

DAILY TRUST

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N100

INSIDE



Kano tops unemployment index

Kano State has the highest rate of unemployment in the country, according to the National Directorate of Employment (NDE).

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As at Tuesday, April 7

TOP GAINERS

Symbol	Price(N)	Gain
AP	79.79	+3.79
BCC	22.68	+1.05
NBC	22.50	+0.90

TOP LOSERS

Symbol	Price(N)	Loss
Oando	68.00	-2.50
Nestle	135.51	-2.49
J/Berger	22.80	-1.20

Cap. N4, 528, 650, 882, 917.90

NAIRA EXCHANGE RATE

	Selling	Buying
EURO	212	210
POUND	240	238
DOLLAR	177	175

Source: Daba Bureau de Change, Lagos

DANA AIR
The Smartest Way to Fly

Book Online:
www.flydanaair.com

Birds can read human gaze

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6 NNPC GEDs get the sack

By Hamisu Muhammad

Six Group Executive Directors (GEDs) of the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) were removed yesterday in a long-expected reshuffle that had been on the cards for several weeks. President Umaru Musa Yar'adua, who approved the directors' removal, also approved the appointment of six new ones to replace them.

Among the GEDs sacked yesterday was NNPC's Group Executive Director (Corporate Services) Mr. Ibrahim Waziri from the North East, who was replaced by Dr. Attahiru Baba Yusuf, also from the North East. The Group Executive Director (Refining and Petrochemicals) Engr. Onochie Azubuikwe Anyaoku, from

the South East, was replaced by Augustine Olusegun Oniwon from the North Central, while the Group Executive Director (Exploration and Production) Engr. Chris Ogieyonyi, from the South South, was replaced by Mr. Philip Onwuziuke Chukwu (South East). The Group Executive Director (Commercial and Investment) Alhaji

Cont. on Pg. 5



New Gbong Gwom Jos Da Jacob Buba Gyang, inspecting facilities at the palace in Jos, yesterday.

Photo: NAN

FG won't sack any worker

By Francis Okeke

Agencies of the sprawling Federal bureaucracy were yesterday barred from contemplating job cuts in response to the global economic meltdown.

President Umaru Yar'adua, who handed down the banning order, also begun moves to cut 20 percent of political office holders' salaries in the Executive Branch in order to save about N210 million monthly, or N2.5 billion annually.

The Federal Government is currently awaiting action on relevant laws by the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMFAC) to effect the cuts and a possible voluntary forfeiture by officers of the legislative and judicial arms of the Federal government.

A statement by the Deputy Director of Information in the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (OSGF), Salisu Na'inna Dambatta,

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NEWS

Police arrest herbalist for beheading 8 yr-old

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

The Kwara State Police Command has arrested three men including a herbalist for allegedly beheading an eight-year-old boy, Amidu Sanda along Ajase Ipo -Offa road in Ajase-Ipo, Irepodun Local government Area of the state for ritual purpose. According to the state's Police spokesman, Mr. Alao AbdulAzeez (ASP), the suspects were arrested following a tip off while attempting to carry the severed head to Lagos. AbdulAzeez said the three suspects, Waheed Sanni, Malomo Yero and Abdulahi Ahmed admitted involvement in the incident and had made confessional statements while the fourth suspect, Saka was still at large. The PPRO promised that as soon as the police completed investigation on the incident, the suspects would be charged to court. Answering questions from newsmen, the herbalist, Waheed Sanni admitted involvement, saying his accomplices brought the head on his request, but he later rejected it because it was a fresh one which could not be used for the ritual. The herbalist who lives in Offa, confessed that someone in Lagos requested for the head. Another suspect, Abdulahi Ahmed disclosed that he lured the boy who was an orphan into the bush where they cut off his head.

Zamfara D/Gov cautions against vices

From Sadeeq Aliyu, Gusau

Students of the Zamfara State College of Arts and Science have been cautioned against vices capable of tarnishing their image and that of the school. The Deputy Governor Alhaji Muktar Ahmed Anka who gave the advice during the matriculation ceremony of new students in Gusau, said it became necessary to produce graduates that are worthy in character and learning. He charged them to dedicate themselves to their studies. Alhaji Anka, assured that soon, the state government would implement a special salary scale for staff of the school and would establish a virtual library for easy access to books and academic journals from all over the world. In his remarks, the state commissioner for science and technical education, Alhaji Ibrahim Sani Bakura appealed to state government to renovate the dilapidated staff quarters of the school, upgrade its science laboratory and provide additional hostels for students. While congratulating the newly matriculated students, the commissioner charged them to be of good behaviour and hard working to justify what government has invested to make the environment conducive for learning. Earlier in welcome address, the Principal of the school, Alhaji Shehu Ubaidullahi enumerated achievements recorded by the school since its inception in the year 2000. He said the school was affiliated to three universities, namely Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, Bayero University Kano and Usmanu Danfodiyo University Sokoto for supervision of various courses it offers.

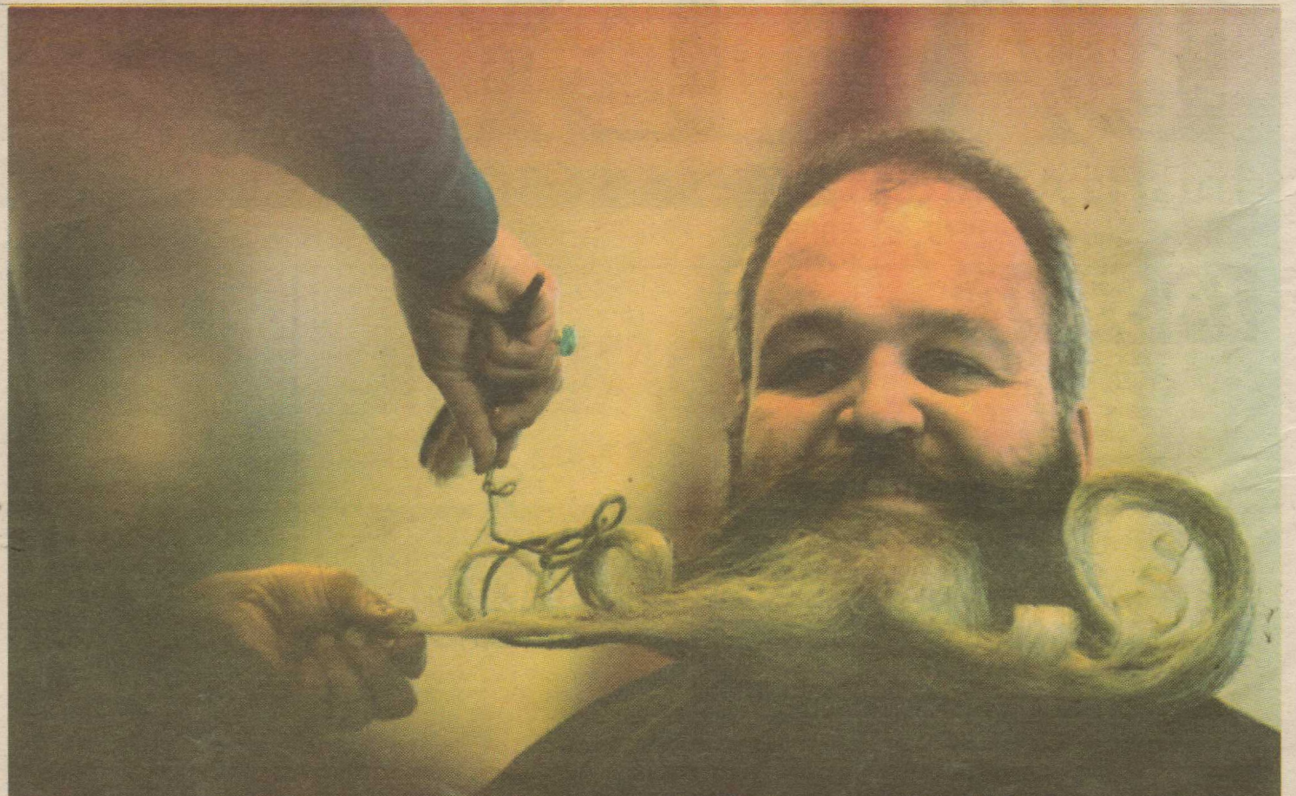
Riot: Niger expels 17 students

The Niger State Government has decided to expel 17 final year students of Idris Legbo Kutigi Science Secondary School, Kutigi for their involvement in a recent violent demonstration which led to the destruction of properties at the institution. Dr Mahmood Mohammed, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, told newsmen in Minna yesterday that the expulsion was the outcome of an emergency meeting held by top officials of the ministry. He said the decision by the students to resort to violence over the ban on the use of GSM and the destruction of school properties were highly reprehensible. Mohammed said it was illegal for any student in public secondary schools to use GSM phones, adding that some had persistently engaged in the practice, particularly during the free call period. "We have identified the ring leaders who are final year students. We will dismiss them, but they will be allowed to sit for their final examinations from their homes. "The students will be made to pay for the repair and replacement of damaged properties," he said. The permanent secretary also said the Principal and some teachers accused of high handedness would be transferred to other schools. He warned that government would not hesitate to deal with students found flouting its rules and regulations. (NAN)

'Pilgrims boards not responsible for hajj passport'

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

The Chairman, Kwara State Pilgrims Welfare Board (KWPWB) Alhaji Abdullahi Abdulhamid yesterday said that the state pilgrims welfare boards across the country would not be responsible for the obtaining of passports for intending Muslims pilgrims to Saudi Arabia for this year's hajj. Abdullahi who spoke with newsmen in Ilorin yesterday said this was due to the new technology that requires all intending pilgrims to have e-passport before they can have their documents to be processed at the immigration offices worldwide. According to him, "It is now mandatory for the intending pilgrims to obtain e-passport instead of old ones that have been used for traveling to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other countries of the world." He said this would also reduce fraud being allegedly perpetrated by some Muslims pilgrims while trying to perform the hajj. This, he added would also guide against the use of double passports, stressing that this would not occur again as only one passport would be recognised. He noted that state Muslim pilgrims welfare boards across the country were committed to hitch free hajj operations and would also leave no stone unturned at ensuring that the intending pilgrims meet all the conditions that would enable them perform hajj without hindrance.



Several-time beard world champion Elmar Weisser has done his beard in the shape of a bicycle in Brigachtal, southern Germany, ahead of the upcoming international beard championship. Some 150 contestants will take part in 17 beard categories. Pic: AFP

Ogun Speaker accepts N/Assembly takeover

From Kehinde Akinyemi, Abeokuta

Strong indications emerged yesterday in Abeokuta, Ogun state that the crisis-ridden State House of Assembly would accept the planned resolution of the House of Representatives to take over the legislature if it fails to reconvene on or before April 14.

The development came as the Speaker of the House alleged that the executive had crippled the activities of the House for not releasing the running cost since January 2009.

Speaking at a news conference, Egbetokun said the security alarm he and some members of the legislature raised recently had been justified by lack of security personnel in and around the complex yesterday.

According to the Speaker, "there is no single security personnel on ground as I am talking to you. Assuming we are to sit now and there is mob action, who will provide security? The one you are seeing are those attached to the

Speaker."

He said that the House would rather "accept the planned takeover by the National Assembly, which is constitutional. You can see that my surprise visit to the House today has revealed the inadequacies of the security

agents. No single Policeman is on ground," Egbetokun who took newsmen around the complex declared.

The Speaker accused the executive arm of crippling the House with funds, lamenting that, "as it were, we can not even get money to buy diesel for the generator. The last time we hosted the Elders, I personnel paid N24, 000 to buy

diesel for the generator. "Some of the workers in the House are casuals, they are yet to get money since January. The way it is, it is like we are under military government. Because if the legislative arm, which makes the difference between the executive and Judiciary is not allowed to perform its role, we are having the military tendencies," he said.

... Take over could be dangerous - Group

From Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

Taking over the crisis-ridden Ogun State House of Assembly may set the whole state on fire, Muslim Rights Concern (MURIC) warned in Lagos yesterday.

The coordinator of the group, Dr. Ishaq Akintola, said in a statement that it would be dangerous for the House Representatives members to want to interfere in the activities of the Ogun assembly as doing that would spring up more crises.

According to Dr. Akintola, who is a lecturer at the Lagos State University (LASU),

thugs and undemocratic elements would hijack the situation if the Reps attempt to take over the assembly and this would only cause more crises. He said the Reps should first weigh the consequences of taking over the assembly before they attempt it.

"Recently, the National Assembly has started showing interest in the hide and seek game. Moves are being made on the floor of the House of Representatives to take over the functions of the Ogun

State House of Assembly under the pretext that the latter cannot perform or is not being allowed to perform its legislative functions.

"The Muslim Rights Concern (MURIC) is disturbed by this ugly development. Our legislators, both at the state and national levels, should have learnt their lessons by now because Nigeria is no longer a baby in democratic experience. Although the First, Second and Third Republics were rudely and unconstitutionally interrupted by military adventurers, the Fourth Republic is already ten years old (from 1999-2009). We therefore expect a higher level of maturity from our legislators. They should not give the military the impression that civilians are better at creating chaos.

"We call on the National Assembly to steer clear of Ogun State House of Assembly. Our federal legislators should note that the difference in the numerical strength of the two groups is minimal. It will therefore be dangerous to throw its weight behind either group. We warn that an action may set the state on fire. It would have been a horse of another color if all the legislators are up arms against the state's chief executive. But this is not the case. The National Assembly should not kill the goose that lays the golden egg."

Court to begin fresh trial of Henry Okah

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

Following the transfer of the case involving the leader of the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, MEND, Henry Okah, to the federal High Court in Jos, the trial is to begin afresh. The case was being heard by Justice Stephen Adah of the Federal High Court, Jos before it was transferred to Abuja based on the insistence on the defence counsel, Femi Falana that the court had no jurisdiction to hear the matter. The case has since been brought back to Jos and assigned to Justice A. Liman. Justice Liman who presided over the case at the resumed hearing of the trial yesterday, informed the counsels to Okah and that of the Fed-

eral Government that the trial was beginning afresh and that all submissions to the court must be resubmitted to the court as in a fresh trial. He stressed that since the trial was commencing afresh, the issue of bail application on behalf of the accused that was pending in the court would no longer apply. Counsel to Okah, Femi Falana, had insisted that the Federal High Court sitting in Jos had no jurisdiction to entertain the matter, maintaining his earlier position that the trial would be proper where the said offence of his client was said to have been committed. The Director of Public Prosecution, Saliu

Aliyu countered, saying the issue of jurisdiction had been settled by the previous trial judge, but his argument was disallowed by Justice Liman who maintained the case was a fresh one as far as he was concerned and that all particulars relating to it be forwarded afresh. The judge then asked both parties to write and submit their written addresses for adoption when the court would sit on April 30, 2009. The counsel to Okah had at the previous trial, argued that the court lacked the jurisdiction to hear the matter, asking that the case be transferred to an area the said treasonable offence was committed and where all the witnesses are likely to be available.

NEWS

“Character Commission must approve all appointments by MDAs”

Appointments into federal ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) must henceforth be approved by the Federal Character Commission (FCC) before appointment letters are is-

By AbdulFattah Olajide

sued to successful applicants. The FCC Chairman, Professor Shuaibu Oba AbdulRaheem, announced the new recruitment policy yester-

day while presenting the 2006 and 2007 Annual Reports of the commission to President Umaru Musa Yar’adua at the State House, Abuja.

Under the new policy, he said MDAs would have to be

issued with “Certificate of Compliance before letters of appointment are issued to successful candidates during any recruitment exercise.”

Prof. AbdulRaheem described the policy as “a proac-

by MDAs”

and robust method of monitoring compliance with federal character principle by MDAs”. He said: “under the new monitoring regime, MDAs are required to meet and agree with the Commission on the distribution of their vacant positions such that the under-represented states would be given priority. Following such agreement, MDAs would be issued ‘Certificate of Compliance’ before letters of appointment are issued to successful candidates.”

He explained that the commission would ensure that recruitment process by MDAs remains competitive, transparent and merit-based such that “only the best and most competent candidates are recruited to fill vacant positions earmarked for their individual states of origin”.

Professor Abdulraheem also charged President Yar’adua to adhere to the federal character principle in future appointments into the boards of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) and the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) in the process of being unbundled.

He however commended the president for adhering to the federal character principle in appointments he has made since assuming office, and for “correcting past infractions which he inherited from previous administrations.”

He said the Commission has succeeded in changing the attitude of employers of labour in the public sector and pledged that the FCC would collaborate with the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC) to facilitate balanced development nationwide.

Responding President Yar’adua commended the FCC for ensuring unity in diversity “which Nigeria so much needs.” He promised to examine the reports and forward recommendations or comments back to the commission’s chairman.

“The responsibilities that you carry are important in the realisation and enhancement of the principle of federation that unites and binds this country together. Our federation finds stability, justice and fairness in the kind of work that you do in ensuring a sense of belonging, a sense of justice, equity and fairness from all parts of Nigeria. This is the strength that keeps our people together in diversity,” the president said.

\$180m Halliburton scandal: FG to prosecute Nigerians involved

The Federal Government yesterday said the identities and details of the Halliburton bribery scandal will be disclosed to Nigerians as soon as the US government forwards the documents it requested in that regard.

Minister of Information and Communication, Professor Dora Akunyili who announced this yesterday re-affirmed government’s resolve to pros-

By Atika Balal

ecute Nigerian officials involved in the \$180 million Halliburton Group bribery scandal.

She denied reports that the government was delaying the prosecution of those involved.

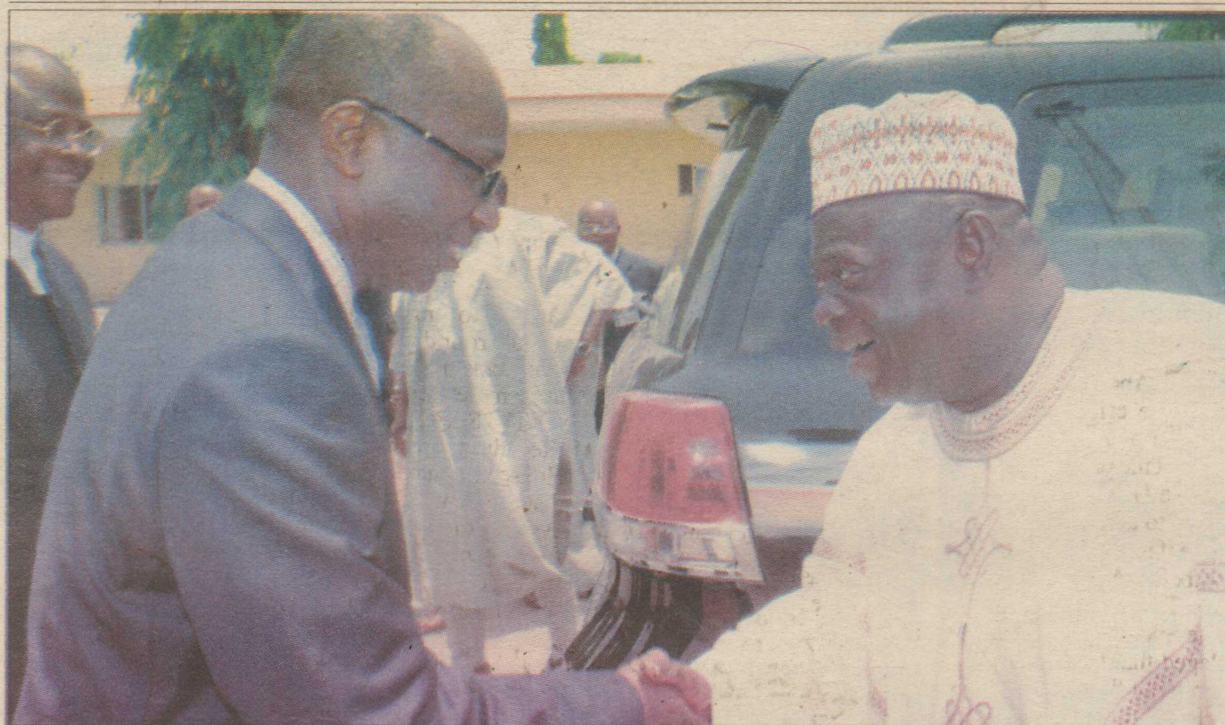
She said the Attorney General, Mr. Michael Aondoakaa had in a letter dated March 30 to his US counterpart Mr. Eric

Holder stressed the urgency of previous requests by the Nigerian government towards assisting it in fast tracking the prosecution of all Nigerians involved in the scandal.

The Nigerian government had written a letter dated March 27 2009, to the US State Department requesting for Mutual Legal Assistance and an urgent response regarding Nigeria’s request to have competent US

authorities liaise with appointees of the Nigerian government in the exchange of all necessary information crucial to the prosecution of Nigerians involved in the scandal.

The letter specifically requested for all documents and result of the investigation of Mr. Albert Stanley Jackson, a US citizen who was convicted for violation of Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.



Governor of Niger State Dr. Mu’azu Babangida Aliyu (right) with the Director of the Institute for Security Studies, Mr. Ekpenyong Ita, after the governor’s lecture to participants of the 2009 Executive Intelligence Movement Course in Abuja recently.

France plans 250m euro Investment Fund for Africa

Plans are underway for a 250m euro Investment Fund for African countries by the French Government, the Ministry of State for Cooperation and Francophony said in Paris Monday.

By Aisha Umar in Paris

The fund, to be accessible through banks, will come in the form of medium and long term loans that will be backed by a 50 percent guarantee of the French Government for private and government entities in Africa to be routed directly to investment that will create jobs and contribute to production.

Journalists from several African countries in Paris for a programme on France-African Relations in an interaction with officials of the French Ministry of State for Cooperation and Francophony learnt that, investors Africans and non-Africans alike, interested in direct investment into Africa will be able to access the facilities which is aimed at creating jobs in the countries of the continent and as well contribute to the productive process.

The ministry said the fund will be accessed through the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), an institution established by the French government to finance development according to France’s Overseas Development Assistance policies.

Apart from the planned investment fund, another 250m Euro is to be made available strictly for the agricultural sector of the economies of African countries.

The African journalists are in Paris to focus on the activities of France in global security, France African Relations and the European Union.

FG to release guidelines for N200bn agric loan next week

The Federal Government will release the guidelines for the disbursement of the N200 billion agriculture loan to farmers next week, the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Prof. Chukwuma Soludo said yesterday in Abuja. The loan had earlier been approved by the Federal Executive Council.

Briefing newsmen after yesterday’s National Economic Council (NEC) meeting in company of the governors Adebayo Alao Alala of Oyo State and Martin Elechi of Ebonyi State, the Minister of National Planning, Dr. Shamsudeen Usman, Professor Soludo said he has submitted the guidelines to NEC for input from states.

The CBN Governor said the fund would be disbursed to commercial farmers in the country as part of government’s efforts to mitigate the effect of the global economic meltdown on Nigerians.

Soludo noted that the prevalent subsistent farming in the country would not get the country anywhere near food sufficiency, especially under the present global economic

By AbdulFattah Olajide

crisis, submitting that “large-scale farming is the country’s only way out of the global economic meltdown.”

The CBN governor stated that the details of the guidelines for the disbursement of the loan would be published in the press so that prospective beneficiaries could start applying immediately.

“You have reported on a presidential special initiative in the area of funding large scale agriculture production in Nigeria – processing and marketing. We have also put together a special fund N200 billion to be used for this particular purpose. And this is for on lending to commercial farmers, large scale commercial farms that will actually help us to meet the demands of the food requirements of the economy.

“Obviously as you are aware, currently the food crisis is about 20 per cent as at the last count and agriculture holds the key for Nigeria to mitigate the effect of the global crisis both in terms of employment generation as well as in the area of food crisis and

food security. The agriculture is currently run by the peasant farmers but for us to get to the level we will really need a large scale farms and that is what this N200 billion will be targeted at. Today at NEC we circulated these guidelines that will soon be issued for comments and inputs from members and they will be sending us their comments for us to incorporate and in the next few days it will be published in the newspapers for prospective beneficiaries to now indicate interest.”

Also speaking at the briefing, Dr. Usman said the road map for Vision 20-2020 would be ready by October this year. He said the strategies being put in place would help the nation realize the Vision 20-2020 project which hopes to put Nigeria among the 20 biggest economies by the year 2020.

The Finance Minister said the ad-hoc committee on global recession set up by the NEC last month has been converted to a standing committee but renamed the Committee on Excess Crude Account and Related Matters.

“You will recall that last month council had set up a tech-

nical committee on global economic recession under the chairmanship of the chairman of the Governor’s Forum. This was reviewed today when the committee reported and in other to avoid duplication because quiet a number of the governors serving in that committee are also members of the presidential committee, so in other to avoid duplication, it was decided that that committee should really concentrate more on the issue of excess crude and related matter. So it is now a standing committee of the council on excess crude and related matters,” the minister said.

