

Libram

Abuja Airport road, Katsina airport named after Yar'adua



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Minister: Jonathan consulting traditional rulers on VP



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PHOTO: SANI MAIKATANGA



HAJIYA Turai Yar'adua arrives at the family house in Katsina for the seventh-day prayers for the late President Umaru Musa Yar'adua yesterday.

Sambo may emerge as VP today

● Shema, Dakingari on shortlist

By Nasiru L. Abubakar

GOVERNOR of Kaduna State Architect Mohamed Namadi Sambo's name is set to be submitted by President Goodluck Jonathan to the National Assembly this morning for confirmation as Vice President of the Federal Republic, a top legislative source told *Daily Trust* in Abuja last night. However, the source added that two other PDP governors from the North West region, namely Barrister Ibrahim Shehu Shema of Katsina and Alhaji Saidu Usman Nasamu Dakingari of Kebbi were also on the shortlist and may spring a last-minute surprise.

On Tuesday afternoon, Governor Sambo led a large delegation from Kaduna

State, which included all its powerful political actors as well as traditional rulers and clerics, to visit President Jonathan at the State House. They condoled with him over the death of President Umaru Yar'adua and they also congratulated him on his elevation. Afterwards, *Daily Trust* learnt that Sambo had a private meeting with President Jonathan, and it is believed that it was at that meeting that he was intimated of his choice as the new vice president.

According to the source, President Jonathan had earlier settled for Secretary to the Government of the Federation Mahmud Yayale Ahmed as the new vice president following Jonathan's own elevation to the presidency on Wednesday

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“The two PDP governors from the North West may spring a last-minute surprise”

Ogbulafor: I won't resign

By Muideen Olaniyi

THE embattled National Chairman of the rul-

ing Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Prince Vincent Ogbulafor yesterday spurned President Good-

luck Jonathan's demand for him to resign his position, saying he has no plan to resign. He also dismissed

reports in some newspapers alleging that he actually submitted a resignation letter to the president

on Tuesday night.

Three state governors from the South East, Sullivan Chime of Enugu, Mar-

tins Elechi of Ebonyi and Ikedi Ohakim of Imo had on Tuesday night delivered

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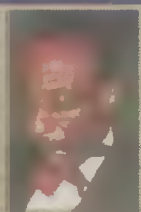
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3 police-armourers held for selling bullets to soldier

From Isa Umar Gusau, Maiduguri & Misbahu Bashir, Abuja

THREE armourers in the Mobile Police Training College in Gwoza nick named 'Gwoza hills' in Borno State have been arrested and detained for allegedly smuggling and selling ammunition to a soldier serving with the 211 Tank Battalion in Bama, also in the state. The three mobile policemen, an Inspector and two lower ranked men were yesterday confined at the Criminal Investigation Department of the state police headquarters in Maiduguri. Their names and that of the soldier were withheld so as not to sabo-

tage investigation, police sources said.

The three men whose job it was to keep custody of rifles and ammunition used for training and other security related purposes in the school were apprehended after the soldier man they allegedly sold ammunition to, implicated them, our correspondent learnt.

It was also noted that the soldier man pointed at them after military authorities in his battalion discovered he was in possession of ammunition and demanded to know how he got them. Police sources added that the soldier said he bought the ammunition from the three mobile police armourers. The number and type of ammunition as well as the amount of money involved in the deal

wasn't disclosed at press time but sources said bullets were involved. When our correspondent called the Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Isa Azare, his phone rang several times but wasn't answered. Some policemen however said that the state commissioner of police, Ibrahim Abdu as well as Azare were not competent to speak on the matter because the mobile police training school as well mobile policemen deployed there were answerable to the B (training) department in the force headquarters, Abuja. The Force PRO in Abuja, ACP Emmanuel Ojukwu confirmed the story, saying the three were with the CID in the state police command in Maiduguri for investigation.

Yesterday's arrest was not the first time weapons were being smuggled out of that school. In October 2007, another mobile police armourer, a Sergeant, was arrested while attempting to smuggle four rifles and magazines from Maiduguri to part of the crises prone Niger-Delta. The state commissioner of police then, Danlami Yar'adua, had confirmed that the mobile policeman was going on vacation when he was arrested at the Kano motor park in Maiduguri while attempting to board a luxurious bus to Port Harcourt en-route Lagos. A special crime monitoring team from the CID established by the Borno police command detected the rifles and live ammunition.

PIC: AFOLABI SOTUNDE



Former FCT Minister Nasir el-Rufai surrounded by security operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) at the Federal High Court, Abuja, yesterday.

Tanker crushes 3 in Lokoja

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

A Federal Road Safety Commission official said in Lokoja, Kogi State yesterday that one person died while another was injured when a water tanker driver lost control of the vehicle and rammed into some roadside traders early yesterday.

But witnesses said they counted three dead, adding that the tanker had a brake failure and rammed into the Pata market within the city.

The Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) Mr Yomi Asaniyan told our correspondent that only one roadside female trader died while a man sustained injuries. He said the corpse of the victim had been deposited at the mortuary of the Federal Medical Centre, Lokoja where the injured was also receiving treatment.

Oshiomhole orders arrest of Task Force Chairman, members

From Vincent Egunyanga, Benin

EDO State Governor Comrade Adams Oshiomhole has ordered the arrest of the Chairman, Committee on Illegal Structures and Street Trading, Col. Felix Igiebor and four members of the committee and ordered immediate dissolution of the committee.

The committee's leaders were arrested over allegations of extortion of money from members of the public which the governor said was unacceptable. "You people have been doing a lot of damage to the image of government. You go about arresting innocent people and extorting money from them, and today you arrested a Bishop and demanded for bribe", he told them.

Narrating his ordeal in the hands of the committee, Bishop Gabriel Dunia of the Auchi Catholic Diocese said on his arrival from Europe, he noticed that members of the task committee were about towing his vehicle for illegal parking at the Airport road. The bishop said he immediately apologized but they refused and demanded for a bribe of N10, 000 from his driver. He said they insisted and took him to Government House where he then reported to the Chief Security Officer who ordered for release of the vehicle.

A Statement by Pally Irase, Secretary to the State Government said the dissolution was sequel to confirmed cases of extortion under the guise of wrong parking, harassment of innocent persons, physical assault and dehumanizing methods which were unacceptable to government.

The statement advised the committee members to return all government property in their possessions to the Permanent Secretary Central Administration. "Aggrieved members of the public who have genuine complaints against members of the dissolved task force are encouraged to lodge their complaints to the Permanent Secretary Government House Benin City", the statement said.

Court asks Senate to swear in Igbeke

From Beatrice Onuchukwu, Awka

THE Court of Appeal in Enugu yesterday ordered the immediate swearing in of Chief Alphonsus Igbeke as the senator representing Anambra North Senatorial zone in the senate. The court in a lea ruling delivered by Justice Suleiman Galadima frowned at the non compliance with an earlier order by the senate and berated the counsel representing the senate and Senator Joy Emodi for failing the judiciary and their client. The court held that Igbeke had the majority of the lawful votes cast in the election. The counsel representing the senate said he would abide by the decision of the court.

The court had on March 25, declared Igbeke the winner of the senatorial poll of April 14, 2007 for Anambra North.

Following the order, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) withdrew the certificate earlier issued Senator Joy Emordi to Igbeke in compliance.

On the two applications filed before it by Emodi asking it to refer a substantial issue arising from its judgment of March 25 to the Supreme Court because it runs in conflict with

its judgment of Feb. 10, 2010, the court held that there was no conflict in its judgment, pointing out that the judgment of March 25 declared Igbeke winner of majority of lawful votes in that election and that Igbeke was not a part of the suit of Feb. 10.

It stated that the suit of Feb. 10, 2009 was between Jessy Balonwu of the Labour Party and Joy Emodi of the PDP and that Balonwu's case was dismissed on the ground that she did not join the lawful parties in the suit. According to the ruling, the issues are clear and distinct.

While dismissing a fresh application of May 7 asking three judges of the Court of Appeal to disqualify themselves from further participating in the processes of the appeal and to order a new panel excluding the justices, the court said after consideration of the matter it concluded that the panel was the best to hear the case. Galadima warned that the court would not allow itself to be intimidated in any guise, pointing out that it was the prerogative of the president of the Court of Appeal to reconstitute a panel.

The judges frowned at the delay of cases by counsel through frivolous applications which is later blamed on them.

Kwara shelves SEC meeting for Yar'adua

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

THE Kwara State government yesterday shelved the weekly State Executive Council meeting in honour of the late President Umaru Musa Yar'adua.

Instead, the government held a valedictory session to mark the end of the seven-day mourning period for the departed president.

At the valedictory session held at the Council Chambers in Government House Ilorin, prayers were offered for the repose of the soul of the late president. The Commissioner for Agriculture and Natural Resources Professor Mohammed Gana Isa led the Islamic prayer while his counterpart in the Ministry of Women Affairs Mrs. Caroline Adumo said the Christian prayer. Speaking at the valedictory session, Governor Bukola Saraki said the late president had done his best for the country and would be remembered for a long time to come, describing his death as a colossal loss to the state and the nation.

El-Rufai docked, released on bail

By Atika Balal, Boco Edet & Adelanwa Bamgboye

FORMER FCT Minister Malam Nasir el-Rufai was yesterday arraigned before a Federal High Court in Abuja on an eight-count charge bordering on abuse of office including irregular revocation wrongfully or intentionally done and reallocation of same.

Others arraigned together with the former minister are the Director-General General Manager of Abuja Geographic Information System (AGIS) Altine Jubrin and Ismaila Iro, respectively.

After pleading not guilty to the charges against them by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), the presiding judge Justice Adamu Bello granted them bail but ordered their remand in EFCC custody pending the meeting of the bail conditions in the sum of N100 million with one surety in like sum, who must have

landed property in Abuja.

Daily Trust checks at the anti graft commission showed that el-Rufai and Altine Jubrin have been released yesterday after meeting their bail conditions, leaving Ismaila Iro behind.

EFCC alleged that el-Rufai used his office during his tenure as minister to unlawfully revoke landed property originally allocated to the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) and the Nigeria Postal Service (NIPOST) and reallocated same to his associates and family members.

Counsel to el-Rufai, Chief Akin Olujimi (SAN), had earlier applied orally to the court to grant his client bail on self recognition for willingly surrendering himself to the EFCC when he returned into the country.

Olujimi's application was adopted by Mike Ozekhome (SAN) and Kanu Agabi (SAN) who appeared for Altine

Jubrin and Ismaila Iro respectively.

The court fixed June 22 for the commencement of the trial.

Meanwhile, the same court had adjourned till 29 June for adoption of written addresses in a suit filed by the former Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Nasir el-Rufai against the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

In the case pending before Hon. Justice Kolawole, the former FCT Minister is suing the EFCC and the Attorney-General of the Federation.

He is also challenging the competence of the EFCC to be involved in land matters, and is asking the court to declare that the civil courts are the appropriate venue for redress on land matters. El Rufai is also seeking a declaration that his actions as FCT Minister were proper and valid under Nigerian law.



LIBYAN security forces and rescue teams inspect the debris of an Afriqiyah Airways passenger plane which crashed during landing at Tripoli airport yesterday.

PIC: AFP

Minister orders NTI to stop degree programme

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma

EDUCATION Minister Professor Ruqayyatu Ahmed Rufai has directed the management of the Kaduna-based National Teachers Institute (NTI) to put its degree programme on hold.

The minister gave the directive yesterday when top officials of the institute visited her in Abuja.

She also gave the management six weeks to holistically reposition the institute, stressing that "the level of what we can see after the six weeks will determine our next line of action."

She said the reports before the ministry on NTI indicate that the institute currently face challenges bothering on poor quality of teaching and attendant poor quality graduates.

"Expansion is a natural process, it takes place when the time comes, but you cannot expand when you have your hands full of problems," she said.

The minister disagreed with the Director-General of NTI Dr Aminu Ladan, who said the degree programme was designed to raise the qualification of NCE teachers many of whom had no such opportunities after many years in service.

She said the issue of raising minimum qualification for teachers from NCE to B.Sc. is not the problem but the quality of the degree.

She said Federal Government depends heavily on NTI to produce high quality teachers to drive the Millennium Development Goals and Education For All (EFA) hence the need to restore public confidence in the institute.

Earlier, chairman of the Governing Board of NTI Alhaji Adamu Ibrahim and the Director General of the institute had briefed the minister on their five-point programme to reposition the institution, including the expansion programme, and claimed that the graduates of NTI have been adjudged the best in the country.

FEC names Abuja airport road, Katsina airport after Yar'adua

By Mohammed S. Shehu

THE Federal Executive Council has approved the naming of the Abuja Airport Road, Abuja and Katsina Airport in Katsina State after the late President Umaru Musa Yar'adua.

The approval followed a memo presented at a valedictory session held in honour of late Yar'adua by the council and presided over by President Goodluck Jonathan.

But before the council resolved on that, Jonathan requested the Minister of Justice and Attorney of the Federation Mohammed Bello Adoke to note if there was any lacuna in the resolution and Adoke pointed out that there was a portion of the road already named after the former United States Presi-

dent Bill Clinton.

Jonathan directed the FCT Minister Bala Mohammed to note the observation and ratify it in order to ensure that the new Umaru Musa Yar'adua road starts from Abuja City Gate and terminates at airport junction where the Clinton Drive starts.

The 2-hour special session, which took place at the Council Chamber of the State House, coincided with the 7-day prayer for Yar'adua and marked the end of the 7-day national mourning declared by the Federal Government last week.

The session was attended by former Ghanaian President John Kuffour, ministers and heads of government parastatals.

Jonathan said the symbolic gathering was summoned to celebrate the life of "one who

was a leader but preferred to be a servant."

He said Yar'adua was a "fine gentleman, most humble personality and Icon of truth who was born into royalty but found contentment in lowlife."

Kuffour described Yar'adua as a man of peace who meant well for Nigeria and the ECOWAS.

Most of the ministers who spoke during the session eulogised the late president and listed the amnesty programme in the Niger Delta, electoral reforms, anti-corruption, adherence to the rule of law and his exemplary lifestyle as his key legacies.

Secretary to the Government of the Federation Yayale Ahmed kick-started the valedictory meeting at about 10:10 am by presenting a memo on behalf of Jonathan.

Ex-govs urge Jonathan to build on Yar'adua's legacies

By Mohammed S. Shehu

FORMER governors who served between 1999 and 2007 yesterday urged President Goodluck Jonathan to build on the legacies of former President Umaru Musa Yar'adua.

Led by the former governor of Edo State and ex-Chairman of the Governors Forum, Lucky Igbinedion, the group pledged to support Jonathan and described the death of Yar'adua as a great loss to the country.

"We are proud of Yar'adua's achievement, when you

came on board in 2007 this forum gave you 100 per cent support, that we will extend to your administration. For us, it is the same administration, is the same class 1999 to 2007 because you were marked present in our meetings," Igbinedion said.

He urged Jonathan to focus more on electoral reform and power but denied knowledge of Jonathan's ambition to run in 2011.

President Jonathan thanked the former governors for their support.

Those in attendance were former Bayelsa State Gov-

ernor Diepreye Alamieyeseigha, Kebbi State Adamu Aliero, Zamfara State Sani Ahmed Yerima, Plateau State Joshua Dariye, Kano State Rabiu Kwankwaso, Oyo State Rasheed Ladoja, Anambra State Chris Ngige and Chinwoke Mbadinuju, Ekiti State Niyi Adebayo, Nasarawa State Abdullahi Adamu, Rivers State Peter Odili and Jigawa State Saminu Turaki.

Others are Kogi State Abubakar Audu, Akwa Ibom State Victor Atta, Adamawa State Boni Haruna, Imo State Achike Udenwa, Benue State George Akume, Ebonyi State Sam Egwu and Yobe State Bukar Abba Ibrahim.

Aide: Jonathan will contest in 2011

By Mohammed S. Shehu, Abdul-Rahman Abubakar with agency report

PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan will breach the power rotation arrangement of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to contest for the office of President in 2011, his Special Assistant on National Assembly Matters Dr. Cairo Ojougboh said yesterday.

The PDP power rotation formula had provided that the South retains the presidency in 1999-2007 while it moves to the North for another 8 years.

With the president's death, Ojougboh said Jonathan is not bound to respect any zoning agreement. He said, "Mr. President is a PDP President and he is member of PDP, and Mr.

President will run under the PDP. It will not be the first time issues like this will happen. In America you will all recall when Richard Nixon left office and his Vice President took over and he eventually contested. Also when John F. Kennedy died, his Vice President took over and he equally contested."

The President's aide said Jonathan will not only contest but will win the 2011 presidential. He said, "Jonathan contesting and winning the election, in fact what I will call it is a renewal of mandate. It will deepen the peace in the Niger Delta. It will also serve to deepen our democracy."

On the PDP zoning arrangement, Ojougboh said, "That is an internal matter within the PDP. PDP is a party, the party is an organ for the quest of power and in the organ there are many

branches. There are some organs in the party so the party at the correct time will come together and resolve such issues. Let me tell you zoning or no zoning there is no moral justification for anybody to ask Jonathan not to run. That is one thing that is paramount in the mind of everybody.

"What offence has he committed that you will ask him not to run? What is the reason? Because of zoning? In any case the party will resolve that and I can assure you that it will be resolved in his interest."

He said a popular consensus is building across the country for Jonathan to contest the presidency, saying "If you look generally, people across the South and the North of the country have been contributing freely on the issue and the general consensus is that he should contest.

In fact the Constitution also allows him to contest.

However, later yesterday, Ojougboh issued a statement saying he was misquoted. The statement reads: "Further to my interview earlier this morning, let me state that at no time did I say that Mr. President mandated me to say he will run in 2011. For the avoidance of doubt, I said the President can run if he so decides and that it will be unfair to ask him not to run. If he decides to run I will vote for him. All what I said is my personal belief as a private citizen with the right to freedom of expression."

Jonathan's spokesman Ima Niboro told Reuters yesterday that Ojougboh was in no position to make any declaration on the president's plans.

PIC: NAN

'Northern senators' backing of Makarfi for VP unconstitutional'

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

THE endorsement of Senator Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi for the position of vice president by Northern Senators Forum (NSF) is unconstitutional, member of the fifth Senate, Senator Timothy Aku Adudu (PDP, Plateau North), has said.

Adudu said the constitution does not provide for any group to put pressure on the President by sending nominations for the position.

"The situation is regulated and controlled by the constitution and in my opinion what the northern senators did was unconstitutional and null. By the provision of Section 146 of the constitution, the President has the sole prerogative of nominating who becomes the vice president in the circumstances that we have found ourselves," he

said. "The National Assembly only plays a role in approving the nomination," he said. He said by the resolution, the NSF has compromised its position on the issue, saying the NSF would have sustained a subtle lobby for the candidate of their choice without making their decision public.

On the issue of 2011 election, Adudu said the constitution did not bar any person from contesting including President Goodluck Jonathan saying the issue of zoning is a PDP arrangement.



CROSS section of ministers at the valedictory session for the Late President Umaru Yar'adua at the Presidential Villa, Abuja

Amnesty: Ex-militants to commence camp in June

THE call to camp for the rehabilitation of the ex-militants under the Federal Government Amnesty program will commence in June, the Special Adviser to the President on Amnesty Timi Alaibe has said.

Briefing the Media yesterday, the Special Adviser said the first batch of the 20,192 targeted ex-militants is scheduled for the first week of June. Each batch will have 2,000 militants in camp.

He said the Oil and Gas industry has

pledged the sum of 30 million dollars to the Amnesty Committee, adding that it will set up a special purpose vehicle to manage the application of the funds to execute defined initiatives.

He said one major initiative is training and capacity building for 3,000 beneficiaries over 6 to 48 months period in re-orientation and leadership, marine, welding, entrepreneurial and investment/placement opportunities.

He said the objective of the training is to liberate the ex-militants from the burden of violence and institutionalize civil behavior

and non-violence in the communities. He added that the training is also to create conducive environment for productive life, constructive engagement of transformed persons, to extinguish belief in violence, to immediately transform the region from its violent culture among others.

On the modalities for the involvement of host communities in the ownership of the petroleum assets in Nigeria, the Presidential Adviser said government will divest the equities it currently holds via the NNPC in respective Joint Ventures (JVs).

Niboro replaces Adeniyi as presidential spokesman

By Mohammed S. Shehu

IMA Niboro, the Senior Special Assistant on Media and Publicity to President Goodluck Jonathan, has replaced Segun Adeniyi, the Special Adviser on Media and Publicity to late President Umaru Musa Yar'adua, as presidential spokesman.

No reason was given for the disengagement of Adeniyi.

The new spokesman officially took over from Adeniyi yesterday at a brief ceremony witnessed by staff of the department at the Presidential Villa, Abuja.

During the handing over ceremony, Niboro praised Adeniyi for his hard work, commitment

and dedication to duties while holding forth as the presidential spokesman and pledged to draw from his wealth of experience as a foremost journalist.

Niboro prayed the Almighty God to grant the former spokesman wisdom and direction in his future endeavour.

Minister: Jonathan consulting traditional rulers on VP

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

President Goodluck Jonathan has not nominated a vice president because he has been consulting with traditional and religious leaders as well as some elder statesmen in the country.

Minister state for Information and Communications Labaran Maku disclosed this yesterday while speaking on the BBC Hausa Service programme.

Maku said the position of vice president is an important one that cannot be appointed haphazardly, adding that President Jonathan would soon submit the name to the National Assembly.

Maku also confirmed that governors and politicians have been mounting pressure on President Jonathan to appoint one of them as the vice president.

He however refused to disclose the possible date the name of the vice president would be made public.

INEC to stop political parties' grants

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

A bill seeking to amend the operations of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) aimed at stopping the provision of grants to political parties by the electoral body passed second reading in the Senate yesterday.

Leading debate on the general principles of the bill, Deputy Senate President Ike Ekweremadu said the issue of annual grants to political parties by INEC has been widely criticised, saying that some parties are formed merely to collect tax payers' money in the form of grants from INEC.

"This bill eliminates the provision of grants to political parties

provided for in the existing act which we have as well expunged from the Constitution," he said.

He said the proposed law empowers INEC to effectively monitor both administrative and financial activities of political parties to ensure that few wealthy individuals, foreign agents or interest groups do not control the operations of political parties.

Ekweremadu said the law is to also take care of prolonged litigations emanating from electoral disputes.

After debate on the bill, it was read a second time and sent to the Senate Committee on Review of the 1999 Constitution for further legislative action.



PHOTO: FELIX ONIGBINDE

FROM left: General Secretary, National Association of Nigeria Nurses and Midwives (NANNM), Mr. George Ayua, National President of the association, Comrade Lawal Hussain and the association's Third National Vice President Comrade Michael Arikpo, during the flag off of International Day of Midwives in Abuja yesterday.

Abbas is new provost for FCE Gombe

DR. Adamu Gimba Abbas has been appointed new provost for the Federal College of Education (Technical), Gombe. Until this appointment, Dr. Abbas was Dean of the college's School of Science, and had also held the position of Deputy Provost of the college.

In a letter to him dated May 10, Minister of Education Prof. Ruqayyatu Rufai said the appointment has been approved by President Goodluck Jonathan. "The appointment is for a term of four years with effect from 17th April, 2010. The conditions of service including remunerations and fringe benefits shall be as approved for provosts in Federal Colleges of Education," the letter said.



DR. Adamu Gimba Abbas

Sambo may emerge as VP today

Continued from page 1

Wednesday last week, due to the death that day of President Umaru Yar'adua. However, he said the president later changed his mind after consultations with party and legislative leaders. Dr. Jonathan apparently accepted the argument that the vice president should come from the North West since, with Yar'adua's death, the zone no longer has a high-profile Federal public office holder. He also agreed with the state governors that a vice president should be selected from among their ranks.

Architect Sambo, a trained architect and owner of a sprawl-

ing firm of architectural consultants, emerged as governor of Kaduna State in 2007 almost out of the blues, because he had not been active in the state's politics for years. He was for 5 years a Commissioner for Agriculture in old Kaduna State in the 1980s and early 1990s. He also sought the state's governorship under the platform of the Democratic Party of Nigeria (DPN) in 1996-97, but subsequently returned to business practice. In late 2006, with the support of incumbent governor Ahmed Mohamed Makarfi, he won the PDP primaries and went on to clinch the governorship.

His record in Kaduna State in the last three years includes the

famous security outfit Operation Yaki that has virtually stamped out armed robbery in the state; his launching of an urban rail transit program, building new huge water works in Zaria and two other towns, his building the brand new Millennium City on Kaduna's eastern wing, as well as building a 1000-bed ultra-modern hospital in the new city.

On Tuesday, the Senate's Northern caucus had backed Senator Ahmed Makarfi, Namadi's former political godfather with whom he subsequently had a political fall-out. The two men and their supporters have been engaged in low-intensity political guerrilla warfare in recent

years in a quarrel sparked off by the sharing of political dividends. Makarfi's nomination was also supported by the Northern House caucus.

Last night, top officials of the Kaduna State Government claimed they had no knowledge of their governor's impending elevation to the vice presidency. Director General for Media Affairs in the Sir Kashim Ibrahim House Malam Umar Sani said Governor Namadi Sambo had returned to the state from Abuja and was continuing with him work and they had no information about any appointment.

However, another source said meetings were already being held

in Kaduna in preparation for today's expected announcement. The source said top political leaders in the state were preparing to swear in Deputy Governor Patrick Ibrahim Yakowa as the new governor and were already shortlisting candidates for appointment as deputy governor.

Although National Assembly sources firmly said the president will send his nominee's name before he leaves Abuja for a visit to Rivers State today, a security source said five names were submitted to the SSS late yesterday for screening. They include Governors Namadi Sambo, Ibrahim Shema, Muazu Babangida Aliyu and Sule Lamido.

Ogbulafor: I won't resign

Continued from page 1

to Ogbulafor what looked like an ultimatum from Jonathan to quit his chairmanship of the ruling party in view of his arraignment in court by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission [ICPC] on Monday over a fraud case allegedly committed 10 years ago.

But Ogbulafor, who was accosted by reporters after the PDP held a valedictory session in honour of the late President Umaru Musa Yar'adua, foreclosed the possibility of his resigning in the near future.

He said, "I want to gladly tell you that it is a speculation in the air. I have not resigned from my office as the national chairman of PDP. I am still the Chairman and you can see that I am still acting. I have not resigned and there is

no such plan." Asked to identify those asking him to resign, he said, "I don't know who is putting the story in the air."

When asked to comment on the statement credited to Jonathan's Special Adviser on National Assembly Matters Cairo Ojugbo that the President will contest in the 2011 presidential elections, contrary to the position of the party, Ogbulafor said, "When we get to the bridge, we will cross it."

The conversation with reporters then continued:

Q: Are you under pressure to resign?

A: I am not under any pressure.

Q: What is the situation in your party?

A: The party is very much intact and my working committee (NWC) is on. I had a meeting here yesterday evening with all

members of my working committee and they are all with me and we are working to move the party forward.

Q: Did three Eastern Governors actually ask you to resign?

A: Yes. Three governors spoke on that subject matter. To the best of my knowledge I was not elected by the three governors of South East. I was elected by the entire members of the PDP...governors, National Assembly members, the PDP family in the entire country. So it is not only three PDP governors from South East.

Q: Were you at any time contemplating resigning?

A: You know I have an allegation in court, which is in court and I appeared in court two days ago and got bail. My case is still on. If I am found guilty I'll be glad to throw in the towel, but I have not been found guilty. So I'll stay and

do my job and make sure there is internal democracy in the party.

Q: What is your relationship with the President?

A: I am still loyal to President Goodluck Abele Jonathan.

Reporters had been waiting for the PDP National Chairman to confirm the authenticity of the report as early as 10 a.m yesterday.

Before his arrival, three members of the National Working Committee (NWC) including PDP National Publicity Secretary Prof. Rufai Ahmed Alkali, Deputy National Secretary Dr Musa Babayo and National Legal Adviser Chief Olusola Oke held a close-door meeting at noon with the Deputy National Chairman Dr Bello Haliru Mohammed on what was believed to be in connection with the resignation issue.

The arrival of the Chairman's Special Adviser on Political Mat-

ters Prof. Fred Onyeoziri at 1:16 p.m indicated that Ogbulafor would be at the party national secretariat to continue with his job. He drove in at 2.02pm.

Earlier speaking during the valedictory session where all NWC members as well as selected party aides and director spoke, Ogbulafor said the late President Yar'adua would be remembered for his efforts towards addressing the challenges posed by PDP's seven-point agenda, including his commitment to implement the amnesty programme and ensure adequate power supply in the country.

While hailing the role played by Jonathan in the entire burial programme for the late President, he reminded the President of the challenges ahead, saying with the support of all party members, Jonathan would surmount it.



FORMER Speakers of the House of Representatives Chief Edwin Emezioko (left) and Chief Benjamin Chaha during the validation session in honour of the late President Umaru Musa Yar'adua at the National Assembly, Abuja on Tuesday.

PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE

Dakingari loses elder brother

From Ismail Adebayo, Birnin Kebbi

KEBBI State Governor Saidu Usman Dakingari has lost his elder brother, 63 year old Alhaji Abubakar Bube to a protracted illness.

Family sources said he died in his home town, Dakingari in Suru Local Government Area of Kebbi State earlier this week. He worked with the state civil service, the state College of Basic and Advanced Studies, Birnin Yauri as a Senior Director and the College of Arts and Science in Sokoto before his retirement. Among dignitaries that have paid condolences to Governor Dakingari over the death are the Emir of Gwandu Alhaji Ill-yasu Bashar, the State Deputy Governor Alhaji Ibrahim K. Aliyu, the SSG Arch. Abubakar Muhammed Sama and other state officials and PDP chieftains.

Dignitaries in Katsina for Yar'adua's 7th day prayer

From Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

KATSINA City yesterday hosted 10 immediate past governors and ministers among other prominent personalities who came to witness the seventh day special prayer for former President Umaru Musa Yar'adua.

The prayer which was conducted at the family house of the late resident was led by many prominent Islamic scholars from within and outside the state including the Chief Imam of Katsina central mosque, Imam Muhammadu Lawal, Sheikh Tijjani Jaafar and Ustaz Suleiman Ahmed among others. The governors of Katsina, Ibrahim Sherna, Bauchi, Isa Yuguda and Kebbi, Saidu Dakingari received numerous visitors which included two former ministers of finance and police affairs, Dr Mansur Mukhtar and Dr Yakubu and the GMD NNPC, Alhaji Shehu Ladan and his predecessor, Abubakar Lawal Yar'adua.

Also in attendance were the former Vice President Dr Alex Ekwueme, a delegation from the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) led by its board and management chairman, retired Lt Gen Jeremiah Useni and retired General AVM Haruna, former chiefs of army staff, retired Generals Abdullahi Mohammed and Lawrence Onoja, Ambassador Yahaya Kwande and NBC chairman, Alhaji Ibrahim Najuma.

Among the emirs that attended were emir of Kance in Niger Republic, Alhaji Muntari Musa, Gbongan Jos, Mr Buba Gyang, Atah of Ebiraland, emir of Kontagora as well as the host emirs of Katsina and Daura. The Conference of Nigerian Speakers was also led by their Chairman, the Speaker, Taraba House of Assembly, Hon Istifanus Haruna. The 10 former governors include those of Bayelsa, Chief Dapriye Alamasighe, (Adamawa) Mr Boni Haruna, (Kebbi) Adamu Aliero, (Rivers) Dr Peter Odili, (Edo), Lucky Igbenidion, (A/Ibom), Chief Victor Attah, (Ebonyi) Dr Sam Egwu, (Imo), Achike Udenwa, (Anambara) Dr Chris Ngige and (Osun) Niyi Adebayo.

We need free, fair election, Onaiyekan tells Jonathan

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

THE President, Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) and Archbishop of Abuja Diocese Dr. John Onaiyekan yesterday charged President Goodluck Jonathan to use his administration to organize

free and fair elections for the country.

Onaiyekan who is also the co-chairman, Nigerian Inter-Religious Council (NIREC) said in Ilorin after a lecture on 'Dividends of Religions in Nigeria'

organized by the Department of Religion, University of Ilorin that the aspirations and yearnings of all Nigerians were around the 2011 election which he said would assist the nation to move forward and thereby enhance good governance and stable polity.

"If this is achieved by President Jonathan, Nigerians will remain grateful

to him and the administration", he said, adding that when free and fair elections are conducted, there would be good gov-

ernance which would assist the nation to move forward.

Dr. Onaiyekan opined that it was high time Nigerians lived as one religion-state rather than engaging in different laws that may lead to disharmony.

"It is by so doing that the simmering crises that bother on religion would be nipped in the bud and this will go a long way in bringing unity, stability, harmony and even development to the people of the country", he said.

He recalled that the introduc-

tion of Shariah law by some state governments had led to the loss of lives and property which is not good for the country.

Onaiyekan therefore called on the people of the country to continue to live in peace in order to move the nation forward.

Earlier, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Professor Ishaq Oloyede advised Nigerians to stop using religion to cause disharmony in the country.

He however said religion should be used to foster peace, unity and development.

Jonathan to tackle problems of Air Force

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan has reiterated the commitment of his administration to address challenges facing the Nigerian Air Force.

