co-conductor asked me to follow them to steal a phone and after stealing, they gave me N500 before I was arrested," he lamented.

The prosecutor, who also revealed that the accused is an ex-convict, urged the court to try the accused summarily under Section 157 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC).

Magistrate Aminu Eri sentenced the accused to 14 days imprisonment without an option of fine.



ROAD safety officials battling to remove a broken-down truck at Abaji-Lokoja road recently.

'Prince' denies buying car with master's money

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A middle-aged man, Prince Chima James, on Tuesday in court denied using over N1 million belonging to his master to buy a car.

Chima, who used to be a driver to the complainant, was said to have withdrawn the money from his master's bank account, but instead of taking the money to his employer as directed, he converted it to his own use and disappeared to an unknown destination.

Police prosecutor Emmanuel Adukwu had earlier informed the court that on April 20, one Emeka Obiamoze of No 62, Mississippi Street, Maitama, Abuja, reported to the police that the accused ran away with his money.

"He sent you to Bank PHB, Maitama Branch, to withdraw the sum of N1,000,020 for him, but after collecting it, you absconded to an unknown destination with the money," the prosecutor said.

He further told the court that the accused

was later arrested and that during police investigation, it was discovered that he had used N700,000 to buy a Nissan Sunny car with registration number BP126KJ.

According to the prosecutor, the car had been recovered from the accused, while the remaining money is yet to be recovered.

He said the offences are punishable under sections 312 and 322 of the Penal Code.

When the two-count charge was read to the accused, he pleaded not guilty and requested for bail, which was not objected to by the prosecutor.

In her ruling, Magistrate Rosemary Kanyip granted the accused bail in the sum of N200,000 with a reliable surety in like sum, who must be a civil servant of not below Grade Level 04.

She also ruled that the surety 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 5 for hearing.

Motorists complain over sign post placements

By Aliyu Yahaya

MOTORISTS plying through the Kubwa/Zuba highway axis are complaining of wrong positioning of signposts in areas where construction works are ongoing.

Bello Abubakar, a driver, said some signboards on the road are misleading to motorists and can cause accidents.

"Instead of placing the signposts at a distance from newly constructed road bumps at project sites, they are placed very close or after the bumps, which makes drivers march their brakes suddenly," he said.

Another driver, Hyacinth Ikechukwu, said drivers ignorant of construction activities on the road normally crash their vehicles due to the wrong positioning of the signboards.

According to him, a wrongly placed signboard is sited close to Regent Construction Company, along Kubwa second gate.

It will be recalled that the FCT Minister, Senator Bala Muhammed, recently announced that he will remove all road bumps erected by his predecessor and replace them with friendly ones.

Woman denies misappropriating N.3 m

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A 37-year-old woman yesterday in court denied misappropriating N300,000 given to her by two persons to secure visas.

Bukky Iwuchukwu was charged for conspiring with Jane Kelechi Nwosu (now at large) to commit joint act, criminal breach of trust and misappropriation on November 2009.

Police prosecutor, Emmanuel Hosseini, told the court that on March 3, one Chukka Orji and Nwokeka Emmanuel Orji, both of Abuja Shopping Mall, Wuse 2, Abuja, reported to the police that the accused persons jointly defrauded them of N300,000.

"The accused collected the money from the complainant to procure German visas for them but converted the money to her personal use," the prosecutor stated.

He said during police investigations, it was discovered that the accused persons actually converted the said money to their own uses and thereby committed offences punishable under Sections 79, 312 and 309 of the Penal Code.

When the charges were read to the accused, she denied them and requested for bail, which was not objected to by the prosecutor.

In his ruling, Magistrate Bashir Attahiru Alkali granted the accused bail in the sum of N150,000 with two reliable sureties in like sums, 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 24 for hearing.



POLICEMEN preventing protesting students from entering into EFCC office in Abuja recently.



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

Man charged with mischief

By Romoke W. Ahmad

A middle-aged man was yesterday arraigned before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly obstructing a public servant from discharging his lawful duty and for attempting to commit culpable homicide on April 22.

Abdul R. Ayemoba of Games village, Abuja, was also charged with abduction and mischief, offences contrary to Sections 148, 274, 95, 327 of the Penal Code.

Prosecutor Philips Akogbu told the court that one Peter Obrhubu attached to Asokoro Police Station reported that while he was at his duty post by Bullet junction, along Shehu Shagari way, the accused drove his Honda Accord car with Reg. No GT 750 ABC in a reckless manner while approach-

ing a junction and beat traffic light.

He said while the policeman attempted to stop the accused after the offence was committed, he attempted to kill him with his car, before he fell on the car's burnet and the accused drove off.

"During police investigation it was discovered that the accused disrupted the policeman from performing his duties and equally abducted him before Samaritans pursued and apprehended him," the prosecutor added.

The accused pleaded not guilty to the charges and requested for bail.

Chief Magistrate Shuaib Ahmed granted the accused bail in the sum of N1 million and a surety in like sum, who must reside as well as have a business within the FCT. The case was adjourned to May 25 for hearing.

62-yr-old arraigned over N7m scam

By Romoke W. Ahmad

A 62-year-old man was on Tuesday arraigned before an Abuja magistrate court for alleged forgery.

Sylvanus Eneche Okoh of Karu village, Abuja, was also accused of using a forged document to cheat and committing offences contrary to Sections 364, 366 and 322 of the Penal Code.

Prosecutor Bulus Samuel told the court that on January 16, Tony Tarfo reported to the police that on January 5, the accused dishonestly forged a land document 'certificate of ownership' and deceived him by presenting it as a genuine one.

He said the accused sold the said land with the forged document to the nominal complainant at N7 million.

When the charges were read, the accused pleaded not guilty and asked for bail.

Chief Magistrate Shuaib Ahmed granted him bail in the sum of N10 million with a surety in like sum, who must reside within the court's jurisdiction with verifiable address.

The magistrate adjourned the case to May 28 for hearing.

Inside Politics

PDP crisis: Ex-chairmanship candidates urge caution

By Muideen Olaniyi

CANDIDATES for the chairmanship of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) who ran against national chairman Prince Vincent Ogbulafor in March 2008 have called for caution among stake-

holders in dealing with the crisis in the party.