In his own speech, Governor Elechi said the NEC meeting resolved to get state governments interested in utilizing the benefits of the Galaxy Backbone project for information and communication technology uses. He a seminar would be organised for the states’ IT experts where the whole essence of the project would be unveiled.

According to Elechi, “Council also received a brief from a company called Galaxy Backbone which centered on

National Information Communication and Education Programme (NICEP). Essentially there is need for wide scale networking in information and communication sector of the economy and a number of states have already accessed the new formation. It became necessary to broaden the scope of it by making it possible for all the states of the federation to know about it and those that want to participate in it can also do so.

Those that prefer the private sector initiative are also at liberty to do so. But to ensure that no state is left uninformed, Council agreed that galaxy backbone should organise a seminar as soon as possible so that technical crew from all the states can attend and cross pollinate their ideas so that they will know where to hook in, participate or where they are deficient in the information and communication technology because this is one of the ways of facilitating the growth of communication and its effectiveness because it will help in school, security, library and the totality of internet networking.”

NEWS

FG declares public holiday for Easter

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

The Federal Government has declared Friday 10 and Monday 13 April as public holidays to mark Good Friday and Easter Monday celebrations. The Minister of Interior, Major-General Godwin O. Abbe (Rtd), who made the announcement on called on Christians across the country to reflect on the central message of Easter.

He said "Easter is the days of redemption, salvation and grace for humanity, urging Christian therefore, to live in peace with their fellowmen in accordance with the teaching of Jesus Christ."

Minister tasks Swedish investors

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

The Minister of Interior, Major General Godwin Abbe (rtd.) has called on the Swedish investors to collaborate with Nigeria, particularly on the power sector. The minister made the charge while discussing with the new Ambassador of the Sweden to Nigeria Mr. Per Lindgarde who visited his office recently. He said Nigeria's Vice President, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan is scheduled to lead a delegations to Sweden next month, while Swedish Trade Mission is also expected in Nigeria soonest. He said the Federal Government was putting in place measure that would result in the entrenchment of best practices in both the public and private sectors of the economy that are capable of protect genuine investors.

5,157 killed in tanker accidents in 3 years

By Misbahu Bashir

At least 5,157 people were killed in accidents involving articulated vehicles including tankers and trailers in the last three years, the Corps Marshal of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Osita Chidoka said in Abuja yesterday. Briefing newsmen, the FRSC boss said a total of 4,716 accidents in which 5,157 people died were recorded during the period. He said another 13,251 people were injured bringing the number of casualties to 18,303 within the period. "This is unacceptable to the FRSC and we are determined to immediately stem the ugly trends. This Easter's special patrol will seek to provide effective coverage and presence on the nation's highways as well as provide effective rescue and emergency services in the unfortunate incidences of road crashes," he said. He said a total of 24 ambulances have been despatched to the roads and that the commission would ensure improved response time and prompt removal of obstructions on the highways. He said the emergency call number of the FRSC is 07002255372.

He said 47 illegal tanker parks have been identified across the country and would be relocated to legal and less dangerous places. He said the Commission would embark on intensive public education in all tanker loading points across the country. He said only truck companies certified by the FRSC as safety complaint would be allowed to transport goods as recommended by the commission and its stakeholders.

AC tasks Yar'adua on quality leadership

By Muideen Olaniyi

What Nigeria sorely lacks and needs right now is leadership, not lamentations, the Action Congress (AC) told President Umaru Musa Yar'adua yesterday.

A statement issued yesterday in Lagos by its National Publicity Secretary, Alhaji Lai Mohammed, said President Yar'adua's complaints over Nigeria's non-invitation to the recent G20 summit "is akin to shedding crocodile tears."

"In almost two years in the saddle, President Yar'adua has done little or nothing to lift up Nigeria and enhance its visibility in the comity of nations. All around, it is a story of decaying infrastructure, insecurity of lives and property, corruption, unemployment, rigged elections and power for the sake of power, not for the benefits it can bring to the people. In the meantime, the decibels continue to rise as the government mouths the so-called 7-point agenda

magic wand. We are therefore at a loss as to why the President has chosen to expend his energy on lamenting the country's non invitation to the G20 summit, instead of using it to help turn around the fortunes of the country," AC said.

The party said when Nigeria is blessed with a good government, the world would take note and definitely cannot afford to ignore the country. "Until that time, we should not expect any preferential treatment from the global community, which is probably getting weary of hearing that Nigeria has potentials - the same thing that was said at the country's independence in 1960!" it added. The AC said "it is this realisation that has been at the root of its consistent but constructive criticism of the Yar'adua administration which, unfortunately, some paranoid elements in the do-nothing PDP has now

BPE reactivates SAHCOL privatisation

By Yunus Abdulhamid

The Director General of the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE), Dr Christopher Anyawu has emphasized the need for urgent privatization of the Skypower Aviation Handling Company Limited (SAHCOL).

Dr. Anyawu said the delay in privatising SAHCOL has made the company unable to compete effectively with its peers.

A statement signed by the BPE's Head of Public Communications, Mr Chigbo Anichebe said the Director General made the remark at the pre-bid conference and opening of data room for the privatization of Skypower Aviation Handling Company Limited (SAHCOL) in Lagos on Monday.

Anyawu noted that the delay in concluding the privatisation of SAHCOL has continued to have negative consequences on its operations as "its fortunes are dwindling by the day especially in the face of stiff competition from its aggressive competitor."

Earlier in his address, the chairman of the occasion and a member of the Technical Committee of the National Council on Privatization, Prof. Taiwo Osipitan, said the NCP adopted guided liquidation and deferred public offer as the strategy for the privatization of SAHCOL. This, according to him, "implies that SAHCOL should be

privatized as a going concern, 100% of the equity should be divested to a core investor and 49% divested to the Nigerian public in a few years by way of Initial Public Offer under the supervision of the BPE".

The Federal Executive Council (FEC) had on the 23rd of May 2007 directed that SAHCOL be released to the BPE for privatisation. The NCP on the 25th of August 2008 approved that the privatisation be jointly carried out by the BPE and the liquidators of Nigeria Airways Limited (NAL).

"The Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN)

is therefore in the process of divesting 100% controlling shares and management control in SAHCOL and in a few years after take-over, it is expected that 49% will be divested to the Nigerian public under the supervision of BPE," he said.

It would be recalled that at the end of the deadline for expressions of interest by prospective investors, 20 consortia submitted their applications for pre-qualification. After the evaluation, 17 bidders were pre-qualified for the issuance of bidding documents. However 14 out of the 17 bidders were able to pay the non-refundable data room fee of US\$10,000 and are

currently participating in the data room process.

The bidders are: Aviation Handling Partners Limited, ERASKORP Consortium, TAK Continental Limited, Danzas Express Services/ Heavyweight Air Express and Industrial Ports Engineering Services.

Others are; AHS/ Menzies/Air Logistic Technical Consortium, Plural Holdings, Sifax Shipping Company, Pan Express Services, Redstar Consortium, More Associates Limited, D&M Aviation Handling Company Limited, Phoenix Capital Limited and Dektit Construction Consortium.



Unpainted taxis impounded by FCT taskforce administration at the VIO Office, Abuja, yesterday

Licence revocation: NERC receives reports on IPPs operations

By Hamisu Muhammad

The reports of the operation of the Independent Power Producers have been submitted to Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC). The report would reveal the level of performance of the IPPs in the country and guide the commission as to which firm's licence should be revoked, Daily Trust has gathered.

The suspended NERC Chairman, Ransome Owan had already issued warnings to the IPPs on the delay in executing their projects and announced the commission's intention to review licenses.

Daily Trust learnt that part of the terms of license issuance to the IPPs is that each operator has a mile stone to meet from ground breaking to commissioning of the plant, which if fail to meet, they will have their license reviewed. There are at least 29 licenced IPPs in the country.

Speaking yesterday at the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the NERC and the Nigerian Investment Promotion

Council (NIPC) in his office, NERC Administrator, Imamuddeen Talba, said "We have sent our staff, in short they have gone round the country and they just came back last week and they inspected all the IPPs and they are now submitting their reports. Hopefully, by this week, we will know the stand of each IPP, each licensee and thereafter we will decide what to do. We will know who is performing and who is not performing."

Earlier during the MOU signing ceremony, the Administrator said NERC is charged with the responsibility of playing the referee role in the Electric Power Reform Act (EPRS) 2005, specifically to ensure that electricity provided is adequate, affordable and reliable.

According to Talba, NERC also also has the mandate to create, promote, preserve efficient industry and market structures and ensure the optimal utilization of resources for the provision of electricity services.

"In exercise of this mandate, we acknowledge the proficiencies and specializations of other parastatals and organizations that will complement our efforts in achieving such a mandate. We believe NIPC is one of such organizations that will play a vital role in stimulating the Power Sector through the dissemination of investment information that will attract more potential investors into the sector," he added.

Talba noted that as an investment promotion agency, the high expectation that heralded the signing of the agreement with NIPC will be met, saying that the pact would serve as a vehicle for developing and improving the electricity sector.

Mustafa Bello, NIPC Executive Secretary in his response called for downward review of the cost of IPP licenses "the cost of licensing if it becomes very high it becomes very high it becomes a deterrent to attracting investors."

NEWS

6 NNPC GEDs get the sack

Continued from Page 1

Shehu Ladan (North West) was replaced by Mr. Aminu A. Babakusa (North West) in the division.

Also affected by the changes was the Group Executive Director (Engineering and Technology) Engr Olusola Williams Ayangbile (South West), who was replaced by Mr. Faithful Abi Abiyesoku (South South). The Group Executive Director (Finance and Accounts) Mr. Stanley Lawson (South South) was replaced Mr. Michael Abiodun Arokodare (South West).

A statement by NNPC's Group General Manager, Group Public Affairs Division Dr. Levi Ajuonuma said the appointment of the new GEDs takes immediate effect. The statement quoted NNPC's new Group Managing Director Dr Mohammed Sanusi Barkindo as saying the ongoing changes

are in response to the enormous challenges of survival and growth of the corporation.

Daily Trust had exclusively reported in January an impending clean sweep of NNPC's six Group Executive Directors. Information gathered by our reporters was that their exits have to do with the restructuring of the corporation earlier recommended by the Oil and Gas Sector Reform Implementation Committee headed by current oil minister Dr Rilwanu Lukman. A source told *Daily Trust* that sacking the former GEDs was necessary for him to choose the new people that he can work with to achieved his mission.

It was learnt further that the names of the new GEDs had been with Yar'adua for a very long time before the final approval was obtained yesterday, due to issues that relate to federal character and protest by some Niger Delta groups.

FG won't sack any workers

Continued from Page 1

said Yar'adua approved immediate implementation of some measures to mitigate the impact of the economic downturn on "workers in particular and all Nigerians in general."

The measures include "the establishment of a Savings Pools Fund to pool the estimated monthly savings of N210 million or N2.5 billion per annum arising from the 20 per cent cut in the emoluments of some political office holders in the executive arm of the federal government.

"The constitution of a Savings Fund Utilisation Committee for the implemen-

tation of the mass transit system for workers in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), composed of representatives of the OSGF, Office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation, Ministry of Labour and Productivity, Ministry of Finance, National Salaries, Incomes and Wages Commission, Nigeria Labour Congress and the Trade Union Congress."

The statement further said the committee will purchase and release additional buses to boost the mass transit system for Federal Government employees in the FCT.

According to the statement, "the current level of

employment in the public service at the federal level should be sustained so that no employee loses his/her job as a result of the current global economic downturn which has affected the country adversely."

The statement also enjoined appropriate organs of the Federal Government to immediately "commence necessary contacts to persuade employers in the private sector to resist the temptation of laying-off staff under the prevailing economic circumstances."

The Presidency directed that projects funded and located in the ministries of Transport, Works and Hous-

ing, Power and the FCT "capable of impacting positively on the lives of Nigerians in general and workers in particular" should be expeditiously implemented.

While urging ministries, departments and agencies to examine their budgets and identify projects and programmes that would impact positively on the lives of Nigerians, the government also reaffirmed "its commitment to sustain the tempo of its current engagement with organised labour and the organised private sector on the issue of demand for a review of the national minimum wage and related matters."

Opposition has no political relevance - Ogbulafor

By Muideen Olaniyi

The National Chairman of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Prince Vincent Ogbulafor yesterday said merger of opposition political parties has no political relevance in the country.

Ogbulafor said this while speaking with some journalists in Abuja on the push for a mega party in the country by notable political bigwigs in Nigeria's opposition parties.

He said the proposed mega party would crumble because those who are constituting it are strange bed mates, describing the arrangement as a protest movement without a defined ideology.

He said some divisive forces were at work trying to distract attention, assuring that the PDP government would remain committed to the implementation of the seven-point agenda.

"We know of the meeting of the proponents of the so-called mega party, my reaction to it is that surely, they will gather, but surely they must scatter because they are strange bed mates.

"It is not today, we hear of their alliances and now the so-called mega party, but let me tell you that history will always prove us right. They shall gather and scatter with the same speed of their gathering.

"The reason for their gathering and scattering is simple; they have no political relevance any longer and their individual greed will make them scatter," the PDP National Chairman noted.

He voiced concern over the drifting of the South West from the mainstream politics, expressing hope that PDP would recapture the lost states in future elections.

He attributed the party's loss of some states in the South West geo-political zone to tribunal as against ballot boxes because of the PDP's abiding faith in the rule of law.

He stated: "The drift in the South West is a source of worry and concern for us at the national secretariat. PDP and the former president worked hard to get the South West states into PDP, but I can assure you that with due process which President Yar'adua has enthroned, they will come back to the PDP fold. It is only Ondo state and Lagos state that are in opposition. It is indeed a source of worry that we have such drift in the South west.

When we had the past president, Obasanjo from the South West, he did a lot of work to ensure that all the states in the South west belonged to PDP. However, PDP is working hard to see that in the next elections, we get them back.

You know we did not lose them during the elections, it was at the tribunals and that is because we believe in the rule of law, but at the next elections we shall have them through a free and fair elections."

Ogbulafor who absolved the party of committing any fault which could culminate in the loss of states in the South West however added that the party is still big enough to accommodate those who stand for genuine democracy in the country.

Ogbulafor described the resolution by the House of Representatives that gave Ogun state government an ultimatum to end the crisis in the state legislature as part of demonstration of the beauty of democracy.

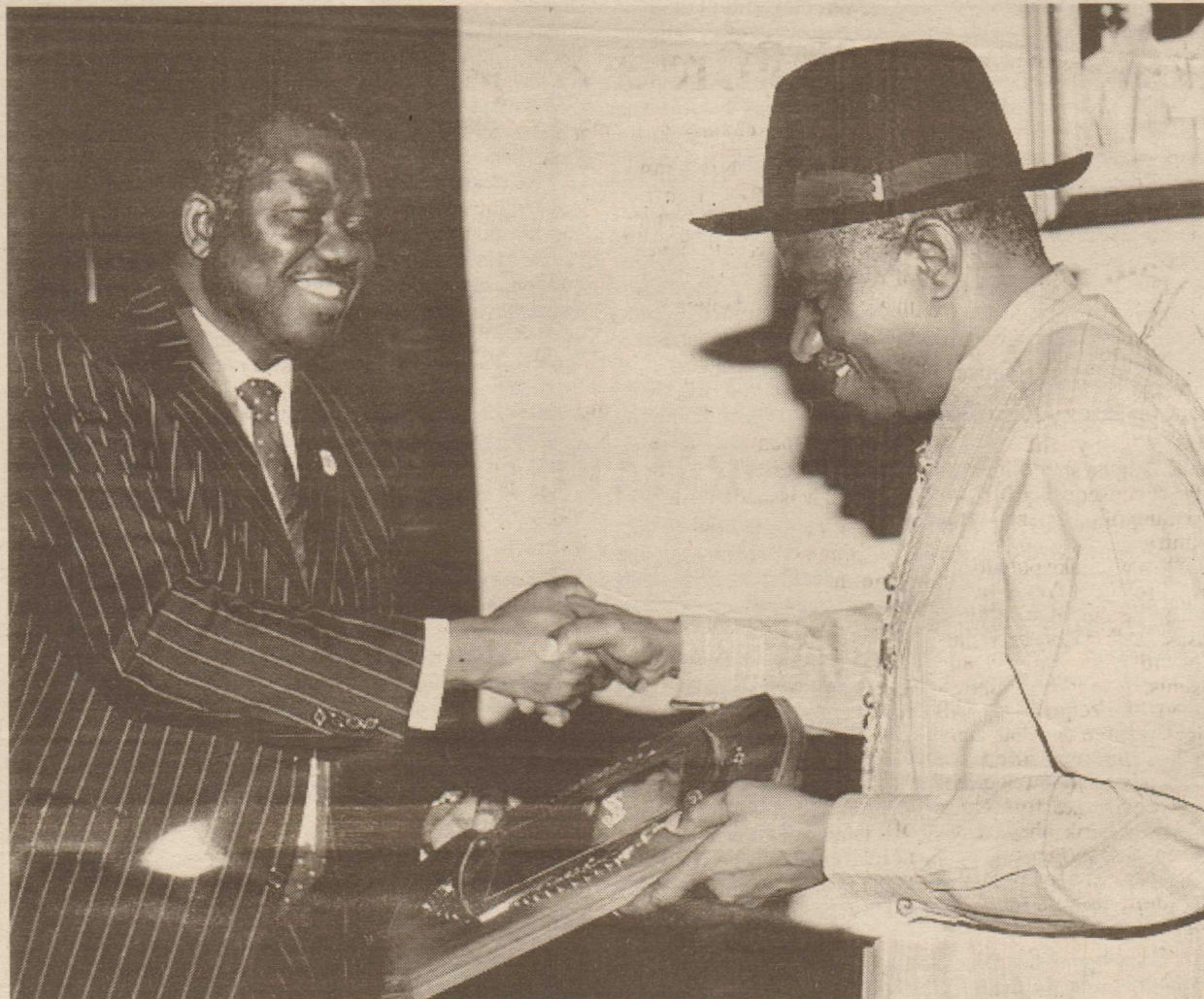
He stated that the wish of the people would prevail at the end of the day in the resolution of the feud.

The PDP National Chairman who stressed that the score cards of all its elected officials would determine their fate in the next elections, expressed happiness with the performance of its governors.

He said: "Every of PDP governors is performing and we at the national secretariat are happy about that. The party is extremely happy that our governors are delivering on promises and we are sure that Nigerians are happy over the transformation taking place in the country. Go to Rivers state and see what Governor Chibuike Amaechi is doing.

Go to Ebonyi state and see for yourself what Governor Elechi is doing. The same is the governors of Akwa-Ibom and other governors of the party across the country. Every of PDP governors is performing and we at the national secretariat is happy about that."

While voicing happiness over mass movement to return to the PDP in the South East, he further stated that: "with the level of performances of our governors in the southeast, I am sure that the zone would soon be hundred percent PDP."



Vice President Goodluck Jonathan (right) receiving a plaque from the President, Nigerian Gas Association, Mr. Charles Osezua, during a visit to State House, Abuja, on Monday.

Photo: NAN

NEWS

Reps move to recapitalise BOI, NEXIM banks

By Tashikalmah Hallah & Nasidi A. Yahaya

The House of Representatives yesterday declared readiness to move for the recapitalisation of the Bank of Industry (BOI) and the Nigeria Export/Import Bank (NEXIM) as part of the effort to save them from the current economic meltdown.

The chairman of committee on Banking and Currency, Rep Ogbuefi Ozomgbachi (PDP, Enugu State) who stated this when the Managing Director of BOI, Mrs Evelyn Oputu appeared before them said the recapitalisation became necessary due to the economic meltdown.

The committee heard that the bank had to look for financial assistance from some U.S development institutions due to the inability of its shareholders to conclude its recapitalisation.

Rep Ozomgbachi said the industries need to be resuscitated to avoid total collapse of the country's economy, pointing out that if the bank could further consult stakeholders in the industry, the collapse may be avoided.

In her submission, Mrs Oputu said at its inception in 2001, the BOI's authorised share capital was set as N50 bn, with an additional loanable sum of N50.

Bayelsa, IYC collaborate on Niger Delta peace moves

By Muideen Olaniyi

Governor Timipre Sylva of Bayelsa State and the Ijaw Youth Council (IYC) have resolved to collaborate on efforts to seek for lasting peace in the state.

Speaking in Yenagoa on Monday when the leadership of IYC paid him a courtesy visit in Government House, Governor Sylva reiterated his advice to militants to lay down their arms, and take advantage of the amnesty recently offered by President Umaru Musa Yar'adua.

The governor's commitment to peace process in the Niger Delta region was contained in a statement yesterday by his Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Doifio Ola.

According to the governor, the state has initiated a comprehensive Disarmament, Demobilization and Re-integration (DDR) programme that would empower any militant who embraces peace to become an active contributor to societal development.

Sylva decried the infiltration of the popular struggle of the people by criminal elements, warning that any militant who refuses to embrace peace would have to contend with the long arms of the law.

He praised the leadership of the IYC for its doggedness, commitment and focus on the struggle of the Ijaw people, saying President Umaru Yar'adua's plan of granting amnesty to all Niger Delta militants would chart a new course in the promotion of economic development and the enthronement of peace in the Niger Delta Region.

The IYC leadership had visited the governor to present its strategy plan for Disarmament, Demobilization, Re-integration and Re-orientation (DDRR) of militants, as well as a progress report of its Committee on Security and Economic Development. The youth body solicited the governor's support in conveying its message and letter to the president.

AC disowns Maikano as Bauchi chairman

By Muideen Olaniyi

The Bauchi State chapter of the Action Congress (AC) yesterday disowned one Alhaji Abdullahi Shu'aibu Maikano who claimed to be the chairman of the party in the state.

A statement issued by the AC authentic Chairman in the state, Alhaji Danladi Jaja, at the end of the meeting of the party's State Executive Committee held at its Secretariat, Dandoka Street urged the general public to disregard Alhaji Maikano.

The Party said he was never at anytime the chairman of the AC in Bauchi, declaring that Alhaji Maikano was carrying out a paid job for Governor Isa Yuguda to break up the party.

The statement alleged that Maikano who, in his own statement called on AC members to decamp to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) along with Governor Yuguda had ceased to be a member of their party when he took up a job with the PDP-controlled state

government. "On February 29th, 2008, the State Executive met and decided to suspend Alhaji Maikano for taking up an appointment with Yuguda's Government.

"Consequent upon his inducement into the PDP Government, the National Secretary of the AC, Dr. Usman Bugaje issued a statement suspending, and later expelling Maikano. When he went to court to challenge the decision, he lost the case when the High Court in Bauchi in the Suit number BA19/2008 ratified the AC's decision to expel Abdullahi Shu'aibu Maikano," the statement read.

The party reiterated that "at no time was Senator Nazif ever suspended from the party, adding that it was a mere wishful thinking by the Isa Yuguda led government."



Vehicles queuing for fuel at Zone 1, Abuja, yesterday.

Pic: Kennedy Egbonodje

GSM operators protest proposed new regulation

By Tashikalmah Hallah & Nasidi A. Yahaya

Global System of Mobile Communication (GSM) operators in the country yesterday protested a proposed bill which threatens to impose additional regulations on their operations saying it is inimical to their operations.

They appeared at a public hearing organised by the House of Representatives committee on Communications on an Act for the regulation of location of telecommunications masts and associated facilities, co-location and infrastructure sharing for the purpose of ensuring human safety and environmental sustainability.

The operators faulted section 23 of the bill which they claim contravenes some regulations establishing the Nigeria Communications Commission arguing that for the new law to take effect there was the need to amend the NCC Act.

The Operators in their separate presentations stated that bringing another law would only compound their problems and impinge on their produc-

tivity and quality of service rendered.

Manager legislative compliance of the Zain network, Joseph Myapurgi, explained that bill as proposed has clipped their hands in securing permits for locating masts in addition to huge costs.

"Planning and permission will be made cumbersome and costly if we need to obtain permit from states and other regulatory agencies to locate our masts. It may weigh on the quality of service and expansion," he said.

Globacom in its presentation said, "We humbly request that you consider the existing framework in place. We are already co-locating with other operators as well as sharing infrastructure with other operators."

According to NITEL, "NCC is already standardizing the

rules to international standard and practices. The enforcement of the guidelines is not seen as a failure of NCC but a need for more collaborative cooperation between the committee, the operators and the regulatory agencies" adding that there is "conscious of the fact that we need to make sure that whatever we do are incentives based, safer and will not make compliance difficult".

Also Mr. Steve Azenge, of the NCC, advised the committee that all issues have been addressed in a reviewed guidelines recently articulated by the Commission.

"NCC guidelines already covers locations, building specifications and all that the reviewed guidelines are based on applicable practices and the issues have been adequately covered in a more detailed manner. There is no provision for penalty in the bill and there are areas of contradiction with

the Communication Act".

He also that the, "multi regulatory agencies will increase taxation and will cause a challenge to the operators".