Declaring open this year's expo of the Nigerian Air Force in Kaduna, the president said the government was aware of the numerous challenges facing the Air force, saying the force requires the strong backing of the government to overcome the challenges. The president who was represented by the Minister of Defence Prince Adetokunbo Kayode stressed the need for the upgrade of equipment at various formations of the Nigerian Air Force across the country. "Expectation of the government from the Air Force is very high. They are a very strong arm of the armed forces. We know the challenges facing them even as we expect them to do more. Actually, we expect them to do more than

what they are doing now but we know the challenges they are facing," he said. He also stressed the need for the enhancement of the capacity of personnel of the force, saying the training facilities of the force are of international standard.

"Government will do whatever is within its powers to address these problems because the development of the Nigerian Air Force is top on our agenda and we are going to do it," he assured. The Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Oluseyi Petinrin said the expo was organized as part of efforts to enhance the capacity of the Air Force.

Meanwhile, Petinrin has commissioned the Aircraft Engine Overhaul Centre in Kaduna. The centre which was named after the chairman of Julius Berger Nigeria PLC, retired Air vice Marshal Nura Imam, was established by the Nigerian Air Force to stop the taking of aircraft abroad for repair.

Court remands Chief Azubuike in prison over heroin

From Nahimah Ajikanle, Lagos

THE Federal High Court in Ikoyi Lagos yesterday remanded a suspected drug baron, Chief Odugwe Azubuike, who was arraigned before the court by the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) on a three count charge of conspiracy, aiding and unlawful importation of heroin into the country.

NDLEA's Head of Public relations Mr. Mitchell Ofoyeju said the accused who pleaded not guilty to all charges was remanded in prison custody by Justice Mohammed Liman.

Ofoyeju said the suspect's bail application had also been filed by the defence counsel, Mrs. Omotunde Lilian before Justice Liman while May 20, 2010 was fixed for the hearing of the bail application. The NDLEA spokesperson said the Director of Prosecution and Legal Services of the agency, Mr.

Femi Oloruntoba, suggested that the agency should file a counter-affidavit to oppose the application.

The Chairman/Chief Executive of National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) Ahmadu Giade described the arrest of Chief Odugwe as phenomenal and a milestone in the country's determination to expose drug barons who use traffickers as shields to evade arrest.

The spokesperson said the agency considers the arrest of Chief Odugwe Azubuike as a major breakthrough in the fight against illicit drugs in Nigeria.

Chief Odugwe was nabbed in a follow-up operation following the arrest of one Olehi Josephine Otuochinma with 3.150kg of heroin at the Lagos airport on December 29, 2009 on arrival from Dubai aboard an Ethiopian Airline flight.

Nurses shelve celebration to mourn Yar'adua

By Ruby Leo

THE National Association of Nigeria Nurses and Midwives has cancelled all planned activities to mark its International Nurses' Day to mourn late President Umaru Yar'adua.

The nurses' day is set aside globally to commemorate the life and

times of the modern nursing, Miss Florence Nightingale, wherein nurses worldwide gather to take stock and imbibe new trends in innovative health.

Briefing newsmen, National President of the association Nurse Lawal Dutsinma said this year's celebration with the theme, 'Delivering quality, serving communi-

ties. Nurses leading chronic care' would be low-keyed as a mark of respect to late Yar'adua.

"The association has made elaborate preparations to celebrate the week. However, as a mark of respect for our departed President Umaru Musa Yar'adua, the activities have been cancelled."

Dutsinma called on President

Goodluck Jonathan to prioritise the health sector, explaining that most Nigerian seek care abroad because of the deteriorating nature of the sector, while doctors leave the country for greener pastures.

He said for Nigeria to be among the 20 top economies of the world by the year 2020, the position of the minister of health must be thrown

open to all the health care professionals.

He said in other countries the position of the health minister is not consigned to medical doctors who he said, "demonstrated clearly that they have nothing new to offer this nation than business as usual, a malady that has pervaded the sector for the past 50 years."



PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE

NLC Vice President Comrade Isa Aremu (left) with acting Managing Director, NSITF Alhaji Muniru Umaru Abubakar (centre) and Mr. Ifeanyi Opara (right) during the public hearing on the Employer Compensation Bill 2009 at the National Assembly, Abuja, yesterday.

Speakers pledge support for Jonathan

By Abbas Jimoh

SPEAKERS of the 36 states of the federation have promised to give President Goodluck Jonathan all the support he needs to move the country to greater heights.

The speakers, under the aegis of Conference of Speakers of the State Legislatures in Nigeria (CSSLN), made this known at the end of their emergency meeting in Abuja on the death of late President Umaru Musa Yar'adua and the emergence of Jonathan as president.

CSSLN Chairman Hon. Haruna Istifanus Gbana, who briefed journalists at the end of

the meeting attended by 20 of the 36 speakers, advised Jonathan not to listen to detractors to enable him deliver the dividends of democracy.

Gbana, who is the Speaker of Taraba State House of Assembly, said, "We commiserate with Jonathan and condole with the government of Kastina State and the entire country. Yar'adua's death is a painful one to this conference. He served this country actively before he died," Gbana said.

He prayed God to give the family the fortitude to bear the loss.

National Vice Chairman of the group and Nasarawa State Speaker

Hon. Musa Ahmed Muhammed said Yar'adua's death is a great loss to Nigeria and Africa as a whole as he would fondly be remembered for his sincerity and commitment to rule of law among others.

"We would have loved him to see the fruit of his labour. We congratulate Jonathan and we have no doubt in our minds that he will continue with the laudable projects Yar'adua started. We will give him all our support to achieve even more than expected," Muhammed said.

The lawmakers resolved to visit Yar'adua's family in Kastina today to commiserate with his family and the state government.

Onovo undecided over re-enlistment of sacked cops

By Misbahu Bashir

INSPECTOR General of Police Ogbonna Onovo is yet to act on the order of a Federal High Court in Akure directing him to re-instate seven policemen dismissed from the force last year.

Sergeants Yinka Ogunremi; Samuel Arifo; Olugbenga Adesina; Ayodele Fasore; Ajose Adejumo; Corporal Emmanuel Olisa and Constable David Awe were sacked for allegedly orchestrating a gen-

eral police strike over poor welfare and delayed promotions.

Police Force Public Relations Officer ACP Emmanuel Ojukwu said the police management team will advise Onovo on what to do when the court papers are received.

"The IGP will be advised on the action to take. The officers can either be re-enlisted into the force or the judgement may be appealed. But police always respect court orders," he said.

In her judgement in a suit by

the policemen, Justice Gloria Okeke held that the dismissal of the policemen, by former IGP Mike Okiro, was unlawful. The Judge concurred with the policemen that they knew nothing about the newspaper publications and subsequently ordered the police authorities to re-enlist them. The Deputy Inspector in charge of Administration Uba Ringim, then in charge of Training announced the dismissal last year.

CPC upbraids FG over Nigerians' plight in Ghana

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

CONGRESS for Progressive Change (CPC) has upbraided the Federal Government for not doing anything to address the decision by Ghanaian authorities to seal the shops of Nigerians doing petty trading in the West African country.

CPC's National Publicity Secretary Aghanya Dennis said yesterday in Abuja that the federal government should have intervened by responding appropriately to the situation just like the Shagari administration did.

Ghana was said to have issued a new trade policy recently making it compulsory for all foreign business persons, including Nigerians, based in Ghana to pay a registration fee of \$300, 000 or get their shops sealed.

Mr. Dennis said in a statement

that the Ghanaian government policy is against the spirit of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) on free trade.

He said such policies should have targeted the developed countries who have continued to maintain their colonization tendency in the developing nations.

He also said Ghana's argument was that such retail businesses by Nigerians have the tendency of displacing their business men and women because they may not be able to stand the competition and advised Nigerians to concentrate on exportation of such goods to their country and allow their people to do the retailing.

The CPC's spokesperson urged the federal government to fix social amenities and improve the quality of its citizens economically.

FG opens condolence register for Yar'adua

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

THE Federal Government has opened a public condolence register at the Eagle Square Abuja for Nigerians to pay their tribute to the late President Umaru Musa Yar'adua.

Minister of Interior Capt. Emmanuel Ihenacho said while opening the register yesterday that it will enable Nigerians, especially the masses, who could not reach the family to render their formal condolences.

"As a man of the people, he (Yar'adua) had a chequered political career that transverse through phases which culminated into being appointed to the highest office in the land, that is, President and Com-

mander-in-Chief," he said.

Capt. Ihenacho praised the exemplary leadership qualities of Yar'adua for initiating far-reaching policies and programmes that are targeted at the poor and the underprivileged Nigerians.

The minister urged fellow compatriots to accept his transition on the night of May 5, 2010, as an act of God, a phenomenon every mortal must encounter in the course of our earthly journeys.

He said, "A lot of lessons should be drawn on the life and times of the man Yar'adua as exemplified by various eulogies and tributes from people at the lower spectrum and those in high places. All these cannot be sycophantic, may his gentle soul rest in peace."

Jonathan congratulates new British PM

By Mohammed S. Shehu

PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan has sent a congratulatory message to the new British Prime Minister David Cameron and the British people on the victory of the Conservative Party at the just concluded elections.

In a statement by his spokesman Ima Niboro, Jonathan described the Conservatives' return to power in Britain, after being in opposi-

tion for so long, as momentous.

He lauded the process that saw to the eventual victory of the Conservative Party, stating that the decisive manner in which the budding stalemate was resolved is loaded with lessons for developing democracies.

He extended a hand of friendship to the new prime minister, saying he looks forward to working with him to build upon the excellent age-long relations between both nations.



FROM left: President, Junior Chamber International Mr. Roland Kwemai with the Speaker, House of Representatives Dimeji Lawal at the National Assembly Complex, Abuja, yesterday.

Lamido pardons 4 prisoners

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Dutse

GOVERNOR Sule Lamido of Jigawa State yesterday pardoned four prisoners, including a 60 year old woman, Malama Amina Adamu and 18-year-old Ifeanyi Chukwu.

The others are Nasiru Shu'aibu, 23 and Musbahu Kyauta, 28. Some of the inmates according to a statement from the office of the Secretary to the state Government Dr. Aminu Abdullahi Taura, were pardoned for behaving well, while 60 year old Malama Amina was pardoned due to her age and ill health.

According to the statement, Amina was sentenced to one year imprisonment with an option of N7, 000 fine by a Shari'ah Court in Guri Local Gov-

ernment Area of the state. She was accused of witchcraft and conspiracy, an offence contrary to section 122 of the Penal Code. Ifeanyi Chukwu, 18, was convicted to three years imprisonment by a Magistrate Court in Birnin-Kudu Local Government Area after he was accused of theft in January 2008. The others, Nasiru Shu'aibu and Musbahu Kyauta were sentenced to six and three years imprisonment by the High Court in Gumel and Kasuwa Shari'ah Court in Kano respectively.

While Nasiru was accused of theft, Musbahu on the other hand was charged for house breaking and theft. Both had three months to complete their prison terms before they were pardoned.

Electricity workers may go on strike

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

THE National Union of Electricity Employees (NUEE) has threatened to embark on strike if the management of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) fails to pay its members monetization arrears and the balance of 137 percent salary increase before May 17, 2010.

The zonal organizing secretary of the union for North-East region, Comrade Anthony J sule, said yesterday while addressing newsmen in Jos that after a careful review of the recent development in the power sector, the union could no longer keep quiet while it is being denied its rights. He said the union was issuing a 21 day ultimatum to the PHCN to address the issues or risk strike. Sule said other issues

which were yet to be resolved by the PHCN include, non absorption and regularization of the appointments of over 10,000 casual workers with the company.

He lamented that while workers in other federal agencies and organizations had been paid their monetization benefits since 2003, PHCN workers were yet to enjoy same despite several promises.

Ondo mourns Yar'adua

From Adewale Giwa, Akure

THE Ondo State House of Assembly will today suspend all legislative activities to mourn late President Umaru Yar'adua.

The lawmakers who unanimously agreed on the date, said late President Yar'adua, who died last week deserved to be honoured by every state of the federation.

They also urged Ondo State Governor Olusegun Mimiko to honour the late president by naming a building after him.

The lawmakers who said all legislative activities would be suspended today also resolved that letters of condolence be written to the family of late President Yar'adua.

'June 12 immaterial to IBB's chances'

From Vincent Egunyanga, Benin

A leader of the northern community in Edo State, Alhaji Sahabi Aliyu Umar (JP) has said the annulment of the June 12, 1993 presidential election would not affect the chances of former military president, Ibrahim Babangida, to become the next president. Alhaji Umar who spoke to

Daily Trust in Benin yesterday said IBB is one of the few Nigerians who can step into the shoes of former President Umar Yar'adua.

He said IBB alone should not be blamed for the annulment of the election as he did not work alone on the subject. Though he admitted that the former military leader might have made some mistakes in the past

like any other human being, he should be given a chance to correct such mistakes.

Alhaji Umar said some people are using the June 12 issue to deceive Nigerians on their rejection of IBB, but that the grievances against IBB were far more than June 12.

He said unknown to many Nigerians, some sections of the country are yet to forgive IBB for two reasons. The first

reason is that IBB introduced federal character into the body politics of the country. This he said made it possible for many Nigerians to occupy strategic positions in the civil service which were hitherto an exclusive preserve of a certain section of the country since after the civil war.

Another reason he said is IBB's movement of the seat of government from Lagos to

Abuja.

He said these are the real reasons some sections of the country are opposing IBB's presidency, while using June 12 as a decoy. He called on all Nigerians to support the IBB presidency project saying the northern community in Edo State like other Nigerians, were still in shock over the death of former President Umar Yar'adua.

Niger disburses N500m materials to schools

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

SCHOOLS in Niger State have received learning materials worth over N500 million. Supervising the distribution yesterday, Governor Babangida Aliyu said the materials were to be given to students

free to assist them in acquiring standard education. He added that his administration was poised to ensuring that students in the state acquired quality education.

"The state government will not only provide free education for school children, but will also ensure that they get

the required instructional materials for them to get the best in education. In addition to providing free education and providing instructional materials for pupils in the state, the government is also paying NECO, WAEC and NABTEB fees for students in the state", he said.

The governor called on stakeholders to help revamp the educational sector, adding that government alone could not do it as it would take the cooperation of all, including students.

While commending the state government for its efforts in boosting education, the state

Commissioner for Basic Education Hajija Asmau Usman assured that schools would justify government's investment by putting the books to proper use. She maintained that the gesture would boost the students learning and urged schools to ensure strict compliance to the use of the materials.

Students give JAMB ultimatum on new fee

From Ismail Mudashir Kaduna

THE National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) has given a 7 day ultimatum to the Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) to go back on the N10,000 fee it announced for accessing answer sheets by students who sat

for the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME).

JAMB had announced that candidates who sat for the UTME, but could not access their results on the internet, should pay N10,000 to access their results. The Vice President of NANS National Affairs, Comrade Danjuma Bello Sarki Tuesday said the decision by the body amounted to

extortion and fraud.

"We unequivocally condemn and reject this action by JAMB for whatever reason they may have. We also give JAMB one week ultimatum to reverse this decision and return any money that may have been collected for this purpose", he said.

God has immortalized Yar'adua – Bankole

From Kehinde Akinyemi, Abeokuta
 FATHER of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Chief Alani Bankole, yesterday said God has already immortalized late President Yar'adua for his good deeds.
 He said this at the residence of the Speaker Dimeji Bankole

in Abeokuta, Ogun State, where people converged for the seventh day prayers for the late president. At the prayer session, which included an interdenominational service by the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG),
 The Speaker's father said the comments and encomiums from several people since the death of

President Yar'adua was an indication that he had been immortalized by Almighty Allah.
 He paid glowing tributes to the late president, describing him as a sincere, committed and transparent leader who meant well for the country. Islamic clerics led by the Chief Imam of Egbaland Alhaji Liadi Orunsolu and President of

the League of Imams and Alfas in the South-west, Alhaji Sobrudeen Biobaku, led the recitation of the Quran and special Qutba for the repose of the soul of the late president.
 The Provincial Pastor (Oyo Province) Pastor Wole Oyekan who read from the book of Jeremiah, 23:11 said the

thoughts of God for the country were of peace and progress, "Which our late president typified.
 These same thoughts from God still made Goodluck Jonathan to become president". He prayed God to give Nigerians the fortitude to bear the loss of the president.



FROM LEFT: Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Alhaji Yayale Ahmed, former President of Ghana, Mr. John Kufour and President Goodluck Jonathan at the valedictory session for the late President Umaru Yar'adua in Abuja on Tuesday.

PIX: NAN

Sokoto LG gives priority to girl-child education

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

THE Sabon Birni Local Government Area of Sokoto State says it is poised to ensuring that girl-child education is given priority. The council chairman Abdullahi Jelani Danbuga said this while taking journalists on a tour of projects executed by the local government council.

The chairman said various ways were being explored to boost girl child education in the area, saying education was the bedrock of any development. He said the council was building more secondary schools to encourage the enrolment of female children.

He added that the council would do it best to ensure girl child education as its importance could not be over-emphasized. On the problem of unemployment in the area, he said recently, the council recruited about 450 workers.

JUTH assures applicants of adequate security

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

THE Jos University Teaching Hospital Jos (JUTH) has assured shortlisted applicants who applied for various positions in the hospital of adequate security during

the aptitude test slated for May 15, 2010. A statement by the Chief Public Relations Officer on behalf of the Chief Medical Director of the hospital Mrs. Ngozi Okpara said, "The management wishes to assure the public and participants

that adequate security arrangements have been made to ensure a hitch free exercise".

She added that the short listing of applicants was transparently and fairly done to ensure that only those applicants who

had the basic requirements were selected for the test.

Mrs Okpara said the oral interview slated for May 17 and 19 would no longer hold as scheduled, saying a new date would soon be announced.

Kogi zonal hospitals get ambulances

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

THE Kogi State government in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) has procured ambulances for zonal hospitals in the state. The state's Commissioner for Health Dr Dorcass Onunmiyan while presenting the buses to the hospitals on behalf of the state government yesterday said the gesture was aimed at improving health care delivery. Onunmiyan urged the benefitting local governments to maintain the ambulances, warning that they should not be used for personal purposes.

She urged health personnel in the benefitting local governments to cooperate with the government by working hard to achieve its desired objectives in the health sector. The commissioner also commended the government on the recent recruitment of staff into the zonal hospitals.

Earlier, the Manager of the Health System Development Project in the state Mr Elijah Idachaba said the ambulances would reduce problems usually encountered when attending to emergencies and movement of patients. Speaking on behalf of the beneficiaries, the Head of Opera-

tions of the Okene General Hospital Abdusallam Abubakar assured that the ambulances would be properly maintained and used for the purpose for which they are intended.

The benefitting local government areas include Abejukolo, Ankpa, Kaba, Dekina and Okene.

The gesture was aimed at improving health care delivery

Retired military officers support Jonathan on electoral reform, N/Delta

From Yemi Bamidele, Ibadan

THE Retired Army, Navy and Air force Officers club of Nigeria (RANAO) has pledged to support President Goodluck Jonathan on his plans to ensure electoral reforms and effectively tackle the problems of electricity and corruption in the country. In a letter signed by its National President, retired Lt. Col Yakubu Anifowose to President Jonathan and made available to newsmen in Ibadan, Oyo State yesterday, the association also prayed for the success of the administration just as it condoled the president on the death of President Umar Yar'adua, the erst-

while Grand Patron of the association. The retired military personnel said Yar'adua had the interest of the association at heart while he served as the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces.

The president of the group said RANAO comprised professionals in various fields and that members of the association could be of help to the government in the area of intelligence to avert sabotage, particularly in the energy sector. Anifowose added that some of the retired officers could also be called upon to support the police during elections and to monitor the implementation of the amnesty programme in the Niger Delta region.

ICC must prosecute instigators of genocide

By Misbahu Bashir

HUMAN Rights Watch has said perpetrators of international crimes including genocide must face diligent prosecution in the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The group said this in its 102-page report titled "Making Kampala Count: Advancing the Global Fight against Impunity at the ICC Review Conference."

It also said that ICC member states should give "greater support for the ICC to increase the likelihood that the most serious perpetrators will be held to account" in the forthcoming ICC review conference in Kampala, Uganda holding between May 31 and June 11 2010.

The report addresses the four themes identified as part of the conference's stock-taking exercise, namely: peace and justice, strengthening national courts, the ICC's impact on affected communities, and state cooperation.

"This is a moment for ICC members meeting in Kampala to send a message to perpetrators and would-be perpetrators that they will face justice," said Richard Dicker, International Justice Director at Human Rights Watch.

"Serious debate at the conference can make real progress for the victims of mass slaughter and the use of rape as a weapon of war."

At the conference, representatives of the court's 111 member states, non-member states, the United Nations, and civil society groups will reaffirm the importance of bringing to justice those accused of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, the crimes covered by the ICC. The court's treaty was adopted in Rome in 1998. While the ICC has made important progress since it became operational in 2003 by opening five investigations and starting two trials in The Hague, more steps are needed to extend and strengthen an emerging system of international justice, Human Rights Watch said.

Jonathan urges support from traditional rulers

By Mohammed S. Shehu

PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan has expressed his appreciation for the advisory and supportive roles traditional rulers and elders have given the administration from its inception.

The president stated yesterday when he received in audience the National Council of Traditional Rulers led by the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad in his

Akinola Aguda residence in Abuja.

Jonathan said it was the supportive role the elders have given to the administration that made it possible to scale some of the challenges Nigeria faces as a nation.

He extolled late President Umaru Musa Yar'adua as a man who had good vision and dreams for the country, the ECOWAS sub-region that he was the Chairman but could not finish the first tenure of the administration as he was called to be with his creator.

ROYAL EXCHANGE

NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS OF

1. John Holt N100,000,000 Million Floating Rate Redeemable Debenture Stock 1995/2002
2. Guinness Nigeria Plc N100,000,000 Million Floating Rate Unsecured Redeemable Debenture Stock 1996/2001
3. Tourist Company of Nigeria Plc N400,000,000 Million Floating Rate Redeemable Convertible Debenture Stock 1997/2001
4. Blackwood Hodge Nig Plc N20,000,000 Million Floating Rate Redeemable Debenture Stock

In accordance with the respective Trust Deeds establishing the above Stocks, the Trustees, ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC hereby request that the Stockholders of the above Stocks, only with unclaimed interest and/or principal should write or call at the Registered Office of the Trustee during normal working hours for their unclaimed entitlements together with their original stock certificate and verifiable proof of identification.

Dated this 15th Day of April 2010

THE TRUSTEES
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Plot 34/36 Apapa-Oshodi Expressway, Lagos.

EUROPEAN UNION DELEGATION, ABUJA - NIGERIA

EUROPEAN INSTRUMENT FOR DEMOCRACY & HUMAN RIGHTS COUNTRY-BASED SUPPORT SCHEME (EIDHR CBSS) CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2009

Notice on Cancellation of Information Seminars

Potential applicant organisations are hereby notified that, due to inadvertent circumstances, the European Union Delegation Nigeria has cancelled the earlier scheduled information seminars in Enugu, Port-Harcourt, Lagos, Kaduna and Abuja. Any inconvenience caused due to the cancellation is highly regretted.

A guidance document to replace the presentation which would have been made at the information seminars will be made available at the websites listed below by **May 17, 2010**.

- European Union Delegation Nigeria website: www.delnga.ec.europa.eu
- Europe Aid website: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome>

Potential applicants are reminded that questions regarding the call for proposals may be sent by e-mail or by fax no later than 21 days before the deadline for the submission of applications (i.e. **May 20, 2010**) to the address below, indicating clearly the reference of the call for proposals:

E-mail address: delegation-nigeria-microprojects-eidhr@ec.europa.eu

The European Union Delegation Nigeria has no obligation to provide further clarifications after this date. Replies will be given no later than 11 days before the deadline for the submission of applications (i.e. **May 30, 2010**). Questions that may be relevant to other applicants, together with the answers, will be published as Frequently Asked Questions (FAQS) on the European Union Delegation Nigeria website: <http://www.delnga.ec.europa.eu>. It is therefore highly recommended that potential applicant organisations regularly consult the website in order to be informed of the questions and answers published.

Potential applicant organisation should please note that the deadline for the submission of applications remains **Friday, June 11, 2010 at 12:00 hrs local time**. Any application received after this deadline will not be considered.

Kazmierz Romanski
Charge d'Affaires a.i.



JOS UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL

The following names were omitted from the shortlisted candidate for employment into senior position published on 7th may, 2010 in Daily Trust Newspaper.

ESTATE OFFICER II

- 1 CHAYI EVELYN KANENG
- 2 RAUBEN YOHANNA
- 3 ARICKMUM I. NASAMU
- 4 DACHUNG M.D. RANJOL
- 5 JOSHUA STEPHEN
- 6 DAUDA D. ISHAYA
- 7 WUYEP LOHDIR P.V.
- 8 WALEOLA LATEEF
- 9 MICHAEL O. AUGUSTINE
- 10 RAKIYA J. ADAMU
- 11 OLAJOUJOU TAIWO B.
- 12 CHIA MWENA MABEL
- 13 ADJAGBENG GHANA FELIX
- 14 DAMULAK EMMANUEL D.
- 15 DANIEL BONKO NANZIP
- 16 ANGBALAGA RAYMOND
- 17 ZABE MARGARET K.S.
- 18 AYAH AKUSUK
- 19 KUCHELI USMAN
- 20 SAMUEL KPANJA AYUBA
- 21 GYCE JOYCE AUDU
- 22 ITAM JOHN MAGNUS
- 23 USHEI MICAEL
- 24 MBACK LONGJI RICHARD
- 25 LAKAN LOHNAN KELVIN
- 26 DAKUR NANPAN ISA
- 27 GYANG LYDIA DAVOU

CIVIL ENGINEER

- 1 AKOH THOMPSON
- 2 OGIEMWANRE U. S.
- 3 BALA SOLOMON AYUM
- 4 EMMANUEL BARKA VAHYALA
- 5 AMULA GAMBO
- 6 OLAKUNLE JOHNSON O.
- 7 SOLOMON OGWO
- 8 MAMWAN MUSA H.
- 9 AHMED ALHASSAN
- 10 GWEDU ALI JAMES
- 11 CLETUS TANKO
- 12 ISHAKU AYUBA
- 13 SHABA DANIEL
- 14 AGBONZEKE INNOCENT
- 15 TUKOP I. NATHAN
- 16 ATSER I. DENEN
- 17 ELIJAH O. ISAAC
- 18 NWOBU HENRY
- 19 EZE OBIANUJU

- 20 YAMU A. MONDAY
- 21 RENG SAMSON MADUNG
- 22 ORJI UCHENNA C.
- 23 OJUKWU EKENE MADUKA
- 24 UKPAI GODSWILL UKAGWE
- 25 JOSEPH BILYAMINU
- 26 PAM LEPSHIE PWAJOK
- 27 AGUNBIADE OLAJIDE A.
- 28 DAGWAN MONDAY
- 29 MANJANG B. BITRUS
- 30 JOSHUA M. GYANG
- 31 COL. JOSEPHAT C. ENEH (RTD)
- 32 SHANLONG F. MA'ANTOE
- 18 ADOGA ALFRED PATRICK
- 19 AFOLABI MATTHEW

PLANNING OFFICERS

246. ALAPHU LIKITA TSAKU
247. DANIEL JOHN DANAT
248. SONGDEN DAVID SATZEN
249. DAN GWONG SUNDAY PAM

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

9. ONYIAH KINGSLEY
10. BANJE YAKUBU MWANTI
11. UKAH ELIZABETH

PSYCHIATRY SOCIAL WORKER

32. LIJOFI MOSES AKINDELE
33. DAVID ABILGAIL HALLELUYAH
34. GBISE GLADYS
35. TIRENG T. RETSHIK
36. HADIZA ABDULLAHI A.
37. DANIEL ISAAC
38. YILKUDI KETAS GUNJI

HEALTH RECORD TECHNICIAN

1. AKINYEMI RHODA CLOWATOYIN
2. YASHIM CHRISTINE NYENI
3. CHIZEZIE ANNE UWABOKONYE
4. ANULA GLORIA

QUANTITY SURVEYOR

15. PANMWA G. GUPRI
16. ADEBUNMI DANIEL T.
17. GUKAS EDMOND M.

L.T. DASPAN
FOR: CHIEF MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Online Reactions

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON www.dailytrust.com



Why Sanusi should resign now – Shareholders

I think the CBN governor is doing a great job but even he promised to implement new reforms in the banking system and fails, he can't just be asked to resign. Nwosu should stop trading blames. Sooner or later, he will reconcile himself with the reforms.

Abdul
labgzw@ovi.com

Many Nigerians are anti-reforms. No wonder we cannot move forward. Most of these guys don't like reforms for selfish reasons. When economies were hurting in more developed countries, Soludo was telling us that nothing was wrong with our economy. If Soludo had not given way to Lamido, I wonder how many Nigerians would have gone bankrupt now due to the recklessness of the bank executives. Jonathan, if you like remove Lamido but any CBN governor who caves in to the demands of people with selfish motives will spell doom for you.

Mustapha
almustash@yahoo.com

I think it is sad that a few individuals can use their media and sectional power to humiliate a humble person like Sanusi who is trying to bring sanity to the banking sector. It is obvious that the managements of the banks are riddled with corruption. So if the economy needs to slow down (I believe temporarily) so that sanity can be restored, so be it. There's no way major repairs can be done to any system without some setbacks. I hop Jonathan will not listen to such sectional and selfish complains.

Mohammed M.A.
mmaliyu2@yahoo.com.my



CBN Governor Sanusi Lamido Sanusi

I'm sure Nwosu does not hold any grouse against the bank CEO's who almost put the average bank depositor in jeopardy. Maybe he will be happier if those banks go down with millions of people's hard earned money and the subsequent distrust for the Nigerian banking system that will follow. Sanusi's bold move -at a very high risk to his person- of sanitizing the banking sector is commendable and posterity will judge him as one those who did their best for this nation.

Gadanga
agyusuf@yahoo.com

I think Mr. Nwosu is quite naive for calling Sanusi to resign. Majority of shareholders are now aware (thanks to Sanusi) of the nefarious deals and double dealings of fake share manipulation. I personally lost a lot of money in the stock market but could not blame Sanusi but people who were only good in dubious deals and cover -ups.

Kolawole Sikiru
lbr@yahoo.com

It is always easy and you do not need any knowledge of rocket science to come to terms with the fact that we are likely going to see a sustained campaign to intimidate Lamido to resign. Perhaps it would heighten because of the change in leadership. Thank God Lamido's job is tenured. They would have removed him already. This is true given the efforts of one faceless organization called Renaissance Professionals - the organization that has so far spent millions in advertorials. It is easy to infer that these same people are perhaps the cronies of the sacked bank CEOs. Last but not least, this whole turbulence is being felt all over the world and it is true that job losses are being experienced, but it is a global phenomenon and not restricted to Nigeria alone.

Sani Tukur
stbd26@yahoo.com

It is all propaganda. Malam Sanusi, please do your best. God is beside you,

no amount of pressure will change that.

Nasiru Abba
naseerabbaone@yahoo.co.uk

With due respect Mr Sonny Nwosu, you are just going to make things bad for the country. I know the kind of people you are. Sanusi Lamido's policies are affecting you adversely. Now that we have a new president, you want him removed.

Abubakar Jibril
abubakarhbj@yahoo.com

Sanusi is putting in the best of his efforts to sanitize the system. Whoever is calling for his resignation is not sincere to himself and the voiceless depositors. We don't care. Let him sack the defaulters. Corruption must be removed from the banking sector.

Musa Abdullahi
musasplace@yahoo.com

Nigeria as country is passing through a testing period. Rome was not build in a day. Let us continue praying for our dear country and God's wisdom for Sanusi.

Gbesoevi Peter
senukonapo@yahoo.com

Sanusi is doing a good job in the apex bank. Nigeria is chronically ill and a few elements profited from it and they don't want things to change. Sanusi met the banks in a mess with fake financial results. Can you imagine banks declaring over 40 billion naira profit after tax but cannot pay dividends to share holders? Let's check our conscience please.

Abdullahi Daud Wokil
wakill2004@yahoo.com



THE Late President Yar'adua

Senate rejects move to probe Yar'adua's death

IT is degeneration on the part of the Senate now to deliberate on the need to constitute a committee of inquiry on Yar'adua's state of health. This is something that should have been done when he was sick in Saudi Arabia, but they refused because of their personal interests. It is sad because in Islam it is not possible to bring out somebody who has been buried. Let them concentrate on something that is of national interest.

Zanna Baruwa Gashua
bukar.zanna@yahoo.com

Senator Abubakar Umar Gada, you have done a wonderful job. Islamically, we all accept the death of our dear President Mallam Umaru Musa Yar'adua with good faith. We all know that from Allah we come and unto Him we shall return. There is no need for investigation as stated by majority of the Senators as against Sen. David Mark and Sen. Ekweremadu insistence that an investigation into the matter be carried out. We are all aware that Mr. President was seriously sick. He was not shot nor poisoned. Why requesting or insisting for an investigation? Please let the sleeping dog lie. Our prayer is that may His gentle soul rest in perfect peace and may Allah grant Yar'adua Aljannatul Firdausi. May he give the present President the power to lead us.