The former aspirants, who are operating under the auspices of The PDP 2007 Group, warned that any attempt to impose a new leadership on the party will spell doom for PDP.

Spokesman for the group Chief Chyna Iwuanyanwu said the seed of the present crisis was sown when the party denied its members the right to choose their leaders.

Iwuanyanwu, who expressed support for the clamour for far reaching reforms in the party at

all levels, said the only thing that will save the party from implosion is for the leadership of the party to put in place the machinery for the rebirth of the party.

The group accused the party's leadership and governors for "culture of impunity and arbitrariness".

It called on the party to put its house in order and embark on genuine reconciliation of the internal conflicts to avoid a repetition of the Anambra experience, where the party lost the governorship election in February largely because of internal squabble.

CNPP slams PDP over confidence vote

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

THE Conference of Nigerian Political Parties (CNPP) yesterday slammed the ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP) for passing a confidence vote on Acting President Goodluck Jonathan over "his heroic role in stabilising the country."

Spokesman for CNPP Osita Okechukwu said in statement that the decision by PDP was self serving and misplaced because Jonathan has not played any heroic role because his party is causing ripples in the polity.

He said also that the PDP was wasting its resources to protect its chairman Vincent Ogbulafor who is facing corruption charges.

"How can any patriotic party repose confidence on an acting president who failed woefully to appreciate that the do-or-die battle raging by PDP is an offshoot of gross deficit of free, fair and transparent elections in Nigeria?" he asked.

Okechukwu also said CNPP rejected the vote because Jonathan has not embarked on genuine electoral reform ahead of the 2011 elections.

Ogbulafor gets Abia PDP's support

THE Abia State chapter of the PDP yesterday assured embattled national chairman Vincent Ogbulafor of its support.

A statement by state party chairman Ndudi Okereke said the chapter was fully in support of Ogbulafor, whose leadership is being threatened by a pressure group.

"We dissociate ourselves from the activities of the PDP Reform Forum, especially the manner in which they advocated for the dissolution of the National Working

Committee (NWC).

"If it is necessary to effect leadership change at any level of the party structure, due process should be followed in consonance with party constitution.

"We unanimously pass a vote of confidence in the Prince Vincent Ogbulafor-led NWC and the National Executive Council of our party," he said.

A group of youths from Abia on Tuesday demonstrated at the PDP national headquarters, demanding the removal of Ogbulafor. (NAN)

Igbo man appointed councilor in Adamawa

AN Igbo man from the south eastern part of the country has been appointed to serve in the legislative council of Mubi North Local Government Area of Adamawa State.

Mr. Ikechukwu Anya, who was assigned the Education portfolio, was among the five supervisory councillors sworn in by chairman of the LGA Mr. Kevin Peter.

At the swearing in ceremony, Kevin urged the councillors to put in their best by offering relevant advice that would promote good governance.

He commended the council's

legislative arm for its support and cooperation, which, he said, had promoted the smooth operation of the council.

Responding on behalf of the councillors, Supervisory Councilor for Works Mr. Baba Betso thanked the chairman for the appointment and assured that they would not betray the confidence reposed in them.

The other supervisory councillors were Rahabo Mahmuda for Agriculture, Tijjani Baba for Youths and Sports and Mohammed Abdullahi for Health.

(NAN)



NIGER State Governor Muazu Babangida Aliyu (left) welcoming his counterpart from Oyo State, Bayo Alao Akala (right) and Kwara State Governor, Bukola Saraki during the PDP 50th National Executive Council meeting in Abuja, Tuesday.

Kano scribe: ANPP unfazed by Buhari's exit

By Abbas Jimoh

THE defection of two-time presidential candidate of the All Nigeria People's Party retired General Muhammadu Buhari amounts to good riddance because he never had the interest of the party at heart, Kano State ANPP secretary Rabiuh Ahmed Bako has said.

Bako told journalists in Abuja at the end of the maiden meeting of forum of state secretaries of the

party yesterday that Buhari, who left for the Congress for Progressive Change (CPC), was not fully democratised and could decamp again to any other parties.

"We wish him good luck," Bako said, adding "it is unfortunate although he was a military man and still behaves like a military man."

He said Buhari's interest was only to perennially fly the party's presidential flag and not to help implement the party's manifesto.

"He joined ANPP to become Nigeria's president, a personal ambition and not with intention of moving Nigeria forward. ... Since Buhari could not meet his ends in ANPP, he decided to join another political party and if he could not find what he wanted there, he can still leave the CPC for another party tomorrow," Bako said.

Buhari left the ANPP earlier in the year because of what he said was lack of cohesion and leadership failure in the party.

Kebbi PDP factions to reconcile

From Ismail Adebayo, Birnin Kebbi

GOVERNOR Saidu Dakingari has said he was determined to reconcile the warring groups within the Kebbi State chapter of the People's Democratic Party (PDP).

He said if there must be steady progress and development in the state, factions within the ruling party must bury their differences.

He spoke when members of the party from Dandi Local Government Area visited him at the government house in Birnin Kebbi.

Dakingari said the wrangling in the party has

been on for some time and there was urgent need to find solution to it before next year's election so as to restore the confidence of the people.

"The era of playing politics of bitterness is over, what we should concern ourselves with now is the progress of our great party so that we can justify the confidence people of the state have in us by bringing us to power," he said.

Earlier, the visiting party members through their spokesman Alhaji Abdullahi Kamba enjoined the governor to ensure justice, equity and fair play in the party. He said there is the need for every member to be treated on equal basis.

Inside Politics

Emodi, Igbeke battle for Anambra North

Anambra State is no stranger to intense struggle for political control since 1999. The current fight for the Senate seat to represent the northern district of the state seems to be among the most desperate of such battles yet.

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

FOLLOWERS of political happenings in the country are now familiar with the charged terrain in Anambra State. Political participation in the state clearly depicts the popular description of Nigeria's politics as a dirty game. To survive there, one must be ready to rumple and twist in the murky waters in order to outsmart opponents.

Few months ago, the governorship election of the state held the political landscape spell bound when the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) could not hold primary election but decided to hand pick one of the aspirants. During the election almost all the 25 candidates that contested on various other party platforms were at one time or the other members of the PDP.