The NCC also stated that Nigeria needs more masts to be able to cover the whole country as it only has 10,000 telecommunication towers while a country like UK which is about a third or fourth of the size of the country has about 40,000.

According to him, only 30 percent of the masts are for telecom purposes, as 70 percent belong to broadcast and other services.

Earlier, in his opening remarks, the chairman of the committee, Dave Salako said that the bill seeks to protect the environment and promote fair competition by reducing the proliferation of infrastructure, facility installations by granting equal access to operators on mutually agreed terms.

The bill, he added, will also provide legislation to ensure that "the incidence of unnecessary duplication of infrastructure is minimized or completely avoided".

\$5.3bn power fund: RMAFC says it was misquoted

By Idris Ahmed

The Revenue Mobilization Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) yesterday said that media reports quoting it as saying that state governors should shun the \$5.3 billion power revival fund was a misrepresentation.

A statement from the Public Relations Officer (PRO) of the commission, Theodora C. Onyebuchi, said that the commission was only advising the governors on derivation so that all tiers of government are aware of their contributions.

The statement read: "In order to set the record straight, with regards to these publications, the Commission wishes to categorically state that it was completely quoted out of context. It was only advising state governors noting that the derivation has to be firstly charged followed by the distribution of the accruals.

"Each beneficiary including Special Funds will get its correct share vis-à-vis the Federal, State and Local Governments. This is within the rule of law which is the policy of this present government.

"The Commission hopes that each beneficiary will be committed to using the funds for the development of the power sector, noting Mr. President's anxiety to meet with the expectations of Nigeria. The Commission reiterated that this is the key and critical area in Mr. President's 7 Point Agenda."

The commission also noted that the 13 percent derivation meant for the mineral producing states which amounts to \$698, 750, 000.00, must be deducted from the \$5.3 billion before the balance is shared among the beneficiaries.

A document from the commission said that the \$5.3 billion was distributed to all beneficiaries of the federation account based on the existing revenue formula and sent to all the states to enable them get the necessary approval from the assemblies so that they can legally contribute as required by the Federal Government.

The document showed that the 774 local governments are contributing \$963.307 million to the fund, while the share of the Federal Government and the thirty six (36) states is \$2.267 billion and \$1.249 billion respectively.

Out of the total amount, Kano state is to contribute the highest amount of \$107, 327, 563.69, while Lagos and Kastina states followed with \$81,748,034.33 and \$81,293,361.63 respectively.

Bayelsa, Ebonyi and Gombe states contribute the least amount of \$39,494,651.41, \$43,762,848.42 and \$45,002,420.33 respectively.

NEWS

Kidnappers of commissioner's wife demand N12m ransom

From Vincent Egunyanga, Benin

Kidnappers who abducted the wife of Edo State Commissioner for Works, Mrs. Itohan Obayagbona have demanded N12m ransom payment. Family sources told *Daily Trust* that the kidnappers had earlier demanded N50m but was later reduced to N12m. The sources disclosed that the kidnapped woman who had spent five days in the kidnappers' den was allowed to communicate with her husband and family three days after she was abducted. The source said that the family was considering paying the ransom to save the life of the woman. Efforts to reach her husband, Andrew Obayagbona for comments since the incident have proved abortive as he was not picking calls. Mrs. Itohan Obayagbona was abducted on Friday April 3rd 2009 at her residence at College Road off Ekenwan Road Benin City by four armed men who told the security man at the gate that one of them was a Personal Assistant to the Commissioner. The state government in an official statement had said that they would not pay any ransom to the kidnappers to secure the release of the commissioner's wife. Activities at the Ministry of Works have been at the lowest ebb since the kidnap.

Nigerians challenge govt on poor healthcare delivery

Some Nigerians on Tuesday urged government at all levels and other stakeholders in the health sector to reflect on the nation's poor healthcare delivery and how to improve it. A cross-section of Nigerians, who spoke with newsmen in Lagos on the occasion of the World Health Day, stressed the need for better healthcare programme for the country. Mr Bankole Adepoju, a banker, said Nigerians were still plagued by preventable diseases and urged the government to make comprehensive healthcare more accessible to them. He lamented the high maternal and child mortality rate in Nigeria, saying this was unacceptable. "It is regrettable that Nigerians are still dying of malaria, meningitis and other terrible diseases in this 21st century. Worse still is the fact that Nigeria has one of the highest child and maternal mortality rates in the world. "It is high time government came out with a comprehensive health plan that will take care of these problems and improve the lives of the people," he said. According to Precious Humphrey, a nurse, Nigeria is far from realising its Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with high cases of life-threatening diseases. Mr Kunle Azeez, a teacher, called on the government to raise awareness on the negative impact of HIV and AIDS and other diseases in the country. He said that no country could lay claim to being great when a large percentage of its population still had so many health issues to contend with. He advised Nigerians to be more conscious of their health and co-operate with the government to combat some of these diseases. The World Health Day is marked all over the world on April 7 of every year. This year's celebration, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO), focuses on the large number of lives which can be saved in emergencies such as floods, conflicts and earthquakes. (NAN)

Sokoto sponsors six indigenes for geo-information studies

Six indigenes of Sokoto State have been sponsored to undergo a "technician diploma" course in geo-information production and management. The course is taking place at the regional centre for training in Aerospace Surveys (Rectors), Ile-Ife, Osun. Dr Ali Inname, the Special Adviser to Governor Aliyu Wamakko on Scholarship and Students Matters, disclosed this in Sokoto on Tuesday, in a statement signed by his information officer, Alhaji Isa Shuni. The statement said that Inname who addressed the selected students, also added that the gesture of the government was in view of the urgent need of such high level manpower in the state. "This is the first time the state government is sponsoring its indigenes for such a course at the prestigious centre which is under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa," he added. The special adviser said government was determination to sponsor more indigenes to pursue different academic courses both within and outside Nigeria to ensure even socio-economic development of the state. Inname advised the students to justify the confidence reposed in them by the state government by facing their studies seriously as well as avoiding all acts capable of soiling the image of the state. "Huge amount of money is being expended on you for the eighteen months' course and you should never fail the state government and your parents," he told the beneficiaries. (NAN)



Chairman, Board of Patrons, Independent Television and Radio Programme Producers Association of Nigeria (INTARPAN), Ambassador Olusegun Olusola, during the INTARPAN members' visit to the National Assembly, Abuja, yesterday. Pix: Felix Onigbinde.

Why VVF campaign failed - Professor Obed

Nigeria's campaigns against Vesico Vagina Fistula (VVF), a common ailment among women that gives rise to urinary incontinence, have failed to make significant impact because the campaigns have not been focusing mainly on the disease with little emphasis on prolonged or obstructed labour which is responsible for 99% cases of VVF.

A Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology with the University of Maiduguri, Dr J.Y. Obed declared this in a paper titled, Obstetrics "VVF" and the other closely related "untold" injuries-offshoot of the true hidden monster "obstructed labour", which he presented yesterday at a three-day workshop on maternal mortality reduction and improving women's reproductive health rights, organised by the office of the Borno State first lady in collaboration with the United Nations Fund for Population Activities in Maiduguri.

The professor noted that in the past 40 years, series

From Isa Umar Gusau, Maiduguri

of workshops, symposia, conferences and teachings had been continually held with focus on the social consequences of VVF, regretting that "no single workshop - over 40 years expressed any emphasis on obstructed labour- the real monster that gives birth to over 99% of VVF and its related disorders". He described the development as shameful.

Obed noted that prolonged or obstructed labour results from inaccessibility of many women to safe mother hood programme such that requires access to ante natal care and counseling services, skilled medical supervision of women during and after child births.

He stated that cultural practices, poverty and lack of maternal health facilities had often led women into prolonged labour because many women refuse to go to

hospitals or lack access to it as a result of which, they develop complications that lead to VVF. He also said that many victims of obstructed labour, in which the VVF subsequently occur, sometimes give birth to stillborn babies in addition to urinary problems besides physical and psychological trauma.

The Professor said though the causes of VVF are many, by far the most important one is prolonged obstructed labour, saying a pregnant woman should not be in labour for more than 12

hours without medical intervention. He said labour could be prolonged if the unborn child fails to easily negotiate a woman's reproductive organ (the birth passage) due to complications.

He indicated that a pregnant woman must have adequate birth passage and generate enough power to safely deliver the baby without facing obstructed labour and that he said, can only be achieved through free maternal health and safe mother hood programme such that trained health workers can make early and prompt diagnosis and plan for the safe child delivery.

Commuters stranded in Lagos as LAGBUS drivers begin strike

Thousands of commuters in Lagos were on Tuesday stranded, as drivers of LAGBUSES began an indefinite strike. Correspondents report that the drivers embarked on the strike to press home their demand for better conditions of service. The drivers are demanding a day off duty on alternate days and enhanced pay. Lagos State Government had in March 2007, introduced the LAGBUS which now has 535 buses on its fleet to complement its BRT scheme.

As early as 7am, the strike action became noticeable as the commuters who had gathered at the bus stops waited endlessly for the buses. A check showed that most of the buses were parked at the LAGBUS terminals at Ojodu and Ikosi. The placard-carrying workers accused the management of being insensitive to their plight. Some of the placards read: "10 persons have died; no medical care", "The MD must go".

Speaking with newsmen, a spokesman for the drivers,

Mr Steven Joseph said that the strike was to correct the "anomalies in their conditions of service". He alleged that they were being under paid by the management, contrary to the total emolument agreed upon at the inception of the scheme. "When the LAGBUS was introduced by former Governor Bola Tinubu, the salaries of drivers and bus officers were put at N80, 000 and N60, 000 per annum respectively.

"Our working hours were also increased from eight hours per day to work two days consecutively before taking a day off," Joseph said. He said that the current work schedule was taking its toll on their health. "We work from morning till late night everyday of the week without rest. "It is affecting our health and it could endanger the lives of the passengers as a tired driver could doze off on the wheel," stressed the driver's spokesman. But the Managing Director of LAGBUS, Mr Tunde Disu said that the one day on, one day off policy, was to take effect from May 1. (NAN)

Bala Mohammed harps on corrupt-free media

From Halima Musa, Kano

Elimination of corruption from all facets of the society has been identified as the only panacea for the brown envelop syndrome that has been bedeviling journalism in the country. This observation was made by the special Adviser to Kano state governor and Director General Directorate of Societal Reorientation (A Daidaita Sahu), Dr Bala Muhammad in a lecture he delivered on Islamisation of the Mass Media organised by the International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT), held at Faculty of Law, Bayero University. He noted that the brown envelop syndrome was the replica of what obtains in every segment of the society as far as corruption is concerned, "you cannot stop corruption in the media because the media is part of the society and corruption has eaten deep in our society," he said. He observed with concern, how media organisations under pay their workers while nothing had been done either on the part of the NUJ or Press Council to address the issue. According to him, such media organisations must be compelled to pay their staff living wages so that they can work without much constraint. "It is high time such media organisations are compelled to ensure good pay for their staff and enhance their welfare," said the DG.

NEWS

Police organise workshop on HIV/AIDS

Worried by the rising cases of HIV and AIDS, the Nigeria Police Force has organised a counseling and testing workshop for its officers and men in Owerri. Dr Adenike Abuwa, National Coordinator of the Police Action Committee on HIV/AIDS (PACA), said on Monday that the workshop had become imperative because of the nature of police work. Speaking at the closing ceremony of the 10-day workshop, Abuwa said that police personnel were prone to the pandemic as they were often moved round the country. She said that the participants were drawn from Anambra, Imo, Delta, Ebonyi, Edo, Ondo, Oyo, Enugu, Bayelsa and Taraba states. Abuwa said that the participants would help to create public awareness about the disease in their respective offices and barracks. "They are charged to go out and perform the important job of sensitising other police officers and men on the disease," she said. Also speaking, Mr Innocent Ilozuoke, the Commissioner for Police in Imo, said that the constant transfer of police personnel across the country had made the officers more vulnerable to the pandemic. Ilozuoke, who was represented by an Assistant Commissioner of Police, Mr Nseabasi Akpan, stressed that total abstinence from extra-marital sex was the best way of guarding against the disease. He noted that the use of condoms had not been effective in curtailing the spread of the disease. He urged police personnel, who indulged in extra-marital affairs, to go for voluntary test so as ascertain their HIV status. (NAN)

Judiciary will preserve democracy - CJN

From Hassan A Karofi, Kano

The Chief Justice of Nigeria Justice Idris Legbo Kutigi has said that the judiciary would preserve democracy by strictly adhering to the rule of law principles in the interest of the country. He also said that rule of law is indispensable if the nation is to preserve the present democratic dispensation and ensure just among its citizens. The Chief Justice who was in Kano to commission five High courts in Dambatta, Gwarzo, Gaya, Tudun wada, and Rano said it was incumbent on the judiciary to adhere strictly to the rule of law in order to preserve democracy. While challenging Judges to work towards protecting the rights of the citizens through balance adjudication of justice, he said it is necessary for the judiciary to stand and protect the oppressed. Justice Kutigi said the nation needs a robust and independent judiciary to ensure that the present democratic system is protected. Urging the new judges who will be appointed to man the five new High courts to be upright, he said it was necessary for them to use the facilities provided in the dispensation of justice. In his speech at the occasion the chief Judge of Kano state Justice Shehu Atiku described the provision of the five High courts as commendable and a serious attempt to promote rule of law and the administration of justice in the state.

LASUTH to be decentralised - Board

The Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH) is to be decentralised, its Management Board Chairman Nurudeen Olowopopo said on Tuesday. Olowopopo told a news conference in Lagos that the measure was aimed at allowing the hospital to concentrate on more complicated medical problems. It is also to allow the hospital to increase its abilities to train more highly qualified doctors. "We are transforming LASUTH in terms of its infrastructure as well as enabling it to become a true tertiary institution. "An important aspect of such goal is to emphasise primary healthcare with improved primary healthcare centres throughout the state," he said. Olowopopo noted that the hospital had made an 'extraordinary progress' in healthcare delivery. He said that in the past few years, the hospital had witnessed tremendous transformation from just a tertiary hospital to a world class one, with state-of-the-art equipment. "LASUTH has been transformed to the best hospital in the country with the establishment of multi-million BT Health Diagnostic Centre, maternal and child complex and improved clinical areas. "Gov. Babatunde Fashola has made healthcare delivery the cornerstone of his administration by devoting substantial amount of the state budget to the provision of quality healthcare for the people," he said. Olowopopo said that his 13-member board, inaugurated in September 2008, had succeeded in transforming the hospital to a health institution being emulated throughout the country. Dr Femi Olugbile, the Chief Medical Director, said that the BT Health and Diagnostic Centre would become operational in few weeks. (NAN)



Three-year-old Indian child Mehul Kumar lies with an iron rod through his stomach as he is attended by medical staff in an emergency ward of RIMS Hospital in Ranchi after falling on the rod while playing at his home. Kumar is recovering from his injuries at the hospital after doctors removed the rod. Pic: AFP

Boatmen hold Suswam's convoy hostage

Men who ferry passengers across River Katsina-Ala at the Bururku crossing point in Benue State, Monday went wild as they held hostage, part of Governor Gabriel Suswam's convoy to press for payment of their services.

The governor, who led a convoy of over 20 vehicles, was crossing to Buruku to continue the journey to Makurdi from his Logo community where he visited to commission two electricity projects, one in Mchia, and the other in Wende when part of his convoy fell in the hands of the boatmen.

Suswam who was the first

From Hir Joseph, Makurdi

to board one of the wooden boats, touched down at the other bank and directed his Senior Special Assistant on Special Duties, Mr. Joseph Tsavsa to pay N21,000 to the boatmen. The governor left as soon as his security vehicles with the occupants also crossed to join him.

But Joseph Tsavsa who was detailed to pay for all the vehicles on the convoy, only settled for a few and returned to his waiting car and sped off to join the governor who was already on the way.

Tsavsa's departure provoked the men who rose in protest leading to the deci-

sion to deny access for the remaining members of the convoy to drive out of the boats.

Their leader, Nathaniel Tyav said they were demanding payment for services rendered, and not for alms, since according to him, the boatmen of Buruku are self employed.

The remaining part of the convoy with most of its occupants including the Commissioner for Sports and Youths Development, Mr. Benjamin Vembe, the governor's Special Adviser on Media and Public Affairs, Mr. Cletus Akwaya and his counterpart on Boundary

Matters, Mr. Titus Madugu, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry for Rural Development and Cooperatives, Mrs. Elizabeth Shuiuwa, and the Chairman of Ukum local government area, Mr. David Sevav were held in the boats for over 30 minutes before the governor's Personal Assistant, Mr. Terna Kenge who was also a victim completed the payment.

Terna Kenge pleaded with the protesting boatmen for understanding, explaining that the governor did not run away from his responsibility since he directed full payment before leaving the bank of the river.

NUT suspends teachers strike in Delta

The NUT in Delta on Monday suspended its three-week-old strike embarked upon to press the state government to pay the enhanced Teachers' Salary Structure. The strike was suspended after an emergency meeting of the State Wing Executive Council (SWEC) of the union in Asaba. A statement by the NUT State Secretary, Mr Eddie Uloho, in Asaba directed the teachers to return to their classrooms immediately.

He also implored the teachers to create an atmosphere that was conducive for learning, in appreciation of the state government's efforts. Uloho noted that the union's demands were already being addressed by the government.

The teachers embarked on strike on March 13 to compel the government to implement the 27.5 per-cent increase in teachers' salary in the state.

Other contentious issues behind the strike included the release of the 2008 promotion letters to primary

school teachers and the payment of arrears of the 2006 and 2007 promotion benefits. Uloho noted that 27.5 per-cent salary increase had been effected in the April salary schedule.

He also said that the 2008 promotion letters to primary school teachers had been

released, while the shortfall in the February and March 2009 teachers' salaries had been rectified. Besides, Uloho said that the committee set up to look into the payment of the arrears of promotion benefits had completed its assignment, adding that the report would

soon be presented to the State Executive Council for consideration. He also said that the stagnation of graduate teachers in primary schools, which was one of the issues that led to the strike, was already receiving attention of Gov. Emmanuel Uduaghan. (NAN)

LAMATA to transform Lagos transport system, says MD

Head of the Lagos mega city status, the Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (LAMATA) says it is committed to an efficient integrated transport system in the state. LAMATA's Managing Director, Dr Dayo Mobereola gave the pledge on Tuesday in Lagos when he visited the Lagos office of the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN). LAMATA, a parastatal agency of the Lagos State Government, provides multi-modal integrated transport system — rail, road and water. It also provides roads and buses for BRT and LAGBUS organisations under a Public/Private sector

initiative. Mobereola called for collaboration and cooperation between the organisation and the media in its bid to provide efficient transport services as part of the mega city projects. He commended the agency for disseminating factual reports, adding that such cooperation would help consolidate the gains of LAMATA. "We need your support and cooperation because of your reach; we need media understanding as we move into complex areas," he said. Mobereola noted that NAN had been able to discharge its mandate as the national purveyor of news and opinions and urged it not to rest on its

oars. He expressed satisfaction with the support LAMATA had so far received from the government and people of Lagos State. The Head of Lagos office, Mr Isaac Ighure commended LAMATA for the successes it had recorded in revolutionising transportation system in the state. He said that the organisation was central to the Lagos mega city project. On the agency's services, Ighure disclosed that it planned to set up 18 district offices in nine states this year as part of efforts to cover the grassroots effectively. (NAN)

NEWS

AC wants attack on Kogi Speaker probed

By Muideen Olaniyi

A thorough investigation into circumstances surrounding the reported attack on Speaker of Kogi House of Assembly, Mr. Clarence Olafemi, by soldiers in the state must be instituted, Action Congress (AC) has demanded.

The party made the request in a statement issued yesterday in Lagos by its National Publicity Secretary, Alhaji Lai Mohammed.

The party said the investigation should identify the retired Army General who presumably ordered the attack and his role in the matter, and recommend appropriate sanctions against him, if found culpable.

The party said, however, that such investigation should not prevent the Speaker from seeking redress in court saying, "It is worse when those involved in such shows of shame are top military officers, who by virtue of their rigorous training, education and exposure are expected to be officer-gentlemen, cool-headed and models in leadership."

"If a House Speaker, riding in a convoy complete with armed security, could be so blatantly battered by soldiers for whatever reason, then what will happen to ordinary Nigerians caught in similar circumstances," AC said.

The party said "This is why we have consistently warned against the easy resort to the deployment of soldiers even in cases that could have been handled by the police. It simply amounts to militarizing the polity, and the consequences are the rising vicious attacks against defenseless civilians."

Court grants Shinkafi case transfer

By Atika Balal

An Abuja Federal High Court has granted a motion sought by Zamfara State Governor Mahmuda Shinkafi seeking to transfer a case filed against him by the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), to the Gusau division of the Federal High Court.

The ANPP had dragged Governor Shinkafi before the court challenging his defection from the party to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) demanding that he vacate office since he came to power under the platform of the ANPP.

While praying the court to grant the motion, Counsel to Shinkafi, Robert Clark said that it will be more convenient for them to defend the matter in the Gusau division of the court as it will save time and cost.

But counsel to the ANPP, Chimezie Ikeazo opposed the motion arguing that when the case was instituted there was no Federal High Court in the Gusau Division, thus the Abuja Federal High court should hear the matter.

In granting the motion, Presiding Judge and Chief Justice of the Federal High Court, Justice Abdullahi Mustapha said the Gusau Division was in existence at the time the case was instituted but was not functional.

He however added that by the time the motion will be ready for hearing it would have been functional.

NAF to beef maritime patrol

By Benjamin Auta

The Nigerian Air Force is set to improve security in the country's maritime zone with purchase of three ATR-42 Maritime patrol aircraft and the Augusta A-109 light utility helicopter.

Director of Public Relations and Information (DPRI) of NAF, Group Captain Sadeeq Garba Shehu made this known to *Daily Trust*, in Abuja yesterday.

He said the aircrafts which will arrive the country before the end of this year will help NAF in conjunction with other security outfits to efficiently patrol the maritime boundary.

"The aircrafts will help us patrol the nation's maritime boundary in conjunction with the Nigerian Navy, which you know

is their primary role as well as the Nigerian Customs Service," he said.

He added that already NAF has taken delivery of some of its 228 aircraft which has boost flying capabilities by over 70%.

"You know the nation used to spend a lot on Periodic Depot Maintenance (PDM) but the present CAS, has made it in such a way that we do our maintenance in the country. We just received some 228 aircrafts and I can authoritatively say that 70% of our 228 are flying in the country now," he added.

He said that the CAS vision is "bending over backward to experiment with in-country aircraft maintenance in collaboration with Nigerian companies as we are doing our PDM for the 228 with DANA."

Lawyer's body set to bar member from practice

By Sunday Ejike Benjamin

The Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee of the Body of Benchers may be compelled to bar one Barrister Emeka Okeke from practising law if found guilty of the allegations of aiding and abetting the escape of two accused persons standing trial for alleged armed robbery and murder before a Federal High Court sitting in Abia in Abia state.

Chuks Stanley Orji and Uche Ojini were charged for armed robbery and the murder of the son of an Aba based business man, Chief Abel Nkem Ekwechi, offences for which they were detained before Okeke allegedly aided and abetted their escape from prison custody.

Trouble started when the father of the final year student of the Anambra State University, on discovery that the accused persons held for the murder of his son were helped to escape petitioned the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA) against the alleged action of Barrister Okeke, the counsel representing one of the accused persons.

Chief Ekwechi, who was one of the witnesses in the trial, in a petition dated January 27, 2007 which was read before the court alleged that Okeke is threatening to kill him and members of his family for daring to petition him before the disciplinary

committee of the NBA.

Following Ekwechi's petition, the NBA investigated the allegation and found Barrister Okeke guilty of the allegation and consequently petitioned the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee for further trial and disciplinary measure if the committee finds him guilty of the allegations.

The Secretary of the Committee and the second witness in the case, Abubakar Ibrahim told the committee that he received a petition from the NBA with a prima facie case of professional misconduct established against Okeke on November 3, 2008.

The witness identified the 54-page petition which the NBA tendered before

the committee as exhibit.

Okeke who is standing for himself in the trial pleaded not guilty to the allegation levelled against him, saying that the accused persons were on June 26, 2006 discharged and acquitted from the armed robbery charge, pointing out that the 1st accused whom he is representing in the matter has been and still in detention since 2006.

Meanwhile, the murder charge is still hanging on the neck of the two accused persons, with one still at large and the other (whom Okeke is representing) facing his trial from the prison custody.

The murder case, Okeke pointed out is now before Court 6 of a Federal High Court sitting in Abia, Abia State.

The Disciplinary Committee headed by Justice Umar Eri however warned Okeke to stop threatening the lives of Chief Ekwechi and his family, saying that: "We believe you that you did not threaten the life of Chief Ekwechi and his family but if there is any threat, we will deal with you".