Kabir Ibrahim Gusau
ahlulzikri@yahoo.com



LARS Lagerback

Lagerback names 30-man squad - Olofinjana out

WHY did Nigeria sack Shuaibu? It doesn't make any sense. Lagerback didn't change the squad he just refreshed them.

Gidado
sirajogidado@hotmail.com

How PDP ratified zoning for 2011

THE facts are glaring! Unless majority of those whose names were mention deny it, we will believe the authenticity of this report. If someone, who led this country for more than a decade, majority of which was in a democratic set-up denied these facts, then we are in a serious circumstance. It's unfortunate that because of their actions and utterances, some Nigerians leaders are no longer trusted or respected.

Adzu Midlu
adzumails@yahoo.com

First, a point of correction. I think what is being referred here as 'zoning' should best be referred to as 'rotation' because zoning is practiced in allocating key positions otherwise known as 'federal character'. The main subject of controversy here is the principle of rotating the position of the presidency which Obasanjo was the first beneficiary of but denied having any knowledge of later. Well I am never surprised about Obasanjo's

stand on the issue. This is because it is very typical of Nigerians to chop off the hand that fed them.

Said Jafar
saidjafar37@yahoo.com

God bless you Daily Trust for the good work you are doing for the people of Nigeria. Credibility, accountability and transparency towards actualizing the purpose of leadership is what should be the hallmark in the diary of all selfless leaders. Behold if our conscience will not allow us do what is right, then we should not always discuss what is wrong because it may end up overthrowing our imagination and we will find ourselves doing evil unknown. What matters to me as an advocate of equity is for the president to ensure that credible elections hold and that all votes count. Whether he contests or not, let him ensure the preference of the people's choice.

Abdulrauf Abdullahi
call4rauf@yahoo.com

Senators endorse Makarfi for VP

PRESIDENT goodluck, please don't adopt Makarfi. Any of the following are better: Ibrahim Shema of Katsina state, Danjuma Goje of Gombe state, Yayale Ahmed, Nuhu Ribadu or Sen. Kanti Bello.

I. Kjock
ikjock@yahoo.com

Wonderful... Makarfi again! Sen. Kanti Bello, remember this is a national issue and not a PDP issue, even to the extent that you are reported to have said that people like "Senators Yerima and Ma'aji Lawan who are not members of the PDP cannot decide who becomes vice president." Look, as far as we are concerned, this is a national issue. All other party members in the house should have a say because during the screening all members are expected to contribute. If not for political party differences, Sen. Yarima or Sen. Lawal Maaji deserve to be the Vice President. They were all governors and currently serving sena-

tors. They have all the constitutional requirements. What else is needed if I may ask?

Kabir Ibrahim Gusau
ahlulzikri@yahoo.com

The action of the northern senate caucus is another breach of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria! Despite all the calls from eminent Nigerians that Mr. President should be given a free hand in choosing his colleague, still you went ahead to endorse someone. It is only in Nigeria that those who make a law break it first. Sec. 146 (3) of the constitution state the procedure of appointing a Vice President. Why are you trying to overlook this section? Sen. Kanti Bello, you said "this is a PDP affair", why didn't you make such a statement when Sec. 144 of the constitution was about to be invoked during the debate on our former President's ill health?

Nasiru Abdulmalik
ahlulzikri@yahoo.com

Open letter to Goodluck Jonathan

Dear Mr President,
From the glint in your eyes, the non-categorical answer you gave to Christina Amanpour in that famous CNN interview some four weeks back and the political moves you have been making in the past few days, it is clear to any man of average intelligence that you want to run for the presidency next year.

Perhaps, you are right. As a Nigerian, you have every right to aspire to lead your country in line with the Constitution of the country. But I want to appeal to you to forfeit that right for the sake of Nigeria which I know you love so much.

For those who know me and where I come from, this plea of mine may sound shocking and even 'unpatriotic'. Sir, I am from the Niger Delta and if I were a typical Nigerian, I should be in the vanguard of those calling on you to run in 2011.

My argument would be that destiny has made this time 'our turn' and has provided us a golden opportunity to lead this nation for a while. It can also be argued that if you do not take what good fortune has given to our region on a platter of gold, when again are we ever likely to ever get it without much sweat as now? I would further support my argument that after all, you are from the region that lays Nigerian golden eggs so we even have a greater right to be at

In spite of these and many other good reasons in favour of your running however, I once again appeal that you shelve such ambition at least for 2011

the head of the dividing table.

As a patriot and democrat who wants the best for my country, I nearly called upon you to run in 2011 for the sole reason that your running will throw into the dust bin the zoning formula which I think is not good for our country. I hate zoning because I believe that it is a recipe for not searching for the brightest and the best to lead us but to settle for less that the best available. Most patriots agree that if we want our nation to make rapid progress and become a developed and an industrialized giant as quickly as possible, we must throw open the competition for elective offices so that the best from anywhere in the country can occupy it and provide effective leadership to the people. These and many more are valid arguments in support of your presidential aspiration.

In spite of these and many other good reasons in favour of your running however, I once again appeal that you shelve such ambition at least for 2011. Here are my reasons. One, such a move will be completely distractive of the task which I think destiny has programmed you to achieve and become that hero that Nigeria has been searching for in the past fifty or so years. I may be right or wrong but I hold the belief that fate has destined you to be a transitional leader who will do the things that are necessary to lay a solid foundation for the rapid

Idang Alibi

ldangalibi@dailytrust.com;

08036938729

growth of Nigeria.

Those things you need to do include providing power, providing enabling environment for free, fair and credible election, ensuring that Nigeria makes maximum gain from the crude oil God has kindly given to our country and sincerely fighting corruption and graft. Your predecessors were unable to achieve any reasonable success with any of those listed crucial task. And one of the main reasons is that they each came to office with some tremendous political IOUs which did not give them the latitude to do what is right for Nigeria.

God has seen it fit to grant you access to that strategic office without any baggage so that you can have the courage and self-confidence to do what is necessary to set Nigeria on a high developmental pedestal. If you therefore choose to run, all the advantages you have will be thrown away on the altar of expediency. Two, in Nigeria and elsewhere in the world, it is very costly to run for the presidency. In our country, it is particularly so because our parties are not real parties and so do not have loyal members who can contribute money for the electioneering campaign of any candidate. The candidate has to foot the bill either by himself or with the assistance of a clique of usually corrupt people.

I know that you do not personally have the money to fund your campaign should you insist on running. Since this is so, you are likely to compromise your personal integrity by subverting the system in order to realise the hefty funds you need for your campaign. To put it more unambiguously, you will be tempted to steal and make nonsense of the need to fight corruption in the system. And once you choose to steal you will sort of legitimize it and open the doors for others in your government to also do same. Nigeria will be the poorer for it.

Three, if you decide to run Nigeria will have to forget about free and fair elections in 2011. The main problem with our democracy is that we do not have incumbent leaders who have the maturity and the sense of fairness to organise free and fair election. Perhaps, what Nigeria needs most now is free and fair election.

Without it, the stability of our country cannot be guaranteed. If you ask most reasonable Nigerians the number one thing they want President Goodluck Jonathan to do for the country, what they will say in answer is that if he cannot do anything else, he should have the courage and integrity to bequeath to us a culture of free and fair election. Credible election is even more crucial now than even electricity, important as that is. This is because if we have leaders that know that they owe their mandate to the people, no one will tell them to provide electricity, water, roads and other socio-economic facilities.



By Anthony Akinola

Lessons from the British elections

Nigeria's ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) might have conceived or contrived an idea of remaining in power for the next 50 years but such an assumption of unmerited longevity would seem rather laughable in real democratic nations of the world as their politicians hardly look beyond one election at a time. The retention of political power is not about being a member of the political party in power; it is about how the people perceive their individual and collective well-being over a period of time. They would ask those seeking their votes, especially the political party in power, "Are we better off today than we were when we voted you into power four or five years ago?" If the majority conclude that their lot did not improve, it would have to be goodbye to those they hold responsible for their plight; also the time for change would have come. It is all about people power.

However, the alternative they seek must be credible. Those seeking to unseat others must be able to convince the electorate that the change they promise to make is real. The choice the people have to make becomes clarified when they are in a position to know, for instance, where one political party is different from the other. Mere sloganeering will not do. The British political parties are ideological and issue-oriented parties and their approaches to the organisation of state and society have people in no doubt as to what to expect whenever one of the major ones, Labour or Conservative, is in power.

The dominant issues in Britain's recent election, not necessarily in their order of importance, include the econ-

What should, however, be of great interest to us in Nigeria is that the issue of electoral reform is still dominant in this ancient and accomplished democratic nation

omy, immigration and electoral reform. Just coming out of a recession, the sustenance of the economy assumed its indispensable priority in the campaigns - cutting the deficit and amending the weaknesses in the current monetary policy.

People are worried about their jobs, taxes, mortgages and other mundane aspects of human existence which include health and security. Of equal importance in the campaign is the issue of immigration. Not many Britons are comfortable with the influx of foreigners into their country. Membership of the European Union has undoubtedly led to the influx of people from the former Eastern Bloc. The Labour Party would argue that Britain has benefitted substantially from the presence of immigrants but such a view is not shared by the Conservative Party who is less favourably disposed towards Europe. The promise of the Liberal Democrats to grant amnesty to illegal immigrants

might not have been music to many ears.

The 2010 British election has proved to be one of the most exciting and keenly contested in recent decades, resulting in a hung parliament. The Conservative Party won the largest number of seats, followed by Labour and the Liberal Democrats in a distant third. The constitution however empowers a sitting Prime Minister to try and form a government in the circumstances, an opportunity which the Labour Party might want to exploit by striking a deal with the Liberal Democrats. The next British government, -whether led by Labour or the Conservatives, will be a coalition one with all its implications.

What should, however, be of great interest to us in Nigeria is that the issue of electoral reform is still dominant in this ancient and accomplished democratic nation. The leadership of the Liberal Democrats wants a reform of the voting system; they prefer proportional representation (PR) to the single-member, first past the post system that is much favoured by Labour and the Conservatives. Their argument is that proportional representation would better reflect in parliament the support the political parties enjoy nationally. The danger with proportional representation is that the House of Commons could be "crowded" with representatives of mushroom political parties and this may not augur well for decision-making and policy formulation, as well as for the apportionment of credit or blame in those respects. Neither Labour nor the Conservatives want proportional representation. There can never be an end to reforms and new ideas in the democratic process.

Although Great Britain may have been the coloniser of many nations of the world, its politicians are still learning from others. American-style presidential debates are the main features of electioneering in Britain in 2010, almost 60 years after America's first televised debates between John Kennedy and Richard Nixon in 1960. Even when the British Prime Minister is not elected nationally - people vote for their local representatives - the debates help substantially in educating people about the positions of the political parties on major issues, as well as the preparedness and style of their political leaders. Debates between political protagonists are undoubtedly recommended to societies where people are educated and rational enough to benefit from the choices they are presented with.

The manner in which the British elections are conducted is also something to be admired. The campaign lasted barely four weeks and not a single related death was reported. There were no fraudulent issues with ballot papers, or the outcome of the elections. Voters' registration cards came through the post, as the ages and addresses of every person resident in Britain are available in the records. Pensioners could be seen as volunteers, helping prospective voters at the polling stations.

Antinola wrote from Oxford before David Cameron of the Conservative Party was invited to form a new coalition government with the Liberal Democrats.



Those dubious awards to governors, etc

By Aliyu Modibbo Umar

Cont'd from Tuesday.

In cases where some level of development has been achieved, it is money from public treasury shared monthly by the federal government to the states. None of the governors can boast of creating reasonable revenue or wealth in their various states.

That being the case, then what is the parameter of naming them governor of the year if they failed to provide the basic amenities in their states? The governors who have tried in their various states do not need any award to be recognised. People extol them even from states other than theirs. These are people who should be honoured with such awards and guess what? They would not have to pay to get it!

Other public officials that partake in the glory of these doubtful awards are chief executives of government agencies. Recently, a CEO of a financial institution was recognised as Man of the Year

by a financial newspaper. Subsequently, an avalanche of sponsored adverts congratulating the fellow featured in various newspapers. Roughly calculated, an average of five newspaper adverts featured in for about a week. Translated in naira and kobo, your guess is as good as mine!

What was apparent about the award was that the CEO has been on the job for just about a year, invited by the EFCC for sundry investigation at one time, and has not done anything spectacular in his primary responsibility. What then was the parameter for naming him man of the year?

Having stated that, I am not saying that all awards lack credibility. As a matter of fact, one newspaper in Nigeria recently advertised its nominees and at the end of the day, a selfless man from Congo DRC who, faced with the option of fleeing his country during a war period or stay back and risk his life saving others; he opted for the latter. That is the calibre of people that form the integrity base of a society and this is the calibre

of people we should seek out and celebrate, not dubious people. We therefore advise that recognition should be given to leaders and people who deserve it based on the track record of achievement through sterling initiatives, tolerance exhibited in a transparent manner and not through dubious manner.

It is common knowledge that as Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), I was offered numerous awards. Of all these awards, I only accepted one which I did when I was out of office. It was an award given to me by the World Health Organisation for banning smoking in public places in Abuja. At least no one will accuse me of bribing the WHO for that award.

Looking back at the lesson I learnt from that great man, late Shehu Musa, I am constrained to add also that those who promote evildoers in the society are hiding a great deficiency. It's either they are incompetent, morally bankrupt or they are from a poor pedigree.

Concluded.

Dr Umar was minister of FCT

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

Re: How PDP ratified zoning for 2011

FROM this publication it is now left for President Jonathan to remain loyal and faithful to the gentleman's agreement, or discard it and test his popularity by contesting in 2011, but under free and fair election environment. That indeed would be an interesting event. May we be well alive to be part of the game.

MASABA, Bida, Niger State, 08050246619.

PDP zoning

I sometimes wonder if PDP is a religion, or a likes of everybody, or the only party that can rule

NIGERIA forever. From the crises of zoning, it seems that 2011 will not usher in free and fair election. Therefore ANPP, AC, CPC and the rest, should not waste their time and resources to take part. BUKHARI K Factor, Jos, 08061632181.

Re: In memory of St.

Yar'adua

TUNDE Asaju, be calm; we will all ascend to the father, your father and our father; your lord and our lord. Then you would get your share of a splint of *pericarditis*. Yar'adua's was the best of deaths; he was the like the rightly Umar *ibn el khattab*, Khalid *bin Walid*. Go fur-

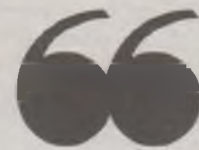
ther and search your archive! MUHAMMAD Sani Ibrahim. Angwan Kaji, Kaduna, 08130982527.

British elections

NIGERIA and its leaders should take a look at what happened in Britain's general elections and learn something of value from Mr Brown's humble resignation. U.N Umaru, 07039036082.

Youngest British PM

MR David Cameron at 43 is the youngest since 1812. But the youngest PM in British history was William Pitt, who became PM at 24 in 1783. Up to you, National Assembly. MOH'D U., Abuja, 08022477949.



By Michael Donald Ameh

Building ICT culture in Nigeria's military varsity

To say that the 21st century is driven by Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is an understatement. In fact, the world today breathes and thrives on ICT. Its application in almost every facet of modern life has made it second nature to man. From everyday use of mobile phones, to online transactions, and even its application in medicine, agriculture, transport, military and various aspects of human existence, ICT has come to define how the modern man operates.

Any organisation that hopes to gain global reckoning and relevance in the present scheme of affairs must embrace ICT and employ it broadly. It is in realisation of this fact that the Nigerian Defence Academy, under the direction of its Commandant, Major General Mahmood Yerima, has set in motion the machinery to make it ICT-compliant.

As a precursor, Gen Yerima commissioned two state-of-the-art computer laboratories and subsequently, improved on the existing IT infrastructure, expanding access to internet connectivity within the Academy. Since then, conscious efforts have been made to upgrade ICT tools and to broaden their use by staff and cadets of the NDA. In this regard, Gen Yerima, shortly after assuming office, commissioned a well-equipped cybercafé at the NDA Directorate of Information and Communication Technology (DICT). The cybercafé offers a comfortable and conducive environment for staff and cadets to browse and conduct research work.

To further drive the new vision and fully exploit the benefits of ICT, the Academy recently completed a comprehensive staff audit/verification. The idea behind this is to establish Human Resource Manager (HRM) software that would replace the existing manual registry data storage and management system with an *e-registry*. This will furnish the NDA with real-time data on each staff of the Academy and also make for easy management of such data. It will further create a central database for the Nigerian Defence Academy.

The staff verification exercise, among other benefits, will provide a new staff ID card that would generate a bar code sequence for each staff. This card could be used by a staff to access certain information. For instance, staff can look up their payment schedule or payslip by specifically calling up an ID number. Also, information on staff could be obtained from the database by authorised individuals using a comprehensive biometric technology.

Currently, the Academy is working with an IT consultant, Vivid Solutions Consulting Network, to fully actualize its IT vision. The duo of Vivid Solutions Consulting Network and NDA are working to establish a functional virtual library for the Nigerian Defence Academy. The e-library, www.ndakadunalibrary.com, will be fully automated and stocked with a vast collection of books and reference materials that cut across all disciplines. This, undoubtedly, will improve scholarship and research work among staff, cadets and postgraduate students of the Academy. Also, another website, www.nigeriandefenceacademyonline.com will use Content Management System (CMS) software that will allow for daily update of the website and regular uploads of research reports from within the NDA community.

Only recently, the Indian government made a generous donation of two IT laboratories and some IT equipment to the NDA. Some of the equipment donated includes several desktop and laptop computers, multimedia projectors, multifunctional copiers capable of facsimileing, scanning and high speed printing, three 40-computer LANs and 4 Servers. As a follow up, an Indian Army team conducted a 30-day training session for some staff of the NDA. Subsequently, more training of staff and cadets is being carried out on a regular basis to further update IT knowledge and expertise.

Similarly, the Academy, through the Federal Ministry of Education, received a World Bank intervention to further expand the scope and quality of its ICT training. The grant which is being facilitated under the World Bank's Science and Technology Education Post Basic Project (STEP - B), will provide the NDA with \$180,000 (One Hundred and Eighty Thousand dollars) to be used for the expansion of ICT equipment and training, and the provision of books in the NDA library. Funds for the first phase of the project, which includes the establishment of a STEP - B Centre and the training of staff and cadets, have been provided.

Ameh is on the news staff of NDA's Public Relations Unit

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

No. 20 P.O.W. Mafemi Crescent, Off Solomon Lar Way,
Utako District, Abuja
09-6726241, 6715364

Governors and severance packages

It has been a burgeoning and disturbing trend. Even more disturbing, the trend is on the rise. It is now in fashion that outgoing state governors tend to manipulate their state assemblies to enact legislation to give the governors outrageously hefty 'retirement' packages. The latest such onslaught on the public purse comes from Governor Olubukola Saraki of Kwara State. The state assembly has proposed to build for him two 'befitting' houses, one in Abuja and another in any location of his own choosing. The governor is to retain his current level of salary for life. He gets an eight-car convoy to be manned by eleven security guards. This is in addition to a generous furniture allowance, an all-expenses paid annual vacation for him and members of his family to any destination in the world; as well as an all-expenses paid annual medical trip to any hospital of his choice abroad for himself and members of his family. As the report hit the press, Governor Saraki, in a bizarre display of supposed modesty, asked the state assembly to reduce the package by half. If this sounds like a page out of *Arabian Nights*, we might be amused. But this is happening in a country whose average citizens survive on less than two dollars a day.

To be sure, Saraki is not the only governor to have proposed to settle himself at the people's expense. Danjuma Goje of Gombe State persuaded the legislature to remunerate him generously to the end of his two-term, eight-year tenure, during his first term. And in another display of insensitivity to the public they profess to serve, and lack of respect for probity, accountability and the principles of service, Governor Ali Modu Sheriff of Borno State granted himself a similar package. These governors have done nothing extraordinary for their people, except serve their states. Cumulatively the service rendered by these governors is less than the impact of the contribution of the average civil servant likely to spend three decades in service but with nothing tangible at the end, and prone to dying on the pension queue to obtain his meager entitlement.

What's more, the economy of these states do not have the financial base to sustain this as there is hardly any internally generated revenue to meet such gargantuan expenditure. Governors are already highly remunerated, and have access while in office to considerable sources of additional incomes. The relevant authorities should take a closer look at this gross abuse of public trust to place a heavy burden on the people in perpetuity. To allow these frivolous laws to stand is to open a floodgate for do-or-die quest to become governors and political office holders and to demean the principle of service. No civilized society can pay such outlandish packages to those who have offered themselves to serve. In fact in other lands, packages are not paid to those who are so young and likely to offer themselves for service either as legislators or as political office holders at other levels. They have to find alternate jobs for themselves and where they can, offer pro bono services to their society until they are of age to draw their allowances. The situation should not be different in Nigeria.

This reminder is apt because the rules making it compulsory for public officers to divest themselves of interests in blue-chip or publicly quoted companies while in office; are observed only in the breach. The aim of that provision is to pave way for proper operation of the principles of equity, fairness in competitive bidding and excellence in the execution of projects. Public officers, including governors not only retain their ownership of such companies, they continue to receive financial benefits from them while being paid from public till. They are known to award contracts to companies in which they have substantial interest or stake in gross violation of extant principles. It is such actions that taint our collective morality and ridicule our democracy and make other nations look at us as a jungle. We challenge the various state houses of assembly where there unjust laws have been passed to repeal them. They are unjustifiable and immoral.

KABIRU A. YUSUF: Chairman/Chief Executive Officer
ISIAQ AJIBOLA: Managing Director/Chief Operating Officer
MANNIR DAN ALI: Executive Director/ Editor-in-Chief
ALI M. AKOSHILE: General Manager, Business & Strategy
MAHMUD JEGA: Editor, Daily Trust
SHEHU O. MOHAMMED: Asst. General Manager, Finance
GARBA ALIYU ABUBAKAR: Asst. General Manager (IT)
ABDULKADIR ALIYU: Head, Advert

e-mail: opinion@daillytrust.com

Yarima: The rhyme and reason

Two issues brought a huge dose of sadness to many of us last week. The first was the death of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua after a protracted and controversial illness. Being the country's number one citizen, the late President was not allowed the luxury of privacy even on his sick bed. Sadly, his ailment became a source of discord and political intrigues. A humble and unassuming leader, he will be remembered for his pace setting moves that are worthy of emulation. One was admitting that the election that brought him to power was flawed and his promise to implement electoral reform. The second was public declaration of his assets. He also challenged anyone who knew of any assets apart from those declared to disclose the information. If all our leaders publicly declare their assets, undertake a realistic assessment of the election that are rigged to bring them to power and take action to rectify it, the country will make progress on the path to good governance.

As for his achievements, the seven point agenda which implementation his ill health obstructed and in particular the peace agenda for the restless Niger Delta is commendable. It crystallized into an amnesty for militants and brought relative peace to the troubled region. May his soul rest in peace, may Allah SWT grant him paradise and give the nation the fortitude to bear the loss.

The second dose of sadness emanated from the controversy generated by the marriage of the former Governor of Zamfara State, Senator Ahmed Sani, and the *Yariman* Bakura to an Egyptian girl whose age was put at 13 years. The issue raked up mud and created disharmony among Muslims. I doubt if all those who threatened hail and brimstone, disowned other Muslims and questioned their faith Iman knew enough about the issue to warrant their reaction. Of particular concern is mobilisation of hapless women to demonstrate in support of the Senator because they were told that Islam was under assault in Abuja by agents of *yahudu* and *nasara* (Jews and Christians). Of all the permissible things divorce is what Allah frowns upon. The abuse of the divorce in Muslim communities is a tragedy yet women were manipulated to support those who marry and divorce their daughters at will!

It is appropriate to state the fact of the case. As soon as the news of the marriage was carried in the media, it set tongues wagging and anger welled up in the hearts of Nigerian human rights activists. They petitioned the National Human Rights Commission NHRC which in turn took its case to the Senate where Yarima is a lawmaker requesting that the issue should be investigated. The petition presented by Senator Eme Ekatte the Chairperson of the Women and Child Committee noted as follows:

• The marriage between Senator Ahmed Sani and a purported

Civil Society Watch

By Hajiya Bilkisu (mni)

13-year old Egyptian child took place at the National Mosque in Abuja alleging that the Senator "enticed" a 13 year old Egyptian child into marriage and the said marriage could not be formalised in Egypt for reasons of child marriage being prohibited under their Law.

-That a sum of \$100,000.00 (about N15m) was paid by Senator Ahmed Sani as 'dowry' and about 30 members of the said Egyptian child's relatives were in Nigeria at the Senator's expense for the said

prohibits marriage of girls less than 18 years of age. Investigations reveal that unofficially through what is called "urfi marriage" or seasonal/temporary marriage, marriage to minors continue to exist particularly to wealthy older men from the Gulf States who come to Egypt for such purposes. Furthermore, the Egyptian law also forbids marriage where the man is more than twenty five years older than the woman as is in this case. A Saudi Arabian man over 70 who married a girl under 20 years was prosecuted based on this law.

The Senator's action is a breach of Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act, 2003 as amended in 2005 and National Agency for the Prohibition of Traf-

The Senator responded that he did not violate the Sharia in conducting the marriage and he could therefore ignore any other law

wedding

-That the Senator is alleged to have married in 2006 or thereabouts, a 15 year old (Hauwa'u) from Zamfara who Senator Ahmed Sani also allegedly caused to drop out of school at JSS 3, to marry him as his fourth wife.

-That Senator Ahmed Sani recently divorced the same Hauwa'u (now 17 years old and nursing a child for him) to make room for yet another marriage, again, with a 13 year old Egyptian child.

The human rights community in Nigeria expressed concern and consternation at the alleged actions of the Distinguished Senator which are considered both condemnable and patently illegal, especially as they relate to Nigeria's statutory and case law as well as its international status for the following reasons: A seeming violation of Section 21 of the Child Rights Act 2003, which is applicable in Abuja where the said marriage purportedly took place. The Child Rights Act forbids marriage with anyone less than 18 years and criminalises same with a fine of N500,000 or 5-year jail term, or both.

-The wrongful entry of the child bride and 30 members of her family into Nigeria because they entered Nigeria as tourists, while the reason of entry was concealed.

After the filing of the petition, investigations were conducted in Egypt and additional information show that the name of the child bride is Miss Marim Maged M. Eladly and she is 14 years old and the daughter of Senator Ahmed Sani's driver in Cairo. There is reason to suspect exploitation of the family's vulnerability due to poverty. It became clear that the marriage took place in Nigeria because Egyptian law

ficking in Persons NAPTIP- Convention on the rights of the Child CRA (2003) and Egyptian Child Rights Law of 1996 as amended in 2008.

The Senator responded that he did not violate the Sharia in conducting the marriage and he could therefore ignore any other law. He drew the ire of Muslim women rights activists who confronted him with their objections to his behaviour which they said was giving Islam a bad name. They questioned the \$100,000 (15million naira) as dowry, in the face of the poverty in Zamfara, the poorest state in Nigeria.

It contravenes the admonition of our Prophet (SWA) for moderation in all activities. 'Marrying a child of 13 years after divorcing another girl of 17 (after 3 years of marriage, with one child), arbitrarily defying the laws of the land, is not about and within the ambits of Islam.' The Prophet never divorced women.

All his wives were widows and divorced women some 80 years old, except Aisha whose age of marriage is still subject of debate. Yarima's defiant defence of this child marriage seems appropriate only to whip up self-serving sentiments, to becloud issues in a country where ignorance and misrepresentation of Sharia is pervasive. For disagreeing with the Senator, his supporters started threatening the women, questioning their faith and issuing life threatening fatwa. This made me sad because debate and intellectual engagement among the *Ummah* is a mark of progress. If we stifle debate on such pressing issues how do we make Islam respond to our contemporary needs and secure it as the living faith that it is?



NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE CORPS

OBITUARY



Late President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, GCFR,

The NYSC National Governing Board, Management, Staff and Corps members nationwide join millions of other Nigerians to mourn the demise of His Excellency, **Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, GCFR**, the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, on Wednesday, 5th May, 2010.

It is on record that the late Mr. President was the first ex-corps member to become the President of this great nation, as he participated in the 3rd set of the NYSC in the 1975/76 service year and served at Holy Child College, Obalende, Lagos as a Chemistry Teacher.

We also wish to recall that His Excellency, while in office as the Governor of Katsina State, constructed the best purpose-built orientation camp for the NYSC which other states subsequently copied as a model.

While we appreciate his fatherly and friendly disposition to the NYSC, we, in the NYSC family, hereby extend our deep and heartfelt condolences to the entire nation and the Yar'Adua family on the sad loss of this great leader of ours.

May his great, noble and gentle soul rest in perfect peace, (Amen).

Signed:

Brigadier-General MI Tsiga, fss, mss, dss, mnim
Director-General

Ecobank

Children's Day Essay Competition

"The Nigeria of My Dream"



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All entries must be between 200 and 300 words and include in the top right hand corner the contestants name, age, phone number, home address and school name. Entry closes May 19th. Shortlisted winners will be contacted via telephone. Their names will be published in local press on May 27th.

Entries should be submitted at your nearest Ecobank branch or sent by email to essa@ecobank.com For more information please call 01 270 1323, 7731904 or visit the nearest Ecobank branch.

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National Directorate of Employment

Condolence Message to the Nation on the Passing on of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua



**INNA LILLAHI
WA'INNA
ILAIHI RAJI'UN**

**Late President
Umaru Musa
Yar'adua.**

With total submission to the will of the Almighty God, the Management and Staff of the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) express our condolences to the President and the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Dr Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, Her Excellency Hajia Turai Yar'adua, the Yar' adua family, the Emir and the good people of Katsina State and indeed all Nigerians on the passing on of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua.

The late President immensely contributed to the development of Nigeria and through his 7-point agenda, laid a sustainable foundation especially for peace, job creation and poverty alleviation.

As the entire nation and the world mourn our dear late President, our prayers is that his soul shall rest in peace and that God would grant his family and all Nigerians the fortitude to bear the loss as we forge ahead with nation building so dear to the heart of Late President Yar' adua.

Signed: **Mallam Abubakar Mohammed**
Director-General,
or: **MANAGEMENT**



NEW NIGERIA DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LTD

INNA LILLAHI WA INNA LLAIHI RAAJI'UN



The Board, Management and Staff of New Nigeria Development Company (NNDC) Limited express their deep heartfelt condolences to the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, former First Lady Hajia Turai Umaru Yar'adua, the Executive Governor of Katsina State, Alh. Ibrahim Shehu Shema, Chairman Northern Governors' Forum Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu, His Royal Highness the Emir of Katsina, Alh. Abdulmumin Kabir Usman, the entire Yar'adua's family, members of the Federal Executive Council, members of the National Assembly, and indeed the people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria over the death of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua (Muttawallen Katsina)

We still ponder with deep affection the unique qualities that defined his life: personal integrity, courage, humility and unwavering quest for peace and harmony in the Niger Delta as well as the progress and development of the nation, which he would be remembered forever for.

May the Almighty Allah (SWT) grant his gentle soul eternal rest and make Al-Jannatul-Firdaus his final abode.

President Umaru Musa Yar'adua, GCFR.
August 1951- May 5, 2010

Signed:

Management
 New Nigeria Development Company Ltd
 18/19 Ahmad Bello Way
 P.M.B. 2120
 Kaduna



**FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
KADUNA STATE GOVERNMENT**

**PROJECT: KADUNA STATE GOVERNANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING
PROJECT CREDIT NO.: 4084-UNI**

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION ON INTEREST
FOR
THE ENGAGEMENT OF TAX CONSULTING FIRM**

BACKGROUND

The Federal Government of Nigeria has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) for the implementation of a State Governance and Capacity Building Project (SGCBP) in three pilot States, namely: Bauchi, Cross River and Kaduna States. The overall objective of the project is to ensure good governance by way of promoting accountability and transparency in the utilization of financial and human resources in the public service. The Kaduna State Governance and Capacity Building Project (KDSGCBP) now intends to apply part of the proceeds towards the engagement to Tax Consulting Firm to enhance the State Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) towards a more self-sustaining revenue base.

The Project is made up of two broad components namely: (A) **Core Reforms** which consist of the following subcomponents: (i) Public Finance Legislation, (ii) Budget Preparation, (iii) Accounting, Expenditure Control and Financial Reporting, (iv) External Audit, (v) Budget and Treasury management Information System (BATMIS), (vi) Human Resource Management and Staff Training Enhancement as well as Public Procurement Reform (Due Process) and (B) **State Specific Program** which is Modernization of Tax Payer Identification System for Kaduna State.

The overriding objective of the Modernisation of Tax Payer Identification System component is to review and reposition the State's tax machinery (the Board of Internal Revenue) to meet the challenges of a higher IGR, through a system that captures a greater percentage of economic units and individuals in the tax net. In this regard, the services of an experienced consulting firm become necessary.

SCOPE OF SERVICE

A reputable firm will be required to restructure and strengthen tax administration in the State in the following areas:-

- Design a new and comprehensive taxpayer's database, including rental income, in electronic format.
- Review existing tax payer's database and migrate the clean and viable taxpayer's records into a new electronic database.
- Conduct a State-wide taxpayer identification and enumeration survey capturing new/all tax payer's with verifiable addresses and nature of business(es).
- Collate survey data and input into the new computer supported electronic database.
- Design, test and install new database software and train relevant Staff on usage.