Recently, the desperation that has come to be identified with Anambra politics shifted to the Senate as two gladiators from the state tussle for a senatorial seat. Senator Joy Emodi has been occupying the seat of Anambra North zone since June 2007. As chairman of the Senate Committee on Education, Emodi has gained popularity and charisma among her colleagues. Her contributions on the floor of the Senate have helped in resolving several controversial issues in the red chamber. So when the news filtered in on March 25, that she has been sacked by the Enugu Appeal Court, not few senators expressed shock and disappointment. Many wondered that such a charismatic woman had been occupying a Senate seat for three years illegally and at the expense of the true winner of the election.

As soon as she got the news of her removal, Emodi informed Senate President David Mark of the happening and immediately vacated her seat. For several days she never showed up for Senate sittings especially during the all-important screening of ministerial nominees. Some of her colleagues who were unhappy with her removal even tried to sneak her name into the list of ministerial nominees as compensation. At that time Emodi was praised by many observers for the prompt manner with which she obeyed the ruling of the appeal court.

The court gave victory to the candidate of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), Mr. Alphonsus Igbeke, which it said scored the highest lawful votes in the April 2007 polls. The court ordered the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to return Igbeke as the rightful representative of Anambra North in the Senate. Igbeke was supposed to immediately be sworn in to occupy the seat. In such situation the leadership of



MR. Alphonsus Igbeke



SENATOR Joy Emodi

the Senate has no choice but to comply with the court ruling. Its only role is to ensure that the right person sits in the Senate and this is through obtaining a certificate of return from INEC and certificate of asset declaration from the Code of Conduct Bureau.

Apparently, after consultation with her lawyers and the Senate leadership, Emodi made a surprise come back to the Senate on April 20. On the same day, Igbeke, armed with all required documents, also came to the Senate in readiness for oath taking and to take his seat afterwards. A mild drama ensued when very early that morning, Emodi was about the first senator to take her seat while Igbeke was in the office of the Clerk to the Senate waiting to be ushered into the chamber for the oath taking ceremony. Unknown to him to him the game plan had changed. Though he had severally speculated plot to stall his swearing-in, Igbeke apparently did not expect it to come in the form of what he called stark disobedience of the court judgment.

Dazed by realisation of resolution of the Senate leadership not to administer oath on him, Igbeke rushed to express his frustration to the press. While briefing newsmen, he alleged that Emodi is desperate in delaying his oath taking in order for her to claim the first quarter payment to legislators which is due by end of March. As she was sacked on March 25, few days before the payment, Emodi was not to be paid the N45 million quarterly allowances. Igbeke was brandishing his certificate of return as requested by newsmen but in the end, it was Emodi that was inside the chamber while Igbeke continues to make all the

noise outside.

It became clear when Senate President David Mark entered the chamber for the day's proceedings that Emodi's reappearance at the Senate got the blessing of the leadership. When Mark shook hands with her while he was in a procession of the leadership, a popular senator from the South-South yelled that "No weapon fashioned against her (Emodi) shall prosper."

Daily Trust gathered that the plot for Emodi's return to the red chamber was perfected at Otukpo penultimate weekend during the wedding ceremony of one of Mark's daughters. Emodi was mother of the day and handed bride to the groom who is from her constituency in Anambra.

Seated uncomfortably and devoid of her characteristic air of confidence, Emodi was unable to make any meaningful contribution on her first day of executing a 'coup' against Igbeke. But as expected, the leadership of the Senate tactically assigned the spokesman Senator Ayogu Eze to provide explanations for her dramatic return. When he faced the press, Eze tried to downplay the issue by not raising it until a question was asked by newsmen. In defending the Senate action, he confessed that there was no court injunction restraining the Senate leadership from swearing in Igbeke. Eze indicated that the decision of the leadership is discretionary based on a section of its Standing Order because no court has restrained it from administering oath of office and allegiance on Igbeke.

Maybe the Senate forgot that its standing order is inferior to the constitution which provides for rule of law and obedience to

all court rulings.

However, the argument that Emodi and her supporters in the Senate especially the leadership want to put forward is that in 2009, the same court had ruled in her favour in a matter brought before it by one Jessie Balonwu. In that case, the complainant had sought the court to declare that the April 2007 poll in Anambra North was not properly conducted and to declare it null and void. But the Enugu appeal court in its ruling on the matter declared that the election was properly conducted. The Senate leadership perhaps due to its closeness to Emodi prefers the earlier ruling and is not willing to obey a recent judgment in another case with a fresh relief sought by another complainant in the person of Igbeke.

The Senate spokesman said it is in obedience to court proceedings that Igbeke cannot be sworn in due to a court process that has been instituted by Emodi seeking for interpretation of the two judgments. He said the leadership of the Senate will not swear in Igbeke until the court process is concluded because "there are two conflicting judgments on from the same court on this matter. We want the court to determine which of its judgments we should obey."

The Senate said it cannot interfere in the matter because it could be prejudicial and that Emodi should continue to sit in the chamber. When newsmen sought for documents upon which the Senate leadership relies for its action, a motion on notice signed by Emodi's counsel, Barrister Festus Okoye, was circulated. There is no acknowledgement of receipt of the motion by the appeal court or any other court, neither has any date been fixed on the motion

to be heard. Invariably, Emodi's lawyer, and not any court, effectively stopped a man declared as winner of an election by a competent court from assuming duties. One question being asked is if a motion on notice could be taken as an injunction.

In his case, Igbeke did not ask the court to nullify the election but to declare him winner because he scored the highest number of valid votes. The appeal court agreed with him and declared him winner of the election. This came three years after the election. After the court victory, Igbeke now faces another hurdle of surmounting the political maneuverings and power play spear headed by Mark's Senate leadership.

Unfortunately for Igbeke, the ANPP and by extension the entire opposition is almost extinct in the Senate. What happened to him would have been unthinkable if he was a member of the PDP claiming a seat occupied by a member of the opposition.

The passive opposition caucus, led by Senator Maina Ma'aji Lawan, appear timid when it comes to matters that require decisiveness. There has been no comment from opposition leaders over Igbeke's treatment by the Senate leadership, so he is carrying his cross alone.

Interestingly, both Emodi and Igbeke are veterans when it comes to winning elections in the court room. Emodi first came to the Senate after a long court process that sacked Senator Emmanuel Anosike, while Igbeke also had a stint in the House of Representatives courtesy of a court judgment. So the game goes on.