The committee adjourned to a date that will be communicated to all the parties in the matter at the instance of Mr. Okeke.

Abuse of office: Court grants Biz man's application to join Aondoakaa

By Sunday Ejike Benjamin

A High Court of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) yesterday granted leave to an Abuja-based business man, Abdulkarim Bello Umar to join the Attorney General of the Federation (AGF) and the Minister of Justice, Chief Michael Kaase Aondoakaa (SAN) in his suit against the Chief Security Officer (CSO) to President Umaru Musa Yar'adua, Yusuf Tilde over alleged dispossession of his property without recourse to due process of law.

The court's ruling came after a formal application by the business to amend his originating summons to join the AGF and to add a relief urging the court to declare that the purported revocation of the Right of Occupancy (R of O) over his landed property located

in Asokoro District of the FCT dated January 15, 2009 as unconstitutional, illegal, ultra vires, null, void and of no effect.


The trial Judge, Justice Sunday Aladetoyinbo, in his ruling averred that the plaintiff has the right under the common law to amend his reliefs and consequently granted all the prayers of the Plaintiff in the application formally filed last week before the court.

Barrister Dan Chukwuemeka Onyeka who held brief for Aikhunegbe A. Malik in his reaction to the ruling of the court said the prosecution will need time to go through the amended originating summons in order to respond to it appropriately.


"We will file new grounds of preliminary objections to the originating summons in view of the amended originating summons. We will go back to drawing board now that the AGF has been joined in the suit", Onyeka maintained, pointing out that the AGF has no business in the matter.

Ben Anachebe (SAN), Counsel representing Umar in the matter while arguing in support of the application to join the AGF and to amend the originating summons told the court that the action of President Yar'adua's Chief Security Officer was in contrary to sections 28, 44, and 51 of the Land Use Act

and sections 36, 43 and 44 of the 1999 constitution of the country and urged the court to declare whether the purported revocation is legally sustainable in the context of sections 28, 44 and 51 of the Land Use Act 1978 and sections 36, 43 and 44 of the 1999 constitution of Nigeria.



WANTED



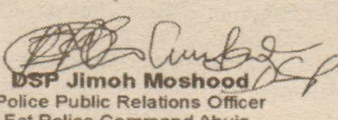
ABDULLAHI I. ALIYU

The above named person is wanted by the Nigeria Police Force, FCT Command in connection with a case of criminal breach of trust and theft.

He is about 45 years old and a Fulani man from Kano city, Kano State. He's slim and fair in complexion with stone-white teeth about 6ft 2 inches tall with no facial mark. He speaks Hausa, Fulani and English fluently, wears both English and Traditional dresses especially Kaftan.

If seen, should be arrested and taken to the nearest police station, state zonal command or contact the police Public Relations Officers FCT Police Command, Abuja on the following phone numbers.

08032569029, 08061581938



DSP Jimoh Moshood
Police Public Relations Officer
Fct Police Command Abuja.

NEWS

Sheriff seeks support for police

Governor Ali Modu Sheriff of Borno on Monday urged more support for the police force toward "a very safe Nigeria". "Security is a collective responsibility of all and no one should shirk that if we really want a secured society," he said. He was speaking in Maiduguri, at the opening ceremony of the Inspector-General of Police monthly conference. "Nigeria is the biggest country in Africa and we should expect security problems. "In Borno State, we have a force called the "Operation Flush", a combination of the Police and Army, which have been given vehicles and gadgets to work with," he said. He said that a special mobile unit of the police was in place in Borno because of its peculiar position as a border state. The conference is expected to last three days. (NAN)

3-day old baby girl found in Sokoto

A three-day old baby girl dumped in an uncompleted building has been found in Gagi village in Sokoto South Local Government Area of Sokoto State. The baby was found by some labourers working on the building. The baby has since been handed over to the elder brother of the District Head of Gagi, Alhaji Muhammadu Gidado, who has also promised to adopt her. Gidado, however, vowed that efforts would be made to find the mother. The Spokesman, Sokoto State Police Command, Alhaji Muhammad Umar, confirmed the story to newsmen yesterday and pledged that the police would do their best to find the mother. (NAN)

Association wants states, LGs to establish dental departments

The Nigerian Dental Association (NDA) yesterday advised states and local government councils to establish dental departments in their health institutions. Speaking with newsmen in Kaduna, NDA President, Prof. Adeyenu Olusile, said various parts of the country had their peculiar dental problems associated with their eating habits. Olusile, who spoke on the sidelines of the association's annual general meeting and continuous education programme, said dental problems in the country were on the increase. "The growing danger of teeth problems in the country has made it expedient for states and local government councils to establish dental departments in all their health centres," he said. He said while the northern part of the country was noted for teeth decay because of high consumption of sugar, the southern part was leading with gum problems because of the people's eating habits. Olusile said dentists were positioned to manage, treat and prevent dental cases in the society, hence the need to recruit and deploy them to all council areas in the country. On the use of chewing sticks, the president of the association said it was highly recommended for healthy teeth. "But the problem with most Nigerians using chewing sticks is that they bite or eat the sticks for a very long time as if it has become an item of fashion," he said. Olusile also advised dental patients to consult dentists for regular examination and maintenance of their teeth, adding that the people's diets or eating habits dictate the state of their teeth. "Teeth is not only part of our human beauty, it is also critical to our healthy living," he said. The president attributed the high cost of dental medication in the country to the rising cost of dental equipment, drugs and regular maintenance or supervision of patients. (NAN)

Rivers grants N600m soft loans to widows

Rivers Government yesterday disbursed N600 million as soft loans to widows in the state. A statement from the office of the wife of the governor, Mrs Judith Amaechi in Port Harcourt, said the amount was part of the fund set aside by the state government for the empowerment of women. The statement signed by the Media Assistant to the governors wife, Mr Dike Bekwele said the Rivers government had set aside the sum of N 1.5 billion as micro credit funds for women empowerment programmes in the state. It said the state government had articulated and implemented several gender friendly and women supportive programmes since its inception. "The essence is to alleviate the difficult economic conditions of the women folk" it said. The statement called on women in the state to take advantage of the ongoing empowerment programmes to better their lots. It said that the government would also monitor the various businesses embarked upon by the women. (NAN)

Assembly c'ttee uncovers more fraud in Edo

The Edo State House of Assembly ad-hoc committee set-up to investigate allegations of fraud and inflation of contracts leveled against the Chairman of Ovia North East Local Government Area, Faustain Oviernrioba, yesterday uncovered some discrepancies in the financial dealings of the council.

The committee discovered

From Vincent Egunyanga
in Benin

that N750, 000 was actually spent on hosting the council's first graduates of the Administrative Staff College of Nigeria instead of N1.5million stated in the income and expenditure note presented to the committee. Also, the N1.5m said to have been spent on the burial ceremony of a PDP leader

Benin residents protest against kidnapping, killing

Hundreds of people marched through the streets of Benin City, the Edo state capital yesterday in protest against the growing spate of kidnappings and killings in the state.

The Justice Development and Peace Commission (JDPC) of the Catholic Archdiocese of Benin City said their action was a registration of their displeasure over the rising spate of kidnappings and killings in the state in recent times.

The members of JDPC led by Reverend Father Jonas

From Vincent Egunyanga,
Benin

Nwaiwu, observed that the number of people so far abducted for ransom, in which even children were now victims in Edo state, had reached an all-time high. In view of what the JDPC described as a worrisome trend, the commission called on the Benin monarch, Omo N'Oba Erediauwa, to make an official pronouncement declaring as evil and taboo, kidnapping and killing in Edo land, and to place a royal sanction on any perpetrator of "such a sin against God and

humanity."

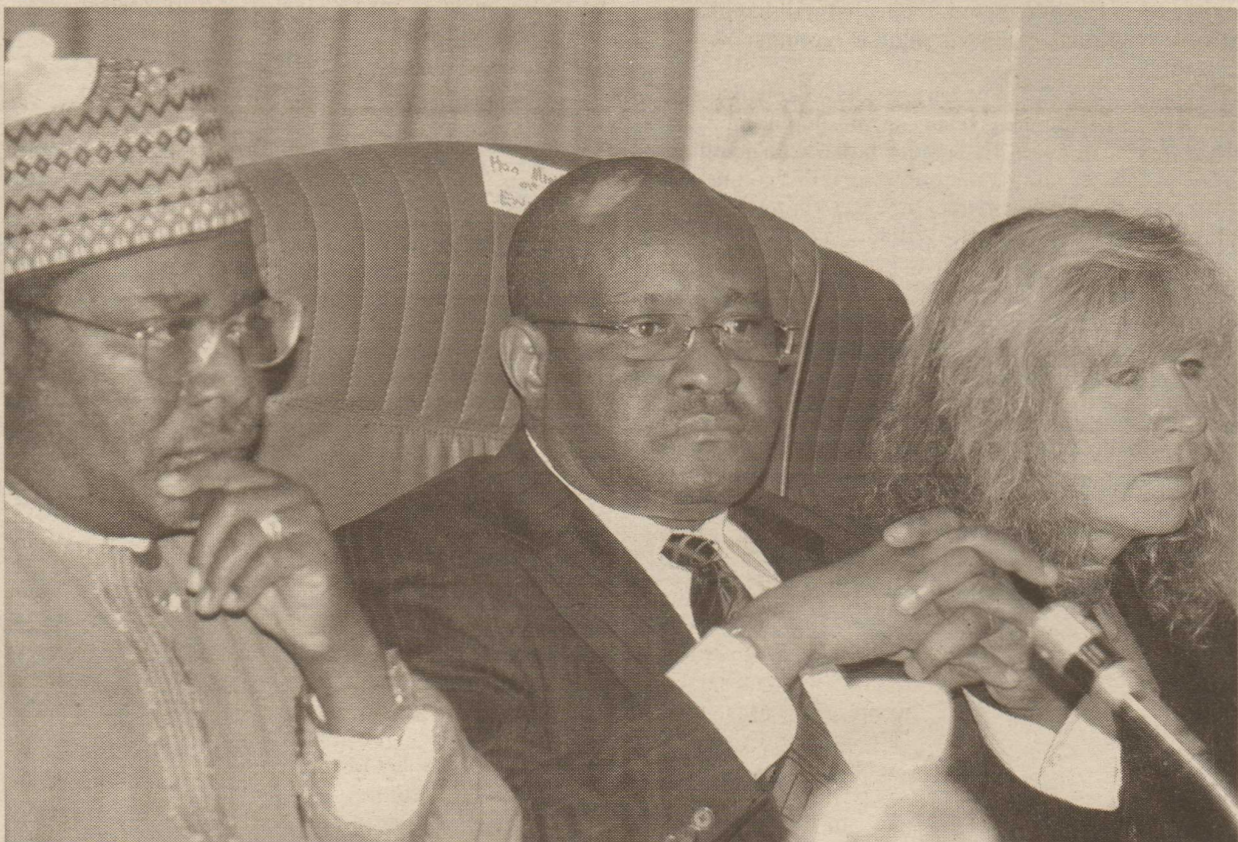
Besides, the JDPC called on the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) to make it compulsory for all phone lines (SIM card) to be duly registered by the service providers with a view to tracing the perpetrators of such evil acts.

Speaking on behalf of the commission during the protest rally, Reverend Father Nwaiwu added that a legislation outlawing kidnapping or its sponsorship in the state should be enacted, just as he recommended that any convicted person should be sentenced to life

imprisonment without an option of fine.

The commission also enjoined security agencies in the state to purge themselves of bad eggs, pointing out that in cases of abduction involving heavily secured officials, it stood to reason that there were collaborators from within the security circles.

The JDPC appealed to the three arms of government as well as the palace of the Benin monarch to intervene in order to stamp out kidnappings and other related acts before Edo state becomes famous for them.



Minister of Environment Mr. John Odey (middle), Director-General, Energy Commission of Nigeria, Professor Abubakar Sambo (left) and Director of Programme, World Energy Council, Mrs. Elena Nkehaev, at a workshop on clearer fossil fuel technologies in Africa, in Abuja, on Monday.

Pic: NAN

Shekarau, Oshotimehin advocate new policy on health care

Governor Ibrahim Shekarau of Kano state, Minister for health Professor Babatunde Oshotimehin and the special adviser to the president on millennium development MDGs Mrs Amina Ibrahim have advocated the formation of a national policy framework that would see to the unification of healthcare delivery strategies

From Hassan A Karofi,
Kano

among all the three tiers of governments if the nation is to succeed in the attainment of healthcare under the millennium development goals.

The trio who were speaking during the 52nd national council of state meeting in Kano on Monday under the theme

'meeting the challenges of the health under the millennium development goals' agreed that absence of unified and sustainable efforts by all the three tiers of government to tackle the challenging healthcare needs of the country has been responsible for the seeming failure in the sector.

In his speech at the occasion the Minister of health Professor Babatunde Oshotimehin emphasized the need for access to medical care for all Nigerians especially at the primary level.

He said for that to be achieved states and local governments must take responsibility of providing healthcare at that level while the federal government would support such initiatives to ensure its success.

He disclosed that the federal government will continue to facilitate and engage in advocacy to ensure states and

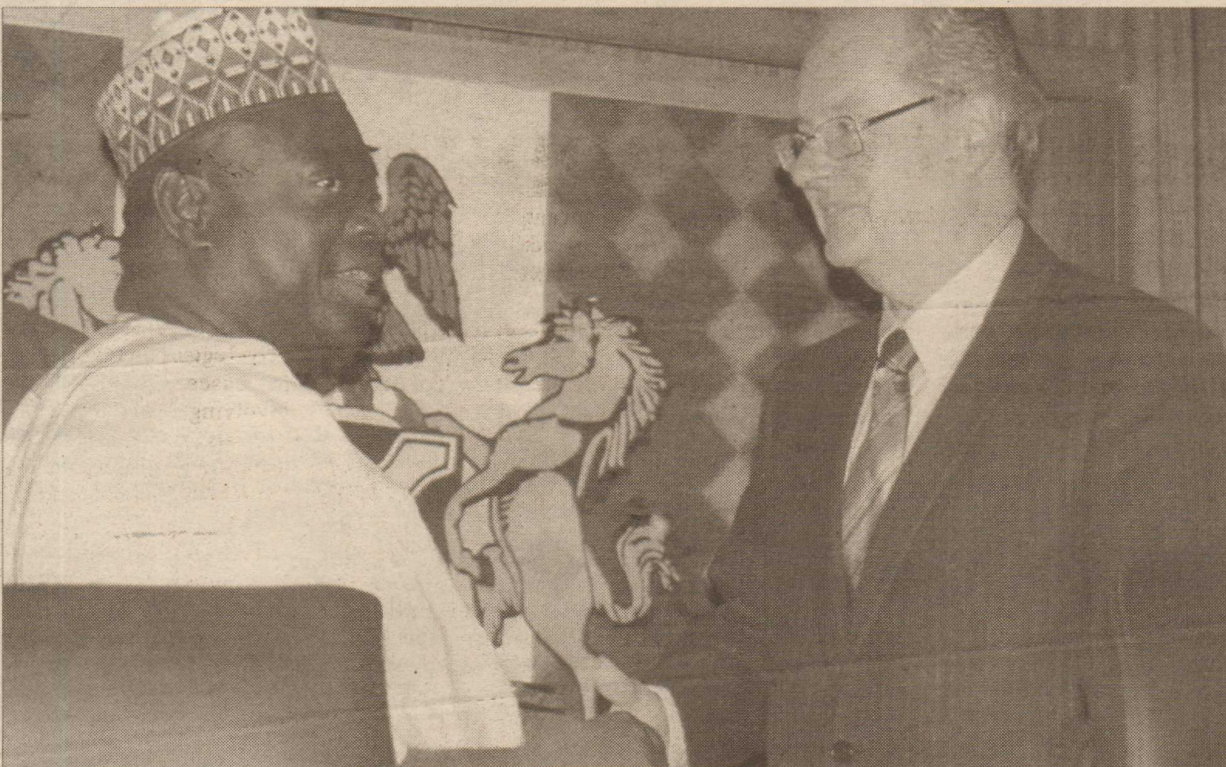
local governments succeeds in the provision of healthcare delivery in the country.

While challenging participants who comprises of all commissioners of health in the 36 states of the federation to face the daunting, but possible challenges in the sector, he said it is necessary for concerted action to be taken if the nation is to reach its goals of achieving the health needs under the millennium development goals MGDs.

In her presentation at the occasion the special adviser to the president on MDG Hajiya Amina Ibrahim said over N57bn has been expended on the health sector since 2006.

She disclosed that it is not enough that the three tiers of governments should meet and talk on the problems facing the sector without taking any concrete measures to address the problems.

NEWS



Niger State Governor Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu (left) with the French Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Jean Michel Dumond when the latter paid a visit to the governor in Minna recently.

Ondo D/Speaker tasks Mimiko on devt

Deputy Speaker of Ondo State House of Assembly, Akinfolarin Mayowa Samuel representing Odigbo Constituency 1 has tasked the state governor, Dr. Olusegun Mimiko to brace up and surpass the achievements of his immediate predecessor,

From Leye Adewumi, Akure

Olusegun Agagu.

In an interview with *Daily Trust* in Akure, Mayowa stated that the only challenge before Mimiko was to prove to the whole world that he is better than the ex-Governor Olusegun Agagu. 'Mimiko

has to prove in all ramifications that he is better than the person who left; he has good intentions for the people of Ondo State. He must develop the state. The state must be developed', he stressed. Expressing his view on the relationship with the opposition members in the Peoples Democratic Party

(PDP) dominated House, Akinfolarin who is a PDP member said all the members of the House worked together like a team 'Our relationship here is that we are together. We took oaths to better the lots of our people. We came to the House with the visions of transforming our state, bringing development closer to our people. In Ondo State, discrimination along party line does not exist', he said. According to him, the composition of the House notwithstanding the members owed it a duty to maintain integrity of the House and to follow due process as it is clearly stated in the constitution of Nigeria.

The due process principle, he stressed, would be applied to screen Ondo State 19 commissioner nominees recently forwarded to the House by the governor, adding that it has nothing to do with whether or not you are in the PDP or Labour Party.

Obi of Onitsha urges journalists to be objective

The Obi of Onitsha, Igwe Alfred Achebe yesterday advised Nigerian journalists to always adhere to professional ethics by being objective in their reportage.

He gave the advice in Onitsha, Anambra, while receiving participants of Senior Executive Course 31 (2009) of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), Kuru, near Jos, who paid him a courtesy visit. Achebe said it was regrettable that some sections of the media had chosen to portray Onitsha town as "a war zone," without verifying their facts.

"This is not true. We are just a victim of negative press. Onitsha is more peaceful now than ever, and our people go about their businesses unrestricted," he said. The traditional ruler urged the course participants to discountenance such reports and go about their study with a clear mind and objectivity.

Achebe said: "Police and other security agents' records show clearly that our place is peaceful.

"Even in the last yuletide, we had a crime-free Christmas celebration more

than ever in the history of the town. The people of Onitsha are hardworking and innovative, which has led to the prosperity of the town."

Earlier, Air Commodore Emmanuel Jekada, Study Group Director in NIPSS and leader of the team, said the participants were in Onitsha to interact with the different segments of people.

"We are here to study the traditional system, people and most especially, the Onitsha market as well as other developmental

infrastructure in the town.

"We also want to identify best practices and ask questions on issues we do not understand about the town, in order to better appreciate the ancient town of Onitsha," he said.

The participants also visited Onitsha North Local Government Area headquarters, Onitsha North mini-stadium, governor's lodge, judges quarters, Onitsha South Local Government Area and the Onitsha main market. (NAN)

SSG wants difficult cases referred to govt hospitals

The Secretary to Delta Government (SSG), Dr Ifeanyi Okowa, on Tuesday urged private hospitals to refer difficult cases to government hospitals for specialist attention.

Speaking at a public lecture in Asaba to mark the World Health Day, Okowa said government hospitals were well equipped to handle special cases.

Okowa, who was represented by the Special Adviser to the Governor on Health Monitoring, Dr Andy Ilabor, said the state government had invested heavily on the development of health care facilities.

He appealed to the people of the state to avail themselves

of the medical facilities in government hospitals.

On the theme of this year's celebration: "Save lives — Making Hospitals Safe in Emergencies," Okowa said "this is significant because it re-awakens our consciousness to be alert to face emergency situations."

He said the purpose of the re-awakening was to ensure that by every standard, health workers were alive to their responsibilities at all times in terms of material procurement and availability.

In her address of welcome, the Managing Director of International Centre for Women Empowerment and Child Development, Mrs Bridget Anyafulu, commended the

state government for ensuring that the state was not found wanting in health matters.

Anyafulu called on the state government to intensify its focus on health system factors that could facilitate equitable access to life saving care.

She said this would in turn support the delivery of emergency obstetric care on a large scale. Also speaking on the occasion, Dr Sunday Ojenuwe, a Consultant at the Federal Medical Centre, Asaba, said for every woman that died, every Nigerian was involved.

Ojenuwe called on the public to be involved in the fight against maternal mortality by educating women to be delivered of their babies by skilled attendants.

Uniuyo inaugurates commercial pharmacy

The University of Uyo has inaugurated commercial pharmacy unit to boost the health need of the University community, especially during emergencies. Prof. Akaneren Essien, the Vice-Chancellor of the university, disclosed on Tuesday during the World Health Day celebration in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State. This, he said, was part of the management's "concern and sensitivity to the university health needs". He said that the management had also approved a standing drug imprest for the university's pharmacy for bulk purchase of drugs. On safety of lives, Essien said that management had made conscious efforts to ensure safety of lives in emergencies by introducing the shift and call duty system in every unit of the university's health centre. He also said doctors, nurses, pharmacists, laboratory scientists and health assistants/ward orderlies would soon be recruited to solve the personnel need of the health centre. Dr Michael Udoh, the university Medical Director, also lamented the poor staffing of the health centre. "Staff strength is poor with only one nurse for 16 beds, a far cry from the World Health Organization's recommendations of one nurse for four beds," he said. Udoh said the centre had taken delivery of an ambulance, a standby generator and new surgical tables. (NAN)

We will strengthen PDP- Dariye

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

Former governor of Plateau state, Chief Joshua Dariye has reacted to the lifting of the suspension placed on him by the People's Democratic Party, PDP, saying he would help to strengthen the PDP in the state. Dariye who spoke to our correspondent yesterday in Jos, expressed happiness with the lifting of the suspension, saying he was grateful to all who stood by him and had in one way or the other, made it possible for him to return to the party. The former governor said the development definitely called for a celebration and that very soon, he would come out and talk more on the development where he said he would unveil the plans he had for the party. The National Executive Council, NEC, of the PDP had last week at its meeting lifted the more than three years suspension placed on the former governor by the Ahmadu leadership of the PDP in 2006 as a result of the then lingering battle between then President Olusegun Obasanjo and the former governor. The former governor, who was believed then to be eyeing the senate seat, was however denied a chance to contest the election due to the suspension placed on him by the party and his subsequent impeachment from office which was however overturned by the Supreme Court. The former governor has since his suspension been participating in politics from behind the scenes while most of his associates have been chased out of the PDP to the rival AC in the state.

2,612 drivers had psychiatric tests in Lagos

No fewer than 2,612 drivers underwent psychiatric tests in 2008 for dangerous driving and other offences in Lagos State. The Commissioner for Transportation, Prof. Bamidele Badejo, made this known to newsmen in Ikeja while presenting his ministry's activities in the last year. He said that majority of those tested at the Psychiatric Hospital, Yaba were male motorists. Badejo said that 15,067 vehicles were apprehended by the LASTMA for various traffic offences, including driving in a direction prohibited by road traffic law. The commissioner, who claimed that most of them were commercial bus operators, attributed the situation to impatience. He said that 6,246 of the 15,067 vehicles apprehended were privately-owned while 8,221 belonged to the commercial vehicle group. Badejo said the mostly flouted traffic offences were those listed under the miscellaneous traffic offences, acts which posed the greatest danger to the lives of road users. "They include driving in a direction prohibited by the road traffic law, illegal u-turns, wrong overtaking and unauthorised stoppage on highways," he said.

Seven to benefit from Lagos free heart surgery

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

No fewer than seven heart patients are expected to benefit from the free open heart surgery between now and Friday at the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH). The exercise which is the fifth edition would be led by a local surgeon, Mr. Bode Falase and assisted by an expatriate surgeon from Aberdeen, Mr. Keith Buchan; Rosemary Dickson, an expatriate perfectionist also from Aberdeen; Ariyo Idowu, a perfectionist; Tinuwe Majekodunmi and Bayo Adedewe, both aestheticists; Mrs. Bunmi Agbelese and Mrs. Tiwe Folashade both nurses; Dr Ade Tinubu, intensionist; Dr Adebola, a cardiologist; and Ms Fole Akinrinbola, a cardiac physiologist. According to the State Commissioner for Health, Dr Jide Idris since the inception of the programme in 2004, no fewer than 40 free cardio-thoracic surgeries have been done under the open heart surgery of the state government thereby bring hope and succour to hitherto hopeless patients adding that the fundamental objective for the introduction of the programme in the first instance was to enable the indigent, low and medium income earners in the state benefit from the programme. The Commissioner pointed out that the free cardiac-thoracic programme had moved beyond the mission's nature it used to be as it has now been institutionalized in the day-to-day programme at LASUTH hence the building of the Cardiac Center at the Gbagada General Hospital that will serve as an annex of the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital.