SERVICE DURATION

The consultancy service will be for a period of three months.

The Kaduna State Governance and Capacity Building Project now invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested firms must provide information to the address below indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (e.g experience in similar consultancy services, availability of appropriate skill, etc.).

SELECTION OF CONSULTANTS

The Firms will be selected through Quality and Cost-Based Selection method, in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guideline: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank A Borrowers dated May, 2004 and revised in October, 2006.

Interested firms may obtain further information at the address below during office hours 9:00am – 4:00pm local time (Monday-Friday) on the terms of reference (TOR)

Expression of Interest one (1) original and three (3) copies and a soft copy must be delivered to the address below not later than three weeks from the date of this publication with sealed envelope marked "State Governance and Capacity Building Project."

Only shortlisted firms will be invited to submit proposal.

Late submission will not be accepted

The Project Coordinator,
Kaduna State Governance and Capacity Building Project
C/o Ministry of Economic Planning,
State Project Coordinating Unity (SPCU), State Secretariat Complex,
Independence Way,
Kaduna, Nigeria.

AFRICA REPORT

US disappointed over Egypt's extending emergency law



EGYPTIAN Prime Minister Ahmed Nazif addressing parliament in Cairo.

THE United States said it was "disappointed" that Egypt's parliament voted to extend the decades-old state of emergency for another two years. "The United States is disappointed by the Egyptian government's decision to extend the State of Emergency which has been in effect continuously since 1981," White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said in a statement.

"We call on the Egyptian government to fulfill its pledge to the Egyptian people to replace the Emergency Law with a counterterrorism law that protects the civil liberties and dignity of Egyptian citizens," he said.

Gibbs voiced concerns at the fact he said that even the revised Emergency Law Egypt plans to implement "gives the government extraordinary powers to restrict the rights of Egyptian citizens."

"We urge Egypt to complete its promised counterterrorism legislation on an urgent basis and repeal the State of Emergency," Gibbs said, adding: "The United States understands the challenges that terrorism poses to free societies but believes that effective counterterrorism measures can be based on legal principles that protect the rights of all citizens."

Earlier, State Department spokesman Philip Crowley had told reporters after the parliament approved a presidential decree to extend the state of emergency: "We are disappointed."

"We have questions about how this fits with pledges the government of Egypt has made to its own people, to try to find a way to move beyond the emergency law," Crowley said.

Nile nations split on proposed water-sharing pact

SEVEN African nations are expected to push through a new and more equitable deal this week on sharing the waters of the Nile despite strong opposition from Egypt and Sudan.

"What we are doing is launching the signing. Any country that feels they cannot sign now but may be ready to sign later will have one year," Jennifer Namuyangu Byakatonda, Uganda's state minister for water said.

The nine nations that directly benefit from the Nile's resources have for years been negotiating a new pact to replace a 1959 deal between Egypt and Sudan giving them more than 90 percent control of the water flow.

Burundi, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda have agreed on terms for a new pact and could ink the deal when it opens for signature on Friday in Entebbe, Uganda.

Byakatonda insisted that the upstream countries will not capitulate to demands for further negotiations.

"Negotiations are closed," she said. "The terms will not change."

The upstream countries want to be able to implement irrigation and hydropower projects in consultation with Egypt and Sudan, but without Egypt being able to exercise the veto power it was given by a 1929 colonial-era treaty with Britain.

Kenya's kungfu grannies train to combat rape

MANY elderly Kenyan women have taken to kungfu training to combat a spate of rape attacks targeting elderly women in the slums. One Nairobi hospital treated 437 rape victims older than 60 last year.

In the sludge-covered alleyways of the Korogocho slum, 50 women, many of them grandmothers, have enrolled in twice-a-week self-defence classes at a run-down community center. The women say they must rely on themselves because the police rarely patrol the dark paths that wind through the maze of iron-roofed shanties. When suspected rapists are reported to the police, they often bribe their way to freedom, the women say. At the Korogocho community hall, elderly women clad in headscarves, long skirts and petticoats pound punching bags with the heels of their bare feet. "No, no, no!" screams 70-year-old Mary Wangui as she pounds the heavy hitting pad. Her open-palm blows force a 20-something instructor, Sheila Kariuki, to fall backward. A group of around 30 women between the ages of 50 and 80 cheer on Wangui as they wait their turn.

"When we hit the pad with an open palm we are training to target the nose, the solar plexus or the groin to hurt an attacker so that it can give you a chance to escape. Shouting 'no' repetitively is meant to draw the attention of people so that they can assist you," said Wangui, who has been training for almost two years.

Zimbabwe prosecutors 'to appeal' Roy Bennett acquittal

PROSECUTORS in Zimbabwe say they will appeal against the acquittal on Monday of politician Roy Bennett for plotting to overthrow President Robert Mugabe.

The court had ruled that an alleged link between Mr Bennett and a convicted arms dealer had not been proved. Mr Bennett is a senior member of Morgan Tsvangirai's Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), which is in a unity government with Mr Mugabe's Zanu-PF.

The MDC has said the appeal plans are politically motivated. Chris Mutangadura of the attorney general's office said the approach of the judge in Mr Bennett's case had been wrong, the AFP news agency reports.

"It was a piecemeal approach," he said. "He should have considered the merits of the case and the facts which pointed to the accused." The judge had ruled the prosecution's key evidence - an alleged confession from arms dealer Peter Hitschmann - inadmissible.

He also said prosecutors had not proved that e-mails allegedly linking Mr Bennett to Mr Hitschmann were genuine. MDC spokesperson Nelson Chamisa denounced the prosecutor's decision to appeal.

Somali pirates seize Greek-owned ship in Gulf of Aden

SOMALI pirates have seized a Liberia-flagged and Greek-owned ship with 24 people aboard in the Gulf of Aden, officials said yesterday. The ship, managed by Eurobulk Ltd and named Eleni P, was carrying iron and sailing from Ukraine to China via Singapore. Of the 24 people on board, two were Greeks and the rest Filipinos, the company said.

A security officer for Eurobulk, who declined to be named, told Reuters that 10 people had jumped on the ship early yesterday. "We don't have any information on the safety of the crew," the officer said.

Rampant piracy off the coast of Somalia has earned gunmen tens of millions of dollars in ransoms and increased insurance premiums for ships.

IN THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT OF NIGERIA IN THE KADUNA JUDICIAL DIVISION HOLDEN AT KADUNA

SUIT NO. FHC/KD/CS/47/2004

BETWEEN

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1. The Registered Trustees, Kaduna Zone Shareholders Association
2. Alhaji (Dr) U.A Mutallab
3. Alhaji Shitu Titiola
4. Alhaji D. M. Gwarzo
5. Mrs. A. Akilu
6. Alhaji Ibrahim Wamban Gusau
7. Engineer Sabo I. Sodangi | } Plaintiffs |
| AND
1. Rtd. Col. Muhammad Abdullahi
2. Prince E.A. Olayemi | } Defendants |

JUDGMENT ORDER

Upon this suit dated and filed on the 20th day of July 2004, the Plaintiffs claims against the Defendants in this suit as follows:

1. An order declaring that the of the Plaintiffs are the alter ego of the Kaduna Zone Shareholders Association.
2. An order declaring that the Defendant is not elected officer of the Kaduna Zone Shareholders Association.
3. An order of perpetual injunction restraining the Defendant from

parading or holding himself out howsoever as elected officers of the Kaduna Zone Shareholder Association

While the Defendants counter claims from the Plaintiffs as follows:

- (a) A declaration that the 3rd Annual General Meeting of the Association held at the Giginya Hotel, Sokoto on the **14th day of April 2004** was vitiated or marred by various fundamental anomalies and/or irregularities and therefore null, void and of no effect.

- (b) An order setting aside resolutions, elections and all other proceedings of the said meeting.



Muhammad Etubi Esq. of counsel for the Plaintiffs, Mas'ud Alabelewe Esq. of counsel for the Defendants.

And the Court having delivered its judgment this **23rd day of October 2009**, granting the Plaintiffs' reliefs.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the Plaintiffs are the alter ego of the Kaduna Zone Shareholders Association.
2. That the 1st and 2nd Defendants are not officer and/or representatives of the Kaduna Zone Shareholders Association.
3. That the 1st and 2nd Defendants are restrained from parading or holding themselves out howsoever as officers and/or representatives of the Kaduna Zone Shareholders Association.
4. That the Defendants counter claims is dismissed for lacking in merit.

ISSUED AT KADUNA under the seal of the court and the hand of the presiding judge, this **23rd day of October 2009**

**Awase Igba (Mrs)
For: Assistant Director (Litigation)**

NATIONAL ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITAL, DALA-KANO

NOHD/ADM/PPC/483



5TH MAY, 2010

RE - INVITATION TO TENDER FOR EXECUTION OF THE HOSPITAL'S 2010 CAPITAL PROJECTS.

NEW DATES FOR SUBMISSIONS AND OPENING

With reference to our advertisement notices in the Vanguard Newspaper of Friday 16th April 2010, the Daily Trust and Federal Tenders Journal of Monday 19th April, 2010 editions captioned "Invitation to Tender for the Execution of the Hospital's 2010 Capital Projects", we wish to announce a modification in the dates as follow:

- **Collection of Tender Documents:** Friday 14th May, 2010

SUBMISSION/CLOSING:

1. **LOTS 1-6:**
 Submission: From Friday 14th May, 2010 to 12noon Wednesday 23rd June, 2010
 Closing/Opening: 12noon Wednesday, 23rd June, 2010.
2. **LOTS 7-10:**
 Submission: From Friday 14th May, 2010 to 12noon Thursday 24th June, 2010
 Closing/Opening: 12noon Thursday, 24th June, 2010.

Tenderers are also to note the following additional evaluation requirement:

- ❖ Evidence of compliance with the Pension Reform Act 2004 with regards to operation of employee Retirement Savings Accounts (RSA) with approved Pension Fund Administrators (PFA).

Inconvenience caused by this extension is highly regretted, please.

**SIGNED:
MANAGEMENT**

VACANCIES - Abuja.

A well established Air-conditioning Contracting firm wishes to employ suitable and dedicated professionals in her regional office at Abuja.

- 2) **AIR-CONDITIONER PROJECT ENGINEERS** -Abuja
 Must be resident of Abuja and possess BSc./HND, **MECHANICAL OR ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING** with about 5-8 years experience in air conditioner project design or installation works. The applicant must have sound knowledge of high-end air conditioner equipment design/installation and strong project management skills. Applicant will be responsible for the project coordination at Abuja and some other part of Northern Nigeria. He must be a team player. Ability to speak Hausa Language fluently is an added advantage.

Ability to drive and sound knowledge of FCT and its environs shall be a plus as Operation Car shall be provided for this position.

- 4) **TECHNICIANS: AIR-CONDITIONING INSTALLATION** -Abuja.
 Applicant must also possess HND, C & G, TRADE TEST CERTIFICATE, etc in Refrigeration & Air-conditioning. Practical installation experience on **(Chilled Water Systems & DX Equipment, Ductable, Roof Top Package Units, etc is Strongly Required)**. A strong brazing skill is a must for all applicants. Applicants must be resident of Abuja.

REMUNERATION:

Attractive remuneration awaits the successful candidates.

METHOD OF APPLICATION:

Application letters should be forwarded by e-mail within 14 days of this advertisement to: **nsakariyau@yahoo.com**

Only short listed applicants shall be contacted.

EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTRE

FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION
NO. 55 HARPER STREET, WUSE ZONE 7, ABUJA

INVITATION FOR BOOK REVIEW

This is to bring to the notice of the general public especially publishers and authors that the FCT Education Resource Centre (ERC) intends to carry out a review of available textbooks for onward compilation of a standard list for use in the Federal Capital Territory of the Pre-primary, Primary and Secondary School levels.

2. The review will comprise all subjects, and two alternative titles, two supplementary titles and a revision text shall be recommended for each subject. All texts recommended shall be for a period of three academic years, until the next book review in the year 2013.

3. Accordingly, all interested publishers and authors are invited to submit five (5) copies each of their published titles for consideration. They should also provide the following information in respect to each title:

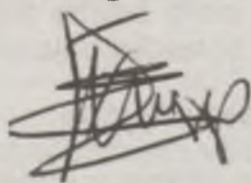
- i. Name of publishers
- ii. Title category (Pre-primary/Primary/Secondary)
- iii. Full title of book
- iv. Name of author
- v. Date of publication
- vi. Place of publication
- vii. Current cover price
- viii. Contact phone/GSM No

4. In assessing the textbooks, the ERC shall, among other indices, give consideration to the following:

- i. Conformity with the national curriculum produced by the NERDC
- ii. Quality of print and illustrations
- iii. Students exercises/activities
- iv. Quality production (bond paper, binding and size etc)
- v. Cover price
- vi. Availability throughout the FCT
- vii. Currency of edition

5. All submissions should reach the ERC, CD Division C/O multi-purpose hall on or before Monday 31 st May, 2010

6. For further information or enquiries, publishers may contact the Director (ERC) on 0803 578 6034 or 0803 701 7008 or the undersigned in Room B3.



MRS. E. T. WUYEP
For: Director (ERC)

World



AFGHAN President Hamid Karzai (L) shakes hands with US President Barack Obama during a press conference.

Karzai, Obama united against Al-Qaeda

US President Barack Obama praised yesterday the "broad and deepening" US partnership with Afghanistan and said he and his Afghan counterpart Hamid Karzai had renewed their goal to defeat Al-Qaeda.

The two leaders met to mend fences, after months of trading barbs over alleged vote-rigging and corruption in Karzai's government.

"As we've seen in recent plots here in the United States, Al-Qaeda and its extremist allies continue to plot in the border regions between Afghanistan and Pakistan and a growing Taliban insurgency could mean an even larger safe haven for Al-Qaeda and its affiliates," Obama said after White House talks.

"So today we are reaffirming our shared goal, to disrupt, dismantle and defeat Al-Qaeda and its extremist allies in Afghanistan and Pakistan."

The Obama administration is rolling out the red carpet for Karzai's four-day visit in the US capital as senior officials from both sides mapped out what Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has called their

"shared" future. Ties have strained as the Obama administration pressed Karzai to clamp down on corruption, after he was returned to power for a second term in last year's fraud-tainted elections.

Obama noted Wednesday that Karzai had made progress on corruption in his administration, but said "much more" needed to be done in terms of good governance.

Both leaders appeared to have aired their own concerns in their talks, which come as the United States boosts the number of US forces in Afghanistan fighting a deadly Taliban and Al-Qaeda insurgency.

In a nod to the tensions, Karzai hailed the "frank, productive" White House talks on the need to protect Afghan civilians amid anger in Afghanistan at the deaths caused by US air strikes.

His visit comes as the US military gears up for a crucial stage of Obama's strategy to defeat the Taliban and allow the increased US military presence -- nearly 100,000 US forces -- to start coming home next year.

Jordan trained 2,500 Afghan special forces - Minister

JORDAN said yesterday it has trained 2,500 members of Afghanistan's special forces but added that it was still studying a request from NATO to train members of the Afghan police.

"Jordan has trained 2,500 members of the Afghan special forces. This was in the past. The group has completed its training and there are no trainees now," Information Minister Nabil Sharif told a news conference.

A Jordanian military source told AFP the train-

ing took place three years ago but declined to give details. Asked about training for the Afghan police, Sharif said: "The kingdom hasn't yet decided on NATO's request."

Jordan announced it had been asked to conduct the training after a visit to Amman in March by NATO secretary general Anders Fogh Rasmussen.

Jordan's special forces chief Brigadier Ali Jaradat has said in published remarks that 1,500 servicemen, including anti-terror

forces, from Afghanistan and Iraq have received training at the 200-million-dollar King Abdullah II Special Operations Training Centre, which was inaugurated in May last year.

"Troops from most of the Arab countries and other states have received training at the centre," he was quoted as saying.

"The Americans and Europeans took part ... Most of the troops serving in Afghanistan received training at the centre before they went there."



GOMBE STATE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA



**INNA LILLAHI
WA'INNA
ILAIHI RAJI'UN**

**Late President
Umaru Musa
Yar'adua.**

It is with heavy hearts but total submission to the will of Almighty Allah that we received news of the demise of Late President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua. (Matawallen Katsina), GCFR.

We join fellow Nigerians in mourning this huge national tragedy which is the loss of a patriot, a visionary and selfless leader who has given this country a new direction.

Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua's death was personally felt by every lover of peace and progress in Nigeria, as he was a straight, honest and humble leader who had best of intentions for the country.

We deeply commiserate with His Excellency, the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan GCFR, the family of the late President and indeed all Nigerians on this tragedy.

We pray Allah (SWT) to reward his good deeds with Jannatul Firdausi. May Almighty Allah bless, strengthen and guide our new President in the onerous task of providing excellent leadership for Nigeria. May He grant him the wisdom to reposition the country to take its rightful position in the comity of nations. Amen.

Signed:

His Excellency

ALHAJI (DR.) MUHAMMAD DANJUMA GOJE

(Sarkin Yakin Gombe)

Governor, Gombe State.

Offer-Circular



Pursuant to the Debt Management Office (Establishment) Act 2003 and the Local Loans
(Registered Stock and Securities) Act (Cap 214) LFN 1990

THE CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA

on the authority of the

DEBT MANAGEMENT OFFICE

on behalf of the

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA

Offers for Subscription by Auction

and is authorized to receive applications for

₦25,000,000,000 FGN Bond 5.50% February 19, 2013 (Re-opening 3-year bond)*

₦25,000,000,000 FGN Bond 4.00% April 23, 2015 (Re-opening 5-year bond)*

₦30,000,000,000 FGN Bond 8.50% November 20, 2029 (Re-opening 20-year bond)*

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Settlement Date: May 21, 2010

SUMMARY OF THE OFFER

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REDEMPTION:

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₦1,000 thereafter

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2. Qualifies as Government securities within the meaning of Company Income Tax Act ("CITA") and Personal Income Tax Act ("PITA") for Tax Exemption for Pension Funds amongst other investors
3. Listed on the Nigerian Stock Exchange
4. All FGN Bonds qualify as liquid assets for liquidity ratio calculation for banks

INTEREST RATE:

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Diamond Bank Plc.

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Express Discount Ltd.
Fidelity Bank Plc.
First Bank of Nigeria Plc.
First City Monument Bank Plc.
First Securities Discount House Ltd.
Guaranty Trust Bank Plc.

Kakawa Discount House Ltd.
Oceanic Bank International Plc.
Stanbic IBTC Bank Plc.
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* (1) The DMO reserves the right to alter the amount allotted in response to market conditions

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STANDING from right: The Executive Director, Finance & Strategy of FinBank Plc, Mr. Abdulrahman Yinusa (FCIB), being congratulated on his election as a Council Member of the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN) by the newly elected President/Chairman of Council of the Institute, Mr. Laoye Jaiyeola (FCIB), at the Annual General Meeting of the CIBN held in Lagos recently. Sitting on the left is the 1st Vice President of the Institute, Mr. Segun Aina (FCIB) and the 2nd Vice President, Mrs. Debola Osibogun.

BRIEF

Nigeria tops list at Redington IT Africa awards

From Yunus Abdulhamid, Lagos

NIGERIA'S increasing importance as a world-class Information Technology (IT) market, was recently confirmed with three of the country's leading resellers of IT products from the African nation taking home majority of the 12 Redington IT Africa (RITA) Awards.

The inaugural RITA award took place in Dubai recently.

Nigerian distributors, Park N Shop, Ajatech Computers Limited, and Systemtech Services Ltd shared between them five of the 12 RITA Awards, after beating off fierce competition from their counterparts in other African countries.

The initiative is the first of its kind for the African continent and has been formed to encourage Redington's IT partners to further spread the company's footprint across the region, a statement issued by Redington said.

N84bn fraud: Reps ask EFCC to probe NNPC, Shell, Total

By Turaki A. Hassan

THE House of Representatives has asked the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to launch an investigation into the failure of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Total Upstream, Shell Petroleum Development Company and 25 other firms on non-remittance of import duty worth over N84 billion to the Federation Account.

The lawmakers say the NNPC has failed to remit N45.9 billion into the account of the Nigeria Customs Service as tax on petroleum products imported into the country between 1999 and 2002.

Report of House of Representatives Committee on Customs which investigated the state of the Nigeria Customs Service, reads in part, "EFCC should be mandated to recover the sum of N45.9 billion owed by the NNPC to the Service as there was no basis for the corporation not to pay the said amount as tax

on petroleum products imported into the country in line with government policy at that time."

The committee further recommended that, "The Federal government should prevail on the EFCC to recover the over \$5 billion NESS levy owed by crude oil exporters, and prosecute the firms involved for exporting crude oil in violation of extant laws.

EFCC should also investigate the circumstances under which the above listed firms criminally abused the granting of temporary importation and pre-releases by repeatedly procuring the approvals as a means of defrauding government of revenue." Other firms responsible for most Temporary Importation for which there is no evidence of re-exportation or payment of duty include: Aero Contractors Company of Nigeria Limited, Global Pipelines Plus Nigeria Limited, Panalpina World Transport Nigeria Limited and Globestar Engineering Com-

pany limited among others; while those responsible for the highest number of unperfected pre-releases include Total Upstream, Shell Petroleum Development Company, Dansa Foods limited, Benue Cement Company, Schlumberger Nigeria Limited, Obajana Cement PLC and CCC Construction Nigeria Limited.

According to the committee's recommendation, the customs management should also ban Nigerian Security Printing and Minting Company, Coscharis Motors Limited, Dangote Industries Limited, West African Portland Cement, Oando Nigeria Limited, Nigerdock Limited, Nigeria Breweries Limited, John Holt Limited, Standard Flour Mills, West Africa Cotton Limited, as well as NECO and WAEC among 98 others from securing pre-releases approval until they have shown satisfactory evidence of perfecting all pre-releases granted to them, with evidence to be shown to the House committee.

STOCK MARKET INDEX

Date:	Wednesday, May 12, 2010
Index:	27,686.29
Deals:	10,251
Volume:	720,890,148
Value:	N 4,550,955,547.02
Cap.:	N6,731,000,251,431.84

TRUST INDEX

Inflation	11.8%
GDP	6.68%
Budget	N4.6tr
Ext. Reserves Acct	\$40.1bn
Excess Crude Acct	\$3.9bn
Poverty Ratio	54.4%
Monetary Policy Rate	6%
Banks	24
Oil Price	\$80 a barrel
Power Supply	3,700MW
Oil output per day	2.6mbd
Broad Money Supply	N11,010,063.6m
Credit to Private Sector	N10,037,422.5m
Inter-Bank Rate	1.2000%
Treasury Bills	2.02%
Deposit Rate	7.51%
Prime Lending Rate	18.06%

CBN EXCHANGE RATES				
7/5/2010	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)	
CFA	0.2802	0.2902	0.3002	
DANISH KRONER	26.2418	26.3307	26.4196	
EURO	195.3914	196.0533	196.7151	
POUNDS STERLING	224.5413	225.3049	226.0655	
RIYAL	39.3627	39.496	39.6293	
SDR	222.3745	223.1278	223.881	
SWISS FRANC	136.2093	136.6707	137.132	
US DOLLAR	147.61	148.11	148.61	
WAUA	222.2943	223.0473	223.8003	
YEN	1.3546	1.3599	1.3651	

Bureau de Change Rates	
BUYING	
Dollar	N151
Euro	N204
Pound	N234
SELLING	
Dollar	N152
Euro	N206
Pound	N236

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

Northern Business

In Lokoja, watermelon bizmen smile to banks

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

AT a time many businesses appear to have nosedived owing to the global financial crunch, some young men in Lokoja, the Kogi State capital, find succor in watermelon business not only to make ends meet, but also to bid poverty a perpetual farewell. These young men, from different socio-economic backgrounds, assert that but for their wise decision to make watermelon business a coveted bride; they could have, perhaps, remained irredeemably poor.

Thirty-eight-year-old Mustapha Ahmed, from Idah Local Government Area of Kogi State, is one of these young men in watermelon business in Lokoja. Go to Nataco area of the city and ask of "watermelon master" and he will be pointed at. Among the watermelon businessmen around the area, he is recognized for what many of his customers describe as "business-mindedness".

Ahmed used to be a farmer in his hometown and was doing well so much that he never contemplated quitting farming until a bush-burning inferno destroyed his farm. Having lost his farmland to that incident, he almost committed suicide. But thanks to his relations and friends who came to his rescue by contributing money he needed to continue farming. He was on his way to the farm when he ran into one of his old friends who introduced him to watermelon business.

"I never thought of going into watermelon business. I was a farmer just like every other person in my family. I lost hope when my farm was destroyed by a bush burning inferno. But as fate

would have it, my friend whom I had lost contact with introduced me to this watermelon business. I had initially thought farming was the best job I could do. But shortly after I started watermelons business with the money given to me by my friends and relatives, I began to witness some miracles. Money started coming. I never had it so good in farming. I am not condemning farming. I am just saying that watermelon business has brought me much more fortune", Ahmed explained.

Ahmed began the business in his homestead with N30,000. Two months later, he decided to relocate to Lokoja where he considered more fertile for his business.

According to him, "as a transit city, business activities thrive in Lokoja. Do you know how many travellers pass this city every day? Apart from residents who cannot do without buying watermelon, passengers who travel from across the country stopover in Lokoja and a good number of them buy watermelon here. I could have chosen to do this business in my village, but I know that my watermelon business will attract more patronage here, and that has been my experience since I settled in Lokoja".

For Ahmed, realizing at least N6,000 a day is not the only pleasant experience he has had in the business. More pleasant to him is the fact that since he started the business, he has been able to save over N800,000 in his bank accounts.

"I have accounts in three banks, and I go there to save money every day. I doubt if my bankers would believe that I am a watermelon businessman. Since I started this business, I have



KABIRU Muhammad is on his way to being a millionaire.

never experienced poor sales. To be sincere, watermelon is a very booming business in the city of Lokoja, especially for those of us who trade by the roadsides. I have all kinds of customers including the civil servants. Every Sunday, I travel to Zuba in Abuja to buy watermelon in large quantity. There is one very big watermelon

market in Zuba", he explained.

Ahmed says he does not operate with microfinance banks because of the perceived inconsistency in government policies, especially regarding the nation's financial sector of the economy. "I fear that all these microfinance banks may not last. Only God knows what will happen to them when another government comes with a different idea.

Another watermelon businessman in town, 42-year-old Kabiru Muhammed, from Kaduna State, says coming to settle down in Lokoja has been the wisest decision he has taken in his life. Why? He explains that it was there he discovered the watermelon business which he says has turned his life around.

"In my hometown in Kaduna, I lived very close to people selling watermelon, but I never knew it was a good business, maybe because I did not bother to find out. But since I came to Lokoja, I have realized that more than one-third of the residents buy watermelon every day. I think this is due to the hot weather here. People would naturally like taking fruits like watermelon. It is a very good business. By 4'0 clock in the evening, I will have closed for the day with no single watermelon left unsold.

Muhammed recounts that he

started the business with N7,000 in 2008, priding that today he has more than N500,000 in his bank account.

"I thank God that I have a good story to tell today. It was very difficult for me to raise N7,000 to start this business, but today, I am one of the businessmen who smile to banks every day. This is no small achievement, especially in a society where people look down on people who are into small scale businesses. It is not everybody that can afford going into large scale businesses. That is why it is important for our government to encourage ordinary citizens who are doing or two things to survive on their own. I know there are many other people that would have loved to go into small scale businesses, but because they don't have money, they close their eyes. I think the government should help by providing money for them. This would complement efforts on poverty alleviation programmes in the country.

According to Muhammed, watermelon is so moderately cheap that almost everybody can afford to buy it. "That is why those of us selling it have large patronage. Unlike in many other businesses where losses are recorded, you have nothing to lose in watermelon business. It is just like other essential commodities", he said.



MALAM Mustapha Ahmed earns N6,000 a day from his business. He has N800,000 in his bank account.



Porsche recommends Mobil

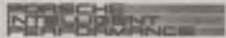
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INSIGHT

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To Our Esteemed Readers, Advertisers and Contributors

POLICY ON PUBLICATION OF ADVERTORIALS, PETITIONS AND RELATED MATERIALS



Media Trust Limited, publishers of Daily Trust, Weekly Trust, Sunday Trust and Aminiya newspapers take very seriously its responsibility to the public to publish all points of view, including those we do not share. We think this is the function of an independent, liberal newspaper dedicated to the pursuit of the common good. We are also conscious of the fact that it is a shortsighted business policy for a newspaper to shut out a particular point of view for its own reason or due to pressure from powerful institutions and advertisers.

But we are also aware that professional agitators can use the pages on newspapers to malign governments, companies and individuals on spurious grounds.

Caught between our desire to give voice to the concerns of the voiceless and to protect public officers and institutions from unfair and demoralizing attacks, we have been forced to develop a more stringent policy for the placement of advertorials, petitions and other related materials in the pages of our newspapers.

The new policy is depicted hereunder

1. The writer(s) of such advertorials must not be anonymous but people who can stand by what they say, with their full names and address.
2. If there is any accusation against any person or organization, such writer(s) must substantiate the claims with evidence which can stand before a Court of Law. For example, if they claim that a contract was inflated, they must show Media Trust, relevant documents to back this up.
3. The placement must be fully paid for, before it is carried.
4. The author(s) should be prepared to accept corrections or alterations made by us but the

corrected version would be shown to the author(s), before publishing.

5. The publishers have the right to reject any piece considered to be libelous, containing assertions without supporting facts and figures to prove the authenticity of such claims.
6. In the alternative, we are prepared to enter into an indemnity agreement with those who place such advertorial which will put the onus of proof squarely on them.
7. Media Trust employees that collect such materials have been instructed to contact the Advert Manager, who will also consult further with the relevant superior officers to analyze the piece before placement is made.
8. If the publishers of Daily Trust, Weekly Trust, Sunday Trust and Aminiya newspapers reject any material regarded as unprintable based on the above consideration, they will not enter into any correspondence with the author(s).

Finally, we wish to assure our readers that we will not shy away from publishing fair and balanced criticisms of any government or individuals, which is in the nature of free exchange of ideas.

This, we will continue to do in our free opinion columns and with advertorials where some readers feel strongly enough to pay for them.

We thank you for your support and assure you that we will do our best to keep your trust.

Signed:
MANAGEMENT



Star Feature

The dreary life of Ab

They make a daily by living sweeping the many streets of Abuja. However, not many people have paused to think of these people face as they engage in their work on the city's danger-prone highways.

By Tosin Omoniji

HER shoulders were stooped. Lines of worry marred her weather-beaten façade. Her face had the brittle tell-tale signs of skin battered by the hot rays of the sun, that had been beating down unrelentingly on the nation for a while now. With sweat streaming down her face, she continued in her back-breaking task of cleaning the mess on the street left behind by her fellow residents of the capital city. To her this is a task that must be completed, if there was to be certainty of food for her family back home, who were waiting for her to beat back the pangs of pain and want.

“Imagine despite all the dust bins provided by the authorities, you still find people throwing refuse and dirt on the streets.”

Clementina Orji makes a daily living sweeping the streets of Abuja. Oftentimes she can be found along the Jabi-Berger road sweeping a portion of the snaking road. This is a task that she bravely battles on a daily basis. She says that more or less she has learnt to live with engaging with the demeaning task, although initially she had been very self-conscious, when she started the occupation. She says: “the unavailability of an alternative made me go into the job. When I first came to Abuja to live with my sister, I tried getting a job but it was not possible. When it became evident that I was becoming a burden to my sister, I had to be more flexible in my job search. That is why I did not hesitate to apply, when I was told that the Abuja Environmental Protection Board were looking for street sweepers. I applied immediately and was quite lucky to be taken amongst the hundreds that were also looking out for the job. At least today with the little I am getting, I can take care of my family.”

She adds that a few months back her husband and children came over to Abuja, to join her from her village in Anambra. Today, they eke out a living through her job, and at times through the little money her hubby makes engaging in menial jobs at construction sites around the capital city. Asked whether she still feels any inhibition sweeping the streets in the full glare of the public, she laughs uproariously as she replies, “well that was then, but



WELFARE packages for the women are non-existent.

now I just shut out everybody as I sweep. Why should I be shy

anymore after many months at the job? Street sweeping is just like any other job that you can think of, only that many Nigerians always tend to look down on people that engage in occupations like that. But just like every other professions we are contributing our own little quota to the well-being of the society. No I do not feel shy anymore. I am even beginning to like it.”

Rashida Raji is another colleague of Clementina. Her own daily task is to sweep along the Area 3 junction axis of the capital city. She complains that despite the attempts by the numerous street sweepers engaged by the AEPB to clean up the streets of Abuja on a daily basis, the dirty state of the city still remains the same. She attributes this to the nonchalant attitude of the

residents to cleanliness. She enthuses: “we clean up the city on a daily basis, and on a daily basis members of the public make nonsense of our efforts. Imagine despite all the dust bins provided by the authorities, you still find people throwing refuse and dirt on the streets. Everywhere, you see sachets of pure water thrown by people, even when bins are available. It is discouraging for people like us. We would not be having much difficulty, if only members of the public at least behave decently. But this is not so!”