THE NIGERIA POLICE

TOURISM AND NATIONAL SECURITY

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for the
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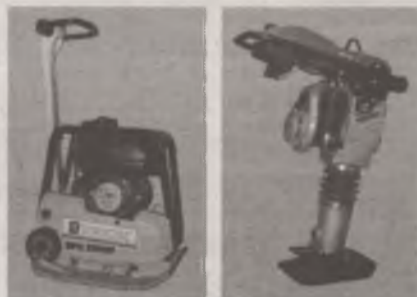


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1. Completion of Construction of Lecture Theatre	11. Provision of Furniture for Classroom
2. Furnishing of HIV/AIDS Centre	12. Provision of 2No. 30 Seater Toyota Buses.
3. Furnishing of ICT Centre	13. Provision of 3No. Toyota cars
4. Furnishing of Students Hostel II	14. Provision of 2No. Hilux 4WD 2.7 UR
5. Expansion of College Power Network	15. Provision of 1No. 1414 Mercedes Benz Bus.
6. Extension of Academic Staff Offices	16. Provision of Furniture for Students Recreational Centre
7. Furnishing of Academic Staff Offices	17. Provision of Sports Equipment
8. Extension of College Library	18. Extension of SIWES Block.
9. Completion of Students Recreational Centre	
10. Extension of PHE Department	

In view of the above, the College is inviting competent and experienced Contractors to submit their pre-qualification documents which shall be rendered in English Language and spiral bound.

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.

Those interested in the pre-qualification process are required to submit comprehensive technical and financial information as indicated below:

- Evidence of registration with Corporate Affairs Commission.
- Evidence of Tax Clearance Certificate for the last three (3) years
- Company audited account for the last three (3) years.
- Evidence of Financial Capability and Banking support.
- Verifiable list and documentary evidence of similar jobs successfully executed with their locations within the last three years (include photocopies of letters of awards and practical completion certificates).
- List of names of key personnel to be involved in the projects stating their qualification and professional registration where applicable (Enclose photocopies of credentials).
- Evidence of compliance with provision of Pension Reforms Act 2004.
- List of plants and equipment to be used for the projects.
- Annual turn-over of the company.
- VAT registration and evidence of past – VAT remittance.
- Originals of documents (a and b above) must be produced for sighting.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This advert shall not be construed as a commitment on the part of the College Authorities, nor shall it entitle any company to make any claims whatsoever, or seek any indemnity from the College by virtue of such company having responded to this advert. All costs incurred shall be to the responding Company's accounts.

SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION.

The pre-qualification documents should be sealed and submitted in an envelope marked (PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR RESPECTIVE PROJECTS and address to:

The Registrar,
Federal College of Education,
Zaria.

Submissions are to be deposited in the Box at the Registrar's Office within six (6) weeks from the date of this publication.

OPENING OF BIDS FOR PRE-QUALIFICATIONS.

Bidders/their representatives are invited to the public opening of pre-qualification within six weeks (6) from the date of publication at 12.30 pm i.e. on 10th June, 2010.

(SIGNED)
J.S. DANJUMA
REGISTRAR.

NATIONAL TUBERCULOSIS AND LEPROSY TRAINING AND REFERRAL HOSPITAL P. M. B. 1089, ZARIA.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Training and Referral Hospital, Zaria seeks to engage the services of consultants in the following fields: Architecture, Quantity Surveying, Civil/Structural, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering for its 2010 Capital Projects. Interested firms (preferably a consortium of the above listed professionals) are invited to express interest to undertake these services.

Such firms/consortiums are to submit the following documents for pre-qualification:

- Evidence of Incorporation/Registration with CAC.
- Tax Clearance Certificate for the last three (3) years.
- VAT Certificate.
- Evidence of Registration of firm/Principal partners with Relevant Professional bodies.
- Company Profile and Office address.
- Evidence of similar jobs done in the past three (3) years.
- Evidence from the Company's Bankers as to its financial strength, credit worthiness and solvency.

Other Relevant Information:-

- All cost incurred in the preparation and submission of Expressions of Interests are to be borne entirely by the Firm.
- The National TB and Leprosy Training and Referral Hospital, Zaria reserve the right to reject any or all Expressions of Interest and to terminate the entire selection process at any time without any liability to the centre.

Closing Date:

All submissions shall be in two (2) copies, addressed to the Principal, National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Training and Referral Hospital Zaria and must be received in the office of the Head of Administration on or before 10th May 2010.

Signed
H.A. Umar
For: Principal

PUBLIC NOTICE

NITAF LIMITED (RC:666659)
28, Ajasa Street, Onikan, Lagos

NOTICE OF RESOLUTION TO WIND UP VOLUNTARILY PURSUANT TO SECTION 458 OF THE COMPANY AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT 1990, CAP C20 LFN 2004

Notice is hereby given that it was resolved at an Extraordinary General Meeting held on 15th day of February 2010 that there be a voluntary winding up of NITAF LIMITED, and DR. NKIRU-NZEGWU DANJUMA has been appointed as the Sole Liquidator of the Company for the purpose of winding up the affairs and distributing the assets of the Company. Any Creditor or Debtor of the Company should contact DR. NKIRU-NZEGWU DANJUMA of JOHANAN CHAMBERS, ground floor, 28, Ajasa Street, Off King George V Road, Onikan Lagos.

By Order of the Board

JOHANAN NOMINEES
Company Secretary

SPORT

Ten-man
Inter knock out
holders Barca

Page 64



DOWN and out...FC Barcelona's Lionel Messi of Argentina fights for the ball with Inter Milan's Esteban Matias Cambiasso from Argentina during the Champions League semifinal second leg soccer match at Nou Camp stadium in Barcelona, Spain, yesterday.

Lagerback: World Cup semis unrealistic

By David Ngobua, with Agency reports

SUPER Eagles handler, Lars Lagerback, has said that a World Cup semi-final target set for him by the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) is not realistic, arguing he will aim to reach the knockout stage of the tournament.

"The coach has promised that the Super Eagles will do well at the World Cup, but he has told us

he cannot guarantee a semi-final ticket," said NFF official, Tunde Aderibigbe.

"He said the major task would be to get out of the group and after that, anything can happen."