OPINION

Re: Isa Yuguda's slip of tongue

We are constrained to reply the article written by Mr. Idang Alibi, a *Daily Trust* newspaper columnist in April 2nd, edition of the paper, making subtle insinuation that in carrying out its responsibility, the administration of Malam Isa Yuguda does not observe accountability and transparency, thus neglecting the popular will of the masses who provided the means through which it came into being.

I am sure Mr. Alibi has not visited Bauchi State since the last two years otherwise he would not have written that article, except if he is doing a hatchet job because everybody in this country is fully aware of the transformation that is taking place in Bauchi since the revolution that brought the administration into office. But I will return to that later because the area that needs explanation most in Mr. Alibi's article is that which bothers on the personal life of the Governor - i.e. his recent wedding.

To start with I really do not know why an issue is being made out of the wedding because we all know that Muslims are entitled, to four wives. In this country, we know of many leaders of all shades having more than one wife or marrying while in office. Why then is the interest in the marriage of Governor Yuguda? What the Governor did therefore is nothing other than an adherence to the teaching of Islam and to uphold the Sunnah of the prophet of Islam. That newspaper columnist will ignore more serious national problems and opts to make issues out of the personal life of a governor raises suspicion about the motives of the columnist especially if he writes on a state governor with whom he has nothing to do.

The article is full of inconsistencies because while in one sentence the Mr Alibi admitted that Malam Isa Yuguda is a wealthy man that is capable of singularly funding the wedding, in another, Mr. Alibi subtly insinuated that public funds were squandered in the wedding. I am certain that Mr. Alibi knows that even if Malam Isa Yuguda lacks the resource to finance the wedding, he should have friends that will give him a helping hand. The wedding was entirely sponsored by the Yuguda committee of friends, that includes all the 35 state governors, ministers, diplomats, captains of industries and businessmen moguls like Aliko Dangote. As a matter of fact, Yuguda gave a directive to all members of his administration that anybody who in any way use public fund for the wedding

By Abubakar S. Saidu al-Sadique

would be dealt with. His was only to attend the events that were lined up, most of which were made to be surprises to the bride and the groom.

Coming to the issue of performance, by way of making comparison, Mr. Alibi urged Malam Adamu Adamu, a Bauchi State indigene and also a *Daily Trust* columnist, to "pay greater attention to what is going on in Bauchi State" just as he did when the previous administration was in power. By implication, Mr. Idang Alibi is saying that the administration of Malam Isa Yuguda is not different from the one it succeeded. This is a serious fallacy that must be cleared lest the innocent readers especially those outside the state get misinformed about what is happening in Bauchi State.

It is a mockery even for anybody to compare the immediate past administration and that of Malam Isa Yuguda because what the Yuguda administration recorded in just two years has surpassed that of the administration it succeeded. It is good for a short explanation to be made here for the purpose of clarification. The administration of Isa Yuguda was brought into being through the popular mandate of the people of Bauchi State, which was an expression of dissatisfaction and disenchantment with the administration it inherited. On assumption of office in 2007, the Yuguda administration found that virtually every sector of service delivery, ranging from health, education, youth and women development, agriculture, civil service etc was in shambles.

At the time the Yuguda administration came on board, the mobility situation on ground was very pathetic. There was acute shortage of vehicles in all government ministries and agencies which was compounded by poor condition of the available vehicles on ground. Consequently, the efficiency of government operations was remarkably slowed down. In realization of the importance of adequate and functional vehicles in enhancing governmental operations, procurement and distribution of suitable and brand new vehicles to all government ministries and government agencies was carried out. War against miscreants leading to the drastic reduction in the rate of crime in the state was carried out, thus ending the menace of *Sara-Suka*.

In the health sector, lack of adequate and

qualified manpower was a major problem in all parts of the state. The administration therefore embarked on massive recruitment of health workers, leading to the employment and posting of 22 Nigerian doctors of various specialties of 30 Egyptian doctors and about 1000 other health workers. It introduced free drugs and treatment for expectant mothers and children under 5 years, all of which result in over 500 percent increase in hospital attendance as well as significant drop in infant and maternal mortality.

New general hospitals in Tafawa Balewa, Kafin Madaki and Katagum were constructed while general renovation, reconstruction or upgrading of other government hospitals in Ningi, and Jama'are are being concluded just as general hospitals Azare, Giade and Bogoro were equipped and commissioned. Because of these strides, the administration has secured federal government approval for the establishment of a medical college and a teaching hospital in the state.

To ensure the continuity of microfinance banking in the state following a directive from the CBN, the administration released the sum of N25 Million as soft loan to nine community banks in the state which resulted in their successful transformation to micro-credit banks, which is aimed at boosting economic activities for income generation geared towards self-reliance and poverty reduction drive especially at the community levels.

In the area of education, contract for the complete renovation of A. D. Rufa'i College of Legal and Islamic Studies, Misau has been awarded at the cost of over N1.4 billion while works on 18 different secondary schools are either completed and awaiting commissioning or have reached advanced stages of completion. 23 female indigenes of the state are studying gynecology in Egypt, 20 others are training as pilots and aeronautic engineers in the United States while many others are in different countries studying in other critical sectors of development. The administration also evolved programmes to develop appropriate programmes for youth and women empowerment through skills acquisition, resettlement of trainees in various vacations and entrepreneurship training preparatory to absorption into private and public enterprises through the agency for youth and women rehabilitation

and development which has so far generated employment for over 30,000 of about 600,000 unemployed youth and women between the ages of 15 and 32 it registered.

Moribund industries like the Meat Factory, Fertilizer Blending Plant and Arewa Ceramics have been resuscitated while many new ones are being established. The administration has so far initiated and completed water supply schemes to 54 schools, 28 hospitals/clinics and the towns of Gololo, Kari and Bogoro at the cost of about N1.4 billion. While upgrading of Bauchi Specialist Hospital water supply system was carried out at the cost of N33 million, it also completed Bayara water supply project at the cost of about N23 million. Liman Katagum water supply scheme was carried out at the cost of over N47 million, while arrangement for the supply of diesel fuel for the running of the generating sets to all the motorized boreholes has been made.

In the area of road construction, Azare-Isawa-Giade, Alkali Futuk and Ningi-Burra roads awarded at the total sum of about N11 billion. Similarly, award of contracts for the construction of Gamawa-Alagarno-Sabon Gari 30km was awarded at the cost of over N1 billion, Soro-Ganjuwa-Miya 56kms at N2 billion. Also, Rishi-Rahama and Rishi-Tama-Hayin Kanawa 51kms was awarded at the cost of over N1.5 billion. All these projects were executed with the limited resources available to the government within a period of only two years. Therefore one wonders how such feat can be achieved without prudent management of resources which central to accountability and transparency. As a result of the foregoing achievement Bauchi State was last year declared by the World Bank as the best investor-friendly and suitable business environment in the country, this a Kudos to the administration.

For Mr. Alibi to say that "Yuguda should be made to pay greater attention to the issue of accountability and good governance in Bauchi State," it only exposes his ignorance about the true state of affairs in Bauchi State. Let him visit Bauchi State and see the wonderful transformation being carried out by Malam Isa Yuguda. That will guide him in judging the performance of Governor Yuguda and make him a better commentator on matters relating to Bauchi politics.

al-Sadique is Special Assistant to Gov. Yuguda on Media Affairs.

Curbing the menace of CSM and Lassa fever

Since the out break of the cerebral spinal meningitis and Lassa fever in some parts of Nigeria, reports of the infections and deaths resulting from the epidemics have been very alarming. Insufficient information and ignorance on the parts of some of the affected communities compounded the spread of the epidemics. There is also the problem of poor disease surveillance at the grassroots. These resulted in the slow response to the epidemics with the high infection and fatalities.

The World Health Organization (WHO), in a recent statement said some 17,500 cases of infections were registered and about 1000 deaths recorded from meningitis. It identified the most affected states to include Bauchi, Yobe, Gombe, Taraba and Zamfara. The hot season usually last longer in the northern parts of the country which means that the epidemics may continue to grip those in that section of the country unless the current efforts to curb the infection succeed.

Lassa fever infections are mostly spread at the grassroots with uncertain figures of the victims. However, it is certain that the virus has been spreading across geographical barriers from the north to southern parts of the country. Though the annual occurrence of the infection has no specific time, it usually occurs during the dry season when the carrier rodents migrate to homes after destruction of their habitat in the bush by fires. The rural people who are ignorant of this development continued to be

By Manzo Ezekiel

infected by the fever virus without knowing the appropriate response to take.

Though the intervention of the Federal Government to the epidemics came after some casualties have been recorded due to insufficient information from the communities, the efforts are being sustained. The synergy created in the government's responses through active collaboration of the National Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Ministry of Health has helped to check the spread of the epidemics. The joint strategy of the duo on the campaign is focused on creating public awareness on the epidemics and giving out the needed information that could help to curb the spread. This includes the use of the media and flyers which have been distributed nationwide. Sensitization workshops for the health workers at the grassroots are also being held in seventeen states selected based on reports of high infections of the epidemics. In addition to the joint efforts, NEMA through its zonal offices have been holding grassroots campaigns against the epidemics in the selected areas considered to be most vulnerable.

The Federal Ministry of health which has the primary mandate on the health of the nation has been very active in the campaign against the epidemics. In addition to the collaborative activities, the ministry has also deployed large quantities of vaccines for inoculation nationwide.

Additionally, the ministry with the support of the WHO has commenced diseases surveillance.

The people need to know how to protect themselves from the epidemics. Experts say cerebrospinal meningitis popularly known as CSM is caused by a germ called *Nisseria meningitides* which usually cause inflammation of the lining of the brain and the spinal cord. When the disease occurs, many people are usually infected at the same time, causing serious sickness and sometimes death. Some of the symptoms associated with the sickness include fever, vomiting, stiff neck severe headache and drowsiness or unconsciousness. For babies, the symptoms may include refusal to eat, irritability, rapid breathing, floppy body, pale skin and rashes on the body. The common modes of transmission of the causal germ include close unprotected contact and sharing of contaminated fluids from the infected person. The experts say upon infection, the symptoms may take between 2 to 10 days to show. The good news about the disease is that it could both be prevented and treated. Vaccination could be used for the prevention that lasts for about 2 years. Additionally, good personal hygiene and proper ventilation also help in curbing the spread of the causal germ. However, when infected, the treatment must be carried out urgently with the proper antibiotics for chances of survival of the infected person.

In the case of Lassa fever, experts say the causal virus is mainly spread through the

transmitting rodents. The infection is caused by eating foods contaminated by the excreta of the rodents and sharing of fluids from infected person. The illness usually starts with the common feverish condition such as general weakness and malaise. Thereafter, other symptoms may appear such as headache, sore throat, pain behind the breast bone, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, cough, abdominal pain and red spots. In severe cases, it may progress to swollen face, bleeding, gastrointestinal tract and low blood pressure. The infected could both be prevented and treated. As preventive measures there is need for good personal hygiene, proper covering of foods, discard any food eaten by rats, block access of rats to homes among others. The experts recommend early treatment of suspected cases with Oral Ribavirin with the use of Ribavirin injection for severe cases and barrier nursing.

The campaign against the epidemics must be fought collectively to achieve the desired result of overcoming the health hazards. With the government carrying its own responsibilities, communities and individuals must be alive to their roles. The enlightened members of the communities must assist in speeding information about the epidemics to benefit the grassroots. Individuals must also seek the useful information and utilize them properly.

Ezekiel is of National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Abuja. manzodon@yahoo.com

EDITORIAL

When Criminals Murder Policemen

In all generations, society envisages that there would always be deviants and made provisions to curb their excesses by setting up a force of special people to protect them against the onslaught of such miscreants.

It becomes worrying when criminals not only terrorise the citizenry, but turn their arsenals on the people who are paid and licensed to protect society from them. In Nigeria, the responsibility of protecting the nation and its citizenry against unprovoked attacks is vested in its police force. The people attach all importance to the job that the police do in ensuring a harmonious existence between and among all peoples that they pay their taxes so that the police can earn reasonably good salaries, have uniforms with force of deterrence and an enviable arsenal needed to offer adequate protection against attacks.

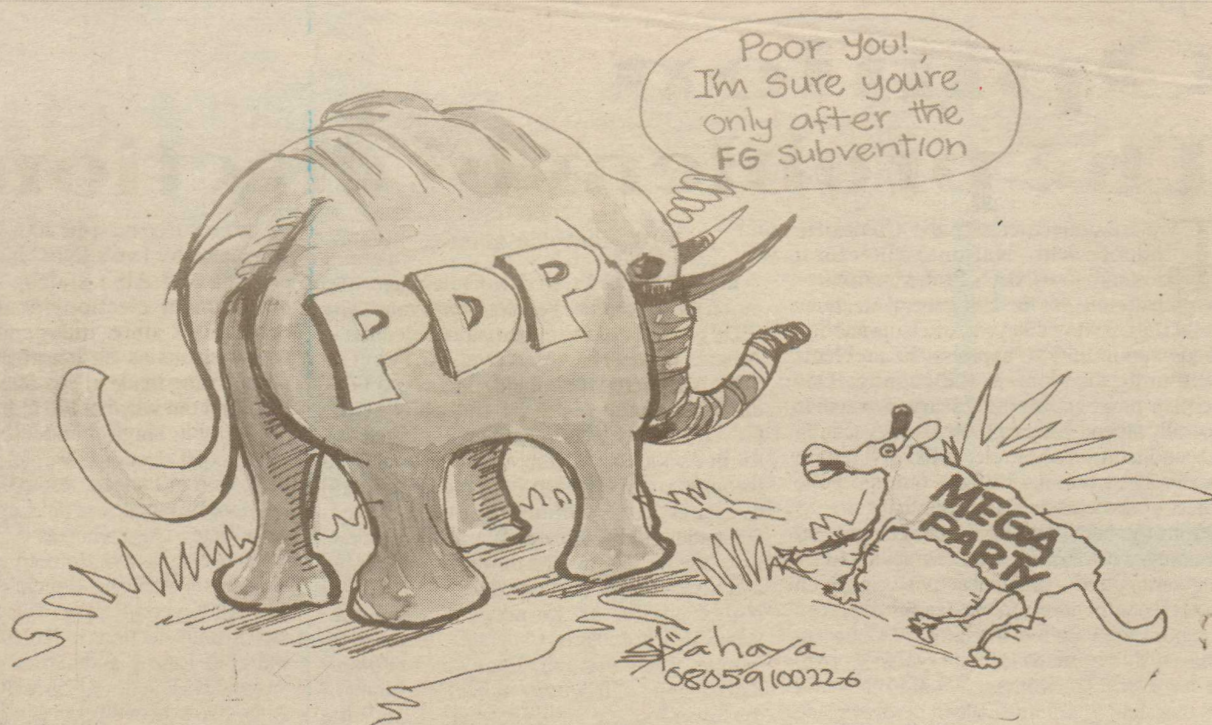
When criminals then turn their arsenal on the police, they are sending a very dangerous signal of their readiness to upturn the natural order of things and hold the entire society to ransom. In two separate incidents recently, men of the Nigerian Police Force were gunned down in cold blood at their duty posts by men of the underworld. In the first attack recorded at 2.30a.m. in Kano about 3 weeks ago, robbers turned their arsenal on the police and killed half a dozen of them. The murdered policemen did not know that their assailants were robbers and so could offer no resistance or defend themselves against their attackers. They were simply murdered in cold blood.

Just as the ink on that story was drying up, another group of robbers who have failed in a robbery operation turned their guns on a number of policemen who were in the convoy of the Delta state police commissioner and slaughtered them in cold blood in an unprovoked attack.

These two incidents ought to call into questions what would appear to be a new onslaught by men of the underworld to kill the people paid by law-abiding citizens to guard their safety and maintain law and order. It is a serious threat to the personal survival of every citizen and even the general security of our nation. That they appear to do so with impunity is even more alarming. No development can be made where the lives of the citizenry are under constant threat. Indeed, it is only in a total state of anarchy that this kind of cold blooded murder of the protectors of the people could be allowed without any reprisal. This is an onslaught that must be condemned in all its totality.

This is not the first time that criminals have turned against law enforcement agents. In the wild era of Lawrence Anini, men of the Nigeria Police Force were forced to hide their uniforms under cloaks to safeguard their own lives until the robber and his police collaborators were caught and brought to justice. What is alarming in this new onslaught is the levity with which it appeared the police authorities are taking the attacks. There has been no mention of disciplinary action on top ranks of the police where these dastardly assaults took place as is expected of any force worthy of its name.

From experience these forms of attacks happen either where there is a total breakdown of law and order or when criminals engage in reprisals as a result of a broken covenant which comes from compromise of duty with graft or again when the identities of the attackers are known by some of their victims. In any of these cases, only a thorough investigation can stem its tide. We therefore call on the police authorities to investigate and get to the bottom of this by arresting the perpetrators of these crimes and quickly bring them to justice. In fact, there is no better epitaph to the memory of the slain than for their murderers to be arrested, prosecuted and brought to speedy justice. This is what would restore confidence in the police and buoy the resolve of those still in the force to lay down their lives for the protection of the lives of the citizens they are employed to protect.



Your Letters

How realistic is Gen. Buhari's ambition?

As 2011 approaches, we are faced increasingly with the pain of going through another routine called election, a pseudo dictatorial means of perpetuating elites control on our collective common wealth via motion of democratic process. As long as the historical trend of election performance does not change we can safely project that 2011 will be worst than previous dubious exercises called democratic transition. Fact is the people who benefits from these frauds are in firm control and have reared their head again to ensure nothing changes the status quo.

General Muhammadu Buhari, the much respected presidential candidate of the All Nigeria People's Party (ANPP) in the 2003 and 2007 elections, can decide his political future and millions of his followers particularly the thousands that were denied legal right to aspire to public offices because of their

association with him. A political aspiration is of little value irrespective of its glamour and appeal without a viable platform. As things stand today, what will Buhari's platform be? Is he going to once again embark on a solo pursuit of his ambition within wolfs that are hungry and ready to sell out?

Does Gen Buhari have control and or respect of any of the political parties that can guarantee his agenda to see the light of the day from the federal level all the way down to the grassroots? Or does Gen Buhari assume that he alone can change this country without the role of other democratic institutions from top to bottom. I guarantee that Buhari's emergence under any current arrangement will only result in further frustration and pain for his supporters.

Gen Buhari lost a golden opportunity to form either a parallel exco or another party shortly after ANPP

convention when OBJ's men took away the party from him and his supporters. Ever since that time, not only the party executives but also the governors that rode on his back, backed out and in fact sold out and used against him after attaining their goal.

Very few current political players can survive a Buhari styled leadership, so why will they support it, unless its another vehicle to their accession to power, and in the same vein very few Nigerian elites are not corrupt hence have fears of a Buhari leading government. The instrument of producing leadership is in firm hands of these groups, so how Buhari can wrestle it from them.

My honest advice to General is to start afresh, go back to his base - the ordinary people, put up a new flat form, grow it, nurture it, take few states in 2011 and use that as a spring board to sell the REVOLUTION - it is doable.

We have seen it in Lagos and YOU certainly have tons of goodwill to mine from. I predict at least 3-5 states for a start in 2011 and 12 or more and may be the Presidency in 2015. There is no time to waste, no room for compromises in the coalition of the WILLING.

May Allah guide your every step.

Least I forgot, can the General also look inward and ask why his team deliver very little result and increasingly isolate him from well meaning Nigerians willing to sacrifice for the good of this nation? Are some loyalist benefitting from Buhari's lack of National platform, are there mules in the house? Has opposition penetrated his group? Sir, I leave you in Peace and wish you Allah's guidance and abundance of patient and perseverance.

Engr Muazu Magaji, Shell-Nigeria. muazu.magaji@yahoo.com

Text us on 08059100257

Nigeria is blessed

God has provided Nigeria with abundant natural resources. Let's not be disturbed by the fall of crude oil prices in the world. Our leaders should see this as an opportunity to be more efficient and effective.

Lawal Abdul Faragai, 08065873333

On electoral reform

Playing with the electoral reform as President Yar'adua seems to be doing after tearing the Uwais panel report to shreds, will not augur well for our development as a democracy.

M. Audu Lafiagi, Suleja, 08039671860

Daily Trust, don't derail

I never thought an independent minded paper can come out of the northern part of this country. Now Daily Trust has changed that perception since I started reading it. Please don't derail.

Isah Omuya, Kofar Kaura, Katsina, 08058204121

On Charles Soludo

Nigerians should mark my words. Sack Soludo today and tomorrow the United Nations (UN) or one of these international organisations would need his services. Sentiments aside, let us celebrate ours that is good.

S. Apenja, Kaduna, 07035934940

On the Earth Hour

During this year's Earth Hour, a global event organized by the World Wide Fund for Nature held on the last Saturday of March annually, 400,000 cities reportedly went dark for an hour. Who compiled the list? Are Nigerian cities and

towns included?

Umar Liman, 08036136967

GSS Makarfi old boys

The famous GSS Makarfi, now GCC, urgently needs the attention of its old students occupying influential positions across Nigeria. The school lacks good source of water in addition to other problems. Wake up please!

Bello (Bawa) Abdullahi Dan'itta Giwa, 08038899037

Squandering our money

Governors and other government officials claim we voted for them, yet they represent their own interest not ours. Sycophants are misleading governors. They are portrayed as holier than the Saints. And they believe!

Ubale Bompai Rano, 08033246464

Atiku and posterity

The politics of deceit by Atiku Abubakar has gone full circle now. The chicken is coming back home to roost. The revelation by Obasanjo (Atiku's former boss) is a food for thought for all do or die politicians. Atiku should urgently seek forgiveness from God and the entire Nigerian people.

Mustafa Abbas, Kano, 08034517397

Shema, this is a shame

Governor Shema of Katsina State is out to show how much he hates his work. How can you pay N180 as compensation to a farmer whose 500sqm land was forcefully acquired to build a new government house? Others had between N200 to N7,000 while the cheapest land in Katsina is about N200,000. N180 is not even enough to cover the cost of transporting the cheque to a bank.

M. Muhammad, Katsina, 07034111238

Opinion

The problem of elections in Nigeria

By Abubakar Ahmed

The announcement by the Chairman, Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Prof. Maurice Iwu that preparations for the 2011 general elections would start in May this year, offers us another unique opportunity to appraise the problems confronting elections in the country. This exercise has become necessary since it is generally agreed that the problem of organizing and conducting credible elections in Nigeria is essentially at the heart of the failure of the project of democracy in the country.

From the benefit of hindsight, elections in the country have often been characterized by irregularities and fraudulent activities in which electoral competition amongst political parties or candidates take the shape of a Hobbesian struggle, that is, the war of everyman/woman against everyman/woman. We are often told that this state of affairs exists in the first place due to the tendency of political office holders to use state power as a means of primitive accumulation of our collective national wealth and resources. The implication is that if we are able to produce politicians whose main reason for venturing into politics is to render service to the people, we would have covered an appreciable mileage in our individual and collective efforts at conducting credible elections in the country.

Ironically, much of our electoral woes and failures have been blamed on successive electoral bodies, and specifically on whoever heads that body at any given time. This creates a situation where we tend to chase shadows instead of the reality in respect of our electoral problems. However, in an attempt to locate the sources of our electoral problems, we shall embark on perfunctory comparisons of the outcome of the 2003 general elections conducted by Prof. Abel Guobadia, and that of 2007 midwived by Prof. Maurice Iwu. And in order to arrive at unbiased conclusions, we shall be strictly guided by the results declared by the two electoral umpires in the gubernatorial elections held in Anambra in 2003 and Edo in 2007, and the judicial interpretations attached to each of the results.

In 2003, INEC declared Dr. Chris Ngige, who ran on the ticket of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), winner of the gubernatorial election in Anambra State. His closest rival, Mr. Peter Obi of the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA), challenged the result of the polls at the Governorship Election Petitions Tribunal that sat in Awka, the Anambra State capital. And through a combination of forensic and oral evidence, the tribunal found out that Guobadia's INEC discarded the results obtained from the polling booths throughout the state, and instead, used concocted results to declare Ngige winner of the polls. The tribunal subsequently declared Obi, rather than Ngige, winner of that election. The Court of Appeal that sat in Enugu equally upheld the ruling of the lower tribunal in this case. It is interesting to note that Guobadia, rather than Iwu, organized and conducted the 2003 general elections.