She however argues that a significant portion of the public, is different in their own approach though. “Well, there are still some (people) who are clean and decent, I must confess, but the majority makes a mockery of the efforts of this minority. I still see some who make an effort to dump their dirt in refuse bins, and this is commendable to me. But a lot needs to be done to encourage other residents to abide by minimum tenets of decency,” she notes.

On other challenges faced in the course of carrying out their duties she has this to say: “we face acute danger on a daily basis.



THE city's few waste bins are in various stages of disrepair and abandonment

Abuja street sweepers

to consider the dangers



driving. Many of our sweepers are given the task of sweeping major highways across the city, and this can be frustrating at times, when you consider the fact that it is not every driver behind the wheel that is careful. As we are sweeping we have to constantly look over our shoulders, to make sure that an oncoming vehicle does not come and run us over. And you know that once you get injured in the course of the job, you are on your own. Even if the board will support you by giving you money, it can never be enough. And if you die in the course of carrying out your duties, will any amount of money be enough to take care of your family who depend on you for sustenance. That is our greatest challenge."

A commercial bus driver, Uche Mbadinuju who plies the Mararaba-Nyanya expressway, believes that the government should make provisions for the safety of this group of people in the light of the dangers they face, as they carry out their duties. He says that the manner in which most of his colleagues who drive the city's buses popularly known as 'Araba' leaves much to be desired and poses a grave danger for the women. "Many of our drivers are fond of driving dangerously, and it is a fact that most of us are aware of that. Sometimes when I see these women sweeping on the streets with no form of protection at all, I am bothered, because with the way most of our drivers handle the steering, it is still a wonder that we don't record huge casualties of these elderly women who are daily exposed on the streets. I think the government should look for a way to ensure that these women are made aware of the dangers they face, and ultimately advise them on how to take precautionary measures anytime they are right there on the streets," he notes.

A civil servant, Bassey Okon also agrees with the assertion that the women in question need to be protected as they go about their business. "What I think should be done, apart from giving them protective gear, is that they should equally be put under a dependable insurance policy, just like what holds sway in other professions where the possibility of danger or bodily harm is high. Just because they cannot fight for what is rightfully theirs, does not mean that the government should not be sensitive to their plight. Of course they have to be paid a living wage, in the light of the heavy work they do, keeping the streets clean on a daily basis. I

really doubt if the stipend they get paid is sufficient, going by how haggard and unkempt most of them look. I also find a problem with the fact that most of them look advanced in age, and are not really suited for the kind of rough work street cleaning entails..."

Many also complain about the paltry sum most of these street cleaners are paid for their work. Most of them earn as low as N7,500 per month, while the more lucky ones are paid N10,000. Despite this, their work schedule is rather on the high side, as they usually work from 8 O'clock in the morning till around 4pm. It is also gathered that many of them who are employed by the numerous waste management companies hired by the FCT authorities to clean the streets, are not even paid their entitlements promptly. For the average Abuja street cleaner it is a tough world!

A staff of the AEPB who does not want his name in print, says that the foot dragging of the authorities over buying the mechanical street cleaning equipment it planned to buy some months ago, is respon-

“What I think should be done, apart from giving them protective gear, is that they should equally be put under a dependable insurance policy.”

sible for the reliance on these women to clean the city highways. "The initial plan of the authorities under the el-rufai administration then, was to buy mechanical street cleaners, I think about 12 of them then, to utilize in cleaning the highways that dot the city. The women were supposed to be employed to clean the inner streets which were much safer. But till date the mechanical street cleaners are nowhere to be found. The companies we employ to clean the streets, are the ones who are primarily involved in the cleaning process. Ours is just to supervise their operations and advise them on how to go about

the process. We have little or no duty in that regard, but in our own little way we try to sensitize those directly involved in the process, on measures to take whenever they are out there on the streets sweeping. We thank the Almighty that we have not recorded much casualties in that regard. However, we are praying hard that the authorities come to realize the dangers faced by the women, especially those on the busy highways, so that they can facilitate the importation of the motorized street cleaners, which can replace the women on the highways. Till then we will just continue to pray that no harm befalls the women."

The most pressing danger is that faced from motorists. Several of us have been injured in the course of running away from dangerous

“As we are sweeping we have to constantly look over our shoulders, to make sure that an oncoming vehicle does not come and run us over.”



ITS a tough battle for these women keeping the capital city clean on a daily basis.

Business

Sanusi responds to Gusau's criticism on CBN reforms

STORIES By Idris Ahmed

THE Governor of Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Sanusi Lamido Sanusi for the first time on Tuesday responded to the criticisms on his reforms in the banking sector by the National Security Adviser General Aliyu Gusau, saying the reforms have brought about stability in the system.

General Gusau had faulted CBN reforms, saying it would have adverse effect on the economy, but Sanusi said public office

is always open to criticism. He said he will explain the reforms to the NSA whenever they meet.

"Public office is something that is always open to criticism. As a public officer you must always know this," he said while responding to questions after the Monetary Policy Committee press briefing in Abuja. He said the mandate of central bank is monetary and financial responsibility "and we have delivered on that mandate and we are delivering on that mandate."

According to him, his reforms have brought about modera-

tion in inflation and reduced volatility in money market rate.

He said: "The banking system that was on the verge of collapse is now stable, we have repaired the banks' balance sheet."

"The question we ask ourselves for everything we have done, the steps we have taken aimed at improving governance and fighting corruption, eliminating criminal behaviour, improving risk management, enhancing disclosure and transparency, are they in line with our mandate of establishing stability or not? That is the relevant question."

World Bank to support Nigeria's agric development

WORLD Bank said it is ready to assist Nigeria develop her commercial agriculture.

The World Bank Country Director, Mr. Onno Ruhl said this Monday in a good-will message he delivered at the Commercial Agriculture Development Project's 4th Bimonthly progress review meeting in Kano.

He said the Bank was ready to assist Nigeria in making commercial agriculture a reality, according to a statement from the Bank.

He said fast disbursement of funds to beneficiaries will be balanced with quality work for better results.

Onno Ruhl said the Bank expects Commercial Agriculture Development Project not just to safeguard Nigerian food security but to also "replace food importation with food exportation."

CADP is a \$150 million project is being implemented in Kano, Kaduna, Lagos, Cross River and Enugu states.

Onno Ruhl commended CADP team for the keen determination and competitiveness with which the participating states were implementing the project, adding that among the 28 projects supported by the World Bank only CADP was holding rotational implementation and supervision review meetings in the participating states.

Task Team Leader of the project, Lucas Akapa expressed satisfaction with the progress made by the five participating states in terms of laying solid foundation for the effective implementation of the project.

The National Project Coordinator of CADP, Aminu Babandi said the rotational bimonthly meetings were aimed at taking stock of the progress of the project in the implementing states, sharing experiences and developing action plan.

The Kano state Commissioner of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Alhaj Musa Sulaiman Shanono told the gathering that commercialization of agriculture has the potency to create wealth.

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Business

NICON Insurance owes NAN pensioners 5 months' arrears

THE News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) Staff Pension Scheme said on Tuesday that NICON Insurance Plc was owing the Agency's pensioners five months arrears covering the period January to May 2010.

This was contained in a statement issued in Abuja and signed by Mr Cosmos Okolorie, Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the pension scheme. The statement said that the scheme had written to NICON to settle the arrears to no avail.

"We have also written to the Federal Ministry of Finance, Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation (OHCSF) and the National Insurance Commission (NAI-COM) for their intervention", it said.

The statement recalled that when the Managing Director of NAN, Mrs Oluremi Oyo, assumed office in July 2007, she took the NICON management up on the previously outstanding arrears until a cheque of N47.93 million was released in August 2007.

"With the release of the outstanding liability, the NAN Staff Pension Scheme paid all the outstanding pension arrears owed to its living and dead pensioners and has been paying its pensioners from the money", it said.

The statement noted that while NICON had continued to receive money from the Federal Ministry of Finance on behalf of NAN Staff Pension Scheme, it had yet to release any money to NAN since January for the payment of its pensioners.

It said that between July and December, 2009, the Federal Ministry of Finance released a total of N140m to NICON Insurance PLC on behalf of the NAN Pension Scheme. The statement said that out of the amount NICON had only released N15.42m in five instalments of about N3m, while the scheme required a monthly average of about N5m to pay its over 300 pensioners.

The statement said that on a recent visit to NICON, the management said that money was being processed for the scheme and would be ready before the end of May 2010. (NAN)

Benue Cement plans N50bn coal, grinding mills

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

THE Managing Director of Benue Cement, Shree Junnarkar, said the company's management has concluded arrangements to construct a N50 billion cement grinding and coal mills that would increase daily cement production as well as ensuring stable power supply to Benue Cement Company (BCC).

The two projects, Junnarkar said would be completed within the next 18 months. To that extent, he said letters of credit have been set up for the purchase of the coal mills. He said as part of the effort to improve on the cement production from the current capacity of 2.6 million tons per day, a new technology grinding Mills would be erected in BCC.

He said when completed, the new plant would push cement production of the company to over 3.8 million tons per day. Junnarkar said the major concern is transportation. He said due to bad road network and poor railways system, the company had spent huge amount of money on haulage services, adding that in order to curb the problem, the company on its own has acquired its own fleet of trucks.

"We have acquired our own fleets of trucks and we have also gone into warehousing in all our main market areas. So right now cement is now going directly to the market so customers who cannot afford to take cement from our plant can get them through our warehouse close to them. And these we believe would go a long way to increase our sales", he said.

BCC has however declared gross earnings of N35.012bn at the end of December 2009 against N16.453bn recorded in 2008. The company's profit after tax also rose to N14.372bn against N4.144bn in the previous year. Its shareholders' fund also rose to N24.208bn against N13.7bn recorded in 2008.

The company's chairman, Alhaji Aliko Dangote attributed the growth in the operation to the company's improved cement production.

India set to revitalize Nigeria's cotton industry

By Sunday Williams and Tina A. Hassan


A business delegation from India has indicated interest to assist in developing Nigeria's cotton and textile industry as well as explore other business opportunities in the country.

The visit is part of the Indian team's business tour to selected African countries that include Burkina Faso, Benin Republic, Chad, Mali and Nigeria to strengthen its business partnership.

Leader of the delegation and Deputy Permanent repre-

sentative of India to the World Trade Organization (WTO) Ravi Bangar said the delegation's area of expertise include manpower and capacity needs, technology transfer in the chain of cotton production to the finished product among others.

He said, "we are ready and committed to assisting Nigeria to develop its cotton industry and making it vibrant and we have expertise in the whole chain of production from picking, storage, conversion into finished product, cotton biomass, cultivation and other processes."



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The Management, Staff and Students of **Nigerian Turkish International Colleges** and **Nigerian Turkish Nile University** commiserate with the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, **Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, GCFR, Hajlya Tural Yar'adua** the entire Yar'adua family and all Nigerians over the monumental and painful loss of **President Umaru Musa Yar'adua, GCFR**, which sad event occurred on Wednesday 5th May, 2010.

Nigeria and Nigerians has indeed lost a visionary leader, a defender of sustainable democracy, reformer and committed disciple of education, rule of law and good governance. He will forever be remembered and appreciated as a legacy worthy of emulation.

May Allah *Subhanahu wa ta'ala*, in His infinite mercies grant him eternal peace and *Al-Jannat Firdaus*, Amen.

LATE PRESIDENT UMARU MUSA YAR'ADUA, GCFR
August 1951-May 2010



PDP INTEGRITY GROUP

(Good Governance & Equity)

A TALE OF LIES

When former President Olusegun Obasanjo openly attacked the zoning arrangement in PDP, we knew he was lying... Records do not lie....

MINUTES OF THE ENLARGED NATIONAL CAUCUS MEETING OF THE PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDP) HELD AT THE PRESIDENTIAL VILLA, ABUJA ON 2ND DECEMBER 2002

1.0	Attendance	POSITION
	NAME	
1.	Chief Audu Ogbeh	National Chairman
2.	Chief Olusegun Obasanjo	President
3.	Atiku Abubakar	Vice President
4.	Ghali Na'Abba	Speaker, House of Rep.
5.	Alh. Ibrahim Mantu	Deputy Senate President
6.	Dr. Alex I. Ekwueme	Chairman, BOT
7.	Chief Solomon D. Lar	Adviser Emeritus
8.	Chief Tony Anenih	Member
9.	Prof. Jerry Gana	Secretary, BOT
10.	Chief S.M. Afolabi	
11.	Joshua C. Dariye	Gov. Plateau State
12.	R. M. Kwankwaso	Gov. Kano State
13.	Abdullahi Adamu	Gov. Nassarawa State
14.	Dr. Peter Odili	Gov. Rivers State
15.	Chief U. J. Ekaette	SGF
16.	Hon. Inuwa Labaran	Nat. Organizing Secretary
17.	Nze Ozi F. Chukwu	Nat. Vice Chairman (SE)
18.	Sen. A. D. Sodangi	Senator
19.	Engr. Muh. Abba Gana	Minister, FCT
20.	Senator Victor K. Oyofe	Senator
21.	Chief (Mrs.) Josephine Anenih	Nat. Woman Leader
22.	Prince G.N. Iweka	SAP/NO
23.	Alh. Shualb A. Oyedokun	Dep. National Chairman (S)
24.	Hon. Umar Kareto Lawan	National Treasurer
25.	Chief Mao Oluabunwa	Dep. House Leader
26.	Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi	Gov. Kaduna State
27.	Engr. A. A. Kure	Gov. Niger
28.	Senator E. O. Elayo	Member, BOT
29.	Dr. Sam Egwu	Gov. Ebonyi State
30.	Boni Haruna	Gov. Adamawa State
31.	Chief Achike Udenwa	Gov. Imo State
32.	Chief Victor Attah	Gov. Akwa Ibom State
33.	Senator Emmanuel Ibok Essien	Senate Deputy Chief Whip
34.	Senator Adawari Michael Pepple	Senate Chief Whip
35.	Dr. Goodluck E. Jonathan	Dep. Gov. Bayelsa State
36.	Hon. Sadiq A. Sanusi	Dep. Chief Whip (HR)
37.	Sen. Haruna Abubakar	Senator
38.	Suleiman Othman Hunkuyi	
39.	Alh. Chief Mrs Sinatu Ojikutu	
40.	Dr. Prince D. Okonkwo	
41.	Okechukwu Itanyi	Dep. Gov. Enugu
42.	Prince Chinedu Emeka	Dep. Gov. Anambra
43.	Aliyu G. Mohammed	NSA
44.	Farouk Bibi Farouk	Nat. Youth Leader
45.	Chief A.K. Dikibo	Nat. Vice Chairman (SS)
46.	Chief Roland Oritsejafor	Dep. National Secretary
47.	Hon. Arc. Innocent Agbo	National Auditor

2. Opening Prayer

The meeting started at 10.07pm with a prayer by the National Security Adviser.

2.1 National Chairman's Opening Remarks

The National Chairman welcomed members and invitees to the enlarged Caucus meeting, explaining that it was called to discuss important issues that have arisen as the party prepares for primaries.

He reported that sale of forms have started. The party had a large number of aspirants as the forms sent to the banks have nearly run out. So far, the party had sold about 90,000 forms for all categories of aspirants. To facilitate access, the banks offered to remain open during the Salah holidays while the National Secretariat would also be open to receive forms. The National Chairman said that the massive purchase of PDP forms showed that the people still overwhelmingly believed in the PDP, adding that the party must put its house in order as it cannot afford to disappoint the people.

However, he said the party leadership had noticed the disturbing behaviour of some members, who have one leg in the PDP and another in other parties. One of the clearest proof was putting up posters without the PDP logo. The Chairman said investigations showed that the ultimate objective of such people was to do maximum damage to the PDP before leaving the party, adding that the party must take decisive steps to checkmate them.

He said that the NWC was compiling the list of those who would conduct the primaries, stressing that the party has tried to be as fair as possible.

He noted that the State Chairmen were not happy with the decision to sale forms through the banks and explained that it was to ensure that allegations of denial of forms did not re-occur. The ultimate aim was to achieve a free and fair primaries.

3. PDP Zoning Structure

The National Chairman explained that he has been inundated with calls seeking clarification on the subject. The matter had also been discussed at the last caucus meeting and a position taken. The National Secretary was asked to read the caucus position which in summary stated that "the National Caucus generally decided that the 1998 zoning of the positions of the President, Vice President, Senate President, Speaker, Party Chairman, Party Secretary etc, should remain as it would stabilize the party but advised that it be presented to the larger house".

The National Chairman explained that it was brought to the enlarged caucus meeting because of the need to discuss the matter with an enlarged audience.

Contributing, the Speaker said that in 1999 the zoning arrangement was determined by the Presidential election. He was of the view that the Presidential election should be open to everybody this time around adding that the flag bearer must be somebody capable of winning election for the party.

Chief Tony Anenih however, clarified that the zoning arrangement did not revolve around the presidential candidate in 1999. It went down the line even to party officers. Even at the last National Convention of the party where national officers were elected, the Chairmanship of the party went to the North.

The National Organizing Secretary stated that the fact that the North produced the current National Chairman has made it clear what the zoning arrangement is.

The National Youth Leader, however, said that the laws of the country did not allow disenfranchisement through zoning. He wondered whether PDP was ready to convince the court that by zoning it was not discriminating against those affected adding that it would be tactically wrong to zone out anybody.

The Niger State Governor wondered whether whatever decision taken on the matter would be binding. He said if the position of President is zoned, the same must be done for other positions. He said he supported the South to produce the next President but let nobody support any Governorship aspirant from another zone against him.

Alhaji Lawal Kaita explained that zoning was a gentleman's agreement which started at the constitutional conference. The minorities fought hard to have it zoned to them but at the end it was agreed that it should be between the North and the South. He said that they in the North persuaded Northerners not to put up candidates in 1998/99.

He then moved that the party allow the South have eight years after which, it would then return to the North where it would stay for eight years.

The National Vice Chairman (SS) explained that in a party situation, a party had the right to make rules that would enable it manage its affairs. He said people must make sacrifices for the unity of the country. He said zoning was being done even at local levels and aligned himself with the views and motion of Alhaji Lawal. He emphasized that even the National officers were products of zoning adding that if people wanted to change the zoning arrangement, they should have raised it at the last convention.

The National Chairman pointed out that zoning ended up in the 1995 Abacha constitution. It was 5-year single term to be rotated among the six geo-political zones.

The Vice President highlighted that the thinking then was that at the end of 30 years every geo-political zone would have produced a President. He said caucus should take into consideration that there was already a move to amend the constitution to introduce a single 5-year term. He reasoned that if it was agreed that the South should hold the Presidency for 8 years and the constitution is amended to a 5-year term, the North would be shortchanged.

Akwa Ibom State Governor said zoning as an arrangement cannot be fixed for the future. It is an issue that we must agree on when each term expires. There can be dissidence- but the party would know that it has decided on a particular zone. He said the south should be allowed to have a second term.

The Rivers State Governor while noting that every human organization functioned in groups said group laws were made for man. He noted that the wisdom of the founding fathers created the situation we have today. He suggested we stick to what we have as it is good for the country. After eight years the matter can be looked at again.

Chief S. D. Lar emphasized that if it is 8 years for the South, it must be 8 years for the North.

The Speaker while aligning himself with the Views of Alhaji Lawal Kaita, however, suggested that each zone should be allowed to go and discuss the matter. In the

A TALE OF LIES

alternative, he said politicians should sacrifice their ambitions and settle for the VP's option of amending the constitution.

The Ebonyi State Governor however pointed out that those who were arguing that the North would be short-changed should remember how long the North ruled.

The Governor of Nassarawa State noted that zoning was a weighty issue which demanded immediate attention. The country has not gone too far away from the situation that gave rise to zoning. Our democracy and its institutions were still very fragile. He said the 8 year zoning arrangement should stay provided it would be 8 years for the North also.

He said changing the constitution to a 5 year single term is a kite which barring unforeseen circumstances, cannot go through.

Senator Maina Lawan said the idea of zoning was excellent. He supported the Views of Alhaji Lawal Kaita and suggested that a firm decision be taken immediately. He expressed fears that the 5 year single term proposal may not be the solution to the nation's problems.

Nze Fidelis Ozichukwu noted that leadership entailed a lot of sacrifice. He pointed out that power sharing was historical, tracing the arrangement from Balewa to Shagari and the fact that Shagari was allowed to go for a second term. The NVC (SE) aligned himself with the views of Alh. Lawal adding that the South should be allowed to have two terms of 4 years each.

Deputy Senate President, Alh. Ibrahim Mantu reacting to opinions that when power returns to the North it should not be to North Central because, the zone, had dominated power, said the circumstances that led to North Central ruling for about 20 years were different. It was under the military and the people shot themselves to power, stressing that North central has never produced a democratically elected president.

Chief Sunday Afolabi then formally supported Alh. Kaita's motion to retain the present zoning arrangement in the party and for the South to have two terms of 4 years each after which it would return to the North for the same number of years.

Chief Tony Anenih, in also supporting the motion gave the following reasons.

- i. If the PDP as a party, want to retain the 8 year zoning arrangement it can be done.
- ii. 5 year single term would promote acts of indiscipline.
- iii. It could lead to abandoning of the party manifesto.
- iv. If the constitution is amended, it cannot be backdated. This can result in a situation where a President may end up, spending 9 years instead of maximum 8.
- v. Retaining the zoning arrangement would be in the interest of the unity of the country.

The National Youth Leader however, moved a counter motion saying in view of the fact that zoning was unconstitutional it should be thrown out.

Voting

The National Chairman then asked those who wanted the party to ensure that the South had two terms of 4 years each beginning from May 1999 after which power revolves to the North for the same period to raise their hands. The following results were recorded.

Those for	=	47
Against	=	2
Abstention	=	2

4. Guidelines for Elections

The Deputy leader of the House of Representatives suggested a revisiting of the guidelines as it affected the National Assembly congresses. He pointed out that a Senatorial or House of Assembly aspirant had ten times the number of delegates than the Governor adding that something should be done to reduce the number. He also suggested that the congress should take place in one venue.

The National Chairman reminded members that the NWC drew up a fairly balanced guidelines and took it through the BOT and caucus, but NEC voted out the document by 59-9. He said the position as approved by NEC is that House of Reps and Senatorial congresses should take place at the local government areas and the results collated.

The Speaker said that the Party should make it easy, for its members to scale through primaries so that they would not be spent before the main elections.

The Minister of Information and National Orientation regretted that the wrong impression was created at NEC that the guidelines prepared by NWC were unconstitutional. He noted that NWC was trying to find a middle course between direct primaries which the party did not have logistics for and a small electoral college which could easily be bought. He said injustice has been done through the guidelines which should be rectified.

The Governor of Kaduna State said the National Assembly members have a case and that the Party should consider reducing the number of delegates to LG congress for National Assembly from 10 to 3. A Special NEC meeting could be called to endorse the amendment.

However **Governors James Ibori and A. Kure** said they were not in support of re-opening the issue and that reducing the number of delegates would amount to amending the constitution.

Mr. President regretted that most of the time NEC was swayed by sentiments or self interest. He noted that what was jettisoned was legal and constitutional just as what

has been accepted. He cautioned that any amendment to the guidelines at this stage could cause problems.

It was agreed that the guidelines should be left as approved by NEC.

5. Time Table for Primaries

The time table was approved as amended.

- i. Ward Congresses - 10/12/02
- ii. Local Govt. Congresses - 14/12/02
- iii. National Assembly - 19/12/02
- iv. State Congresses - 21/12/02
- v. Presidential Convention - 3-5/1/03

6. Dates for the Return of Forms

The following dates were approved:

- i. House of Assembly - 7/12/02
- ii. House of Reps/Senate - 9/12/02
- iii. Governorship - 11/12/02
- iv. Presidential - 21/12/02

7. Case instituted against the party by Non-incumbent gubernatorial aspirants.

The National Chairman explained that the non-incumbent aspirants were complaining that the guidelines adopted by NEC did not favour them. They had complained to NWC which promised to look into the matter but a few days later they went to court. He said they were invited to the meeting to enable the enlarged caucus look into the matter.

He then called on Senator Haruna Abubakar to present their case.

Senator Abubakar explained that the guidelines were in contravention of the party constitution. He said they had to go to court when their complaint was not receiving adequate attention.

He concluded by saying that the primaries should be concluded in such a manner that those who loose would be satisfied and work for the winners and appealed to caucus to revisit the matter.

Hon Mao Ohuabuwa pointed out that this appeal could have come before going to court. He noted that direct primaries was chaotic and having it at this time could mean the end of the party.

He suggested that authentic list of party officials and delegates should be made available to all aspirants and all election results must be declared at the venue of the election.

Mr. President noted that going to court was not a wise thing to do. He observed that the fact that the case was listed for discussion at the enlarged caucus showed the concern of the party. If the party had wanted to follow the constitution, it would not have granted them audience until the case was withdrawn.

He urged them to withdraw the case and suggested a meeting between them and incumbents under the auspices of the National Chairman.

Mr. President also suggested amending the party constitution to ensure that when an issue affecting a member of NEC is being discussed, the member should not vote.

The National Chairman reminded the non-incumbent aspirants that the constitution had been existing and they were not just being targeted and appealed to them to withdraw the case.

Senator Abubakar asked for time to consult his members.

The Nasarawa State Governor sought to know the ruling of the court on the case. At this point Senator Abubakar presented a copy of the ruling which was read. It was agreed that there was a court order restraining the party from conducting gubernatorial primaries until the substantive suit was heard. At this point, Senator Abubakar and his group were excused from the meeting.

Members generally agreed that the injunction should be procedurally tackled and discharged. They cautioned against efforts by certain elements to ensure that elections did not take place and urged the party to be vigilant.

8. Number of Commissioners and Advisers.

The National Chairman explained that there were complaints that Governors were appointing numerous commissioners and advisers to have undue-advantage at the congress.

Prof Gana pointed out that some states have more than 100 Commissioners and advisers adding that the party must peg the number that should participate in the congresses.

Governor Ibori recalled that the case to have Commissioners and Advisers as members of the congresses was successfully made at the 2000 Convention and wondered why any governor would want to flood his executive just because of primaries.

9. Any other business

Senator Ibok Essien urged the caucus to appeal to Mr. President to give assent to the On Shore/Off Shore bill. He said that if the bill is not assented to it may affect the futures of the party in the South-South zone.

10. Adjournment

The meeting rose at 3am after a motion by Chief. S. D. Lar supported by Senator Ibok Essien.

SIGNED:

Audu Ogbeh
National Chairman

Prince Vincent Ogbulafor
National Secretary

A TALE OF LIES

alternative, he said politicians should sacrifice their ambitions and settle for the VP's option of amending the constitution.

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- i. If the PDP as a party, want to retain the 8 year zoning arrangement it can be done.
- ii. 5 year single term would promote acts of indiscipline.
- iii. It could lead to abandoning of the party manifesto.
- iv. If the constitution is amended, it cannot be backdated. This can result in a situation where a President may end up, spending 9 years instead of maximum 8.
- v. Retaining the zoning arrangement would be in the interest of the unity of the country.

The National Youth Leader however, moved a counter motion saying in view of the fact that zoning was unconstitutional it should be thrown out.

Voting

The National Chairman then asked those who wanted the party to ensure that the South had two terms of 4 years each beginning from May 1999 after which power revolves to the North for the same period to raise their hands. The following results were recorded.

Those for	=	47
Against	=	2
Abstention	=	2

4. Guidelines for Elections

The Deputy leader of the House of Representatives suggested a revisiting of the guidelines as it affected the National Assembly congresses. He pointed out that a Senatorial or House of Assembly aspirant had ten times the number of delegates than the Governor adding that something should be done to reduce the number. He also suggested that the congress should take place in one venue.

The National Chairman reminded members that the NWC drew up a fairly balanced guidelines and took it through the BOT and caucus, but NEC voted out the document by 59-9. He said the position as approved by NEC is that House of Reps and Senatorial congresses should take place at the local government areas and the results collated.

The Speaker said that the Party should make it easy, for its members to scale through primaries so that they would not be spent before the main elections.

The Minister of Information and National Orientation regretted that the wrong impression was created at NEC that the guidelines prepared by NWC were unconstitutional. He noted that NWC was trying to find a middle course between direct primaries which the party did not have logistics for and a small electoral college which could easily be bought. He said injustice has been done through the guidelines which should be rectified.

The Governor of Kaduna State said the National Assembly members have a case and that the Party should consider reducing the number of delegates to LG congress for National Assembly from 10 to 3. A Special NEC meeting could be called to endorse the amendment.

However **Governors James Ibori and A. Kure** said they were not in support of re-opening the issue and that reducing the number of delegates would amount to amending the constitution.

Mr. President regretted that most of the time NEC was swayed by sentiments or self interest. He noted that what was jettisoned was legal and constitutional just as what

has been accepted. He cautioned that any amendment to the guidelines at this stage could cause problems.

It was agreed that the guidelines should be left as approved by NEC.

5. Time Table for Primaries

The time table was approved as amended.

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| i. Ward Congresses | -10/12/02 |
| ii. Local Govt. Congresses | -14/12/02 |
| iii. National Assembly | -19/12/02 |
| iv. State Congresses | -21/12/02 |
| v. Presidential Convention | -3-5/1/03 |

6. Dates for the Return of Forms

The following dates were approved:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| i. House of Assembly | -7/12/02 |
| ii. House of Reps/Senate | -9/12/02 |
| iii. Governorship | -11/12/02 |
| iv. Presidential | -21/12/02 |

7. Case instituted against the party by Non-incumbent gubernatorial aspirants.

The National Chairman explained that the non-incumbent aspirants were complaining that the guidelines adopted by NEC did not favour them. They had complained to NWC which promised to look into the matter but a few days later they went to court. He said they were invited to the meeting to enable the enlarged caucus look into the matter.

He then called on Senator Haruna Abubakar to present their case.

Senator Abubakar explained that the guidelines were in contravention of the party constitution. He said they had to go to court when their complaint was not receiving adequate attention.

He concluded by saying that the primaries should be concluded in such a manner that those who loose would be satisfied and work for the winners and appealed to caucus to revisit the matter.

Hon Mao Oluabuwa pointed out that this appeal could have come before going to court. He noted that direct primaries was chaotic and having it at this time could mean the end of the party.

He suggested that authentic list of party officials and delegates should be made available to all aspirants and all election results must be declared at the venue of the election.

Mr. President noted that going to court was not a wise thing to do. He observed that the fact that the case was listed for discussion at the enlarged caucus showed the concern of the party. If the party had wanted to follow the constitution, it would not have granted them audience until the case was withdrawn.

He urged them to withdraw the case and suggested a meeting between them and incumbents under the auspices of the National Chairman.

Mr. President also suggested amending the party constitution to ensure that when an issue affecting a member of NEC is being discussed, the member should not vote.

The National Chairman reminded the non-incumbent aspirants that the constitution had been existing and they were not just being targeted and appealed to them to withdraw the case.

Senator Abubakar asked for time to consult his members.

The Nasarawa State Governor sought to know the ruling of the court on the case. At this point Senator Abubakar presented a copy of the ruling which was read. It was agreed that there was a court order restraining the party from conducting gubernatorial primaries until the substantive suit was heard. At this point, Senator Abubakar and his group were excused from the meeting.

Members generally agreed that the injunction should be procedurally tackled and discharged. They cautioned against efforts by certain elements to ensure that elections did not take place and urged the party to be vigilant.

8. Number of Commissioners and Advisers.

The National Chairman explained that there were complaints that Governors were appointing numerous commissioners and advisers to have undue-advantage at the congress.

Prof Gana pointed out that some states have more than 100 Commissioners and advisers adding that the party must peg the number that should participate in the congresses.

Governor Ibori recalled that the case to have Commissioners and Advisers as members of the congresses was successfully made at the 2000 Convention and wondered why any governor would want to flood his executive just because of primaries.

9. Any other business

Senator Ibok Essien urged the caucus to appeal to Mr. President to give assent to the On Shore/Off Shore bill. He said that if the bill is not assented to it may affect the futures of the party in the South-South zone.

10. Adjournment

The meeting rose at 3am after a motion by Chief. S. D. Lar supported by Senator Ibok Essien.

SIGNED:

Audu Ogbah
National Chairman

Prince Vincent Ogbulafor
National Secretary

DIGEST

How office coffee breaks make staff work harder

RESEARCHERS at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine found that that caffeine helped improve workers' memory and concentration as well as reducing the number of mistakes they made. For those on long overnight shifts, it has a similar effect to taking a "power nap", the findings, published in the Cochrane Library journal, suggest.

The researchers also suggested that drinking coffee could help reduce accidents at work, traffic crashes involving people at the end of long shifts and even medical errors by doctors on call for long periods of time.

The team reviewed the findings of 13 separate studies from around the world involving shift workers, mostly in their 20s, in simulated working conditions.

Volunteers had been asked to perform tasks to test their memory, concentration, use of words and reasoning while two of the trials measured how prone they were to making simple errors.

Some were given caffeine while others were given a placebo to compare the effects.

The tests were then repeated when the volunteers were exposed to other factors such as bright lights or allowed to take a nap.

In memory, reasoning and concentration tests, those who had been given caffeine all scored moderately better than those given a placebo. The effect could be seen irrespective of whether they drank a cup of coffee, an energy drink, took a caffeine pill



TAKING a coffee break in the office might not seem like hard work but, according to a new study, it could actively make workers more productive.

or ate food with a high caffeine content. Although there was little difference between the results of those given a cup of coffee compared with those allowed to take a nap overall, one study showed that

those given caffeine made fewer errors.