Meanwhile, former Green Eagles goalkeeper, Patrick Udoh charged the Swede tactician to give equal opportunity to every player invited to camp, if he is to achieve the semi-final target at the 2010

World Cup.

Speaking to Trustsports yesterday, Udoh said Nigeria is blessed with quality players but the bane of the senior national team has been players' lack of discipline and commitment to national assignment.

He said if Lagerback keeps the players on their toes, he would be able to bring out the best in the Eagles who have formed the bad habit of always playing as if nothing is at stake.

ing is at stake.

"I want to advise Eagles Technical Adviser, Lars Lagerback to bring competition in the team. He should not hand automatic shirts to certain players. Once he treats the players on equal basis, he will be able to get the best because healthy competition breeds good results.

"He must take the issue of discipline very seriously. Most times,

some of the present day Eagles lack the desired discipline and commitment because they have been over pampered," he said.

Nigeria are drawn in Group B along with Argentina, Greece and South Korea.

This will be their fourth World Cup appearance. They reached the second round in 1994 and 1998, but failed to go beyond the group stage at the 2002 finals.

NFF missing money: Court decides May 26

AN Abuja Chief Magistrate's Court has fixed May 26, to deliver judgment on the theft of 236,000 dollars at the Nigerian Football Federation (NFF) Secretariat.

The Chief Magistrate, Mr David Ochimana, fixed the date after counsel to the accused adopted their written addresses on a no-case submission.

Twelve persons were arraigned on May 5, 2009 on the alleged theft on March 19, 2009 while seven were discharged on Sept. 23, 2009 as the court held that they had no case to answer.

The remaining five were, however, charged with alleged criminal conspiracy, housebreaking, theft and negligence and had since been facing trial.

They are John Adelowo, Lukman Ajiboye, Abutu Ogaji, Isaac Baba and Yakubu Bawa.

Counsel to Adelowo, Mr E.E Itah, urged the court to discharge his client as the prosecution had failed to establish a prima facie case against him.

Itah submitted that the testimony against Adelowo which was based on the purported fingerprint linked to him was baseless.

"We submit that the charge

against Adelowo is based on suspicion based on the purported fingerprint report that links him with the theft.

"We therefore, respectfully submit that from the totality of the evidence adduced by the prosecution, the prosecution has failed woefully to link my client with the theft.

"In this circumstances, the prosecution has not discharged the burden of proof required by law," Itah added.

Itah further said that the cabinet which the money was purportedly kept was a movable property in possession of his client.

A finger print expert analyst, one Inspector Bala Goki, had linked the theft of the money to the fingers of Adelowo.

Counsel to the other accused adopted the submission of Itah and urged the court to discharge their clients.

He said the prosecution had failed to prove a prima facie case against them.

The Police Prosecutor, Auta Yusuf, however, said the evidence of their witnesses linked the accused to the crime.

Yusuf added that in the absence of direct evidence in a criminal matter, the present circumstan-

tial evidence suffice, if it was direct, positive and unequivocal, which he said, had been proved.

He noted that all the evidence that were revealed in the course of the trial were gathered in the course of investigations.

The prosecution urged the court to hold the evidence surrounding the circumstances leading to the theft as circumstantial enough to convict them.

The Chief Magistrate, however, fixed May 26 for judgment.

Sodje faults Eagles meeting

CHARLTON Athletic defender, Sam Sodje has declared that he is not in any way perturbed by the cancellation of this week's parley between Super Eagles players and their coach, Lars Lagerback in London.

Sodje told brilafm.net that too much meaning had been read into the botched meeting and believes it would not have achieved anything, even if it had gone ahead as fixed for Tuesday and Wednesday.

The former Brentford Town, Reading and West Bromwich Albion star confessed further to brilafm.net that he did not even know what the meeting was geared towards before its cancellation at the last minute. The all-action central defender, whose older brother, Efetobore was a surprise inclusion in Nigeria's squad to the 2002 Japan/Korea World Cup further revealed that he is in the dark regarding the reasons for the cancellation of the meeting. "I think we are judging too much into it. I just think when the time is right, we should meet because it's good to meet but I don't really know why the meeting was cancelled.

"I think we are going too much on it and we are jumping too much into it. I think when the camp starts, it starts and we don't have to read meaning into it," he suggested.