A similar scenario played itself out in Edo State during the 2007 general elections conducted by Iwu. In the case of the April 14 gubernatorial election in the state, INEC, according to the findings of the Gubernatorial Election Petitions Tribunal, used spurious results to declare Prof. Oserhemein Osunbor winner of the polls, without recourse to the polling booth results as contained in form EC8A. As a result of this glaring electoral fraud, the tribunal proceeded to declare Adams Oshiomhole, the gubernatorial candidate of Action Congress (AC), winner of the election. Again, the Appeal Court that sat in Benin upheld the ruling of the lower tribunal, paving way for Oshiomhole to be sworn-in as governor of Edo state. If as we have tried to show that two separate elections conducted by two different electoral umpires produced similar results, then something must be terribly wrong with the electoral culture and system, and not with individual umpires as some Nigerians would want us to believe in the case of Iwu's INEC.

Perhaps, we need to go the extra mile to

compare and contrast the 2007 general elections conducted by Iwu's INEC in Plateau, Lagos, Bauchi and Abia states, with the local government elections conducted by the respective state independent electoral commissions as further clarification of the points being made in this essay. The essence is to find out whether the head of an electoral umpire can single handedly determine the outcome of elections. While, for instance, the PDP won in Plateau, it lost the gubernatorial and local council races in Lagos, Bauchi and Abia states. And whereas the AC cleared the votes in Lagos, it performed woefully in both elections in Plateau, Bauchi and Abia states. The All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) came tops in both elections in Bauchi, while it lost in Plateau, Lagos and Abia. And while the Progressive Peoples Alliance (PPA) won in Abia in the two sets of elections, it failed to pull the political strings in Plateau, Bauchi and Lagos states. Though the two sets of elections were conducted by two different electoral bodies, they were, however, greeted by similar complaints of violence, non-availability of electoral materials and vote rigging, from critics. What this suggests, and very clearly too, is that the electoral umpire is not the determinant factor in electoral contests but the various systemic variables in the electoral process.

In fact, nothing confirms or illustrates this statement better than the similarity of media reports during and after the 2003 and 2007 general elections. A cursory look at the newspapers and magazines show gory reports of violence, shortage and/or non-availability of electoral materials, late commencement of voting, snatching/stuffing of ballot boxes, etc. as characteristics of both the 2003 and 2007 elections. Though the media in several editorials and commentaries took Guobadia to the cleaners for superintending what it described then as the worst elections in the country, it nevertheless, excoriated politicians and political parties for largely contributing to the distasteful and disastrous outcome of the general elections. Today, the same position taken by the media in the 2003 general election is still being replicated

in the case of the 2007 general elections. Unfortunately, while the media held the politicians, rather than Guobadia, largely responsible for the mess that was the 2003 elections, Iwu is now the villain for the atrocities committed in 2007 while the politicians are saints.

Of course, the media was not alone in describing both the 2003 and 2007 general elections as abysmal failures. Indeed, the civil society, including trade unions, student organizations, and other forms of democratic organisations, had very unkind words for the helmsmen of both the 2003 and 2007 general elections, and the processes leading to the election of the political actors in the two dispensations. In fact, the civil society itemized the lapses in the elections of 2003 and 2007 to include violence, vote rigging, etc. In the same vein, the local and international monitoring groups described the two separate general elections as anything but a sham. The groups frowned at the incidents of violence, vote rigging, late arrival or non-arrival of electoral materials, etc. that characterized the two separate polls. If the civil society is correct in its assessment of the 2003 and 2007 elections, why is Iwu being made the scapegoat of the problems of elections in Nigeria?

No doubt, the electoral process in the country faces many administrative and political problems such that have challenged meaningful, open and democratic elections in the country. Among the most serious and blatant cases of electoral fraud are rigging, destruction or disappearance of ballot boxes, doctoring of results, lack of discipline in the form, spirit and implementation of the electoral process, excessive monetization of politics, and the general level of poverty and illiteracy. Unless these vices which are embedded in the electoral culture of the country are effectively addressed, it would be impossible to conduct free, fair and credible elections in Nigeria in the years ahead. It is for this reason and/or development that we will continue to quarrel with all those who blame only Iwu for the alleged messy outcome of the 2007 general election.

Dr. Ahmed wrote in from Kaduna.

Unmasking Mark at 61

By Paul Mumeh

Today Wednesday, April 8, 2009, Senate President David Mark is marking his 61st birthday. At 61, Mark has made a very deep foot print on the sand of Nigeria history as he ultimately brings to bear his outstanding experience as a soldier, administrator, politician and a legislator to exemplify that leadership at all levels is a divine covenant with the people.

More like a watershed in the nation's political history, political analysts see Mark's emergence as Senate President a reference point to mark the consolidation of representative democracy in the country as the circumstances surrounding his election signalled the beginning of the independence of the legislature and true separation of powers in the polity.

His emergence was the first time a Senate President was elected in an open contest on the floor of the Senate. His predecessors at least since 1999 were elected through the party hierarchy or at best mock elections. Mark had in June 2007 defeated Senator George Akume in a keenly contested election with an overwhelming 69 to 39 votes on the floor of the Senate. He won even after Senators Gbemi Saraki (Kwara) and Nuhu Aliyu (Niger) stepped down for Akume ostensibly to boost Akume's chances.

There was a wave of initial public skepticism on whether the Senate under his leadership would actually deliver the people's mandate especially considering his military background in the face of the a civilian system. However, the Senate President soon proved critics wrong. This is because in the last two years, the Senate President has achieved legislative stability in the upper chambers which he has ultimately repositioned with enhanced lawmaking and oversight capacity to guarantee good governance in the country. By extension, the polity has been stabilised on account of Mark's leadership of the Senate.

The Senate in the last two years under Mark had strengthened its oversight functions to instil fiscal discipline and accountability in the system needed for the realization of the vision 2020 of the present administration. To achieve its set goal, the Senate under Mark engaged in series of institutional and technical innovations to further the constitutional role of the legislature to meet the challenges of the contemporary Nigeria and they have been yielding dividends.

These includes series of periodic technical capacity building programmes for legislators and management of the National Assembly, accelerated consideration and passage of key legislations to enhance the current economic reforms, strategic institutional interventions through widened oversight activities to ensure best practices as well as series of system wide probes to ensure accountability and transparency in all sectors of the economy.

Senate in the last two years has been involved in efforts to evolve strategies to impact positively on the people in the areas of education, health, housing, energy and power, wages, job creation, food production, transportation, communication, security, justice and harmonious living especially in the face of the raging global economic meltdown.

Leadership of course must be courageous and that is what Senate under Mark has exemplified. For the first time in contemporary history, Senate under Mark fearlessly opened system wide inquests to address the vexed question of corruption and poor mandate delivery by successive administrations in the country and the Niger Delta issue.

Few weeks after it commenced plenary in 2007, the Senate had courageously beamed its searchlight into the oil and gas sector, a sector

past Senate had merely observed with trepidation in the face of allegations of malpractices and fraud by operators to the detriment of the nation's economic survival and the wellbeing of the people.

Some Senate committees have been engaged in investigating the causes of collapse of infrastructure in key sectors including transport, power, education, health, agriculture and findings have led to series of changes in legislative and policy direction for the good of the nation.

These efforts have started yielding results. Currently, some of those indicted by the Senate through its standing committees for alleged misappropriation of public fund and abuse of office are now being prosecuted by relevant authorities, serving as a deterrent to others; Senate has with the sectoral probes recovered over N600 billion unspent appropriations which were diverted to private purses. This fund had been injected into the economy for the good of all.

While successive federal legislature had watched from afar, Mark in October, 2007 practically relocated the Senate to the Niger Delta region where it took advantage of its weeklong working retreat in Port Harcourt, River state capital to visit the Niger Delta creeks and held talks with leaders and youths in all the six states in that troubled geo-political zone.

Senators were opportune to have an on the spot assessment of the problems in the area and that has yielded results ranging from increases in the budgetary allocation to the area and the subsequent creation of the Niger Delta ministry to address the Niger Delta question.

Mark has showed that leadership especially in a representative democracy must be proactive and responsive. It is on this pedestal that the Senate in 2007 alerted the nation of the possible effect of the global financial crisis and started putting machinery to protect the economy from its adverse effect.

At the Port Harcourt retreat, Mark had raised the issue and Senate after series of brainstorming session adopted fiscal strategies to move the budgeting system from the short term annual circle appropriation to mid-term and long term planning system beginning from the 2009 budget.

In 2008, similar retreat was held in Kano on desertification problems in the north, all in a bid to address the multi-faceted problems in the country holistically.

A look at the 2009 budget as passed by the Senate reflects this imperative as it approved strategic capital funding for key sectors including, education, transport, power, health, agriculture and water resources among others while approving the slashing of over bloated overhead costs in ministries and agencies.

Mark has since 1999 set up the David Mark Scholarship Scheme (DMSS) for the award of scholarship benefitting almost 2000 students ranging from primary to university level, annually.

In January, Mark handed over for the benefit of all a multi-million state of the art study centre to the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) which he singlehandedly built to serve as Otukpo study centre in Otukpo, his home Benue State.

It is however apparent that Mark's exemplary leadership proficiency derived from years of practical tutelage in public administration enhanced by trainings and experiences both in the military and civil administrations.

Born in Otukpo, Benue State in April 8, 1948, he joined the military after his elementary school to serve the nation when it was almost absurd to join the Armed Forces. It is his wealth of experiences and good training, which is now brought to bear in the present effort for good governance in the country.

Mumeh is the Chief Press Secretary to the President of the Senate

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

AFRICA REPORT



Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir (centre) greets the crowd during a visit to the city of Zalingei in West Darfur yesterday. Photo: AFP

I was victim of power abuse, says Zuma

The leader of South Africa's governing party has said he was a "victim of a systematic abuse of power", after a corruption case against him collapsed.

African National Congress chief Jacob Zuma told reporters after the charges were formally dropped on Monday there had never been a case against him.

The National Prosecution Authority (NPA) threw out the case, blaming political interference.

But the main opposition party has mounted a legal challenge to the move.

The development comes barely two weeks before general elections, which the ANC is tipped to win with Mr Zuma as its

presidential candidate.

Busloads of his supporters gathered outside Durban High Court earlier as the charges were formally thrown out.

Afterwards the ANC boss said in a news conference, broadcast on national television on Tuesday: "There never was a case against me. My conscience is clear. I have not committed any crime against the people of South Africa. There was a clear agenda so that I should remain guilty forever. Thanks for believing in my innocence and in my assertion that I was the victim of a systematic abuse of power."

Mr Zuma went on to address more than 1,000 of his supporters for an hour in Zulu, singing his trademark apartheid-era song Umshini wami (Bring me my machine gun) two or three times.

Critics say the charges against Mr Zuma have been dropped on a technicality and so suspicion will continue to linger as he has not cleared his name in court.

The main opposition Democratic Alliance party filed an application for a judicial review of the NPA's decision at the High Court in Pretoria on Tuesday morning. It will be heard after the 22 April election.

Its leader, Helen Zille, said the chief prosecutor had buckled under political pressure.

al-Bashir vows to try Darfur war criminals

Sudan's embattled president told a rally yesterday that his own officials would track down war criminals in Darfur, dismissing Western attempts to bring justice to the region.

Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir—who is himself wanted on charges of masterminding atrocities in Darfur—addressed a crowd of thousands in Zalingei, one of the most politically charged towns in Darfur.

The International Criminal Court has issued an arrest warrant for Bashir to face charges of alleged war crimes carried out

during almost six years of fighting in Sudan's violent west, but he has refused to deal with the court.

"We know about justice between us and we know how to solve our problems. We have a committee for tribal reconciliation," Bashir told the crowd. "After the reconciliation we will investigate those who are criminals and those who committed crimes and those who were killed and those who were killers.

This is all guaranteed. Compensation will be paid. Everyone will get their right. This is justice."

Rwanda lambasts UN

Rwandan President Paul Kagame has accused the international community of cowardice during a speech marking the 15th anniversary of Rwanda's genocide.

He told a rally of 20,000 people in the capital, Kigali, UN troops abandoned their posts without firing a shot.

He led commemorations

at Nyanza, where more than 5,000 people were slaughtered after peacekeepers pulled out.

Some 800,000 people were killed within 100 days by ethnic Hutu militia after the assassination of the president.

The genocide began when then President Juvenal Habyarimana's plane was shot down on 6 April 1994 and came to an end when Tutsi-

led rebels under the current president took control.

The massacre at Nyanza took place after Belgian troops withdrew following a Rwandan militia attack that claimed the lives of 10 peacekeepers on 7 April that year.

Kagame laid a wreath at the hill site in Nyanza and lit a torch in memory of the victims.

Southern Africa swamped by floods

Vast areas of southern Africa have been hit by the worst flooding in 50 years, says the Red Cross. With more than 100 people dead, an area 1,500km (930 miles) wide, from Namibia in the west to Mozambique faces rising waters from several rivers. The Red Cross says it has only managed to reach a small fraction of the more than half a million people who have already been affected. It is appealing for helicopters and boats to reach isolated communities.

Matthew Cochrane, from the International Federation of Red Cross, told the BBC that if

Zimbabwe's Kariba dam reaches capacity, authorities there may be forced to open the floodgates. If this happens, Mozambique would be hit by a wall of water and tens of thousands more people would be displaced, he warned. Nearly 100,000 people have already been made homeless, he added. He said the organisation expected the flood waters to remain for at least the next four to eight weeks.

Cochrane said the waters had reached densely-populated communities - up to 30km (19 miles) from the Zambezi river - that had never been affected by flooding before.

US adds \$80m in food aid for Africa

The United States will spend an additional \$80 million in funding for four projects to feed 655,000 children in Africa, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said yesterday.

The funding comes on top of \$95.5 million allocated in December and is to be spent

this fiscal year, officials said.

"Studies and common sense both tell us that children learn best when they are well nourished and fed," Vilsack said in prepared comments for a speech to the International Food Aid Conference being held in Kansas City.

The food assistance in-

cludes 51,700 tonnes of agricultural commodities for women and children in Angola, Guinea-Bissau, Niger and Uganda. The funding is part of the McGovern-Dole school feeding program, which has fed about 6 million people during the past two years, USDA said.

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MIDWEEK AFRICA

Jacob Zuma: Off the corruption hook

Early this week, Mokoledi Mpshe, the acting head of South Africa's National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), announced in a televised news conference in Pretoria, that he was abandoning the prosecution of ANC leader, Jacob Zuma. Mpshe reached his conclusion because the NPA's top investigator was suspected of manipulating the timing of the case against Zuma in late 2007.

The investigator, Léonard McCarthy, had held a series of telephone conversations with a former NPA head, Bulelani Ngcuka, in which the two had discussed the timing of bringing charges against Zuma in the weeks leading up to his "highly-contested" election as party leader. Ngcuka is regarded as a supporter of former president Thabo Mbeki, who lost the leadership election to Jacob Zuma.

The NPA chief, Mokoledi Mpshe, said McCarthy's conversations amounted to a "serious abuse of process" during which attempts were made to manipulate the case for "collateral and illicit purposes". Refereeing to media reports in the previous week which suggested that former president Thabo Mbeki also spoke to McCarthy, Mpshe said he could not find evidence of Mbeki's involvement in the manipulation. Mpshe said NPA "still believed it had a strong case against Zuma" and its team of prosecutors "who prepared the case had recommended that it go forward and that a court should decide on whether the abuse had been serious to vitiate the charges".

However, Mpshe overruled his team. Having precariously made a number of court affidavits denying political motives for the case against Zuma, the NPA chief said he now felt "personally wronged and betrayed...like Caesar's wife, the prosecution must be above any trace of suspicion". Recordings of the phone conversations which dramatically turned the case round were given to the NPA by Jacob Zuma's defence team. Mpshe said the NPA had established that the recordings had been made in telephone taps carried out by South Africa's National Intelligence Agency (NIA). He said the recordings had been legally made, but did not offer any explanations as to how they reached Zuma's lawyers. Jacob Zuma faced 16 charges: one of racketeering; one of money laundering; two

By Is'haq Modibbo Kawu,
with agency reports

of corruption and 12 of fraud.

In the charges against Jacob Zuma, the National Prosecution Authority (NPA) had alleged that in the decade between 1995 and 2005, Zuma received 783 payments totaling 4million Rands (about \$400,000) from his financial adviser, Schabi Shaik; Shaik was convicted and jailed on corruption and fraud charges in 2005. Former president, Thabo Mbeki then responded by sacking Jacob Zuma as the deputy president of South Africa.

The payments involved were alleged cuts from a multibillion rand arms deal. Zuma's relationship with Shaik goes back to the years of the underground struggle in the ANC to overthrow apartheid, before the unbanning of the ANC in 1990. Zuma had consistently denied that the relationship was corrupt. By providing the NPA with the telephone taps evidence Zuma's lawyers had been able to underline a case of political conspiracy involving former president, Thabo Mbeki, former NPA chief Bulelani Ngcuka and former Scorpions boss, Leonard McCarthy. If the NPA acknowledge political meddling, it will mean a remarkable reversal of political fortunes that might end in the investigation of Thabo Mbeki Bulelani Ngcuka!

The decision by the NPA to abandon Zuma's prosecution represents the lifting of a cloud over the ANC's election campaign thus helping to ease Jacob Zuma's path to the South African Union Buildings after the April 22 general election. Opposition parties have campaigned on an anti-Zuma platform saying that he should step aside from the presidential race until cleared of corruption charges. Zuma welcomed the NAP's decision through Michael Hulley. Hulley acknowledged that the NPA's decision was reached after Zuma's lawyers made representations to the prosecution authority. "These confidential representations, which in our respectful view were compelling, comprised various aspects", he said. Hulley said they dealt with the substantive merit of the charges, outlining Zuma's defence and the version of events which were believed to be accorded with the fact.

The representation also set out the nature of the relationship with Zuma's former financial adviser, Schabi Shaik, among others. Hulley



Jacob Zuma, addressing a conference yesterday.

Photo: AFP

said there had been submissions from various interest groups, associations, religion organisations and individuals, which spoke to the policy aspects which the NPA was enjoined to consider.

"Lastly, the representations dealt with acts of improper conduct on the part of the NPA through certain officials in concert with others, which improperly influenced the course of both the investigation and the prosecution of Mr. Zuma", said Hulley. He went further that the representations allowed "for the first time", meaningful interaction with the NPA in respect of their decision whether or not to prosecute. This had enabled Zuma's legal team to place before the National Director of Public Prosecution information which would better inform him in making his decision. Hulley added that "we commend the NPA for the manner in which these representations were received and processed, which added to the integrity of the process."

Jacob Zuma has enjoyed an adversarial relationship with the South African press all through the case and other controversial issues that dogged his political career. It was therefore not surprising that his team will criticize the media's reporting of the representations process. Hulley said "the repeated publications of leaks, vacillating speculation on the process and its outcome and cavalier opinion pieces by so-called experts, demonstrates a distinct disrespect which has no place in our constitutional

democracy".

Furthermore, Hulley added that "the selective application of constitutional rights when it underscores a free press, yet a total disregard for individual and institutional rights enshrined in the same constitution, simply evidences double-standards to the detriment of us all". Hulley said the fact that the prosecution had aroused strong emotion and intense public interest, provided even more reason for responsible conduct by all concerned. "In this regard we acknowledge those democrats who have respected the process with all its anxiety, and practiced the necessary restraint". An "emotional" Jacob Zuma who chose "to remain at home with his family", was not expected to "immediately address the media on the matter". The media quoted "an insider at his home in Forest Town Johannesburg", that the 'emotional' Zuma, "may not be able to answer 'difficult questions' likely to be posed by journalists" after the announcement dropping prosecution.

Expectedly, the decision to drop prosecution against Zuma has not gone well with the opposition. Former president, FW de Klerk said the decision "will be widely regarded in South Africa and overseas as the most serious blow to the rule of law since the dawn of the new constitutional democracy". De Klerk said "civil society should consider mounting legal challenges to the decision and should call, once again, for the appointment of a judi-

cial commission of enquiry into the arms deal-which lies at the root of so many of the current threats to our constitutional system".

Former president de Klerk said "the cumulative effect of these developments has been to raise serious questions regarding the NPA's present and future independence and whether all South Africans are still treated equally before the law." The FW de Klerk Foundation's Centre for Constitutional Rights, said NPA's Mpshe "erred in his decision to drop charges for various reasons, including that no question had been raised regarding the soundness of the NPA's case against Zuma". The FW de Klerk centre finally observed that the Supreme Court of Appeal had ruled that "a prosecution is not wrongful merely because it is brought for an improper purpose. It will only be wrongful if, in addition, reasonable and probable grounds for prosecuting are absent".

When the news broke last week that the NPA might drop prosecution against Zuma, on the basis of the tapes, Hellen Zille, leader of the opposition DA party, called the situation unfolding a "massive multiple cover-up" and warned that the NPA was also being compromised by the internal battles within the ANC. The DA, she said, would "take immediate further action", if the charges against Zuma were dropped. Zille said it was imperative that all the information presented to the NPA be made public. "We want everything, we want to hear those tapes (and see) the se-

cret documents", she said. International security studies scholar, Laurie Nathan, also echoed calls for the Inspector-General of intelligence, Zolile Ngcakani to investigate the tapes. Nathan served in the 2006 Review Commission on Intelligence, and said it was "inappropriate" for the IG to refuse to investigate allegations of illegal interceptions of communication on the grounds that it had not received evidence.

In the same vein, the controversy around Jacob Zuma has deepened the frosty relationship between the ANC and Nobel peace laureate, Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Tutu was accused of "blasphemy", after he said he did not look forward to Jacob Zuma becoming the country's president. "In the year of Obama, can you imagine what it is like when you are walking in New York and they ask you who will be the next president.

I can't pretend to be looking forward to having him as my president", Tutu said at a book launch. In response, the ANC said it is "increasingly disturbed by the manner in which Emeritus Archbishop Desmond Tutu is addressing the issue of the NPA and the case of the president of the ANC comrade Jacob Zuma", through spokesperson Jessie Duarte.

Duarte also said that Tutu's reference to the fact that some ANC supporters view Zuma as "God" are "blasphemous", Duarte said "the ANC has not equated itself to God and it has never pretended to be God. We are taken aback by the bishop's sacrilege". An Anglican priest, Rev Jo Mdhlela, had written in the SOWETAN newspaper on April 1, that "let us stop making Zuma a god, even if there are many of his followers who see him as a 'Black Jesus', an allusion he cannot escape because he himself, in one of his pronouncements, told South Africans that the ANC would run the country until the Second Coming". For his part, Archbishop Desmond Tutu said the (dropped) charges tarnish Zuma's suitability for the presidency.

The retired cleric accused the ANC elite of "arrogance and a failure to listen to what South Africans wanted". Tutu said "it was easy to be against something (during the struggle). A far more difficult task has been left to you - making a reality of our freedom. So when our new government behaves somewhat strangely, it is very difficult to condemn because it looks like you are unpatriotic."

Trust International

WORLD REPORT



US President Barack Obama speaks during a visit to Camp Victory in Baghdad, Iraq, yesterday.

Photo: AFP

Obama in surprise visit to Iraq

US President Barack Obama visited Iraq yesterday on an unannounced visit for talks with Iraqi leaders and to see US troops.

Mr Obama flew into Baghdad at the end of a Europe trip that included economic and NATO summits and a visit to Turkey.

Speaking on his first visit to Iraq as president, Mr Obama said it was time for Iraqis to take start taking responsibility for their country.

For security reasons, the White House made no advance announcement of the visit nor gave details of the schedule.

But the BBC's Jim Muir in Baghdad said there had been speculation that Mr Obama would visit Iraq after leaving neighbouring Turkey.

The US president arrived at Baghdad's international airport on Air Force One in the late afternoon, local time.

He was taken immediately by road to meet Gen Ray Odierno, the US military commander Iraq, and some of the 140,000 US soldiers serving in the country.

"We spent a lot of time trying to get Afghanistan right [but] there's still a lot of work to be done here," said Mr Obama.

He told the troops gathered at Camp Victory military

base that they had helped Iraq to "stand on its own as a democratic country".

"That is an extraordinary achievement, and for that you have the thanks of the American people," he said.

US officials said Mr Obama would have talks by telephone with Iraqi President Jalal Talabani while in the country, and would meet Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki in person at Camp Victory.

White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said Mr Obama had chosen to visit Iraq rather than Afghanistan, where the US is also engaged in conflict, to show Iraqi leaders that the way forward for the country lies "in political solutions".

Death toll in Italy quake passes 200

At least 207 people have been killed by Monday's earthquake in central Italy, with 100 residents critically injured, Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi has said. He said 150 people had been rescued alive so far, and the operation would continue for a further 48 hours and involve 7,000 rescuers.

About 1,000 people were injured and 17,000 were left homeless following the pre-dawn quake in the Abruzzo region. Thousands spent the night in emergency accommodation amid continuing tremors.