Katharine Ker of the London School of Tropical Medicine in London, the lead researcher, said: "The results of the trials suggest

that compared to no intervention, caffeine can reduce the number of errors and improve cognitive performance in shift workers.

"It seems reasonable to assume that reduced errors are associated

with fewer injuries, although we cannot quantify such a reduction."

The team called for more research to measure the effects of caffeine on older people.

Culled from telegraph.co.uk

Mother's voice 'as comforting as a hug'



A mother's voice is as comforting as if she was there in person to give you a hug

THE sound of a mother's voice can be as comforting as a hug, new research shows. The familiar sound produces an increase in the hormone oxytocin in girls which is linked to emotional bonding while simultaneously quelling the hormones brought on by stress.

The findings back up the theory that women - more than men - use the social bonds of touch or speech to cope with difficult situations.

Men are believed to adopt a "fight or flight" attitude when trying to cope.

Dr Leslie Seltzer, a biological anthropologist from the University of Wisconsin-Madison which carried out the research, said: "It was understood that oxytocin release in the context of social bonding usually required physical contact.

"But it's clear from these results that a mother's voice can have the same effect as a hug, even if they're not standing there."

The study, published in the Proceedings of the Royal Society B journal, involved 61 girls aged between seven and 12.

They were asked to give a speech and solve a maths problem while standing in front of a panel of strangers.

Their heart rates and stress were monitored and subsequently began to climb.

Afterwards, a third were comforted by their mothers face to face, a third spoke to their mothers on the phone and a third watched an emotionally neutral video.

Dr Seltzer said: "The children who got to interact with their mothers had virtually the same hormonal response, whether they interacted in person or over the phone.

"Apparently this hormone, oxytocin, reduces stress in females after both types of contact, and in doing so may strengthen bonds between individuals."

Culled from telegraph.co.uk

Sign Language



Don't be unnecessarily brave. See what they'll do to you.
 Photo location: Cayman Islands, by Kisty Griffiths
 Culled from telegraph.co.uk

LADDERGRAMS 2

2. DEFINITIONS

- | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Wall-to-wall item | 4. Blood vessel | 6. Serving platter | 9. "For Whom the — Tolls" |
| 2. Shipping box | 5. On the brink of crying | 7. Apt (to) | 10. Bat's hideout |
| 3. Speed contest | | 8. Garment tag | 11. Hoisting device |
| | | | 12. At hand |
| | | | 13. Source of winter comfort |
| | | | 14. Soothing word |
| | | | 15. Elm or oak |
| | | | 16. Sheep's call |
| | | | 17. Hay bundle |
| | | | 18. Research workshop |
| | | | 19. Wear away slowly |
| | | | 20. Decorate anew |

1	2	3	
4	5	6	
7	8	9	
10	11	12	
13	14	15	
16	17	18	
19	20	21	

SOLUTION TO LADDERGRAMS 1

B	BASTLE	EAST	ATE	S
A	ARCADE	CARED	DARE	C
L	HELMET	THEME	MEET	H
L	BELLOW	ELBOW	BLEW	O
E	AMORE	ROAM	ARM	O
T	ALERT	REAL	ERA	L

SUDOKU

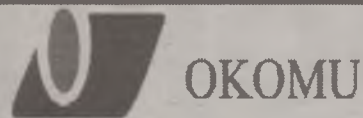
The Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 square grid made up of smaller 3x3 square grids (regions). The numbers already present within the puzzle are "given" - these are there to start you off. The aim is to complete the puzzle by filling the empty cells. Every digit from 1-9 needs to fit in each row, column and region of 9 squares. Each row, column and region must contain just one instance of each number, 1-9.

148

6	9	7				3			
		2		6		1		8	
	5		4						
	4		7			9			
8				3				2	
		5			1		4		
					5		8		
7		3		1		4			
		4					6	3	9

Solution to Sudoku 147

8	9	6	2	4	1	3	7	5
5	4	3	8	7	6	2	9	1
7	2	1	9	5	3	6	4	8
9	6	2	3	8	5	7	1	4
3	7	4	1	2	9	8	5	6
1	5	8	4	6	7	9	3	2
6	1	7	5	3	8	4	2	9
2	8	5	7	9	4	1	6	3
4	3	9	6	1	2	5	8	7



THE OKOMU OIL PALM COMPANY PLC

RC 30894

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 30th Annual General Meeting of the Company will be held at Sheraton Abuja Hotel, I Ladi Kwali Way, Maitama Abuja on Wednesday June 9th 2010 at 10.00 am for the transaction of the following business:

ORDINARY BUSINESS

- To receive and consider the audited accounts for the year ended 31st December 2009 together with the reports of the Directors, Auditors and Audit Committee thereon.
- To declare a dividend
- To elect/ re-elect Directors
- To consider the following resolution to elect Chief D.U Edebiri, a director, special notice having been given pursuant to section 256 of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990:

"That Chief D.U. Edebiri who is 81 years old be elected a director of the company to represent Edo State government"

- To authorize the Directors to fix the remuneration of the Auditors
- To elect members of the Audit Committee

SPECIAL BUSINESS:

- To fix the Remuneration of the Directors
- To consider and if thought fit, to pass the following resolution as a special resolution:
To delete clause 95 of the Articles of Association and substitute it with the following clause:

"That at every annual general meeting of the company, one third of the directors shall retire from office but shall be eligible for re election. The directors to retire in every year shall be those who have been longest in office since their last election, but as between persons who become directors on the same day, those to retire shall (unless otherwise agree among themselves) be determined by lot"

PROXY

A member of the Company who is entitled to attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote instead of him. A proxy need not be a member of the company. Executed forms of proxy should be deposited at the office of the Registrars, City Securities Ltd, Primrose Towers, 17A Tinubu Street, Lagos not later than 48 hours before the time of the meeting. To be valid, proxy cards should be duly stamped by the Commissioner of stamp duties.

NOTE:

- Closure of Register and Transfer Books**
Notice is hereby given that the register of members and transfer books of the company will be closed from Monday 17th May to Friday 21st May 2010 both days inclusive.
- Nomination for the Audit Committee**
In accordance with section 359(5) of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990, any member may nominate a shareholder as a member of the Audit Committee by giving notice in writing of such nomination to the Company Secretary at least 21 days before the Annual general meeting.

RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2009

The Directors of The Okomu Oil Palm PLC hereby announce the results of the Company for the year ended 31st December 2009 with comparative figures for the previous year as follows:

	2009	2008	
	N'000	N'000	% Increase/Decrease
Turnover	4,741,217	4,734,193	0.15
Profit before Taxation	661,741	1,240,038	(46.64)
Dividend proposed	143,087	119,239	20
Profit after Taxation	549,524	1,207,460	(54.50)

If payment of dividend is approved, warrants will be posted on Tuesday July 13th 2010 to shareholders whose names appear in the register of members as at the close of business on Monday 17th May 2010.

By Order of the Board

Mrs. C. Igie-Audu
Company Secretary
March 30, 2010.

Registered office
Okomu Oil Palm Estate
Okomu-Udo, Ovia South West L.G.A
Edo State



KATSINA STATE COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES [COMESKAT],
49, HASSAN USMAN ROAD (ADJACENT TO WTC), KATSINA.

2010 ADMISSIONS.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for entry into the following programmes offered by the College in its Schools at Daura, Katsina and Kankia:-

Minimum entry Requirements

S/N	Programme	Yrs	Minimum entry qualification (SSCE)	School
1	Basic Nursing	3	5 Credits in English, Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Biology [combination of WAEC and NECO is not entertained]	School of Nursing, Katsina
2	Community Health Extension Worker	3	Credits in Biology/Health Science and three other subjects. Passes in English and Maths are also compulsory.	School of Health Tech. Kankia & Daura
3	Junior Community Health Extension Worker	2	[Five] Passes in English, Mathematics, Biology/Health Science and two other subjects.	School of Health Tech. Kankia & Daura
4	Environmental Health Technician	3	3 Credits and 2 passes at SSCENABTEC [English and Biology are compulsory].	School of Health Tech Kankia
5	Environmental Health Assistant	2	5 SSCE or NABTEC passes in English and Biology and three other subjects.	SHT Kankia
6	Pharmacy Technician	3	Credits in English, Maths, Chemistry and Biology.	SHT Kankia
7	Medical Laboratory Technician	3	Credits in Biology, Chemistry and two other subjects and passes in English, Maths and Physics.	SHT Kankia
8	Medical Laboratory Assistant	2	Credits in Biology, Chemistry and one other subject plus pass in English and Maths.	SHT Kankia
9	Dental Health Technician	3	A minimum of three Credits from, English, Maths, Biology, Chemistry or Physics.	SHT Daura
10	Dental Surgery Assistant,	2	Two Credits from English, Maths, Biology, Physics or Chemistry.	SHT Daura
11	Health Information Management Technician	3	Credits in English, Maths, Biology/Health Science and two other subjects.	SHT Daura

Method of Application

Applicants are to pay the sum of N1,000.00 into the College's Account # 2212040000930 in any branch of the First Bank of Nigeria and use the teller to collect the form from any of the College's satellite Schools in Malumfashi, Kankia, Daura or Katsina.

Applicants must complete and return the forms by the 22nd June 2010 and sit for an entrance examination on the 30th June 2010 [at 10.00am] at a venue to be known on submission of forms.

Sani T. Ahmad.
Registrar.



KATSINA STATE COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES,
49 Hassan Usman Road by WTC, Katsina. (coheskat@yahoo.com)

Internal and External Advertisement.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates with flare for teaching to fill-in the following vacant academic positions in the Katsina State College of Health Sciences' satellite Schools at Malumfashi [School of Midwifery], Katsina [School of Nursing] and Kankia & Daura [Schools of Health Technology]:

- Nurse/Midwife Tutors/Educators.
- Pharmacists
- Medical Laboratory Scientists.
- Computer Scientists.

Qualification and experience

- Candidates must be qualified Tutors registered with the N&MCN.
 - Must be graduate Pharmacist registered with the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria.
 - A degree in Medical Lab. Science [Bacteriology or Haematology] and registered with the Medical Laboratory Science Council.
 - Must have a degree in Computer Science.
- Applicants with less than five years experience are preferred.

Salary and condition of service

The College operates the CONTISS package.

Method of application.

Interested candidates are to send in seven copies of their CVs to the Registrar, Katsina State College of Health Sciences No 49 Hassan Usman Road by WTC, P.M.B. 2227 Katsina within two weeks of this advert or indicate their intent via coheskat@yahoo.com.

Registrar.

News Extra

Gatwick-bound plane with 104 on board crashes in Libya

... An eight-year-old Dutch boy 'is only survivor'

- Al Afriqiyah Flight 8U771 from Johannesburg was due to stop in Tripoli en route to London Gatwick
- Flight 'exploded and disintegrated' just one metre from runway
- 96 bodies retrieved from crash site so far
- Dutch boy 'miraculously survives after he is flung from wreckage'
- Search-and-rescue mission under way, says airline

An eight-year-old boy from Holland was the sole survivor out of 104 passengers and crew on a Libyan Airbus which crashed in landing at Tripoli airport yesterday morning.

The flight from Johannesburg was stopping off in Tripoli en route to Gatwick Airport yesterday.

'All of the passengers and crew died except one child... There were 93 passengers and 11 crew on board,' the source said.

Flight 8U771 from Johannesburg crashed just one metre from the runway, exploding on impact and 'completely disintegrating,' aviation sources told the *MailOnline*.

The Dutch boy appears to have been miraculously flung to safety from the wreckage, the source said. He has been rushed to hospital.

'It's an absolute miracle that he got out,' said one. 'He's been rushed to hospital in Tripoli, but it's hard to tell what kind of condition he's in.'

'The plane crashed next to the runway. It was around a metre away.'

'The body of the plane completely disintegrated, meaning most people would have died straight away.'

There were 22 Libyans on board the flight, including all 11 of the crew. The rest of the passengers had several different nationalities, said the official. Those included Britons, South Africans, and 'dozens' of Dutch passengers.

It is not yet clear how many Britons were on board the flight. An Afriqiyah staff member in Johannesburg said it was 'likely' that British passengers were on board.

The worker confirmed the Airbus 330 had been transiting through Tripoli en route to London's Gatwick Airport when it went down this morning.

She added: 'We are waiting to get confirmation of the full passenger list at the moment.'

'Once we have that we will know for sure the nationalities



HORROR: All of the 104 on board died in the crash, save one - believed to be an eight-year-old Dutch boy who was thrown clear as the plane exploded on impact



TRAGIC: Police and rescuers examine the debris, including two empty seats, near the runway in Tripoli this morning. Much of the debris was still smoldering as it was examined by officials



THE unnamed Dutch boy who survived

that were on board.

'At this stage I would say it is likely that there were British nationals on board.'

'The airline uses Tripoli as its hub but routes through to London, Paris and other destinations.'

The British Embassy in Libya confirmed a team had been dispatched to the airport in Tripoli to confirm whether British nationals had died.

Deputy Consul Arvinder Vohra and local staff have been in

meetings with the airline to determine victims' identities.

Embassy spokesman David Clay said: 'Libyan officials informed us of the crash at 7am local time and sent representatives straight to the airport.'

'They are talking to whoever they can to work out what happened and who was on board flight 8U771.'

'Everyone in the office is also working as fast as possible to get a clearer picture of the situation

but the investigation is still in its early stages.'

'We have reports that British nationals were on board and are trying to verify this.'

A British High Commission spokesman in Pretoria said officials in South Africa were also working on the case.

He said: 'We are in constant contact with our colleagues in Tripoli.'

The main runway at Tripoli Airport is 3,600 yards long.

According to international airport guides, it is not equipped with an Instrument Landing System. This all-weather, precision approach system guides descending planes down to the threshold of the runway.

But it does have two other systems that many other airports use worldwide - a high frequency omnidirectional radio system that pilots use to navigate their aircraft, and a non-directional beacon that also helps guide planes into the airport.

The BBC has reported that the Afriqiyah Airways flight from Johannesburg had been due to land at 0610 local (0410 GMT).

The airline had said earlier yesterday that a search and rescue

operation was underway. Later this morning it said that mission was over.

Al Afriqiyah is a Libyan airline that started in 2001.

All of Afriqiyah's 300 odd staff are Libyans, including the entire crew of the plane which crashed.

Until yesterday it had an impeccable safety record, with yesterday morning's disaster being by far the worst accident in its nine-year history.



INNA LILLAHI WA INNA ILAIHI RAJI'UN



The Board, Management and Staff of the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) commiserate with President and Commander-in-Chief, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, GCFR, the family of late President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua and all Nigerians over the demise of a great champion and facilitator of education for all Nigerians, a relentless advocate of the rule of law and an uncompromising promoter of justice and equity.



Late President Umaru Musa Yar'adua

APOLOGY

Our attention has been drawn to an error in the caption of the photograph of our dear late President in yesterday's edition written as **Late Shehu Musa Yar'adua** instead of **Umaru Musa Yar'adua**. This is very much highly regretted. We wish to apologize Mr. President Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, the family of the late President and indeed all Nigerians for this inadvertent error.

Fare thee well Mutawalle. An ideologically committed leader. Friend and defender of the oppressed. Honest and decent Servant-Leader, who meant well for the people of Nigeria. May Allah grant you a well-deserved eternal rest and reward you with AL-JANAT FIRDAUS. Amin.

Professor Tunde Adeniran, OFR
Chairman, Governing Board of UBEC

ENVIRONMENT

environment@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 07041632079

'Air pollution kills 2m annually'

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

A community health officer with the University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital (UIITH), Dr. Agbana Busayo, has observed that over two million people die annually in the world as a result of indoor air pollution.

The medical expert, who works under the Department of Epidemiology and Community Health of the hospital made the observation in Ilorin while delivering a paper

titled "Health Hazards of Filthy Environment, Medical Perspective" held in Ilorin.

The one-day seminar was organized by the Kwara State branch of the National Orientation Agency in conjunction with Lubcon Oil Company Ilorin and Tuyil Pharmaceutical Nigeria Limited, Ilorin.

Dr. Agbana further observed that over 25 million filthy materials like cans, bottles, papers, cigarette stubs, chewing gums, pure water sachets among others were being dis-

carded on the roadside everyday in the world.

He said 90 percent of road users threw litter out of the car window in Nigeria while over 2 million people living in the world lack adequate system of disposing off their excreta. This, he said, has constituted various health hazards like increment of transmission of infectious like diarrhoea, Lassa fever, malaria dengue hemorrhagic fever, flooding, fire accidents, mental retardation, respiratory diseases, and risk of acid rain among others.

NESREA to remove telecom masts in Nasarawa

By Mustapha Suleiman

STATE coordinator of the National Environmental Standards Regulation and Enforcement Agency (NESREA), Isa Abdulsalam said the organisation would soon start examining the telecommunication masts in residential areas in Nasarawa State to determine if they were injurious to the health of residents.

"We are expecting the telecommunications agencies to forward details of the survey we asked them to conduct of their masts and as soon as they do so, we will conduct a verification exercise before we deal with those who have flouted the environmental laws in the country."

He also said that the agency would look up to Nigerians to lodge complaints concerning the installation of such masts in their residential areas to enable the agency to dismantle them. Abdulsalam added that it was not true that the agency was sleeping over the issue of radiation, which was the main disadvantage of installing such masts around residential houses.

"We recently dismantled an offending mast at Kubwa area of the FCT after the people complained. There is, however, very little we can do if people do not complain," he said

He described as unacceptable the environmental conditions of some industries in the state, following inspection of some filling stations and rice mills in the state.



FILTHY stagnant water at Unguwar Waziri, Sokoto

Sokoto community cries out over unhealthy environment

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

RESIDENTS of Unguwar Waziri community in Sokoto North local government area have cried out over the unhealthy environmental condition of their area.

A large pool of stagnant, filthy water lay at the centre of the community.

The residents lamented the situation during the on-going assessment tour of local gov-

ernment areas in the state by members of the Nigerian Union of Journalists, Sokoto.

Some of the people in the area who commented on situation, described the issue as their greatest concern as it poses great health hazard to them with mosquitoes breeding in the filthy stagnant water in the area.

Chairman of the local government area, Jibo Mazuga said the environmental problem in the area led to construction of drainage in

the area.

He said further action would be taken if there is water log there after two or three rains.

Meanwhile the chairman said the local council said the council has constructed drainages across the council amounting to over N170million.

He said these include the construction of water ponds, culverts and horses ranch

Zamfara govt purchases refuse recycling machines

From Sadeeq Aliyu, Gusau

ZAMFARA state commissioner for Environment and Solid Minerals Development Alhaji Abubakar Mohammed Maru has said government will soon award contract for the purchase of refuse processing machines for use in the state.

The commissioner who stated this during a special sanitation campaign along central market road in Gusau, said

when procured, the machines would be distributed across the state for effective environmental sanitation.

The commissioner, who was represented by permanent secretary in the ministry Umaru Hamisu, explained that the machines would convert refuse into fertilizer which could be a source of revenue income in the state. He said other waste product such as metal, plastic and polythene materials would also be collected and recycled.

He urged traders in the central market to keep the market clean at all times and desist from dumping of polythene materials inside drainages.

The director of environmental sanitation in the ministry Alhaji Saidu Ibrahim charged environmental health officers to continue to educate the society on the importance of hygiene in maintaining a healthy environment.

Environment



environment@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 07041632079

Towards an environmental friendly Abeokuta

From Kehinde Akinyemi,
Abeokuta

ONE of the initiatives of the Ogun state governor, Otunba Gbenga Daniel, in his almost seven years administration has been the one targeted at transforming the environmental situation of the state capital, Abeokuta. The policy direction of the unfolding Abeokuta City Centre has been described as most ingenious and plausible. The new environmental focus of the new City Centre will encompass a Central Business District.

No nation or state can develop beyond the level of the mental capacity of its leaders. Likewise, it is also impracticable to attract the kind of investments and businesses without the enabling environment, incentives and an endearing socio-geographical nature of the place and its peoples. This is the long term goal of the new emerging Abeokuta City Centre. When the idea of a city centre came about, which necessitated the building of the new secretariat in Oke-Mosan many unknowledgeable individuals started to venerate their intellectual hollowness. They alleged, without any proof that all the viable land in Oke-Ilewo has been sold.

According to Bolaji Adeniji, a public analyst based in Abeokuta, "the issues on ground are not even land matters, but more of widening the economic possibilities and the embellishment of the geographical landscape of Ogun state such that it achieves the twin purposes, which I coined as, 'Strategic Economic Advantageous Positioning' (SEAP) and 'Physical Urban Aesthetics' (PUA). Both ways, Ogun state emerges more beautiful and richer. It is always a win-win situation."

For those that have the perception and intelligence to grasp the intricacies of city planning and the vicissitudes of emerging cities, they would appreciate the efforts of the present administration, having foreseen the need to free up more usable land within the larger Ibara axis which comprises of places like the ever burgeoning Oke-Ilewo 1 & 2, Omida, Ita-Eko, Quarry Road, Post Office, Panseke, Onikoko and the core Ibara itself which has its constituent parts.

It is a fact that Abeokuta is witnessing a population explosion in exponential terms which

is adducible to the upsurge in the influx of people and businesses into Ogun state and the capital town in particular. A business woman, whose food fending business around Oke-Ilewo area is growing beyond limits, Mrs. Oluwakemi Ade-

bayo, noted that the factor responsible for this was quite simple. "When a government is poignantly alive to its core responsibilities and fulfills such obligations with dispatch and panache, it becomes imperative for the locals to consolidate

their strongholds while the outsiders too rush in to take advantage and make a stake."

Adebayo added that, "beyond the confident performance of the Ogun government we should not also forget that Ogun's proxim-

ity to Lagos state makes it the 'go to' place while some see Ogun as a viable leeway from the mad rage obtainable in living around Lagos. I can testify to this, because some of those who come to eat here are from Lagos."

Oke-Ilewo, in Ibara

which can be best described as the state capital major business district; for one has become the attractive destination for big and small businesses alike, with a huge competition for the limited land and office spaces.

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EDUCATION

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CANDIDATES writing the UTME introduced by the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board in Abuja recently.

Candidates protest JAMB's selective release of results

The inability of Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board to release the complete results of candidates who sat for the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination is generating a lot of controversies. Our reporter examines the concerns of the affected candidates and JAMB's response.

By Maureen Onochie

ABOUT 48,188 candidates who sat for the recently introduced Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) conducted by the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) are becoming increasingly worried over the inability of the board to release their results to enable them get admissions into tertiary institutions.

On April 17, 2010, the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board conducted the UTME where 1,276,795 candidates sat for the examination in Nigeria while 271 candidates sat for the examination in other countries.

But out of the total candidates that sat for the examination, JAMB only released the results of 1,228,607 candidates, which were officially announced on April 23, 2010.

Those whose results have not been released expressed concern about the development, saying that it was a clear indication of failure and incompetence on the part of JAMB.

For Angela Eboh, who applied for Economics in the Ebonyi State University, there is no reason why her result should be withheld.

"I read and abided by all the instructions they gave us, but my result is still being withheld. I shaded the boxes properly, I didn't cheat, I answered the correct subject and did everything expected of me. But my result is withheld, I don't know the criteria they use in withhold or releasing results," she said.

Mrs. Hassana Mohammed, who is the mother of one of the candidate, said she is fed up of the whole process because her daughter has written JAMB three times, "she didn't make a good score in the first attempt, but in the other two attempts, all we have been getting is withheld. We don't know what the problem is."

Mary Daniel, a candidate who applied for Law in the Obafemi Awolowo University, said "I don't know why they are in a hurry to mark and release the results in one week. Yes, we want the results released on time but if it is not going to be done with efficiency then we rather go back to the old system."

Mahmud Danjuma, who lamented over the issue, said "how can they say that I didn't shade my answers properly but I have a score for my English language. Is it not me who shaded the English answers like the other subjects?"

Gloria Asuquo, who was in tears, said "I have been writing the examination for five years since 2005 and I don't know how they expect that an educated person like me would not shade my answers properly or shade the answers of a subject in another subject."

"They made us understand that after two weeks, everything about JAMB will be sorted out, but I still keep checking for my result in their website and all I keep seeing is result withheld. I am no longer comfortable about the whole thing because I need to know my fate and go ahead to process my admission," Christopher Dondoh, a candidate said.

Daily Trust reports that the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board has asked candidates who recently sat for the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) but didn't get their scores to pay the sum of N10,000 to be able to see the answer sheets.

"People have been coming to pay N10,000 to view their results," the Director of Information Technology Olujide Adisa said.

Apart from non-release of results, some candidates also complained that when they visit JAMB's website to check for their results nothing is displayed on the site at all.

Daily Trust also learnt that out of the four subjects, 82,000 candidates only got their scores for English Language alone.

But JAMB registrar Professor Dibu Ojerinde said the results of the affected candidates were not released due to one problem or the other. He said some of the results are still being screened by the board and would be released soon.

"The results of 20,780 (1.63%) centres in the various states have been withheld for screening due to cases of examination malpractice and irregularities. 46 centres have been de-recognised for cases of unacceptable behaviours during the examination," he said.

"I read and abided by all the instructions they gave us, but my result is still being withheld. I shaded the boxes properly, I didn't cheat, I answered the correct subject and did everything expected of me. But my result is withheld, I don't know the criteria they use in withhold or releasing results."

CAMPUS ROUNDUP

E-MAIL: campusroundup@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 08035910371



PIC: AFOLABI SOTUNDE

CROSS section of students from Nigeria-Turkish International College listening to Deputy Production Manager, Malam Ali Ahmed Geidam, in the printing hall during a tour to Media Trust Corporate Headquarters in Abuja recently

NANS condemns UNN's expulsion of 24 students

By Maureen Onochie

THE National Association of Nigerian Student (NANS) has condemned the expulsion of 24 students by the governing council of the University of Nigeria Nsukka (UNN) for allegedly involving in students' demonstration over school fees increase.

President of the association Comrade Jude Imagwe, who made the condemnation in an interview with *Daily Trust*, said "students have the right to protest on any issue that is not beneficial to them in their institution, so they shouldn't be punished for exercising their right."

He therefore called on the Minister of Education and all stakeholders in the sector to look into the matter.

Female students worry over insecurity in FUTY

From Bonita Bislam, FUTY

FEMALE students of the Federal University of Technology, Yola (FUTY) are worried over the state of insecurity that has engulfed the institution recently.

This fear emanates from the news of a female student whom was said to have been bath with acid while reading in one of the school classes in the early hours of yesterday. Since then, students move about full of fears of the unknown.

Some of the students who spoke to this reporter expressed dissatisfaction with the state of security on

campus. Saying incidents like this couldn't have happened if the security on ground is tight.

"The problem of light is one of the contributing factors of crime. Students have to read with candles in the night since the school generator can only cover the library and only two lecture theatres. Our lives are no longer safe if a thing like this can be perpetrated even with the heavy presence of campus patrol," lamented a student who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Patience Hassan, a 200 level student of Economics bemoaned that she can no longer go to the class to read at night for fear of the unknown.

"To pour acid on a human being is downright unacceptable. Those behind such remorseless and shocking act should be brought to justice," she said.

Another student, Victoria Akabueze, 400 level Information Technology, appealed to the school authority to provide adequate security to safeguard the lives of students.

"We cannot concentrate on our studies with news of this magnitude.

The school authority should please come to our rescue by installing a bigger generator that can cover all the classes and hostels," she said.

Nigerian wins Queen of England's award for higher education

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

A beneficiary of the National Teachers' Institute (NTI) programme tagged Teacher Education Sub-Saharan Africa (TESSA), Mrs. Risikat Iyabode Adenekan, has won the Queen's Anniversary Award for Higher Education.

The Director General of the institute Dr Aminu Ladan Sharehu, who disclosed this when he received a delegation of TESA team from the Open University of UK led by Ms Freda Wolfenden, said Mrs Adenekan was recently presented with the award by the Queen of England at a ceremony held at Buckingham palace.

"Mrs Adenekan, who was a product of the NTI TESSA project, joined four other TESSA teachers from Sudan, Ghana, South Africa and Kenya to collect the award for the TESSA. We shall be celebrating the honour very soon. The Minister of Education will be the special guest of honour at the event," he said.

While reiterating the commitment of the institute to upgrade the standard of teachers in the country, he said over 42 million children in Africa are out of school and that those in school leave without knowing anything.

"Giving the critical role of the teacher, fundamental improvement in classroom instruction can only come from improving teacher quality. This is the essence of TESSA intervention. It is to promote quality teacher education at a mass scale," he added.

In her remark, the leader of the Open University team Ms. Freda Wolfenden assured the institute of the partnership of her organisation, saying the problems bedevilling the education sector in Africa require the support and cooperation of all.

"There are a lot of children in Africa that need our assistance to go to school. We are here today because we are educated. And we must help the children who are out of school to go back to school, if we are to move forward," she said.

...As catholic students organise convention

From Bonita Bislam, FUTY

THE 6th biennial convention of Nigerian Federation of Catholic Students (NFCS), North-East zone, began yesterday at the Federal University of Technology Yola (FUTY).

Speaking before the commencement of the convention, president of FUTY branch of NFCS Christopher Obiora Ogbonna said that the convention is expected to end on Sunday.

Campus Roundup learnt that Reverend Father Charles Danboyi is the host of the convention and will feature talk shows, seminars, kora competitions, drama, revival and election of new provincial executives.

labour report

Child labour in Nigeria and the call for action

By Francis Okeke

AMID signs that global efforts to combat child labour are losing momentum, more than 450 delegates from 80 countries gathered in The Hague, Netherland two days ago calling for a re-energized international campaign to eliminate the worst forms of child labour by 2016.

The two-day conference organized by the Government of The Netherlands in cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO) discussed progress made since the adoption of ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (No. 182) in 1999 and considered a "roadmap" to ensure that the 2016 target is met.

An ILO news article said that "in his opening address to the conference, Dutch Minister of Social Affairs and Employment Piet Hein Donner said: "I hope this conference will give us renewed energy to tackle the injustice of child labour. The economic crisis in which the world has become entangled may certainly not be an argument for giving lower priority to tackling child labour."

"It is urgently necessary not only for the conventions against child labour to be signed worldwide but also for vulnerable families to be protected and afforded access to healthcare and social welfare. It is also necessary for decent jobs that carry a reasonable income to be created for adults. Children must have access to education."

Mr. Donner added that "over 200 million children are involved in child labour, often working in harsh conditions. These children cannot go to school. They will often 'burn out' at an early age. We must prevent child labour in the interest of children because children are our future. And also in the interest of the countries where child labour is performed. A country can only develop if new generations have received a good education."

The meeting held between 10th and 11th of this month where its report showed the urgent need to add steam to the fight against child labour.

Prior to the meeting, the ILO noted that "amid growing concerns over the impact of the economic downturn, the International Labour Office (ILO) warned in a new study that efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labour are slowing down and called for a "re-energized" global campaign to end the practice.

The ILO said that the global number of child labourers had declined from 222 million to 215

million, or 3 per cent, over the period 2004 to 2008, representing a "slowing down of the global pace of reduction."

The report also expressed concern that the global economic crisis could "further brake" progress toward the goal of eliminating the worst forms of child labour by 2016.

"Progress is uneven: neither fast enough nor comprehensive enough to reach the goals that we have set," said ILO Director-General Juan Somavia. "New and large-scale efforts are needed. The situation calls for a re-energized campaign against child labour. We must scale up action and move into a higher gear."

Mr. Somavia added: "The economic downturn cannot become an excuse for diminished ambition and inaction. Instead it offers the opportunity to implement the policy measures that work for people, for recovery and for sustainable development."

The most recent report which looked at trends since 2006 when the last quadrennial report was issued said its "findings are in contrast to the last quadrennial evaluation in 2006 which found greater cause for optimism. The updated picture is one of "uneven" progress toward the goal of eliminating the worst forms of child labour by 2016."

The report warns that if current trends continue the 2016 target will be missed.

It however added that the "good news is that the overall pattern of child labour reduction has been maintained: the more harmful the work and the more vulnerable the children involved, the faster the decline.

"However, a staggering 115 million are still exposed to hazardous work, a proxy often used for the worst forms of child labour."

The report breaks down data by age and gender. Progress was greatest among children aged 5-14, where the number of child labourers fell by 10 per cent. The number of children in hazardous work in this age range fell by 31 per cent.

It said child labour among girls decreased considerably (by 15 million or 15 per cent). However, it increased among boys (by 8 million or 7 per cent). What's more, child labour among young people aged 15 to 17 increased by 20 per cent, from 52 million to 62 million.

The Global Report also includes data aggregated by region. It shows, for example, that "Asia Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean continue to reduce child labour, while sub-



THESE young girls should be in school but instead they are in the market hawking food items because their families need the extra income.

Saharan Africa has witnessed an increase both in relative and absolute terms. This region also has the highest incidence of children working, with one in four children engaged in child labour."

Constance Thomas, Director of the ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), outlined some of the key remaining challenges in tackling child labour, including the scale of the problem in Africa, a much needed breakthrough in agriculture - where most child labourers work - and the need to address sometimes "hidden" forms of child labour, which are often among the worst forms.