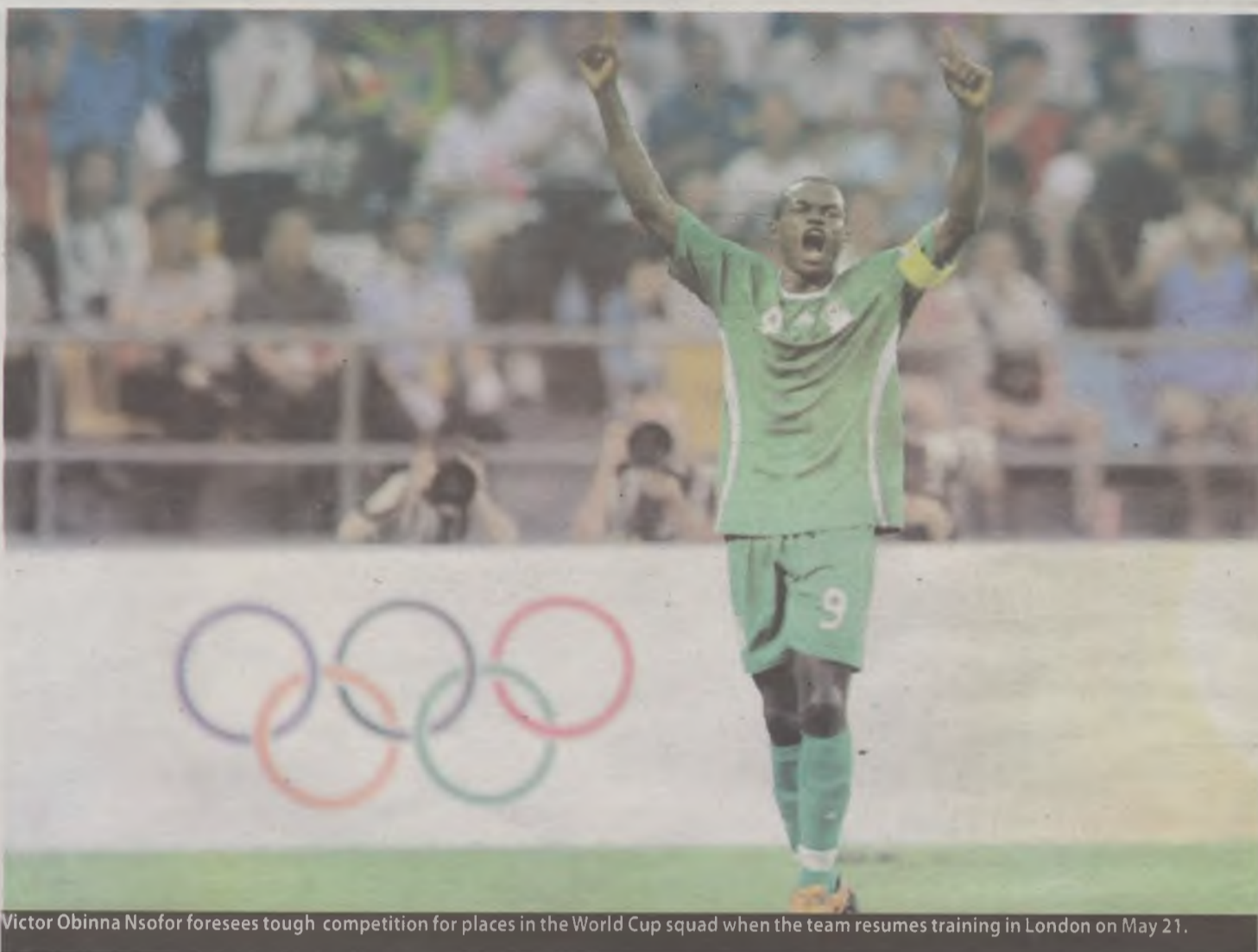
SODJE

No credible men for NFF - Adokie

WITH members of the board of Nigeria Football Federation canvassing support from different zones for election into a second term, former chairman of Sharks of Port-Harcourt, Barrister Adokie Amesiemeke has slammed Alhaji Sani Lulu for relying on the past.

The ex-Rivers State attorney-general, however, said in a chat with brilafm.net that there are no credible hands to replace the incumbent. "My worry is that those who are not there but want to get there. People are talking about those who are there and want to return, but they are not talking about those who are coming in.

"Will those who are coming in do anything better or anything different? The situation we have found ourselves is one in which those who are there are not talking about developing the game.



Victor Obinna Nsofor foresees tough competition for places in the World Cup squad when the team resumes training in London on May 21.

Eagles camp will be tough - Nsofor

MALAGA of Spain striker, Obinna Nsofor has confessed that he foresees a tough battle in the Super Eagles camp when training for the World Cup begins next month.

Speaking against the backdrop of the return of Ikechukwu Uche as well as sizzling form of Yakubu Aiyegbeni and Chinedu Obasi, Nsofor said in an interview with

brilafm.net the new invitees will give everyone a run for their money in camp.

The on loan Inter Milan star confessed in a chat with brilafm.net that their presence in camp means that the competition will reach a fever pitch as some newly invited are sure to challenge for the old ones for a final World Cup slot.

He also expressed joy with the return of his friend in the Super Eagles, Ikechukwu Uche of Real Zaragoza who has been out of action for up to seven months with an Achilles tendon injury he sustained in a league match against Sevilla on September 12, 2009.

"This is a big news for the Super Eagles and for the coach,

because our players are in form. I am happy for Chinedu and the others who are doing well and scoring.

"There is going to be a lot of players coming to camp in top form and we old players will have to fight for our place.

"Only the best players will go to the World Cup for Nigeria," Nsofor concluded.

NPL lists Oneya, Yusuf, Toro for 'crucial' matches

By David Ngobua

FORMER Nigeria Football Association Chairman, Brigadier General Dominic Oneya, (rtd) former Scribe of NFA, Dr. Tijani Yusuf and Alhaji Sani Ahmed Toro another former NFA General Secretary are among top football administrators who would be called upon to commission the remaining matches of the Globacom Premier League.

Speaking to Trustsports yesterday, the Executive Secretary of

the Nigeria Premier League, Malam Alhassan Yakmut said considering the importance attached to the remaining matches of the current league season, the secretariat has decided to settle for highly experienced match commissioner who would competently preside over the matches.

He said apart from his discussions with the above mentioned football administrators; he has been in touch with many other seasoned football administrators who have expressed readiness to

The secretariat has decided to settle for highly experienced match commissioners

make themselves available for the matches despite their tight schedule. "If you look at the match com-

missioners for last weekend and the weekend we are going to enter into, you will discover our seriousness.

We are going to involve dignitaries like retired General Dominic Oneya, a CAF Match Commissioner and former NFA chairman, Dr. Tijani Yusuf, Alhaji Sani Toro, Paul Bassey, M.A Kadiri, the current NFF General Secretary who is a CAF match Commissioner, Okugbere, Austin Akosa and a host of others," he assured.

Kano to host karate tourney

KANO will host the maiden Sardauna National Karate Championships from April 30 to May 5, according to the Karate Federation of Nigeria (KFN) Technical Director, Dave Jegede.

Jegede said yesterday that the five-day tournament would also

feature a referees' refresher course. The tournament will hold at the Sani Abacha Stadium, Kano.

Jegede said the refresher course would update the knowledge of the referees on the latest rules of the World Karate Federation (WKF).

He said the latest rules would

apply at the championships from which outstanding karatekas would be selected and camped in preparation for the Africa Karate Championships in Niamey, Niger Republic, in May.

The technical director said the males would take part in the 60kg,

-67kg, -84kg and +84kg while the females would jostle for honours in the 50kg, -55kg, -61kg, -68 and +68kg weight categories.

Jegede warned that only those with WKF approved equipment would be allowed to take part in the tournament.



BENITEZ'S Liverpool hope to bury dismal domestic form by winning the Europa League.

Liverpool chase Europa League tonic

By Neil Maidment (Reuters)

DISMAL domestic and Champions League campaigns have left Liverpool seeking Europa League salva-

tion but they must first overturn a 1-0 semi-final first-leg deficit against Atletico Madrid today.

Poor form and injuries to key players like Spain striker

Fernando Torres have ensured a season of unfulfilled ambitions so far at Anfield.