Mr Berlusconi, appearing at a news conference in L'Aquila, the medieval city worst hit, thanked all involved in the rescue effort.

"There have been serious risks for the lives of those who are carrying out the res-

cue operation so far, inside buildings that have been damaged and, following another tremor, could easily collapse," he said. "So therefore this is a very dangerous situation for the rescuers."

Hospitals have appealed for help from doctors and nurses throughout Italy.

Mr Berlusconi said another 48 hours would be enough to ascertain if anyone else was still alive.

"We have tried-and-tested mechanisms for the rescue operations that have been used before by the civil protection agency," he said.

He said that starting from today specialists would start checking individual buildings.

"The most delicate phase begins tomorrow because we have to inspect homes to check the damage," he said. "We will inspect one room

after another in thousands of homes."

Of the 207 who died, Mr Berlusconi said 190 people had been identified and the other 17 were awaiting formal identification.

About 15 people were still thought to be missing, but it was possible they had left the area without notifying authorities or relatives, he said.

French claim full face transplant

A leading French surgeon says he has now effectively carried out a full face transplant after two operations in the same number of weeks.

Professor Laurent Lantieri, who has performed three of the world's six partial face transplants, said every feature had now been transferred. In a lengthy operation at the

Iraq shoe thrower's jail term cut

The Iraqi journalist who hurled his shoes at former US President George W Bush has had his sentence cut from three years to one year on appeal.

Muntadar al-Zaidi's lawyer argued that the charge should be changed from assault to insulting a foreign leader. The judge agreed and reduced the term in line with the less serious offence.

An official for the court said the presiding judge had also taken into account the fact that Zaidi had no prior criminal history.

"The appeal court issued its decision today... taking into consideration that he [Zaidi] is still young and doesn't have any previous convictions," said Abdul Sattar al-Birqdar, the spokesman for the Iraqi judicial

council. Zaidi's lawyer, Yaha al-Ittahi, said the decision showed "the independence and the integrity of the Iraqi judiciary."

Shoe hurling is a grave insult in Arab culture, but Mr Bush - who was on a farewell trip to Iraq at the time - shrugged off the attack.

The shoe attack happened in mid-December 2008 during a news conference Mr Bush was holding with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

Zaidi, of al-Baghdadiya TV, called Mr Bush "a dog" and threw his shoes as a "farewell kiss" from Iraqis who had been killed, orphaned or widowed since the US-led invasion.

Taking into account pre-trial custody and the customary reductions of sentences, Zaidi is set to be released on 14 September.

weekend, a team in Paris transplanted the entire upper part of a man's face. Approval for a full face transplant was given in the UK nearly four years ago. Professor Peter Butler of London's Royal Free hopes to carry out a definitive procedure including the throat area and all of the scalp within the next 12 months.

The first partial face trans-

plant was carried out by doctors in Amiens in 2005 on Isabelle Dinoire, a 38-year-old woman who had been mauled by her dog. She received a new nose, chin and lips.

Despite concerns that her body might reject the donor's tissue, she is said to have adapted extremely well to her new face - not just physically but also psychologically.



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Happy Birthday To An Inspiring Leader



Mr. President, as you clock 61 years today, on behalf of the entire people of Yobe North Senatorial District and my family, I wish you many more years of service to our fatherland.

As the President of the Senate, you have brought brilliance, intelligence, integrity, courage, respect, inspiration and stability into the activities of the Senate. You preside over the affairs of the National Assembly, indeed the Nigerian legislature, with focus, purpose and determination to better the lots of the common man.

Mr. President we shall continue to identify with your altruistic disposition, fervent commitment, stoic dedication and unflinching patriotic zeal to promote and protect the Nigerian dream in which every citizen is given the opportunity to realise his/her potentials for self development and societal growth and progress.

Once more, we wish you a happy birthday, continuing good health, long life, successful and fulfilling years ahead.



Senator **DAVID B. MARK** (GCON)
Senate President
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

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SENATOR AHMAD IBRAHIM LAWAN
Yobe North Senatorial District

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Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Nigeria.

Kano State Education Sector Project (SESP), Kano

CREDIT NO: 4295-Uni

Procurement of Motor Vehicles

IFB NO: KN/SESP/NCB/09/4

DATE OF ISSUANCE: April 8, 2009

1. This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in the dgMarket website issue of Thursday, May 31, 2007.

2. The Federal Government of Nigeria has applied for a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of Kano State Education Sector Project (SESP), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the Contract for Procurement of Motor Vehicles

3. The Kano State Education Sector Project (SESP), now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Supply of Motor Vehicles. Bidders may bid for any one or more lots and discounts offered for any lot would be accepted.

Lot No	Item No.	Description of Goods	Quantity	Bid Security	Delivery Period
Lot 1	1	4WD Double Cabin Pickup	2	At least 3% of the Bid Price	60 Days
Lot 2	1	Salon Car	1	At least 3% of the Bid Price	60 Days

4. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and are open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.

5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below between the hours of 9.00am through 4.00pm on Mondays to Thursdays and 9.00am through 1.00pm on Fridays, except on public holidays.

6. Qualifications requirements include: All, as contained/listed in the BDS of the Bid Document. A margin of preference for certain goods manufactured domestically shall not be applicable. Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents

7. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below and upon the payment of a non -refundable fee N15,000.00 (Fifteen Thousand Naira) only, or US\$100.00 (One Hundred United States Dollars) only. The method of payment will be in Cash or Bank Draft. The Bidding Documents will be collected by hand, or sent by courier services on request.

8. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 11 00.am, Thursday, May 21, 2009. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below at 11.00.a.m Thursday, May 21, 2009. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of not less than 3% of the Bid Price or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.

9. The address referred to above for bid submission purposes is

Attention: **Danlami Garba,**

The Project Coordinator,

Kano State Education Sector Project (SESP), Kano State Ministry of Education (SMOE), 3rd Floor, Gidan Murtala Bayero University Kano (B.U.K) Road, PMB 3042. Kano

Telephone: M (234) 080-37881377, 0802-9180333.

E-mail: kano_sesp0709@yahoo.com

The deadline for the submission of bids is:

Date: Thursday, May 21, 2009

Time: 11.00 am

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Nigeria.

Kano State Education Sector Project (SESP), Kano

CREDIT NO: 4295-Uni

Procurement of Schools Furniture for Classrooms, Laboratories and Libraries

IFB NO: KN/SESP/NCB/09/2.

DATE OF ISSUANCE: April 8, 2009

1. This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in the dgMarket website issue of Thursday, May 31, 2007.

2. The Federal Government of Nigeria has applied for a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of Kano State Education Sector Project (SESP), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the Contract for Procurement of Schools Furniture for Classrooms, Laboratories and Libraries

3. The Kano State Education Sector Project (SESP), now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Supply of Schools Furniture for Primary and JS. Bidders may bid for any one or more lots and discounts offered for any lot would be accepted.

Lot No	Item No.	Description of Goods (Furniture Set of)	Quantity	Bid Security	Delivery Period
1-Kano Central	1	Classrooms	115	At least 3% of the Bid Price	60 Days
	2	H/Teacher	3		
	3	Laboratories	6		
	4	Libraries	6		
2-Kano North	1	Classrooms	97	At least 3% of the Bid Price	60 Days
	2	H/Teacher	3		
	3	Laboratories	6		
	4	Libraries	6		
3-Kano South	1	Classrooms	121	At least 3% of the Bid Price	60 Days
	2	H/Teacher	4		
	3	Laboratories	5		
	4	Libraries	5		

4. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and are open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.

5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below between the hours of 9.00am through 4.00pm on Mondays to Thursdays and 9.00am through 1.00pm on Fridays, except on public holidays.

6. Qualifications requirements include: All, as contained/listed in the BDS of the Bid Document. A margin of preference for certain goods manufactured domestically shall not be applicable. Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents

7. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below and upon the payment of a non -refundable fee N15,000.00 (Fifteen Thousand Naira) only, or US\$100.00 (One Hundred United States Dollars) only. The method of payment will be in Cash or Bank Draft. The Bidding Documents will be collected by hand, or sent by courier services on request.

8. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 11am, Tuesday, May 19, 2009. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below at 11am Tuesday, May 19, 2009. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of not less than 3% of the Bid Price or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.

9. The address referred to above for bid submission purposes is

Attention: **Danlami Garba,**

The Project Coordinator, Kano State Education Sector Project (SESP),

Kano State Ministry of Education (SMOE), 3rd Floor, Gidan Murtala Bayero University Kano (B.U.K) Road, PMB 3042. Kano

Telephone: M (234) 080-37881377, 0802-9180333.

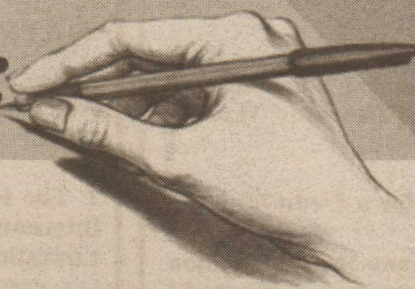
E-mail: kano_sesp0709@yahoo.com

The deadline for the submission of bids is:

Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Time: 11.00am

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Enquiries: 0805 910 0210

SIGNED:

Management



ALVAN IKOKU

FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION OWERRI



STAFF VACANCY INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT VACANCY FOR THE POST OF PROVOST

The College Governing Council is in the process of appointing a new Provost. Applications are therefore invited from suitably qualified candidates for the post. Candidates for the post must demonstrate evidence of strong academic and administrative leadership, initiative and creativity in policy formulation, good human relations and positive managerial attributes.

DUTIES: The Provost is the Chief Executive of the College. The successful candidate would be expected to provide the required academic, administrative and professional leadership for the College in executing the broad policies laid down by the Governing Council, for the achievement of the objectives for which the Institution was established. He/She shall foster good rapport with the relevant organs of the Federal Ministry of Education (FME), National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE) and other professional bodies, that could lead to the ultimate attainment by the College of the status of centre of excellence, for which the College has been commended.

- (i) **Qualifications and Qualities:** Candidates must possess at least a Masters Degree from a recognized university. The possession of professional teaching qualification (minimum – Nigeria Certificate in Education (NCE) or post-graduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) is mandatory.
- (ii) Candidates must have held Senior Teaching Research and top administrative posts in an institution of higher learning for a minimum of fifteen (15) years post qualification cognate experience and must not be below the rank of Chief Lecturer in a College or a Reader or Associate Professor in University or equivalent institutions.
- (iii) Candidate must show evidence of good track record in result oriented researches reaching high national and international status in their research achievement.

METHOD OF APPLICATION

Application should be submitted in twelve (12) copies with up-to-date curriculum vitae which must include the following information.

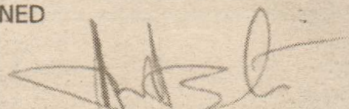
- (1) Full Names with Surname underlined
- (2) Marital Status
- (3) Number of Children, indicating the age of each
- (4) Date and Place of Birth, Local Government Area
- (5) State of Origin
- (6) Geo-Political Zone
- (7) Nationality
- (8) Current Postal Address and Phone Number
- (9) Permanent Home Address
- (10) Educational Institution Attended with Dates
- (11) Academic and Professional Qualifications and Distinctions with Dates
- (12) Membership of Professional Association/Bodies
- (13) Work Experience in Chronological Sequence
- (14) Present Employer – Status and Salary
- (15) Extra – Curricular Activities
- (16) Publications in Organized Relevant Journals/Books in Standard Form
- (17) Names and Addresses of Three (3) Referees one of whom must be the Present Employer.

Applications should be forwarded (by post) to the Chairman of the Governing Council, Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education, P.M.B. 1033, Owerri to reach him within 4 (four) weeks from the date of this publication. All applications should be clearly labelled:

APPLICATION FOR THE POST OF PROVOST,
ALVAN IKOKU FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION,
OWERRI.

Candidates should request their referees to send Confidential reports on them to the Chairman, Governing Council, Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education.

SIGNED



Registrar/Secretary to Council

ALVAN IKOKU

FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION OWERRI



STAFF VACANCIES INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

The Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education, Owerri, hereby invites application from suitably qualified candidates, for the vacant posts of Registrar, Bursar and Librarian.

REGISTRAR: Salary CONTISS 14

1. **Duties:** The Registrar is a Principal Officer by statute and is responsible to the Provost. He is the head of the Registry, Secretary to Governing Council and Secretary to Academic Board.
- 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 senior Management position in higher education administration. He/she should also possess evidence of competence, industry, integrity, good human relations, effective leadership and efficient management of human and material resources.

2.0 BURSAR: Salary CONTISS 14

- 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 the Bursary and co-ordinates operation of financial system of the College.
- 2.2 **Qualifications and Qualities:** A good honours degree or HND in Accountancy or Finance from a recognized institution of higher learning plus at least 15 years cognate experience. In addition, membership of a professional body e.g. ICAN, ANAN, ACCA, etc. is a pre-requisite. He/she should also possess evidence of competence, industry, integrity, good human relations, effective leadership and efficient management of human and material resources. Experience in higher educational institution will be an added advantage.

3.0 LIBRARIAN: Salary CONTISS 14

- 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 activities.
- 3.2 **Qualifications and Qualities:** By direct appointment of a candidate with 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 operation and service. He/she should also possess evidence of competence, industry, integrity, good human relations, efficient management of human and material resources.

METHOD OF APPLICATION

Interested candidates should forward (by post) twelve (12) copies of their applications and curriculum vitae (attaching photocopies of relevant credentials) to:

The Chairman of Governing Council,
Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education,
P.M.B. 1033
Owerri
Imo State.

All candidates are advised to request their three referees to forward reports on them under confidential cover.

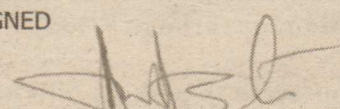
CLOSING DATE

All applications and supporting documents should reach the Chairman of Council within 4 (four) 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



Federal Government of Nigeria
The Presidency
National Council on Privatisation
Secretariat: Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE)

**INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR
PROVISION OF FACILITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

The Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) the Secretariat of the National Council on Privatisation (NCP) invites Expressions of Interest from reputable Facility Management Service Companies to manage the Bureau's Zayyad House Office Complex located in Abuja.

The Facility Managers will be expected to provide repairs and maintenance services in respect of the facility to be managed. Such preventive/corrective maintenance services on:

- Structure, Fabric and Internal Work
- Electrical Installations
- Generator and Accessories
- Pipe Water Supply System
- Telecommunication System
- Air-Conditioning
- Satellite Television System

The service shall be in accordance with the scope of work at a sum provided in the condition of engagement. Provision of services should guarantee smooth and efficient operation of normal activities of BPE without any hindrance or undue interruption.

Applicants must possess a proven track record of successful management of facilities with not less than five (5) years experience in ownership of Facility Management outfit.

SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSIONS OF INTERESTS (EOIs)

Expressions of Interests (EOIs) from interested applicants should specify the following as basis for selection.

- Curriculum Vitae providing full details of qualification and experience that are relevant to the services to be provided.
- Evidence of ownership of facility management outfit.
- Number of facilities the firm has managed or is managing.

The initial contract will be for a period of 12 month, subject to renewal on satisfactory performance.

Expressions of Interests must be submitted (six copies) in sealed envelope clearly marked "*Expression of Interest for the provision of Facility Management Services*".

The Expressions of Interest should be addressed and delivered not later than **Monday, April 19, 2009 by 5.00 pm in room 008** at the address shown below:

The Director-General
Bureau of Public Enterprises
11 Osun Crescent off IBB way,
Maitama, Abuja

Attention: Head Management Services

Interested applicants may obtain information at the address stated above from 8.00 am to 5.00 pm Monday through Friday

Only short listed applicants will be contacted to pick up bills of quantities to proceed to the next stage.

PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A SOLAR ELECTRICITY GENERATION
LICENCE, PURSUANT TO SECTION 64 OF THE ELECTRIC
POWER SECTOR REFORM ACT 2005**

WEDOTEBARY NIGERIA LIMITED, whose registered office is situated at **No. 5, Sabon Gida Kanar Road, Bukuru, Plateau State**, hereby gives Notice that it has made an application to the **NIGERIAN ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION (NERC)**, whose Principal Office is situated at **Adamawa House, Plot 1099 First Avenue, off Shehu Shagari Way, Abuja**, pursuant to Section 64 of the Electricity Power Reform Act 2005, authorizing it to operate a **5MW Solar generated Independent Power Plant, at No. 3, Kuru Trade Center, Kuru, Plateau State**.

NOTICE is hereby given that persons who have objections to the grant of the Licence should send their written comments clearly articulating the basis for any objection within **Twenty one (21) days** of this publication to: -

The Chairman/ CEO,
Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission
(NERC), Adamawa House, Plot 1099 First
Avenue,
off Shehu Shagari Way,
Abuja,
CBD,
P.O. Box 136, G.P.O.,
Garki Abuja.

Or

By e-mail: -
Info@nercng.org

Or

By Fax: - 09-4130763.

BUSINESS TRUST

● **Forex: CBN sold \$6.173bn in 3 months** —Page 26

● **Foreign exchange inflow to Nigeria drops** —Page 32

Stock Market Report —Page 31 & 32

Hotline: 08051000536



Flight Schedule

Chanchangi Airlines

Lagos-Abj: 07.15, 10.00, 13.10, 15.30, 16.45
Lagos-Kad: 10.00
Lagos-Owrr: 08.00, 10.00, 14.30
Kad-Abj-Lagos: 10.30, 11.45
Abj-Lagos: 08.10, 13.40, 15.00

IRS Airlines

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

Aero Contractors

Lagos-Abj: 06.50; 13.30; 16.30; 19.45(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); 12.30 (Sun) 16:45 (Sat).
Abj-Lagos: 07.30; 13.30; 19.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat); 10.30; 14.30; 19.30 (Sun) 18.30(Sat).
Lagos-Ben: 07.45; 11.00; 15.30; (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun) 12.30; (Sun); 15.30 (Sat).
Ben-Lagos: 09.15; 12.30; 17.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); 17.00 (Sat); 14.00 (Sun)
Lagos-Cala: 13.15; (Mon-Fri/Sat); 08.30; 19.00 (Sun)
Cala-Lagos: 14.45; (Mon-Fri/Sat); 10.30 (Sun)
Lagos-Enu: 09.30; (Mon-Fri/Sat); 15.00(Sun)
Enu-Lagos: 09.30; (Mon-Fri/Sat) 16.45 (Sun)
Lagos-PHC: 07.30; 09.30; 15.00(Mon-Fri/ Sat/ Sun)
PHC-Lagos: 11.15; 17.30 (Mon-Fri/Sat) 18.00 (Fri)
Lagos-Warri: 07.45; 16.00 (Mon-Fri/sat) 09.15 (Sun)
Warri-Lagos: 09.15; 17.30 (Mon-Fri/Sat) 10.45(Sun)

Virgin Nigeria

Lagos-Abj: 07.15, 09.00, 11.30, 14.00, 15.50, 17.00, 18.00(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Abj-Lagos: 07.00, 09.30, 10.15, 11.15, 13.35, 16.15 (Mon-Fri/Sat/sun)
Lagos-PHC: 07.40, 09.30, 10.00, 12.20, 13.30, 14.00, 16.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
PHC-Lagos: 10.50, 11.20, 12.45, 15.30, 16.15, 17.15 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Abj-Kano: 18.00 (Mon-Fri)
Kano-Abj: 08.20 (Mon-Fri)

Bellview Airlines

Lagos-Abj: 06.50, 12.55, 17.00(Mon-Fri) 16.40(Sat) 17.00 (Sun)
Abj-Lagos: 07.40, 14.50, 18.25 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Lagos-Kano: 06.50(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Kano-Lagos: 10.10(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)

Arik Air

Lagos-Abj: 07.30, 10.20, 14.20, 16.45 17.45, 18.05(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Abj-Lagos: 09.20, 09.30, 10.30, 12.15, 16.20, 17.45, 20.05(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Abj-Cal: 10.25, 17.25(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Cal-Abj: 08.50, 15.50(Mon-Sat) 19.00(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Abj-Ben: 10.35(Mon-Fri)
Ben-Abj: 12.00(Tue-Fri)
Lagos-Ben: 08.00, 11.45, 15.30(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Ben-Lagos: 09.15, 13.35, 17.00(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Lagos-Cal: 07.00, 14.05(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Cal-Lagos: 12.00, 19.00(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Lagos-Enu: 07.30, 14.30, 16.00(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Enu-Lagos: 09.30, 18.00(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Lagos-Jos: 11.30, (Mon-Fri/Sat/sun)
Jos-Lagos: 13.15(Mon-Fri)
Kano-Lagos: 15.30(Mon-Fri/Sun)
Lagos-PHC: 07.20, 07.50, 09.15, 11.30, 12.30, 15.10, 15.55, 16.45, 17.00(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
PHC-Lagos: 07.00, 08.30, 09.15, 11.10, 13.40, 14.30, 15.00, 17.05, 17.50(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)

Kano tops unemployment index in Nigeria

Kano State has the highest rate of unemployment in Nigeria, the state coordinator of National Directorate of Employment (NDE) Malam Yakubu Umar Mani has said. Umar said this while delivering his address at a one-day orientation programme for incoming participants at an NDE skills

From Ruqayyah Yusuf Aliyu, Kano

27,000 youths under the National Open Apprenticeship Scheme (NOAS). "NDE has so far trained 27,000 youths within the

governing proper participation in skills acquisition. Malam Umar added that the programme is aimed at exposing the trainees on the benefits of self-employment and equipping the trainees with adequate information to enable them

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course so as to be entitled to the starter kit to be given by the directorate in collaboration with NARDB. Mohammed who spoke through Alhaji Suleiman Ajanah of the vocational skills development department of



From right, after the KLM air hostess, is Mr Etienne Rachou, Vice President, Africa & Middle East AirFrance KLM; Mr Van Der Weil, Dutch Ambassador to Nigeria; Mr Idris Kuta, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Aviation; Capt. Shehu Iyal, Special Adviser to President on Aviation; and Mr Suin, First Consular, French Embassy, Nigeria at the re-opening of the AirFrance KLM office at the Sheraton Hotel and Towers Abuja recently.

acquisition programme yesterday in Kano, saying the rate of unemployment in the state justifies quick response by the government.

According to him: "I am sure the enormity of the unemployed persons registered in the state standing at 369.139 which is the highest in Nigeria will vindicate government's desire to help youths in the state".

Umar added that the directorate has so far trained

framework of the National Open Apprenticeship Scheme (NOAS) in Kano where the trainees where given the necessary skills that are functional and productive to the requirement of the current market demands," he said.

He said the programme is aimed at sensitising the trainees on the importance of skills acquisition, introduce to them some life skills concepts as well as to avail them with guidelines

make informed decisions on their trades.

He added that the directorate in collaboration with the Nigerian Agricultural and Rural Development Bank (NARDB) will offer micro credit loans to enable the trainees start up the trades in which they were trained in at the end of the programme.

On his part, the director general of the directorate Alhaji Abubakar Mohammed urged the participants to ensure completion of the

the directorate emphasized the need for the trainees to be disciplined and dedicated during the training period.

Also speaking, a member of the state Shari'a commission, Malam Umar Sani Fagge commended the directorate for its efforts in addressing unemployment in the state.

Sani called on the trainees to make good use of the opportunity while he emphasized that Islam resents idleness and street begging.

CBN EXCHANGE RATES

Date	Currency	Buying(NGN)	Central(NGN)	Selling(NGN)
6/4/2009	CFA	0.2734	0.2834	0.2934
	DANISH KRONER	25.9663	26.0561	26.1458
	EURO	193.4639	194.1324	194.8009
	POUNDS STERLING	213.418	214.1555	214.8929
	RIYAL	38.5867	38.72	38.8533
	SDR	217.4841	218.2356	218.9871
	SWISS FRANC	127.0078	127.4467	127.8855
	US DOLLAR	144.7	145.2	145.7
	WAUA	215.1864	215.93	216.6735
	YEN	1.4368	1.4418	1.4467

BUSINESS TRUST

Kano to get Africa's biggest trade centre

Public-Private Partnership is being taken to new heights in the Northern part of the country with a planned joint execution of a multi-billion trade centre by the Oceanic Bank International and the Kano state government.

A statement from the

By Abubakar Buba

bank said the project is reputed to be the largest in Africa on completion.

"The project called Kanawa Trade Center (KTC) is part of a larger plan to build an ultra modern Kano Economic City, which the state government

referred to as a novel economic agenda designed to lift the economy of the

Northern part of the country and the nation as a whole," it said.

When fully completed, Kano State Governor, Ibrahim Shekarau said the Kano Economic city and particularly the trade center would form the hub of economic activities in the entire West African sub region.

Resolutions at the final meeting on the projects by the parties indicated that the trade centre of world standard would have 15,000 lock up shops built on two levels to maximize common facilities as well as a five star hotels for use of international businessmen on visits.