She said, "Most child labour is rooted in poverty. The way to tackle the problem is clear. We must ensure that all children have the chance of going to school, we need social protection systems that support vulnerable families - particularly at times of crisis - and we need to ensure that adults have a chance of decent work. These measures, combined with effective enforcement of laws that protect children, provide the way forward."

The ILO IPEC programme was launched in 1992, and in the 2008-09 biennium it was operational in over 90 countries.

The question therefore is how has Nigeria fared in the fight against child labour? Cases of child labour abound. You don't need to go far as examples stare us in the face in our villages and in the cities.

The 2006 UNICEF Information Sheet on Child Labour in Nigeria states that a staggering 15 million children under the age of 14 are working across Nigeria and that many are exposed to long

hours of work in dangerous and unhealthy environments, carrying too much responsibility for their age.

Working in these hazardous conditions with little food, small pay, no education and no medical care establishes a cycle of child rights violations, the report stated.

It added that while children have always worked in Nigeria, the figures have significantly increased over the years, saying that the end of the oil boom in the late 1970s coupled with mounting poverty has driven millions of children into labour.

Traditionally, it said, children have worked with their families, learning skills they would need as adults, but today children are forced to work for their own and their family's survival. The money earned by child family members has become a significant part of poor families' income.

According to the same report, "generally, working children have no time, money or energy to go to school. About six million working children in Nigeria, equally split between boys and girls, do not attend school at all, while one million children are forced to drop out due to poverty or because of parents' demand to contribute to the family income.

"Over eight million children manage, at least partly, to stay in school and work in their spare time to pay education fees. Due to high demands at work, these children often skip classes. Missing out on education makes it impossible to break the cycle of poverty and exploitation and prevents children from having a better life and a safer future."

It said "in Nigeria, child labour does mostly occur in semi-formal and informal businesses with hun-

dreds of thousands young domestic servants, mainly working for prosperous urban families. Domestic servants are the least visible category and often sexually harassed. Among young domestic workers, one half of those employed in Lagos said they knew of sexually molested domestic servants.

"Overall, hazardous work in fields, quarries, private households and on the streets exposes children to abuse and exploitation and poses serious threats to their health and development."

Another UNICEF report released in 1996 said children mostly work in public places such as streets and markets breaking it down street vendors (64%), beggars (13%), shoe shiners (4%), car washers/watchers (6%), scavengers (5%) and feet washers (8%).

It said those engaged in semi-public settings such as cottage industries and mechanic workshops could be broken into apprentice mechanic / vulcanisers (24%), bus conductors (17%), iron / metal workers (6%), carpenters (14%), tailors / weavers (14%), hairdressers / barbers (18%) and caterers (8%).

Others, it said, work in private households as domestic servants while others work in agricultural plantations and quarries.

The grim picture above calls for urgent action by the authorities involved in protecting the Nigerian child. The Federal Ministry of Labour and Productivity and the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons and other Related Matters (NAPTIP) as well as other concerned bodies should work harmoniously to ensure that the scourge is eliminated.

Many Nigerians believe that the inspectorate division of the ministry of labour should be equipped with the necessary logistics to cover most of the workplaces in the 36 states of the federation and the FCT. Special attention also needs to be given to places like small and medium scale businesses like producers of sachet water, bakeries, poultry farms, hotels and even restaurants.

The issue of the Almajiris (child beggars) in the north should also be treated with utmost urgency. No matter how daunting the task may seem, Nigerians are calling for an improvement in the fight against child labour through a coordinated effort of all the agencies involved.



THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

INVITATION TO SUBMIT TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL PROPOSALS FOR THE FEASIBILITY STUDIES, DESIGN AND PREPARATION OF BIDDING DOCUMENTS FOR SELECTED RURAL ROADS/SUPERVISION OF THE WORKS

INTRODUCTION

The Federal Project Management Unit of the Rural Access and Mobility Project, which is responsible for the Rural Travel and Transport Programme on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has received allocations from the 2010 Appropriation towards the cost of the Rehabilitation/Construction of Rural Roads in the six geo-political zones of the country and intends to apply part of the proceeds for Consultancy Services for the Feasibility Studies, Design and Preparation of Bidding Documents for selected rural roads/ Supervision of the Works

The Federal Project Management Unit (FPMU) on behalf of the Ministry now invites eligible and registered Consultants for the submission of Technical/Financial proposals for the design of the underlisted rural roads.

Abia State

- Lot 1: Ihie Umuntu Ekeoha St Theresa Secondary School Olokoru High Way.
- Lot 2: Ovim Umudinja Ide Amuzu Ndiajala Road
- Lot 3: Ngeleoyin Ozara Acha Road, Ovim
- Lot 4: Ugwuogo Ngodo Road, Uturu
- Lot 5: Umuanya Ubiagu Hopeville Road, Uturu
- Lot 6: Oso Edda Nkporo Rd in Ohafia LGA

Anambra State

- Lot 1: Amuda Umueri Road Nteje Oyi LGA.
- Lot 2: Rehabilitation of 8. Centre Ndianyineji Aluora Ndiegungwu Uli Road
- Lot 3: Ezinifite Federal Prisons Ekwulobia Rural Road, Anambra South.
- Lot 4: Drainage / Erosion Control along Obodoukwu Road

Borno State

- Lot 1: Pulka Ngoshe Kughum Road in Gwoza LGA

Ebonyi State

- Lot 1: Odeligbo Azuibo Onunworie Ekeadu Mgbada Road in Nmuoru Oriuzor, Ezza North LGA 10km Ebonyi State
- Lot 2: Mgbom Ugwulangwu Ugoni General Hospital Onicha Onicha LGA Rural Road
- Lot 3: Rehabilitation of Ozziza/Ibii Road in Afikpo North LGA
- Lot 4: Rehabilitation of Okpotu/Oso Edda Road in Afikpo S/LGA
- Lot 5: Rehabilitation of Ekoli/Nguzu Road in Afikpo South LGA
- Lot 6: Ndiofutu Akparata Ibina Onuienyim Road, Izzi LGA
- Lot 7: Nkwegu Amagu Onich Onu Ebonyi Road, Abakaliki
- Lot 8: Reconstruction of Afor College Road Ogbudele & Afor Ndiulo Road Eziulo in Ishielu LGA of Ebonyi State.

Edo State

- Lot 1: Aiyetoro Sorika Road Akoko Edo LGA
- Lot 2: Rehabilitation of Abraka Agbor Uromi Road
- Lot 3: Construction of Ekuku Agbor Abavo Road

Lot 4: Orakhuan Usolo Emunekhwa Okhuesan Road in Esan South East, Edo State

Ekiti State

- Lot 1: Oke Ila Ajaba, Oke Ila Ofale Otun Ekiti Rd
- Lot 2: Oke Ila Oyi Adummi Ila Road
- Lot 3: Oke Ila Sapakin Ora Road
- Lot 4: Oke Ila Ikoro Ekiti Rd
- Lot 5: Construction of Roads of Ayedun Odo Ogo Road in Ikole LGA
- Lot 6: Construction of Roads of Oye Ekiti Imojo Ekiti Road

Enugu State

- Lot 1: Access Road at Ojobogene LGA

Gombe State

- Lot 1: Nafada Ngalad Jigawa (Including Bridge)

Imo State

- Lot 1: Umuokpara Ibeju Umuhu Uvuru Road in Aboh Mbaise LGA
- Lot 2: Ogor Uvuru Amuzu Orji Ife Road, Aboh Mbaise LGA
- Lot 3: Construction of Rural Road (Double Surfacing) from Umuka by Port Harcourt Exp. Road Junction to Umuokpara to Owerri Road Junction by Okpara Road 3km Okigwe LGA
- Lot 4: Upgrading of Infotech Umuama Road
- Lot 5: Umuakagu Ezeoke Agbaghara Nsu Road
- Lot 6: Akabo Uzoagba Community Road
- Lot 7: Umuokanne Water Project Rd in Ohaji
- Lot 8: Umuapu Water Project Rd in Ohaji
- Lot 9: Aji Water Scheme Rd in Oru West

Katsina State

- Lot 1: Construction of Feeder Road from Gamzago Kafur L/G to Makaurachi in Malumfashi L/G

Kogi State

- Lot 1: Oguda Orijah Road Okene LGA
- Lot 2: Idogido Road through Inike to Idare Quarters through Okene LGA

Kwara State

- Lot 1: Adebeyangi Ilupeju Yaru Kwara

Lagos State

- Lot 1: Arowojobe Road, Oshodi, Lagos

Niger State

- Lot 1: Agaie Etsugaie Rd in Agaie LGA

Ogun State

- Lot 1: Abiola Way Ikopa Titun Asero Road,
- Lot 2: Olukosi Labanju Oriaran Iwofin Rd
- Lot 3: Aworo Gbagba Yewa Rd
- Lot 4: Ilara Ata Yewa Rd
- Lot 5: Gbagba Daramola, Yewa Rd
- Lot 6: Ata-Daramotu, Yewa Rd

Lot 7: Orisada Owo, Yewa Rd

- Lot 8: Ipokia Oniro Rd
- Lot 9: Yidi Sabo, Yewa Rd
- Lot 10: Ilaro Ijado Rd
- Lot 11: Ajilete Ibio Road
- Lot 12: Irogun Iweke
- Lot 13: Ijoun Ayetoro Road (Ongoing)
- Lot 14: Ijale Ilara Road (Ongoing)
- Lot 15: Imagbon Imaka Iduru 2.9km Rd in Odogbolu LGA
- Lot 16: Isiwo Agboju 3km Rd in Ijebu Ode LGA
- Lot 17: Imomo Junc Idode 3.7 km Rd in Ijebi North East LGA

Ondo State

- Lot 1: Idogo Olute Road
- Lot 2: Ikun Akoko Iwaro Akoko South West
- Lot 3: Express Camp Onigbogi Omole Labopo, Opanu Road, Ondo/ Osun State

Osun State

- Lot 1: Ede Kuta Rural Road, Osun State
- Lot 2: Ejigbo Ika Rd (3.5km) in Ejigbo LGA
- Lot 3: Oke Bareke Odo Igbo Ago Gbede Rd

Oyo State

- Lot 1: Tege Adegbangba Road, Kisi Irepo LGA

Rivers State

- Lot 1: Ekeremor Foutorugbene Tamogbene Norgbene Egbemo Agalabiri Road

Sokoto State

- Lot 1: Kebe Saborvinin Sagangi Road in Keebe LGA

Zamfara State

- Lot 1: Damaga Damagiwa Maradin LGA Road

Other Rural Feeder Roads

- Lot 1: Ndiowu Rural Road (10km)
- Lot 2: Awa Ndiukwuenu Okpeze Rural Road (10km)
- Lot 3: Ezira Umuomaku Enugwumuonyia Agbudu Onneh Rural Road (12km)
- Lot 4: Inisa Idirin Eko Ende
- Lot 5: Inisa Ekunkun Eko Ajala
- Lot 6: Road Construction One Kilometre Road at Lafiaji Street Ikire, Irewole Local Govt. Council
- Lot 7: Umuobiala Amuta Ulonna Farm Settlement Road (With a Spur to Ahonta Market, Eluama)
- Lot 8: Ababa Ibenzu Obobia Ahaba Ebuna
- Lot 9: Allanebi Obo Obilohia Nnunya Road
- Lot 10: Kiru Ba'awa Jajaye Danguzuri Road
- Lot 11: Dansoshiya Bridge Bebeji in Kiru Local Govt.
- Lot 12: Kunza Bridge Bebeji Local Govt.
- Lot 13: Gwagwada Kasafa Village Rural Road Chikun LGA
- Lot 14: Rural Road at Minjibir Ungogo Road (2.5km)

Cont d on the next Page



THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Cont'd from the previous page

Minjibir LGA

Lot 15: Ogele Iware Olla

Lot 16: Mowolowo Ajaawa

Lot 17: Olalowo Gem Owode

Lot 18: Giade Kurba Siagi Rd in Giade LGA

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE:

The service shall be in two parts viz;

Part I: Feasibility Studies, Design and Preparation of Bidding Documents

Part II: Supervision of the Works

The Terms of Reference shall be made available to interested Consultants at the address below.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENT

- Evidence of registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC)
- Evidence of Company's registration with COREN
- Evidence of personnel capability including list of key professionals, curriculum vitae of each professional, registration with relevant professional bodies such as COREN
- Evidence of experience in at least five (5) jobs of similar nature and complexity executed within the last five years with verifiable letters of contract award and certificates of job completion.
- Evidence from Banker to confirm the Company's financial capacity
- Evidence of VAT Registration and current Tax Clearance Certificate for 3 years
- 3 years audited company account
- Consent Letter authorizing the Client to verify the authenticity of the claims
- Any other information considered relevant.

SUBMISSION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS (Technical / Financial Proposal)

One Original And Four Copies Of The Technical and one original copy of the Financial Proposal Must Be Submitted In A Sealed Envelop Clearly Marked "Submission of Technical and Financial Proposals for the Feasibility Studies, Design of the lot you wish to tender for and delivered by hand not later than 11am on Wednesday 2nd June, 2010 to the address below. The technical proposals shall be opened immediately at the NFRA Conference hall, FMARD, Mabushi, Abuja on the same date. A Company would be allowed to submit Technical and Financial Proposals for only two lots on the whole. The address referred to is:

National Coordinator, RAMP
Federal Project Management Unit (FPMU)
NAIC House (1st Floor), Plot 590 Zone AO
Airport Road, Central Area
Abuja.
Telephone: 08034524580, 08035949354
Email: ramp_fpmu@yahoo.com, guno_ramp@yahoo.com

Only Companies with satisfactory Technical Proposal will be invited for the opening of the financial proposals. The FPMU is not obligated to award the contract to any company

Signed

Alliyu Sallhu Esq
Permanent Secretary
Federal Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development



JIGAWA STATE GOVERNMENT

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Block 40-42 Old Secretariat, P.M.B. 7017, Dutse, and Jigawa State, Nigeria

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR SUPPLY OF UTILITY VEHICLES TO 12NO. SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS UNDER 2010 SPECIAL ETF INTERVENTION

A. PREAMBLE

Further to the release in principle by the Education Trust Fund (ETF) to embark on the supply of 12no. Utility vehicles to twelve Senior Secondary Schools in the State under 2010 SPECIAL ETF INTERVENTION, the Ministry wishes to invite suitable qualified contractors for pre-qualification to execute the project.

The project is aimed at Supplying 12no. Toyota Hiace D15.SWAC Std Roof to serve as school utility vehicles.

B. PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Prospective contractors are expected to submit companies' corporate profile containing the following information/documents:

1. Certificate of incorporation
2. Evidence of registration with the state works registration board in relevant category
3. Company audited account for 3 years including tax clearance certificate
4. Evidence of financial capability and or banking support
5. Evidence of experiences and technical qualification of key personnel
6. Record of similar previous project executed and evidence of knowledge of the industry.
7. VAT registration and evidence of past VAT remittance
8. Annual turnover of the company
9. A sworn affidavit certified as follows:
 - i. Those documents submitted are genuine and correct.
 - ii. That none of the directors/partners of the company has been convicted by any court of law.
 - iii. That the firm/company is not bankrupt.
 - iv. That none of the officers of the procuring entity is a former or present director of the company.

C. SUBMISSION OF COMPLETE PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

1. Pre - qualification (technical) documents should be submitted in 2 copies, marked original and a copy respectively, sealed in envelopes and levelled "pre-qualification to tender". Itemised in the PREAMBLE (ETF 2010 Special Intervention funds); with the name of the firm at the back of the envelope and addressed to:

The Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
Block 40-42, Old Secretariat, Dutse
Jigawa State.

All documents should be submitted to the above address within 2 weeks from the date of this advert, late submission will be rejected.

SIGNED
MANAGEMENT



NATIONAL SOLIDARITY ASSOCIATION (NSA)

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IBB and the Challenge of National Rebirth

OBJECTIVES:

- Re-establish the Essence of IBB's Legacy
- Analyze the Current State of the Nation
- Outline IBB's Vision and Policy Propositions for national Rebirth.

Profile of Invitees

State Governors
Former Governors, Federal and State Officials
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Members of the Federal House of Representatives
Members of State Legislative Assemblies

Officials of Major Political parties
Key Political Actors
Key Traditional Rulers
Journalists and Media Owners
Other Invited Members of the Public

Venue: Unity Hall, Hamdalla Hotel, Kaduna

Date: 5th June, 2010

Register your participation on line by visiting our website: www.democracyforigeria.org,
or send an email to summit@democracyforigeria.org

Signed: Aliyu Muhammad
Executive Secretary



THE FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION (TECHNICAL), UMUNZE, ANAMBRA STATE

STAFF VACANCIES

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

The Federal College of Education (Technical), Umunze hereby invites application from suitably qualified candidates for the vacant posts of Registrar, Bursar and Librarian.

1.0 REGISTRAR:

1.1 **Duties:** The Registrar is a Principal Officer by statute and is responsible to the Provost. He is the Head of Registry, Secretary to the College's Governing Council and the Academic Board of the College.

1.2 **Qualifications and Qualities:** A good honours degree from a recognized institution of higher learning, plus at least 15 years of cognate experience or a Masters degree plus at least 12 years cognate experience or a doctorate degree plus at least 10 years cognate experience. Nine years of experience must be in a senior management position in higher education administration. He/She should also show evidence of competence, industry, integrity, good human relations, effective leadership and efficient management of human and material resources.

2.0 BURSAR:

2.1 **Duties:** The Bursar is a Principal Officer by statute and is responsible to the Provost for the day to day financial operation of the College. He/she is the Head of Bursary and co-ordinates the operation of the financial system of the College.

2.2 **Qualifications and Qualities:** A good honours degree or HND in Accountancy / Finance from a recognized institution of higher learning plus at least 15 years cognate experience. In addition, membership of professional bodies e.g. ICAN, ANAN, ACCA, etc. is a prerequisite. He/She should also show evidence of competence, industry, integrity, good human relations, effective leadership and efficient management of human and material resources. Experience in the management of higher educational institution finances will be an added advantage.

3.0 LIBRARIAN:

3.1 **Duties:** The Librarian is a Principal Officer by statute and is responsible to the Provost for the day to day administration of the College Library. He/She is the Head of Library and co-ordinates library services.

3.2 **Qualification and Qualities:** By direct appointment of a candidate with a minimum qualification of Master's degree with at least 15 years cognate experience or doctorate degree and a minimum of 12 years cognate experience: publications in relevant journals and books equivalent to that of a Chief Lecturer/Reader. In addition, he/she should show evidence of considerable knowledge and thorough understanding of application of new technologies in library operations and services. He or she should also show evidence of competence, industry, integrity, good human relations, efficient management of human and material resources.

4.0 SALARY FOR REGISTRAR, BURSAR AND COLLEGE LIBRARIAN:

The salary attached to the post of Registrar, Bursar and College Librarian is according to Consolidated Tertiary Educational Institutions Salary Structure (CONTEDISS).

METHOD OF APPLICATION:

Interested candidates should forward twelve (12) copies of their applications and curriculum vitae (attaching photocopies of relevant credentials) to:

The Registrar
Federal College of Education (Technical),
P.M.B. 0189 Umunze
Anambra State.

All candidates are advised to request their three referees to forward reports on them under confidential cover.

CLOSING DATE:

All applications and supporting documents should reach the Registrar within 6 weeks from the date of this publication. Applications should be clearly marked "Registrar, Bursar or College Librarian" as appropriate.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

Only short-listed applicants will be invited for interview.

(Signed)

Registrar/Secretary to Council

CITY NEWS



HOTLINES: 0803-3493-462 & 0703-8927-513
email: citynews@dailytrust.com

35-yr old breaks down in court over sentence

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A 35-year-old man from Kano State yesterday broke-down in court after an Abuja magistrate sentenced him to a year's imprisonment for forgery, impersonation and attempting to commit an offence.

Abdul Tanko had during his plea told the magistrate that he is an applicant, who was promised a job by a man he met in Kano.

He said the man collected his passport photograph and invited him to Abuja, adding that when he arrived, he was given a driver's

licence bearing a different name but with his photograph.

"The man gave me the licence, a cheque leaflet and instructed me to go to Fidelity in Central Area to cash a N5 million cheque on May 10," he stated.

He said when he submitted the cheque to the bank's cashier, he was surprised when some bank staff demanded to know who gave him the cheque and he took them outside the bank's premises to discover that the man had disappeared.

"I am not a criminal and have never indulged myself in any

criminal activity and have a family. Please forgive me by tempering justice with mercy and I promise never to indulge in such act again," Tanko pleaded in tears.

Police prosecutor, Isiaka Raheem, had earlier told the court that on May 10, one Awonjioniro Randolph of Fidelity Bank, Central Area branch, Abuja, reported to the police that the accused attempted to withdraw N5 million from the account of a bank's customer (Shuaibu Mohammed Lawal) by impersonating him and forging a cheque with intent to withdraw

the money from the customer's account.

The prosecutor stated further that discrepancy in the name and photograph that appeared on the driver's licence attracted the attention of the bank's staff, who quickly alerted the bank's security officials, adding that the accused was arrested in the banking hall after his failure to produce the man he claimed gave him the cheque.

"The offences he committed are punishable under Sections 364, 95 and 132 of the Penal Code," the prosecutor said.

When the three-count charge

was read to the accused, he pleaded guilty and the prosecutor asked the court to try him summarily under Section 157 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Chief Magistrate Ademuyiwa Oyeyipo sentenced the accused to six months imprisonment for forgery and another six months for impersonation.

He also ruled that the two jail terms which has no fine options be run consecutively and counselled the convict to desist from such acts when he comes out of prison and endeavour to contribute his quota to the development of Nigeria.

Patient cries out over visa denial

By Romoke W. Ahmad

A sick woman under admission at the National Hospital Abuja yesterday complained over the non issuance of visa to her relative, who is supposed to accompany her to India for medical treatment.

Rose Dauda Bature, who suffers from complications after a fibroid operation she had in Kaduna, appealed to the Indian High Commission in Nigeria to consider the visa application of Ruth Ezekiel Dauda.

Spokesperson of the patient's family, Ezekiel Dauda Bature lamented that his sister is critically ill and needs someone to remain with her when she undergoes treatment in India.

"That is why my wife approached the Indian High Commission for visa but the commission's officials are saying my wife and sister are not related because of name difference and denied her visa," he lamented.

He said both the Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital and National Hospital have given out letters stating the sick person's name and the person to follow her but the commission refused to honour the letters.

According to Ezekiel, "My sister is dying at the National Hospital and we have been on the issue of the visa since April," he added.

Mr Ezekiel appealed to the Indian High Commission to reconsider their stand.



ICE cream sellers at Wuse 2, Abuja.

PIC: OGECHI OHALEE

...As banker blames devil for cheating

By Usman A. Bello & Bumi Omolehin

A 32-year old banker with Fin-Bank Wuse Zone 4 branch, Umar Isiaka, yesterday in court blamed the devil for cheating the bank's customers of money totalling N767,000.

Isiaka was however sentenced to eight months imprisonment for criminal breach of trust and cheating, offences punishable under Sections 312 and 322 of the Penal Code.

Prosecutor Francis Tanko told the court that on May 7, one Maina Pinder of FinBank Wuse Zone 4 branch reported to the police that between 2009 and 2010, the accused of the same bank received the sum of N767,000 from various customers but failed to remit the money to the bank.

He said the accused dishonestly converted the said money to his own use, thereby cheating the bank.

The accused pleaded guilty when the charges were read to him and begged the court to temper justice with mercy.

He said it was not intention as it was not in my character, adding that it is handwork of the devil.

The prosecutor after listening to the plea urged the court to try the accused summarily under Section 157 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC).

Magistrate Zainab Bashir sentenced him to four months imprisonment on each count charge or to pay N767,000 as compensation to the bank.

The magistrate ruled that in default of paying the compensation, the accused should serve the jail terms.

Mechanic jailed for impersonating corps member

By Romoke W. Ahmad & Hussein Yahaya

AN Abuja Magistrate Court Tuesday sentenced a 25-year-old mechanic to a month imprisonment for impersonating a corps member.

The mechanic, Musa Ayuba, was however granted bail for the offence of attempting to commit an offence.

Prosecutor Philips Akogwu

told the court that on May 10, one Mustapha Kaku attached with Brigade Headquarters, Asokoro, reported at Asokoro Police Station that on the same date, the accused dressed as a corps member begged to be lifted on a motorcycle from Nyanya to AYA and in the process both the rider and the accused were involved in an accident.

"When bike rider was unconscious and rushed to the hospital,

the accused attempted to steal his motorcycle," the prosecutor stated.

He said the accused confessed to the crime during police investigation.

When the charge was read, the accused pleaded guilty for the offence of impersonation and denied the charge of attempting to commit an offence.

He also pleaded for leniency

from the court and Magistrate Nkwadimi Ibrahim Buba sentenced him to a month imprisonment for impersonation or to pay N2,000 as fine, while he was granted him bail for the offence of attempting to commit an offence in the sum of N50,000 with one surety who must reside within the court's jurisdiction.

The case was adjourned to May 31 for hearing.

Robbers attack BriscoeFord Motors, steal vehicles

By Ogechi Ohalee

A gang of robbers armed with dangerous weapons in the wee hours of Saturday invaded BriscoeFord Motors located at Jabi and stole two brand new cars.

A witness told our reporter that the robbers overpowered and tied the two security men on

duty, before breaking into offices belonging to the accountant, workshop manager and admin.

"The robbers ransacked everywhere and later collected the keys of two brand new vehicles and drove off from the motor premises.

The tied security men managed to raise an alarm and were rescued by neighbours in the area, who later

contacted the police at Life Camp.

"After the report, a police team led by Jmaes Apam pursued the robbers and recovered on of the stolen cars," the witness said.

Malam Yusuf, one of the security men on duty, said he thought the robbers will kill him and his colleague. "They entered into our bosses' office, stole the keys and

later drove off with the cars but we reported the incident to the police on time," he stated.

When the reporter met the regional manager of the company, Ade Agbo, he declined to speak with the press but the Divisional Police Officer of Life Camp, M.I. Umar Mahmud, a chief superintendent, said fingerprints expert

from the FCT Criminal Investigation Department were brought in to ascertain if an insider was involved.

"The results of the fingerprints verification will soon be ready as we are determined to make sure that crimes like this are eradicated in Jabi and its environs," the police officer said.

Nyanya traders complain of dirty environment

By Zainab Shehu

NYANYA traders that gather outside the market yesterday complained of dirt that pile-up in the area whenever there is a heavy downpour.

Our reporter observed the traders clearing dirt in order to lay their wares on the ground.

A trader complained that some part of the area have blocked gutters, while others have no gutter, which causes heaps of dirt in places where they lay their wares for customers to patronise them.

"The stench from outside the market environment is terrible and whenever we come to sell, we push rubbish to a fare distance," a trader lamented.

Another trader said market officials charge them money for the space they are allocated and advised that such money be paid to waste collectors to clear the area.



TRADERS spreading their wares near dirt at Nyanya market yesterday.

PIC: ZAINAB SHEHU

Women in court over theft

By Bunmi Omolehin

THE police on Monday arraigned two women before an Abuja Upper Area Court for alleged criminal trespass and theft. Taibat Tajudeen and Khadijat Tajudeen, all of Commerce Plaza, Garki, were accused of committing offences punishable under Sections 79 and 288 of the Penal Code.

Prosecutor Mohammed Garba told the court that one Christian Ndabike of Commerce Plaza reported to the police that on May 5, the accused persons trespassed into his house and forcefully collected the sum of N50,000 from his daughter, adding that the money was meant to buy goods in the market.

"During police investigations the accused person confessed to the crime and said they entered the compound in search of missing chairs, before committing the offence," the prosecutor said.

When the charges were read to the accused persons they pleaded not guilty and requested for bail, which was objected by the prosecutor. Judge Umar Kagarko granted the accused persons bail in the sum of N100,000 each with one surety each, who must reside within the court's jurisdiction with fixed address.

The case was adjourned to June 16 for hearing.

Gwagwalada PDP boss denies supporting Sidi Ali

By Abubakar Yakubu

THE Gwagwalada Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Usman Giri, Tuesday refuted a newspaper's publication which portrayed him as not supporting the suspension of Senator Sidi Ali.

He described the report as a forged statement against his personality, adding that he never at anytime granted interview to any person or media to deny his involvement on a decision arrived at by the six PDP area council chairmen on the sus-

pending senator.

According to him, the six area council PDP chairmen met and supported the suspension of the senator as well as others for their involvement in alleged anti-party activities.

"The senator represents

the whole of FCT and as soon as we received news of his suspension by PDP Abaji chapter, we met and took a decision supporting the suspension," he said.

He said one of senator's aides asked him to come to his office at the National Assembly but was not

allowed to see the senator, adding that he never granted interview to any journalist.

Giri also called on Nigerians to pray for late president Yar'adua, adding that the legacies he left behind should not be forgotten but built upon.



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Machine operator charged with breach of trust

By Bunmi Omolehin

A 29-year-old machine operator was on Friday arraigned before an Abuja Upper Area Court for alleged criminal breach of trust and theft.

Sylvester David Bako of Giri village, along Airport road, Abuja, was arraigned for offences punishable under Sections 312 and 289 of the Penal Code.

Prosecutor Moham-

med Garba said one Roland Onialuegbusi reported to the police that on May 1, the accused, who works in his block industry, stole his 50 bags of cement, two wheel barrows, five shovels, pumping machine, one trip of stone dust, 400 pieces of pallet, 600 blocks and cash of N20,000.

"During police investigation, some of the items were recovered from the

accused," the prosecutor added.

When the charges were read to the accused, he pleaded not guilty and requested for bail.

Judge Umar Kagarko granted the accused bail in the sum of N100,000 with one surety, who must reside within the court's jurisdiction with verifiable address and adjourned the case to June 15 for hearing.

Inside Politics

PDP hasn't been consistent about zoning — Mantu

Former Deputy Senate President Ibrahim Mantu was part of the enlarged PDP caucus meeting that agreed zone the presidency to the north in 2011. In this interview, he recalls the essence of the decision and how the party failed to ensure strict compliance along the line. Excerpts:

By Suleiman M. Bisalla

THERE is much hullabaloo about the zoning of the presidency to the north in 2011 which the PDP is said to have agreed upon in 2002. You were said to be present at that meeting; what will you say about the noise being made?

Well first and foremost the PDP has zoning in its constitution as a way of giving a sense of belonging to all parts of the country and also as a way of accommodating various interest groups in the nation. It is something done in order to ensure that no section of this country is left out in the scheme of thing. It is also true that I was at that meeting that an agreement was reached at an extended national caucus meeting in the Villa which was towards the tail end of former President Obasanjo's first term in office.

People were then canvassing for the need to allow the incumbent president to have another four years slot to meet up with the constitutional provision that a president can only occupy office for a maximum of two terms of four years. There were a lot of arguments; many people felt that after four years of President Obasanjo, somebody else should be given an opportunity to occupy the position. But after all said and done, we all agreed that President Obasanjo should be given another four years and then after the eight years, the north will take over from him and equally spend eight years as the south did with Obasanjo as the occupant of the office.

I personally believe that an agreement should be an agreement at any given time, but the issue of zoning as a policy itself needs to be re-examined with time. However, before I even talk about that, I think it is important to note that the PDP has not been consistent in sticking to the zoning.

You will recall that in 2003, in spite of that agreement which we entered into that Obasanjo should be given another term of four years and that when he finished, the north should also present a person who will spend eight years. That is if the people of Nigeria elect that person. The duty of the PDP will just be to present you as a candidate in line with the party's zoning policy.

So in 2003, one would have expected the PDP to strictly adhere to the agreement by denying application forms to anybody from the north who wished to



FORMER Deputy Senate President Ibrahim Mantu

aspire for the presidential slot, or disqualify them. But the PDP did not stop Rimi of blazed memory and also Chief Gemade who was also onetime chairman of the party. They and others all contested the election with Obasanjo. That is why some people feel that the zoning policy has not been strictly followed by the party's leadership in the past.

Also in 2007, after President Obasanjo had finished his eight years, one would have expected the leadership of the party to restrict their nomination to only aspirants of northern extraction. But you will recall that people like Peter Odili, Victor Attah and many others from the south canvassed for the position. And indeed from all indication, if there was a free and fair election at the convention, Peter Odili would have emerged victorious. He would have got may be 80% of the total delegate votes.

That means if he had been elected by the people, a southerner would have again emerged as president after the general election of 2007. I know that this is a kind of a temporary agreement. As our democracy develops, I think merit should be the yard stick rather than any other sentiment and consideration because for me what is important at the end of the day is to have a com-

petent person, someone who can move this country forward. It doesn't matter where the person comes from so long as he is a Nigerian. That is our ultimate goal but before we reach there, we have to carry everyone along because we are at the stage of development. Look at America for example; there was a time that two people from the same mother and father were governors in different states. And in the same family, one became president and his son later became president. For now that is unthinkable in Nigeria but I think that we are looking forward to reaching that kind of political sophistication.

But former President Obasanjo recently denied there was any agreement regarding zoning at the meeting which you just confirmed...

Well, maybe he must have forgotten. As former president there are so many things in his head so it's not possible for him to remember everything. He is not a computer.

In respect of 2011, do you wish to see that that arrangement is carried out for the presidency to remain in the north?

We have to carry people along their stage of development. As you can see, there is a lot of desire

on the part of the north that the zoning arrangement is respected. There is also the feeling by some people that if that is not respected then the north has been short-changed.