"I am confident. Anfield is massive and with the fans behind us we can beat anyone," Liverpool coach Rafa Benitez,

whose side are seventh in the Premier League, told reporters after their first leg defeat.

The five times European champions, chasing their fourth UEFA/Europa Cup, have twice progressed in the

competition this season after losing first-leg ties against Lille and Benfica.

However, Atletico, who won the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup in 1962 and finished European Cup runners-up in 1974, have their impressive scoring form away from home to thank for a last four berth.

They have bagged six goals on their travels and only managed two at home in their two wins and five draws this season.

The Spanish side have a chance to finish their campaign on a high by appearing in two Cup finals, having already booked themselves a King's Cup final date with Sevilla next month.

"With the squad we have we should be better placed in the league. We started the season badly but now we are in good form. We aren't thinking of a double, just winning the next game," Portugal winger Simao Sabrosa told a news conference.

"We know Liverpool are more conservative away from home, and that at home they will put us under a lot more pressure, but we hold our destiny in our own hands."

In a dour first leg settled by Diego Forlan's scrappy finish, Liverpool gave a performance of a team that had already travelled 1,200 miles by train and plane just to make the match.

After laying on three assists in Sunday's 4-0 league win over relegated Burnley, rarely called-upon Italy midfielder Alberto Aquilani could be used in a more attacking role.

"It is an option. He can play in both positions," Benitez, who is without injured talisman and former Atletico striker Torres, told the club website (www.liverpoolfc.tv).

"In this position he has freedom and with Gerrard behind him they can pass to each other."

Atletico's Argentine international striker Sergio Aguero will feature at Anfield after being suspended for the first leg.

Probable lineups:

Liverpool: 25-Pepe Reina; 2-Glen Johnson, 23-Jamie Carragher, 16-Sotiris Kyrgiakos, 5-Daniel Agger; 18-Dirk Kuyt, 21-Lucas, 20-Javier Mascherano, 8-Steven Gerrard; 4-Alberto Aquilani; 24-David Ngog

Atletico Madrid: 43-David De Gea; 17-Tomas Ujfalusi, 21-Luis Perea, 18-Alvaro Dominguez, 3-Antonio Lopez; 19-Jose Antonio Reyes, 12-Paulo Assuncao, 8-Raul Garcia, 20-Simao Sabrosa; 10-Sergio Aguero, 7-Diego Forlan

Referee: Terje Hauge (Norway)

Team ethic watchword for Bayern's Van Gaal

STRIKER Ivica Olic might have expected fulsome praise from coach Louis van Gaal after his hat-trick sent Bayern Munich into the Champions League final on Tuesday. Van Gaal preferred to dwell on his team's efforts.

"He scored three goals, he pressed high on the pitch as well, which is important in our organisation," Dutchman van Gaal told a press conference after Bayern thrashed Olympique Lyon 3-0.

"We can rely on him, once again he scored three

goals but it is because he is the closest player to the goal. I'm sorry, but that's the way I think."

Olic was happy to acknowledge his team mates.

"We were good today, the whole team played a super game and therefore it was easy for me to play forward," the Croatian said.

"We were compact. Our defense and midfield played very well and if you get such a performance from the back and the midfield, then opportunities are created for me and

that's simple for me."

Following an inconsistent start, Van Gaal, who arrived at Bayern during the close season, has made a strong impact at the German club.

Bayern won only one of their first four Bundesliga matches this season and were on the brink of elimination from their Champions League group after two defeats against Girondins Bordeaux.

But they can now look forward to their first Champions League final since 2001 and are also poised to win the Bundesliga title.

"The players now know what it's like to spend 10 months with Van Gaal, they know it's not easy but they're happy now and so am I," he said.

The former Ajax coach will be even happier if Inter Milan, who won the first leg 3-1, see off Barcelona on Wednesday in the other semi-final.

"I think we are more likely to play Inter and that would give me the opportunity to have a press conference with my friend Jose Mourinho," he said.

Inter Milan coach Mourinho was an assistant coach at Barcelona when Van Gaal was manager from 1997-2000.



LOUIS Van Gaal

AL-WAFEER AIRLINES MAIDEN FLIGHT FROM NIGERIA

Finest Travels & Tours Ltd and Al-Wafaekh Travels Tours in conjunction with Al-Wafeer Airlines, Jeddah introduce a direct charter flight from ABUJA/KANO to MADINA for the 2010 Umrah & Hajj operations. The maiden flight is scheduled for the 10th of June, 2010. Al-Wafeer Airline is a first class Airline in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with dedicated Boeing 747 capable of conveying 150 pilgrims at a time. Stakeholders in the industry are called upon to collaborate with this opportunity now to ensure a hitch-free Umrah and Hajj operations this year. First Class, Business Class and all Economy Class available. Also there is opportunity to enjoy two wonderful Fridays at Madina and Makka.

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THE THURSDAY COLUMN

Is'haq Modibbo Kawu

kawumodibbo@dailytrust.com 08059100368 (SMS only)

The PDP scorpions are stinging themselves to death

It is moments such as we now have at hand which bring to the fore the fecundity of mind of the much-lamented Chief Sunday Awoniyi. As a founding member of the PDP, Chief Awoniyi said it was conceptualized as a "broad church" to convey the hopes of the Nigerian people for democratic renewal, after years of military dictatorship. Unfortunately, the party fell into the hands of the old dictator, General Olusegun Obasanjo, and in a remarkable flight of imagery, Chief Awoniyi said the party transmogrified into a monster; the PDP, he remarked had been turned into a basket full of scorpions and the tendency was for these rival scorpions to sting themselves to death! Well, the events of the past few weeks are beginning to vindicate Chief Awoniyi's observations. The suspension of leading members of the party; the arraignment of the party chairman for corrupt practices, an allegation exhumed from 2001; the advice by General Ibrahim Babangida that the party should not return to "Garrison" methods, in obvious dig at Obasanjo; attempts to impeach Speaker Dimeji Bankole; Shettima Ali Monguno's call for Jonathan to be honorable; the reported face off between Jonathan and the PDP governors on Monday night; Jonathan's open endorsement of the Masari-Nnamani rebellion against the PDP leadership and the injunction to stop the serially postponed NEC meeting.