But whether this people are in the majority or minority, one does not know, so as time goes on and as the debate continues, we will now see which side weighs more. As for me, as much as I would want to say we should be gentlemen in keeping to promises, we should also carry the feelings of the majority of people into consideration. As you know, politics is a game of number, the more people you hurt the more people you lose and the more people you satisfy the more people will vote for you.

Just a few months to election, there are moves to remove the national chairman of the PDP and many people are saying President Jonathan is bringing back the Obasanjo style of muzzling the party structure to have his way. How do you see what is going on?

The PDP as a political party has a way of resolving its political difference internally. During the last NEC meeting, I advised the leadership to try as much as possible to reconcile all parties, particularly the reform group that wants certain changes to be carried out within the party to meet the current expectations of the people.

You know when a political party grows too big like the PDP it is bound to have so many problems especially give the complex nature of the country. So I want to say first of all that the PDP should apply its conflict resolution mechanism right now to make sure that all these things are settled amicably.

There is no need to go out and wash our dirty linings in the public. There are many ways of sanctioning any person that has been found guilty. Secondly, I think the reform group have said a lot of things that will go a long way to strengthen the acceptability of the party. So they should not just be seen as trouble shooters and so on. But I also think that they too should come through the normal process as provided for in the constitution of the party.

There are reports that PDP governors of the south east have asked the chairman to resign...

I think resignation is a personal decision of any officer; it is not forced on anybody. But then friends and well wishers

can advise you that look instead of going through unnecessary stress and tension, why don't you resign? And some will say look you must exercise your fundamental right; you must ensure that the matter goes to the highest court of the land for you to prove your innocence because, may be, resignation at this point in time may mean acceptance of guilt. It all depends on the way you look at it but I believe that the PDP does not have to allow this to get to a point that it will destroy the support base of the party. So I think the earlier the matter is resolved the better. However, I am not saying that if anybody is guilty the party should protect him.

This is not the first time as Gemade was forced to resign; Audu Ogbu was forced to resign and now Ogbulafor is being asked to resign. People feel that the principle of party supremacy has been abused in the PDP...

That is part of the points that the reform group is talking about; that we need to have a party leadership that can bark and bite; a leadership that can mete out disciplinary measure on any party member no matter how highly placed. But I believe that each situation was different because I don't think that Audu Ogbu was accused of corruption. Also, I don't think that Gemade was accused of corruption. Therefore the circumstances that led to their resignation were quiet different. At that time, maybe we had a president that wanted thinks to be done his own way and wasn't getting sufficient cooperation from the party chairmen so he felt that there was a need for him to dispense with them, but that is not the issue.

If a president decides who will become chairman then it goes contrary to the constitution of the PDP. The constitution allows members of the party to elect their chairman at the convention. So if anything to the contrary happens then it is the fault of the party members who fail to ensure that their right sees the light of the day. The president has only one vote at the convention.

So we really need to have delegates who are independent minded and that has to start from the state. But in most cases you find that delegates are surrogates of the governors because some governors don't allow people who will think on their own to see the light of the day during congresses.

Inside Politics

2011 and the Sango factor in Plateau guber race

By Andrew Agbese

LAST month, a group of youths led by former national president of the National Association of Polytechnic Students, Comrade Yakubu Ashu, began a significant activity in Plateau State which jolted the people of the crisis-ridden state from the hangover of ethnic and religious bigotry to the reality of the imminence of next year's general elections.

The Ashu group, counting on the pragmatism and reach of modern communication system, begun sending text messages to people across the state on the need for them to consider former minister of sports Damishi Sango as the next governor of the state saying he is a man that has the ability to restore lasting peace to Plateau State.

The hundreds of text messages sent, according to Ashu, not only made no pretence about who it was supporting in next year's gubernatorial election in the state but infused a subtle indictment of the incumbent administration, casting aspersion on how it has handled the crisis in the state in which thousands of lives and property have been lost in the last two years.

Once the effect of the strategy was analyzed as positive, the development instantly served to inform other willing aspirants that the race for 2011 had begun and that further delay on their parts could be dangerous.

Hitherto, only the state governor, Jonah Jang, had through his supporters in the PDP offered to come out



GOVERNOR Jonah Jang



DAMISHI Sango

boldly to say he is interested in running for the office in 2011. Jang is said to be leav-

ing no stone unturned to secure PDP's ticket even as he appears to be facing an unprecedented opposition from the movers and shakers of Plateau politics.

For Sango who has been in the governorship race since 1999 to have pulled what appeared now like a stunt, everyone knows there cannot be a letdown from the politician in him and the aim can only be real.

Having served as local government chairman way back, Sango moved to aspire to, the number one political office in the state on the platform of the defunct Social Democratic Party (SDP) when the option A4 system was experimented. But he failed to make it and since then he kept on the struggle at any given opportunity. As of now, he is seen as one of the most experienced politicians in the state.

But the question is how far he can go this time. One of the major obstacles in the way of the former minister happens to be the fact that unlike in 2007 when he stood on an even ground with other aspirants, this time, he would be contending with an incumbent who had declared his intention to seek a second term when he was barely four months into his present tenure and about three years ago.

With the no love lost relationship between Governor Jonah Jang and most of the political heavy weights in the state, it is glaring how desperate the race could get. What this portends for Sango is that he would require more than goodwill to push his way in to the Rayfield government house come 2011, more so as it is believed that Sango

does not yet possess the much needed financial resources that will put him in good stead to fight the kind of battle ahead.

Sango also happens to be from a minority ethnic group in the state. In Plateau, most times ethnicity is an issue in politics. It is even more so with the present administration in the state which has been variously accused of pursuing an ethnic agenda. Analysts contend that if the present administration in the state decides to flaunt the ethnic card, Sango's ethnic base which stands in the minority in the northern senatorial zone might deprive him of a significant amount of votes in the region, which as a politician, is supposed to be his turf.

But many say due to Sango's urbane background and level of education attained he stands in a better position to analyze issues critically and objectively as they affect both the state and the country and handle it more appropriately to put an end to the rounds of violence in the state.

In this perspective, Sango appears to have wide acceptability from the major religious divides that control the politics of the state having established a long standing relationship with the COCIN, catholic and other churches in the state.

Again the zoning formula in the state seemed to be working in his favour as other aspirants from mainly the southern zone contend that if the incumbent governor who is from the northern zone is going to be replaced, then it has to be with someone from the northern zone so that the people of the zone would be

given a sense of belonging in the new dispensation.

In the political history of the state, two civilian governors, Chief Solomon Lar and Sir Fidelis Tappun had emerged from the Plateau South while former Governor Joshua Dariye who had two successive terms of four years each is from Plateau Central. No governor apart from Governor Jang who is yet to complete his first term ever emerged from the Northern part of the state thus a civilian dispensation. Thus, many of the aspirants from the southern part of the state are said to be willing to wait till 2015 when the north must have served two terms so that it could be thrown again to any contender from any part of the state.

If this consideration holds sway, Sango is certain to have an edge because the other contenders from the northern zone are mainly 'freshers' in the guber race; aspirants whose experience in politics are no match to the former Sports Minister.

Recently too, the former minister is said to have closed ranks with former governor, Joshua Dariye, who was behind the aspiration of one of the candidates from the northern zone. Dariye is said to have succumbed to the idea of supporting Sango in order to enjoy a similar support for his ambition to run for the senate.

The former minister is also believed to have so far made the most far reaching contacts in the PDP and with other influential persons whose support will count in securing him the PDP ticket like it did for the incumbent in 2006.



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SPORT

Forlan breaks
Fulham
hearts

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Uche: I'm raring to go

REAL Zaragoza striker Ike Uche has denied reports in the local media that he is battling with a fresh injury concern ahead of Nigeria's 2010 World Cup camp.

Uche is angry with reports which suggest he has been out of Real Zaragoza last two matches due to an undisclosed injury.

The 26-year-old only just returned from almost seven month lay-off for Real Zaragoza in late April and has been a regular fixture in the training squad.

But two days after being named in the Nigeria provisional World Cup squad, the forward is rocked by rumours and speculations regarding his absence in club action.

"I do not know where these stories have come from," he said. "There is nothing at all wrong at the moment. I have been training like other players and feel perfectly okay."

"I was given the all-clear in March and since then there has been nothing to worry about for me or the doctors."

Fears over Uche's fitness surfaced when he was not included Real Zaragoza's back to back fixtures against Espanyol and Xerez on 6 and 8 May respectively.

The fact that it became a constant discussion back home in Nigeria left the player and his club bewildered.

"I was in the team for our game against Deportivo La Coruna at the Riazor ten days ago but the coach decides who travels and play not me," said Uche.

"We have a big squad and I cannot put myself in matches, unfortunately some people are quick to write or reach their own conclusion which is very bad."

Uche is now looking forward to Saturday's final game of the season at Estadio La Romareda against visiting Villarreal who are chasing a Europa League spot.

With one mind in Spain, the forward is also casting the challenges ahead in the coming weeks for country.

"It will surely be a tough encounter; they [Villarreal] want a place in Europe, and we are seeking a better finish in the league," Uche added.

"Hopefully I will get a chance to play on Saturday, move to the next phase, which of course is to switch the mindset towards the fight for a place at the World Cup."

"Everyone wants a chance to be in South Africa but only form, fitness, determination and hard work will take me there."

"That is all I can say because previous performance counts for nothing if you cannot prove to the coaches that you deserve a place in the team."

"I wish other players all the best because it will be a healthy competition for a place on the plane to South Africa, and if everyone is fit to fight then the country gains."

Nigeria, who are struggling to schedule warm-up matches, face Argentina, Greece and South Korea in Group B at this summer World Cup.



SUPER Eagles striker Ikechukwu Uche denied reports that he is battling with a fresh injury.

Lulu confirms 3 friendlies for Eagles

PRESIDENT, Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), Sani Lulu, has confirmed three international friendly matches for the Super Eagles as part of the team's preparation for the World Cup.

Lulu told newsmen on Tuesday in Lagos that the selected provisional 30 players would arrive in Nigeria on May 20 before departing to London for camping on May 21.

"We are going to start our preparations for the World Cup with the arrival of the players."

"The team will play three friendly matches, as part of our preparation."

On May 25 and May 30, they will play matches in London against Saudi Arabia and Colombia respectively.

"The last of the friendly matches will be against North Korea on June 6 in South Africa," Lulu said, adding that the method adopted by the Technical Adviser, Lars Lagerback, in selecting the provisional 30 players was the best option left for the federation because of time constraint.

"He has seen the players on the Compact Disk; he had watched some of them playing and had submitted an initial 44 man list."

"In the last two or three weeks he had made effort to assemble the boys but that was not possible."

"He also has another option of going round to get the detailed information about the players," Lulu said.

He said the federation through the chairman of its technical committee had confirmed that the process he adopted was the best now.

He added that the federation supports the 30-man list submitted by Lagerback.

Lagerback has picked the best, says Orumen

By Ibraheem A. Fatai

THE 30-man list released by the Super Eagles on Monday is the best that the Swede can honestly find across the globe under the present circumstances, Barrister Godwin Dudu-Orumen has said.

Reacting to the 30-man squad yesterday in an interview with Trustsports, former NFA board member said he was not sur-

prised when the list was finally released, saying the best players that one can lay his hands on are in it.

"We should understand that Lagerback has done his best by carefully selecting the 30 players that will slug it out for the Super Eagles' shirts when the camp begins later in the month."

"Some Nigerians are saying the coach should give chance to the upcoming players. But,

the fact is that young, inexperienced players cannot play at the World Cup level. It is completely beyond them. So, we need tested players to do the battle out there."

"I want to also distance myself from those who are saying a quota should be given to the home-based players. If we have to be honest with ourselves, can the home-based players play against the best in the world?" Orumen queried.

Orumen noted that it may be very difficult for any coach to pick any different team from the one Lagerback has picked, giving the fact that he just came on board barely five months before the commencement of the Mundial.

"If Nigerians want us to go to South Africa to experiment, then we can pick our U-17 players and parade them against Argentina and other strong

teams. But, if they want the team to put up some appreciable fight against their opponents, then the best set of players to prosecute the World Cup is what we have on Lagerback's list," he maintained.

He advised the coach to ensure that the selection of the 23-man World Cup team is done based on the performances of the players during their camping and not on any primordial sentiment.

NOC scribe shifts exco meeting

From Adeolu Johnson, Lagos

THE Nigeria Olympic Committee (NOC) Exco meeting earlier fixed for today has been rescheduled once again.

The shift in date, TrustSports gathered, was masterminded by the outgoing Secretary General, Mr. Banji Oladapo who we understand wants to pro-long his stay in office.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC), the parent body has given NOC till June to conduct fresh election but sources informed TrustSports that Oladapo is employing all tactics to hang on till after Commonwealth Games in October.

The Exco members comprising the national federation presidents are still bent in converging in Lagos to take a position on the matter.

"The excuse Oladapo gave that the meeting cannot hold because the chairman of the panel set up to settle the rift amongst the body and organize new election, Reverend Moses Iloh was not around was not tenable as it was later on discovered that Iloh is in town," said one of federation Presidents who pleaded for anonymity.

He advised the Secretary to organize the election before the end of June so as not to risk the anger of IOC which has given the country a six month ultimatum.

"I am saying this in the interest of the youths and sportsmen and women in the country," he added.

Why NSC dropped swimming, by Gora

AHEAD of the Commonwealth Games in Delhi, India in October, National Sports Commission has laughed off the idea that Nigeria should have listed swimming as one of seven events for the country.

While agreeing that swimming remains a sport which offers lots of medal prospects, the NSC's head of technical and coaching, Dr. Elias Gora insisted in a chat with brilafm.net that Nigeria is weak in water-sport, and raised doubt over any of the nation's swimmers doing well in India. "When we go back to memory, we can ask ourselves how many medals have we won in swimming?"

"We have had discussions at the National Sports Commission and agreed that we should go with those sports in which we have prospects of winning," Gora explained.

Nigeria U-13 excel in S/Africa

THE Nigeria's Milo U-13 team returned from South Africa on Tuesday with the African U-13 trophy.

According to one of the Coordinators of the team, Mr. Shola Akinwale, the Nigerian boys defeated their archrival Ghana during the penalty kicks which ended 4-1 in favour of Nigeria.

The match had earlier ended in a barren during the 90 minutes regulation time.



David Hussey of Australia is stumped by Kumar Sangakkara of Sri Lanka during their ICC World Twenty20 Super Eight match between Sri Lanka and Australia at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbadoses.

Cricket: GCIOB retains GTASSUR title

GOVERNMENT College Ibadan Old Boys Cricket Club (GCIOBCC) at the prestigious Tafawa Balewa Cricket Oval defeated rivals Ibeju Lekki Cricket Club (ILCC 1) by 3 wickets with 21 balls to spare at the 3rd Edition of GTASSUR 20/20 tournament.

This makes it their third title in 22 days as well as defending the trophy they won at the 2nd Edition.

The Seun Odeku led GCIOBCC won the toss and elected to field with their opponents ILCC 1 scoring 75 runs all

out in 18.3 overs.

Femi Solebo top the scorers chart for ILCC 1 by scoring 32 runs off 46 balls in 59 minutes to bring his total runs in the competition to 136 runs while other players such as Endurance Ofem, Ademola Onikoyi and Sean Phillips failed to come to the party owing to the superb bowling of GCIOBCC led by Captain Odeku Oluwaseun who had 2 wickets for 16 runs in 3.3 overs.

Former Ogun Rocks player who also doubles as the Wicketkeeper of Nigerian Cricket

National team was the hero for the Ibadan based team in the second innings as he posted 39 runs off 51 balls in 74 minutes and was ably supported by his Odeku's 11 runs not out as GCIOBCC recorded 76 runs in 16.3 overs for loss of 7 wickets while Phillips and Ogunlola Joshua accounted for 2 wickets and 1 wicket respectively.

Both teams displayed good bowling, great batting, superb fielding and fantastic wicketkeeping in front of top dignitaries who were in attendance. They included Chairman Lagos State Cricket

Association Mr. George Wiltshire, 1st Vice Chairman Lagos State Cricket Association Mr. Ephraim Barnaby, 2nd Vice Chairman Mr. Akin Denton, Board member Lagos State Sports Council on Cricket Otunba Segun Olowo, Managing Director Irish Smart Technology Mr. Yinka Fisher, Chairman Ibeju Lekki Local Government Prince Bayo Balogun. Chief Client Officer of Guarantee Trust AssurancePlc Mr. Tosin Runsewe and Chief Investment Officer Guarantee Trust Assurance Plc Mr. Micheal Oyebola.

22 athletes for Dakar Olympic qualifiers

By Orkula Shaagee

NO fewer than 22 athletes and nine officials have been named by the Athletics Federation of Nigeria (AFN) for the Junior Olympics qualifiers which takes place this weekend in Dakar Senegal.

National Sports Festival 100m champion Omaka Josephine leads 21 other athletes to represent Nigeria at the CAA Region II Youth Athletics Championship.

Athletics Federation of

Nigeria Secretary General, Maria Wophill informed yesterday that the championship is expected to run between May 14 and May 16 in the West African country.

The list, which includes 13 male and nine female youth athletes, also has sprinters Harry Chukwudieke, Abiodun Quadri, Mmanju Jonathan, Isa Umar and Japhet Samuel for the quartermile event, while Eroyakan Orukpe and Adegoke Ogunseye are for the 800m.

Abiola Olajide and Ali

Adekunle will represent the country in the long jump; Emmanuel Gyang will run the 5,000m and 10,000m races, while Ifenayi Nwoye will star in the shot put and discus event. Solomon Akachukwu and Tosan Opubor complete the men list.

Omaka will also contend with other sprinters Isoken Igbinosun, Bukola Abogunloko, Hope Jacob, Ossai Rita and Uwakwe Nkieruka, who among them will run the 100m, 200m 400m and the 4x400m races.

Golden League shot put winner, Nkechi Chime will represent Nigeria in the shot put, hammer and discus events.

Just as Golden League 5000m winner, Agidi Yemi will take part in 5000m and 1500m. Shimenge Agber will also run the 1500m race.

The Nigerian contingent to be led by Alhaji Haruna Bako also includes nine officials Made up of five coaches and AFN Technical Director Sunday Bada and Team Secretary Amaechi Akawo.



ON FOCUS: CHILE



Resurgent Chile eager to impress

By Ibraheem A. Fatai

CHILE does not have a great tradition in football like Brazil, Argentina or Uruguay, but always fights to be in the second order in South American football. And through the years, they have dealt with good and bad administrations of their FA, which have not allowed the national team cement a solid base to the future. Despite all this, Chile manages to qualify for World Cups.

Chile has appeared in seven World Cup tournaments and were hosts of the 1962 FIFA World Cup finishing in third place.

Chile was one of the original thirteen national teams that competed in the inaugural 1930 World Cup. They started off well beating Mexico and France without conceding a goal. A 3-1 loss to Argentina in their final game left them in second place within the group, eliminating them from the tournament. In the 1950 World Cup, Chile was eliminated in the first round but defeated the United States 5-2.

Many historical incidences have occurred while Chile has been involved in World Cup competitions. The first player to miss a World Cup penalty kick was Guillermo Subiabre in a 1930 World Cup match against France. Carlos Caszely of Chile became the first player to be officially sent off with a red card in a 1974 World Cup game, during their match against West Germany. Red cards were formally introduced in World Cup play in 1970, but no players were sent off in that tournament.

In Olympic tournament, Chile's best result was the Bronze medal at the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games, with striker Ivan Zamorano emerging as the competition's top scorer.

Chile has also attained bronze medals in both the U-17 World Cup held in Japan and the U-20 World Cup in Canada. The 1987 FIFA World Youth Champion-

ship hosted in Chile had the national team finishing in fourth place.

THE SQUAD

On 11 July 2007, the Chilean Football Federation banned six of the national team players, because of "internal indiscipline" during the Copa America tournament, for 20 international matches each and none of the players will ever be allowed to captain the national team.

The players banned were Captain Jorge Valdivia, defenders Álvaro Ormeño, Rodrigo Tello, Jorge Vargas and Pablo Contreras and striker Reinaldo Navia. Nelson Acosta's resignation as manager came after Chile was knocked out of the 2007 Copa America.

Chile finished with a record of 4 wins, 2 draws, and 2 losses in the matches played in 2006. It all started with the friendlies, preparing teams for the 2006 World Cup. The tour included many of the players who started in Copa America 2007 as well as the 2010 World Cup Qualifiers. They beat the Republic of Ireland 1-0 in Dublin, drew with the Cote d'Ivoire 1-1 in Paris, France and drew with Sweden 1-1 in the Rasunda Stadium Stockholm.

Former Argentina manager Marcelo Bielsa was given the task of becoming the current Chile national team manager in preparation for the 2010 World Cup qualifiers.

On October 16, 2008, Chile beat Argentina 1-0 for the first time in a qualifying competition, making history. Marcelo Bielsa was acclaimed for this accomplishment by both Chilean and Argentinean people; this match was seen as one of the reasons that ended in the resignation of Alfio Basile from the Argentinean bench.

Against the star-studded Spain in South Africa, the Chileans will have their hands full, but if they gather their acts together against Switzerland and Hondu-

ras, their hope of impressing in South Africa may be realised. That does not mean they cannot upset Spain or will run over the other two opponents in the group.

DANGER MEN

Humberto Suazo is one of Chile's dangerous marksmen of all time. The Real Zaragoza striker has become a regular fixture with his international side. In 2006 he scored 17 goals in national and international matches, surpassing Peter Crouch by one goal for the "World's Top Goal Scorer Award" His four international goals came in friendly matches.

In January 2007, he was awarded world's top goal scorer of 2006 by the International Federation of Football History & Statistics in Salzburg, Austria. He was also awarded the Silver Football as world's second first league top scorer with 34 goals, behind Klaas-Jan Huntelaar from Ajax Amsterdam with 35 goals.

Suazo played for Chile in the Copa America 2007, scoring three goals, two in his first match against Ecuador, and one in the quarter final match against Brazil. He finished as CONMEBOL's top scorer of the 2010 FIFA World Cup qualification with 10 goals, one ahead Brazilian striker Luis Fabiano.

At the young age of seventeen, Alexis Sanchez, a reliable Chilean player, has played for the Chilean national team on several occasions. He debuted when the international team took on Universidad Catolica. He made his official debut when he played in a friendly game against New Zealand in Chile on 27 April 2006, coming on as a 58th minute substitute for Juan Lorca.

Despite scoring only one goal in the 2007 South American Youth Championship, Sanchez proved to be a vital part of the Chilean national team that went on to qualify for the 2007 FIFA U-20 World Cup. During the tournament Sanchez had numerous



MARCELO Bielsa... He has produced a solid team with no recognised stars

chances and created opportunities for others.

Sanchez is a starting player for the national team that qualified for the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa, scoring 2 goals in Chile's 4-0 victory over Bolivia

ROUTE TO SOUTH AFRICA

On October 10, 2009, Chile qualified for the 2010 World Cup with a 4-2 away win against Colombia. At the end of the qualification they eventually finished in second place, ahead of Paraguay on goal difference following the latter's defeat to Colombia. They are drawn in Group H with Spain, Switzerland and Honduras.

Chile reached South Africa courtesy of a 4-2 victory over Colombia, and they were indebted to substitute Jorge Valdivia who scored one goal and created the other three. The fact they finished only second to South American group winners Brazil, just a point behind and with more wins, tells a story about the success Bielsa has brought to the country.

THE COACH

Chile are in the finals for the first time in 12 years and it is generally accepted that it is down to the style of their Argentine coach, Marcelo Bielsa, who likes to fast-track young talent and encourages a more attacking approach away from home.

Chile's impressive qualification under Argentinean coach Marcelo

Bielsa has made them a team to watch at World Cup 2010 in South Africa.

However, Bielsa has produced a solid team with no recognised stars, largely comprising young, physically fit and unyielding workers. The man to watch could be Humberto Suazo, a 28-year-old on the books at Mexican club Monterrey, and who topped the South American scoring charts with 10 goals.

Perhaps the most attractive South American team right now, full of attacking intent and goal, but Chile appear too vulnerable in defence to be able to make a real impression on the tournament. But they will be great to watch.

WORLD CUP HISTORY

- 1930 Round 1
- 1950 Round 1
- 1962 Third-place
- 1966 Round 1
- 1974 Round 1
- 1982 Round 1
- 1998 Round 2

WORLD CUP HIGHLIGHT

The Chile 1962 has remained the best outing in the anal of Chile. As a host, Chile defeated Switzerland 3-1, Italy 2-0 and demolished the then European Champions, USSR, paving the way for a mouth-watering semi-finals against Brazil. Although, they lost 4-2 to Brazil in front of a capacity crowd of 76,000, they went ahead to take the third place in a 1-0 victory over Yugoslavia in the playoff.



TARGET man... Humberto Suazo is one of Chile's dangerous marksmen of all time

THE THURSDAY COLUMN

Is'haq Modibbo Kawu

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Umaru Musa Yar'adua: The truth we owe the dead

"During times of universal deceit telling the truth becomes a revolutionary act"
-- George Orwell

I met President Yar'adua only once. A few months after his inauguration, a Media Trust team was invited for breakfast with Yar'adua at the Aso villa. We arrived ahead of schedule but the president came late, showing up almost three hours after the scheduled time. He apologized and eventually spoke in a very measured tone about many issues that his regime was hoping to deal with in the months and years ahead. He appeared calm and withdrawn and seemed to take his time to talk, choosing his words very carefully. I never got another chance to meet the man.

I had been suspicious of the process which led to his emergence in 2006, because it seemed a piece in a jigsaw of manipulation which Obasanjo was cynically weaving into Nigerian politics after the rejection of his tenure elongation project. Yar'adua supported the Third Term Agenda, hosting one of the public hearings taken around the country. It was indicative that it was only under Yar'adua in Katsina, that people protesting against third term were shot on the streets. So stripped of all myth, it appeared Obasanjo chose his man, because Yar'adua showed much enthusiasm in defence of a discredited agenda, but one he still hoped could be actualized from the backdoor, through Umaru Yar'adua.

I was further worried about the acquiescence of our political elite in the emergence of a candidate who was known to have a very serious ailment as presidential candidate and subsequently, president of a country as complex and needing in development as Nigeria. Literally everybody in Northern Nigeria knew that our man was not up to the rigours of the job, but everybody chose to play ostrich, retreating into the metaphysics of hope: hope that somehow Umaru's health will be alright; hope that he will end his tenure and possibly get a second for the North just like the South did under Obasanjo; hope that he will perform; hope and more hope in what seemed an increasingly hopeless situation. Nigeria's fate was reduced to a metaphysical and tyrannical prayerfulness where everyone tried to outdo each in false piety; rationality was put to flight until we arrived at the ship wreck of hopelessness.

We had a president that was obliged by his situation, to spend a lot of time taking care of his health and was therefore unable to provide the leadership which Nigeria yearned for. Our president threatened to declare an emergency in the power-supply situation which never got declared till his demise; while his much-touted Seven Point Agenda became an elaborate script in wishful thinking because in real terms, there was not much in terms of an organizational imperative or leadership quotient to move on the track of success. Policy flip flops became a trade mark of the Yar'adua administration and Nigeria lurched on, like an over-sedated patient. It was a state of near-complete inertia. Our political elite irresponsibly acquiesced in his emergence, while writers of "white sepulchre" tributes did not find the spine to interrogate Umaru Yar'adua's acceptance to become president even with serious health challenges which continuously deteriorated in power and ensured that he was really unable to lead in the manner which a crucial historical conjuncture in Nigeria demanded. Even people in government would whisper frustrations about the lack of leadership. But with his death, the tune has changed. Here we do not speak evil of the dead, but white wash the lifetime!

President Yar'adua's death has occasioned hypocritical posturing by members of the Nigerian elite, and they have reached points when we could hardly even recognize the man in their tributes. Of course, as the poet John Donne once said, every man's death diminishes us, because we are all involved in mankind. But in being confronted with the death of a public individual, whose activities touched the lives of millions of citizens positively or negatively, we are obliged to tell only the truth. And the truth was that in three years, the leadership of Yar'adua achieved far less than Nigeria deserved. Not only was the regime poor in rating, it had a very provincial core which made it difficult to build the empathy essential for our president at a critical point in his life. The so-called cabal bungled information management about the president's health and arrogantly kept everyone on edge as they constructed a wall of lies and deceit around an essentially human condition, which required wisdom, as we were also dealing with the fate of Nigeria. At the same time, those attempting to inherit power went about things without the requisite sensitivity and decency.

It is instructive that we have not seen any effort at a political post-mortem which helps the country to learn lessons for the future. Nobody within the ruling circles has thought it fit to ask questions of what must be done to ensure that we are not drawn into such a circumstance in the future. Life goes on; just as the positional fight for appointments within the Goodluck Jonathan presidency has become the only game in town. Yet there were tantalizing glimpses of what might have been if President Yar'adua had lived with robust health. He wanted to re-introduce development planning so that the state can chart progress for the country and its people; it was a significant remove from the ideology of

market forces as the only mantra of development. Then the work he did with Niger Delta amnesty held so much hope for peace and subsequent development of that blighted part of our country. And I think he was very courageous to have appointed Sanusi Lamido Sanusi as CBN Governor as well as backing him to go after the individuals who corrupted the banking system and have sent the entire industry into a crisis. Unfortunately, we were not destined to see how far Nigeria would have progressed under him; it was especially painful given his original leftwing ideological background which must have equipped him to understand the real meaning of underdevelopment and why it must be conquered. *Allah ya jikan sa.*

Vice Presidency: Why divide the North?

In the wake of the search for a vice president, a surreptitious division of Northern Nigeria is already taking place. Newspapers last Tuesday reported a certain "North West" caucus of the House of Representatives demanding Goodluck Jonathan appoints from their "Region". The spokesperson for that "Region" is one Bashir Adamu Kazaure (PDP Jigawa). These history illiterates must be taught that dividing the North that way does not serve our interest at all. If there are "geo-political Regions" (of South East, South West and South-South) in the South, it is because of the DISTINCT differences of peoples there. But in the "North West", are they speaking for the "Hausa/Fulani"? They are also available in the "North West" and "North Central" too. The *Sardauna* and his generation helped to forge a Northern consciousness which these history illiterates from the "North West Region" in the House of Representatives are trying to unravel in search for a vice president slot. What happened to the NORTHERN Caucus?

everybody chose to play ostrich, retreating into the metaphysics of hope: hope that somehow Umaru's health will be alright; hope that he will end his tenure and possibly get a second for the North just like the South did under Obasanjo; hope that he will perform; hope and more hope

SPORTS REPORT



CARLOS Dunga

Jordaan chides Dunga over Ronaldinho

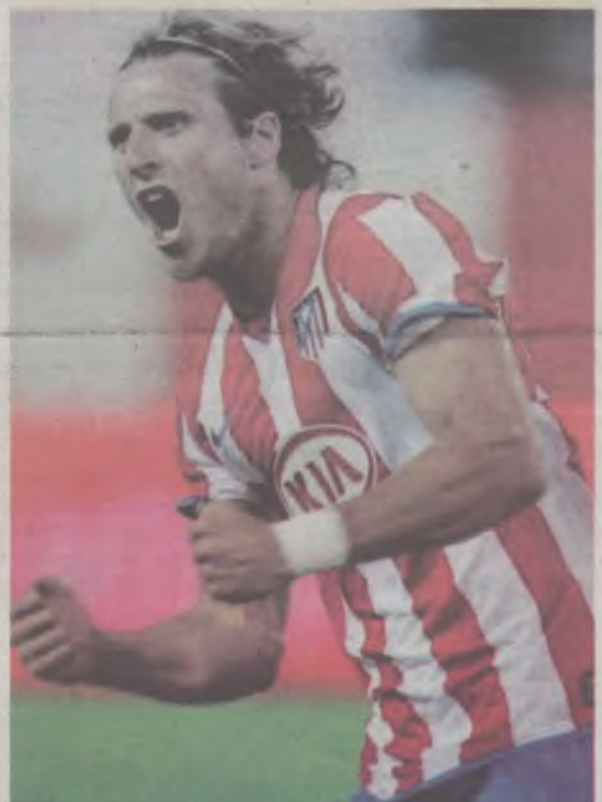
The head of South African World Cup organizers has criticized Brazil coach Dunga for leaving Ronaldinho off Brazil's roster, saying some coaches are "blinded" by a sense of power.

Danny Jordaan said Wednesday that Ronaldinho is a "soccer genius" who had talents "enjoyed by few in the game, both past and present."

Ronaldinho will only

play in South Africa if there are injuries to other players. Dunga selected the two-time FIFA player of the year as a backup and omitted him from his 23-man roster Tuesday.

Jordaan said it was "sad and unfortunate" that the tournament would suffer without Ronaldinho, and that someone of Dunga's experience should have selected the AC Milan midfielder "as a matter of course."



DIEGO Forlan celebrates his winning goal

Forlan breaks Fulham hearts

Diego Forlan scored deep into extra-time to give Atletico Madrid a 2-1 win over Fulham in the Europa League final at the Nordbank Arena in Hamburg.

Forlan had given the Spanish side the lead on 32 minutes but five minutes later a superb volley from Simon Davies brought the London club level with the score staying 1-1 after 90 minutes.