It is a vicious struggle for the soul of the PDP to determine which of the contending tendencies will control access to presidency in 2011. The fate of Chief Vincent Ogbulafor and his executive was sealed when he announced, soon after Goodluck Jonathan was invested as "Acting President", that the candidate of the party in 2011 will come from the north. That essentially disqualified Jonathan, a consummate schemer whose eyes were firmly set on removing President Yar'adua from the scene while also emerging PDP candidate in 2011. He enjoys the active connivance of General Olusegun Obasanjo and it is therefore not a co-incidence that Jonathan lapsed into the Obasanjo method of using the anti-corruption agencies to run after enemies: EFCC against James Ibori, a leading member of the Yar'adua inner circle and one who helped to shape the Yar'adua presidency away from Obasanjo's control and the ICPC on the tail of Ogbulafor who had the effrontery to state that the party was going to stick by its agreement about power rotation. It was the basis upon which the PDP had inflicted Obasanjo on Nigeria between 1999 and 2007 in any case.

So we behold a most comical situation of an Acting President arriving at equity with badly soiled hands since the EFCC, under the Nuhu Ribadu that he effusively praised in America two weeks ago, had alerted Nigerians that Madame Patience, Jonathan's beloved wife was a thief, allegedly caught with huge amounts of Bayelsa state dollars/naira (and still to be cleared!), prior to Jonathan's emergence as Yar'adua's running mate in the 2007 elections. Such a small matter of a thieving wife is obviously no handicap for Jonathan to finish with whoever stands in the way of becoming candidate and eventually Nigeria's president in 2011. The ground was softened for Ogbulafor's arraignment for corruption, through a well-oiled media campaign for weeks. But by going for Ogbulafor and the present PDP executive, Jonathan is also taking the fight to the powerful governors' caucus of the party; a method that has all the hallmarks of an Obasanjo flanking movement.

It should be recalled that the governors seized the party machinery and went on to help whittle down incrementally,

Obasanjo's influence in the party, culminating in a disgrace that he suffered within the BOT at the end of last year. Jonathan's fateful accession to acting presidency has offered the opportunity for Obasanjo to seek his pound of flesh and the unforgiving general is baying for blood. If the ICPC and EFCC can succeed with Ogbulafor and Ibori, the PDP governors know that they will not find a hiding place; this is especially true of the second-term governors, but even the first term ones can be denied the return ticket. So they are obliged to fight back and they will fight dirty because their lives depend on it! Unfortunately for the governors, their arrogant hegemony in the party alienated a broad category of members and they might not have a lot of sympathy in the fight currently unfolding within the party. And since the Ogbulafor executive has publicly announced that the party's candidate will still be from the north, it is in the interest of aspiring candidates like General Babangida to publicly condemn the return of the "Garrison" politics which Obasanjo used to hold everybody to ransom. They either fight for their space or see their ambitions go up in smoke. Goodluck Jonathan and his mentor Obasanjo are determined to bury the party's understanding that the presi-

dency be rotated between the north and south, with each section having two terms. This is the essence of the fight for the soul of the PDP; the reason why the PDP scorpions will sting themselves to death!

I have often criticized the Ogbulafor leadership of the PDP, but in this matter, Ogbulafor and members of his executive have my sympathy, for the simple reason that they chose to be honorable. They announced that the party will respect its own internal mechanism of power rotation. I am not a member of the PDP

neither do I support the undemocratic platform of power rotation. But if that is the party's position and furthermore, it has helped Obasanjo to be our president for eight years, arguably the WORST presidency in Nigeria's history, why are they trying to subvert it now? The issue is Jonathan Goodluck's overarching ambition to be president, despite his hypocritical posturing as uninterested or altruistic; as well as Obasanjo's need for relevance and a desperate urge for revenge: revenge for the defeat of Third Term which he still smarts from; revenge that President Yar'adua did not expire from the punishing campaign so as to remain in power and then as president, did not end up as the puppet; revenge that some 'upstart' governors stole the thunder from him when they seized the PDP machinery and installed the Ogbulafor leadership, thus rendering naught his plan to run the party as the BOT chairman! The combination of the presidential ambition of Jonathan (the puppet) and the urge for vengeance of Obasanjo (the puppeteer), is therefore at the root of PDP's crisis!

Let us not forget that the party lost its idealism almost as soon as it was formed by making the mistake of foisting on itself Obasanjo as its first presidential candidate. Its problems have only worsened over the past decade. What remains is a monstrous ogre kept alive by a ravenous appetite for power. With a near-total control of the nation's political space and confronted by an impotent, incompetent and flabby opposition, it is no wonder that the enemy of the PDP resides within itself. There is no running away from the laws of nature or of political science: the PDP is in the throes of a violent and painful death but its stranglehold on power is not about to be broken; well, just yet!



It is a vicious struggle for the soul of the PDP to determine which of the contending tendencies will control access to presidency in 2011

SPORTS REPORT



FRANCK Ribery

Ribery banned from UCL final

Bayern Munich winger Franck Ribery will miss the Champions League final after being banned for three games yesterday by UEFA, although the German club plans to appeal the suspension.

The French international was sent off during the first leg of Bayern's semifinal triumph over Lyon. He sat out Tuesday's 3-0 victory in Lyon, and the second game he will

miss is the May 22 final.

Bayern issued a statement saying it would appeal using "all legal means at its disposal."

Ribery was ejected in the 37th minute of the first leg in Munich, which Bayern won 1-0, after he lost the ball and then stepped on the ankle of Lyon forward Lisandro.

The ban means he will also miss the first European game Bayern plays next season.



PLAYING a man down, Jose Mourinho's Inter side downed defending champ Barcelona en route to the Champions League final.

Ten-man Inter knock out holders Barca

Inter Milan battled for more than an hour with 10 men to cling on against Barcelona yesterday, eliminating the holders 3-2 on aggregate to advance to next month's Champions League final.

After losing last week's semi-final first leg in Milan 3-1, Barca's hopes of meeting Bayern Munich in Madrid on May 22 were lifted when Inter defender Thiago Motta clashed with Sergio Busquets in the 28th minute and was sent off.

The home fans filled the vast Nou Camp arena with noise and Barca dominated possession but struggled to create clear chances.

A superbly-taken goal from stand-in striker Gerard Pique in the 84th minute gave Barca a 1-0 win on the night but it was not enough to stop Jose Mourinho's men reaching the final.