As in notable trade centers world over, it was further indicated that the lock up shops would be

backed up by large and sufficient ware houses to accommodate goods and other materials.

Designed to be executed in phases with each phase equipped with the basic amenities which can also function independently, the with implementation plan projected to be undertaken by different contractors so as to give the desired aesthetics.

"The market should have an imposing monument entrance that would be a tourist attraction. The circulation ways within the market will be enclosed with well detailed roof system that gives expression to the culture of Kano," the statement said.



Group Managing Director of Oceanic Bank Dr. Cecilia Ibru

Stock market recovers N13bn

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

Stocks value surged higher by N12.664 billion on the floor of the Nigerian stock exchange on Tuesday as Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) said the market is being strengthened to cope with future challenges.

The market had opened with market capitalisation of N4.515 trillion but by the time the market closed, it has gained N12.664 billion, about 0.3 per cent at N4.528 trillion.

Besides, All share-index also rose to 20,018.55 point level with a gain of 55.98 points or 0.3 per cent. This was against the previous day dealings of 19,962.57 points, about 0.04 per cent and increase of 8.42 points. But SEC this is just the beginning. According to the special assistant to SEC director general, Bala Usman, the surge in the share value in the nation's stock market is a response to happenings around the world. "The market is beginning to respond to confidence to G20 repose in the market world wide and this has started having positive effect on Nigerian market. He said the regulatory agencies and other stakeholders are working hard to ensure. SEC, he said currently put in place various structures that can enhance transparency and operational activities of the commission.

Meanwhile, a total of 246.067 million shares worth N1.297 billion in 6,708 deals were transacted on the floor of the market on Tuesday. Banking sub sector led other sub sector with a total of 115.385 million shares worth N808.901 million exchanged in 3,469 deals.

Activities in shares of Guaranty Trust Bank drive the sub sector with 25.847 million shares worth N260.279 million in 429 deals. Insurance sub sector followed with a total of 38.324 million shares worth N45.784 million exchanged in 548 deals.

AIICO Insurance shares drive the sub sector with 8.467 million shares worth N8.125 million in 170 deals. On the gainers' list AP led others with N3.79 to close at N79.62 per share, BCC N1.05 to close at N22.68 per share, NBC N0.90 to close at N22.50 per share. On the losers' table, Oando led others with a loss of N2.50 to close at N68.00 per share, Nestle N2.49 to close at N135.51 per share, JBerger N1.20 to close at N22.80 per share

FOREX: CBN sold \$6.173bn in 3 months

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has sold \$6.173 billion in the last three months with three banks, Zenith, Diamond and Access Bank, leading others in the moderated Retail Dutch Auction System (RDAS), controlling 41.4 per cent of the total transactions in the market for the period.

According to the RDAS summary of forex sales to end users a total of \$6,173,102,464.68 was sold to the 26 financial institutions, including the Bank of Industry and NEXIM.

Out of this amount, the three banks collectively accounted for \$2,555,8343,57.74. The foreign exchange market was dominated by only a few players with the top six

banks accounting for more than 60 per cent of the total sales.

Zenith Bank retained its dominance of the market, controlling a market share of 17.99 per cent. This, however, indicated a slight reduction when compared with 19.22 per cent market share in January 19 to February 13, 2009.

Diamond Bank retained its second position, controlling 12.70 per cent of the total volume sold; a decline from 14.73 per cent market share between January 19 and February 13.

Access Bank, however, consolidated its current position (third) by controlling close to 10.71 per cent of the total sales

volume; an increment from 10.55 per cent in market between January 19 and February 13. In terms of incremental volumes, Access Bank is also number two with \$208.326 million in the past two weeks.

GTBank emerged fourth, cornering 9.49 per cent of the market with a gross of \$585,785,005.20. First Bank trailed with 4.99 per cent of the market amounting to \$308,043,095.36; Stanbic IBTC Bank - 4.39 per cent, translating into \$271,037,723.92; United Bank for Africa - 4.37 per cent (\$269,607,755.05), while Standard Chartered Bank's 4.03 per cent depicted \$248,869,292.82.

Other top players include Ecobank - 3.90 per cent (\$240,781,846.14); Union Bank of Nigeria -

3.84 per cent (\$237,182,801.62); Citibank - 3.46 per cent (\$213,720,514.16); Intercontinental Bank - 3.38 per cent (\$208,673,637.59); First City Monument Bank - 3.25 per cent (\$200,838,671.99), while Fidelity Bank had 2.95 per cent, depicting a total of \$181,807,855.37.

Flour Mills (\$263,352,976.15), MTN Nigeria Communications Ltd (\$233,914,120.99), Stanbic Nominees (\$199.195, 271.73), Folawiyo Energy Limited (\$145,618,725.96) and Zain Nigeria Limited (\$125,101,751.80) were the top five forex users by volume during the period respectively.

They were trailed by Fineshade Energy Limited (\$124,503,256.84), MRS Oil and Gas Ltd (\$120,909,309.50), Zenon Petroleum and Gas Limited (\$113,976,439.63), Western Metal Products (\$88,294,139.59 and Africa Finance Corporation (\$86,000,000.00), -emerged sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth respectively by volume during the period.

However, the Nigerian currency, the naira, stabilised in price relative to the dollar across the official, bureaux de change and open markets from last week Monday, last week, till yesterday.

That was the first time the naira was stabilising at the open market since this year, following its steady depreciation and oscillation from November 26, 2008.

Dangote still under investigation - SEC

Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) said in Lagos yesterday that the vice president of Nigerian stock Exchange (NSE) and Chairman of Dangote group of companies Alhaji Aliko Dangote is still being investigated over his alleged role in the manipulation of African Petroleum Plc shares.

According to the Special Assistant to the director general of the commission, Bala Usman, the commission as a regulatory authority is still investigating the alleged role played by Dangote in the whole matter

"We are still investigating. We are yet

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

to conclude action on it. We will take our time do carry out thorough investigation because any action we take is subject to judicial review", he said

AP had petitioned NSE and SEC over alleged manipulation of its shares by Nova Finance Securities and Alhaji Aliko Dangote. The firm in its petition to the Securities and Exchange Commission and NSE

claimed that the orchestrated crossing of AP shares have been on for the last eight weeks.

However, three days after the said publication, NSE suspended Nova Finance & Securities Limited with a fine of

N500,000.

NSE also imposed a fine of N300,000 on AP for contravening the post listing requirements.

Bala said SEC is still investigating and urged investors in the market to be patient

DPR shuts Conoil stations for fraud

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

Two filling stations of Conoil Plc in Lagos were yesterday sealed by the officials of the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) for cheating innocent customers.

Also sealed was Energy Magic Plc filling station, an independent petroleum marketing company.

Also one dispensing pump

of Total Plc filling station in Ilupeju was shut due to operational fault.

The two filling stations of Conoil located in Onipanu and Mushin were accused by the regulatory agency of underdispensing Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) or petrol to the tune of 0.87 and 1.628

litres respectively on every 10 litres of the product purchased by their customers.

Customers who bought PMS in Energy Magic Plc filling station located in Shomolu loses 0.615litres on every 10 litres of PMS they bought.

Besides, the regulatory agency also accused Conoil filling station in Mushin of

using faulty generators, poor house keeping as well as operating without licence.

Mrs. Abigail Akinkugbe, the agency's Head of Retail and Marketing, who led the team of DPR round some service stations, said the development ran foul of standard practice in the nation's oil and gas industry.

AVIATION BUSINESS

Emirates SkyCargo acquires New-Generation Freighter

Emirates SkyCargo's first Boeing 777 Freighter has arrived in Dubai after completing its inaugural commercial flight

Stories from Chris Agabi, Lagos

from Hong Kong. Emirates took delivery of

the New-generation freighter at Boeing's Everett, Washington facility on the weekend. From there it went directly to Hong Kong, still

one of the carrier's most robust routes, where it was loaded with cargo bound for Dubai and beyond.

Ram Menen, Divisional

Senior Vice President Cargo, said the Boeing 777F, with its range and environmental advantages over other freighters in the market will play an integral role in Emirates' freighter fleet, adding it will now boast of the longest range capability of all twin engine jets, able to fly non-stop between Dubai and major cargo centres such as Frankfurt and Hong Kong with a full 103-tonne payload.

Menen said, "This freighter is part of our long-term investment for Emirates SkyCargo."

He acknowledged that while the air cargo industry was currently experiencing its toughest period since the beginning of the jet age, world air cargo traffic was still forecast to triple over the

next 20 years, and said that Emirates needed to be prepared for when these predicted growth levels returned.

"In the last 15 years a tremendous amount of work has gone into developing the science of supply chain management. Inventory and logistics management are two of the most critical elements of the supply chain and with globalisation of manufacturing and of the marketplace, reliability of transport plays a very important role. Just-in-time and vendor managed inventory is what creates a very cost efficient supply chain with time becoming a crucial factor.

"Emirates has opted for these brand new, super-efficient aircraft to ensure we are best placed to serve the industry's requirements in the long term. Freighters have a greater role in today's supply chain - transporting cargo directly from production to consumption."

Emirates SkyCargo will take delivery of another Boeing 777F later this year, with a further two on order.

Renowned for its fuel efficiency - the Boeing 777F uses less fuel per tonne of cargo than other freighters available, significantly reducing the fuel bill - it is also the quietest freighter flying today (QC2 compliant).



Aero rolled out the First All Nigerian Female Flight Crew on a flight between Lagos and Warri recently. The crew was handed a plaque each by Dr. Segun Harold Demuren, DG of NCAA, to commemorate the event.

Air France KLM increases capacity by 1000 seats on routes

Air France KLM has increased capacity on the Paris-Lagos, Amsterdam-Lagos route to one thousand seats this summer.

The vice president, Africa and the Middle East for Air France KLM, Mr. Etienne Rachou disclosed this recently.

He said: "We have increased our capacity, the number of seats we are selling, offering to the Nigerian market by more than 20 per cent and how are we going to do that, we are going to do that by increasing the number of flights and by increasing the capacity of the aircraft, putting a large aircraft on the Nigerian route."

The group would be adding 1000 seats more on the Nigerian market, as well as the four First Class seats this summer," he said.

He spoke at the re-opening of Air France KLM office in Abuja.

"The investment we have been doing in Abuja is only part of the investment we are doing to develop our presence in Nigeria. It is very important year for us because we are probably going to invest a lot especially with our summer schedule which is starting on the 29th of March. We are actually increasing again the product and the services we are offering to our Nigerian customers," he said.

"We are moving the B777 to Lagos, both from Amsterdam and Paris increase the capacity to Lagos and we are going from a daily flight from Port Harcourt to Paris Charles de Gaulle. So we are moving from 24 to 27 departures per week out of Nigeria. So increasing the services we are offering to Nigeria is a proof of commitment, of dedication to this very important country, a very important market for Air France", he stated.

He explained that Air France KLM has a long history in Nigeria, dating back in Kano for over 62 years, adding that Nigeria was a very important market to the group.

On the global economic recession, he said that the current global economic recession is a threat to airlines' growth.

Turkish Air releases summer timetable

Turkish Air has released its summer timetable with some adjustment that moved its Sunday flight back to Saturday and its departure time in Lagos from 22.00hours to 22.10hours.

The managing director, Mr Orhan Guven said the change is to accommodate the time and climatic change in Europe and Africa.

Mr Guven reassured that "next year we are trying to

He said: "Yes, there is a crisis, we think for us because of the very sound and loyal basis for customers we have here to improve the services. You are right, it is going to be tough, but we are very confident."

In another development Air France, KLM and GOL are now commercial partners

A statement from Air France KLM noted that Jean-Cyril Spinetta, Chairman of AIR FRANCE KLM and Constantino de Oliveira Junior, CEO of GOL Linhas Aereas Inteligentes S.A., which comprises the GOL and VARIG brands, last week signed a commercial cooperation agreement in Sao Paulo.

This agreement will enable the 15 million customers who are members of AIR FRANCE and KLM's "Flying Blue" and GOL's 6 mil-

lion "Smiles" frequent flyer programmes to have access to new Frequent Flyers benefits and destinations. It said beginning May 1, Flying Blue members can earn Miles on all GOL and VARIG flights. Reciprocally, Smiles cardholders can earn Miles on AIR FRANCE and KLM's networks. Then, as of 1 July, they will all be able to use their Miles as award tickets on all three airlines (AIR FRANCE, KLM, GOL/

make our flights daily. We are programming this. Very soon we will increase to five times a week from four times. My first project is to focus on the segmentation of the business class. There are so many business class passengers in Nigeria "We are determined to give our passengers the best connecting time which will still enable them to get to their destinations at their desired time," he stated.

VARIG).

VARIG).

To mark this agreement, Flying Blue cardholders will double their Miles on all GOL/VARIG flights between 1 May and 31 July 2009. Similarly, Smiles members will be able to double their Miles when travelling on AIR FRANCE and KLM flights over the same period.

The agreement also makes provision for the implementation of code sharing.

Virgin Nigeria offers passengers Easter tour package

Virgin Nigeria has announced a tour package for customers wishing to travel to Accra, Ghana to enjoy a fun and fulfilling vacation during the Easter.

Based on the package ticket, rates start from \$655 with one return ticket, three night's accommodation in a choice hotel inclusive of breakfast as well as a daily tour of Accra's sights and sounds and airport transfers.

In addition to the special tour offer tagged "3 nights of bliss in Ghana this Easter", Virgin Nigeria is also offering passengers flexible fares to Accra starting at \$126 exclusive of taxes.

While announcing the tour offers, Deputy Managing Director of Virgin Nigeria, Captain Dapo Olumide said that through the promotional offer, Virgin Nigeria is ensuring that customers get value for money.

"This tour package offering is our incentive at encouraging people to treat

themselves to a well-deserved break over the Easter holidays by taking a trip to a serene environment as well as exploring other choice offerings on the rest of our regional route network", Dapo said.

Dapo also noted that passengers taking advantage of these flexible fares offering on the Accra route have the added advantage of making reservations and paying at short notice for preferred travel dates.

Although the Easter tour package is only valid between Friday, April 10 and Monday, April 13 2009, the flexible fare offering of \$126 will help to stimulate the market and encourage appreciable savings on trips to Accra by passengers, he said.

STAR FEATURE

Gwarimpa's 32 Cres

Residents: "Gwarimpa is very insecure. Criminals send us nasty SMS."

Police: "Gwarimpa is very secure. Employ private security guards to help police secure you."

Residents: "You have sold our plot of land."

FHA: "We re-allocated it. You failed to develop it after ten years."

Several features seem to be emerging in the Gwarimpa Housing Estate in the Federal Capital Territory, which strikingly contrasts with its status as the largest mass housing location in the West

which owns and manages the estate, 'incautiously' sells plots of land allocated in the original master plan of the FCT for places of their worship to

since the demolitions of slums by the administration of the immediate past FCT Minister, Malam Nasir el-Rufai, consequent upon which many

Adjoining Roads Residents Association wrote to the immediate past FCT Minister, Dr. Aliyu Modibbo Umar through his Special Adviser (Security) and titled: RE: COMPLAINT ON ILLEGALLY

AND NIGHT CLUBS ON 32 CRESCENT AND ITS ADJOINING ROADS AND IN THE DESIGNATED CORNER SHOPS AS WELL AS THE OPERATION OF 'ENJOYMENT GARDENS'

accommodation. As a result of non provision of conveniences in these beer parlours, the clients ease themselves anywhere sometimes in front of the houses of some residents

By Uthman Abubakar



The plot of land re-allocated by the FHA

African sub-region, or so it is said.

Its population, which includes, it is said, top-ranking serving military and police officers, the National Chairman of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), the immediate past Speaker of the House of Representatives, members of the National Assembly and top officials of the Presidency, among numerous others, seems growing in leaps and bounds by the day. The population is, normally, multi-cultural and multi-religious.

However, insecurity, orchestrated by criminal activities and depravities, threatening peaceful and lawful residence, the residents have begun to allege, is growing as fast as the population and the socio-economic activities are, or, perhaps, even faster, according to the claim of residents in some of the more densely populated sections of the estate.

Further, a section of the population allege that the Federal Housing Authority,

other individuals and organisations for purposes other than worship.

One of the wards of the estate where the residents complain that such features are more noticeable is 32 Crescent in Gwarimpa II, where the Corner shops in the designated neighbourhood centre has many additional 'illegal' structures allegedly operating as all-night-long beer parlours and brothels and, subsequently, very secure hideouts for alleged miscreants and robbers who, allegedly, deprive the residents of their peaceful rest by waylaying them and snatching their properties, and even breaking into their houses.

Some of the residents there even allege that they have started receiving SMS messages from the 'robbers,' warning them to prepare for their visit any day by keeping an amount of money large enough to save them and their families from their wrath in the event that no such amount of money is kept for them.

The residents complain that

criminals, hitherto lurking in the demolished slums, relocated to the estate, they have known no peace.

They allege that it is an every-Sunday occurrence that at least a car is stolen in the estate, a situation they attribute to what they describe as the daily springing up of strange and unusual structures harbouring strange people converging in the estate from the demolished slums, people whose sources of livelihood cannot be ascertained.

Residents of the 32 Crescent described themselves as worst hit by this development, complaining that their neighbourhood centre ideally built as a location where they can source their immediate needs has been turned by a group of people they describe as bad elements into full-rented accommodation where all manners of people hire to carry out their 'nefarious' activities like drugs sales and consumption, night clubs and brothels.

One of the letters of complaint the 32 Crescent And



Residents call these structures at the corner shops 'illegal'

OPERATED BEER PARLOURS, NIGHT CLUBS, EATERY AND ENJOYMENT GARDENS ON 32 CRESCENT AND ADJOINING ROADS IN DESIGNATED NEIGHBOURHOOD CORNER SHOPS, dated 25th July, 2008 and copied to the Commissioner of Police, FCT Command and The Managing Director/Chief Executive, Federal Housing Authority, Asokoro Abuja, stated in part: "Generally speaking, the entire Corner shop in 32 Crescent has now been turned by operators to black spots. The activities of the Corner shop owners are no longer for the purpose for which it was built/established, hence giving the residence a serious problem and night mare."

The letter was signed by Mr. L A Sanusi, the association's Protom Chairman.

On the assumption of office of Senator Muhammadu Adamu Aliero as the present FCT Minister, the association wrote a letter to him titled: COMPLAINT OF ILLEGALLY OPERATED BEER PARLOURS

BETWEEN 32 AND 34 CRESCENTS, FEDERAL HOUSING ESTATE, GWARIMPA. The letter was dated 20th January, 2009 and signed by Mr. L A Sanusi, Alhaji Jubril A Abdullahi, Ambassador Olufemi George and Ambassador Jones Ajayi, all officials of the association.

In the letter, the association complained: "Unfortunately and regrettably, some people have turned these Shops into Beer Parlours and even Night Clubs, operating from night till dawn. The result is not only that our sleep and peace is (are) disturbed, but also that all sorts of characters are attracted to our neighbourhood. In fact, this place is being used as launching pad for the nefarious activities of men of the underworld to plan their operations.

"Furthermore, many of these shops have been converted to full residential quarters, either for those operating these beer parlours or even out-rightly rented out to prospective tenants as permanent living

thereby creating serious environmental hazard. Furthermore, we believe that these places serve as hideouts for bandits and other miscreants who now constitute threats and are indeed terrorizing us."

Nothing, so the association says, has yet been done by the law enforcements, the FHA and the FCT administration to rescue the residents of the wards out of their plight.

A top official of the residents association, who also an official of the Presidency, spoke on strict condition of anonymity.

"So far the developments with regard to our situation derogatory. If the authorities that be had taken precautionary things wouldn't have degenerated to this point," maintained, explaining, "I'm saying this because it has come to the point that armed band have gone to the extent of writing (text message) to residents. I am among the they have written to. Seven us were written to. They wrote to us that we should

Ascent of problems

prepared for them. They are coming, and at any time they come, we should keep something very reasonable to defend our families. That is the extent to which they have gone."

He presented the SMS allegedly sent to him and the six other as:

"We're bk 2 Gwarimpa and 32 Crescent. We'll visit you one of the days. Pls prepare for us by keeping something gd and reasonable dat can safe you and yr fmlly. Noth'g can stop us."

The Presidency official

we don't know when they will come, as they warned us in the message. They are seeing everything we do now even with the police patrols. If they observe that the patrols concentrate in the night, they will come in the day time."

The Presidency official recounted an instance: "It happened in an afternoon last year. It happened to my neighbor here. His wife's car was snatched by 1 pm. They car was brought outside where they were waiting. The criminals snatched the car with the younger brother inside. A

did what, and then sold it somebody' and so on, in fact, that is not even the problem. The problem now is that the information now shows that they are now going to use that place for a hotel."

He recalled: "Right before 2003, we Muslim Ummah of Gwarimpa have been fighting the battle. We have written three letters since 2003, asking the FHA to give this land originally allocated to us to start developing it. We indicated in the letters that we learnt this land has been sold. The relevant papers of the

"Gwarimpa is generally very secure. There is no serious concern about insecurity in any section of the estate at all. Gwarimpa is very calm. But is not an island on its own. It is a society like every other, and in every society you cannot rule out such minor crimes and insecurity threats. It is normal."

He continued: "About this SMS you said residents of some of the wards received from criminals, warning them to keep some amount of money for them, we have not received any report about that. We are not magicians to know

weekends, we patrol the estate day and night. We are doing our duty well in Gwarimpa."

Mr. Tunde Ipinmisho, the Public Relations Officer of the Federal Housing Authority responded to the two complaints of the residents.

"Gwarimpa Estate, like every other estate built by the FHA, is a living organism. A living organism does not remain static. It changes constantly," he posited, admitting, "We have received complaints by the group you referred to. The plot of land was originally allocated in the

structures you said, I don't know of such structures. I know about corner shops. The issue of corner shops is a general problem in Gwarimpa. Constantly, our development control officers are going round these corner shops to ensure that, one, people don't covert them to residential houses and two, to ensure that they are used for the purposes for which they are meant. That is in the books," Mr. Tunde said.

"But the reality is that many of the people who own those corner shops are not the ones using them. They have sublet them to other people. The matter came up about two years ago. The plan of the Authority now is to look eventually for a location; the kind soldiers call Mammy Market, which will be out of anybody's way. Subsequently, our



One of the beer parlours operating at 32 Crescent corner shop

said: "This is so because before now, we have the census of the entire residents and who lives where. Now, because of the situation in the corner shop there are many strangers who carry out immoral and criminal activities in the shops now

turned to full accommodation, beer parlours and brothels. This message I am telling you about, I received my own on Friday (April 3), and all the others too confirmed that they also received theirs on the same day because immediately they received it they called me. We compared notes and discovered that it was exactly what was sent to me that was sent to them. We have contacted the police and they are working on it with patrols and so on."

He said, however, "This measure, like I told the DPO, is just like treating the symptom not the real cause of the problem. Patrols are being carried out, but the criminals remain with us. They are watching every movement and they know when to retreat and when to strike. Our fear is that

fortnight ago on a Sunday a neighbour's car was stolen. He returned from the Church, went inside his house and asked someone to go and bring out something from the booth. That person never saw the car."

According to him, the corner shops initially belonged to the FHA officials, who later sold them or transferred their ownership to other people, which could have been the reason for the FHA's inability to stop the construction of additional illegal structures around them.

"You see, our problem with the FHA doesn't even stop there. We the Muslims are battling with something now," the retired military officer said, explaining, "the land adjacent 32 Crescent shopping centre originally designated as a place of worship for Muslims is already sold by the same FHA which initially allocated it for place of worship to the Jamaatu Nasril Islam (JNI). We have the master plan that shows this. Even the FHA officials are not contesting it. Later, they began to say 'who

ownership of the land have still not been handed over to us. That is why all we had to do was to fence it. In fact, we put there the notice that 'This land is not for sale. Trespassers will be prosecuted.' A letter was written to the minister. Up till now, nothing has been done. We have about four or five such designated places in Gwarimpa here. FHA sold all. This is the only one officially remaining for the Muslim Ummah. Why is it that the FHA doesn't want to give us our land? The about N80 million we learnt the land was sold for was not handed over to us. So, who authorized the sale, and on behalf of who?"

He said the association appeals to the FCT minister to wade into the matter and stop the FHA from finally taking over the land from the JNI.

"No! It is not true that Gwarimpa is insecure," the Public Relations Officer of the FCT Police Command, Mr. Jimoh Moshood (DSP), hit back furiously at the residents in a mobile cell interview, stating emphatically,



'Illegal' structures at the corner shops

whether criminals sent such nasty message to Yahaya or Biodun or James, or to any other resident. If they had reported it immediately to the police we would definitely do something about it. If they have not reported it, they should stop complaining. If they have reported it, they should allow the police to do their work. They should wait and see if anybody will harass them."

Mr. Jimoh admitted: "In this kind of society where the houses are detached, the residents should help the police by employing their own private guards to ensure their security. Such guards complement the work of the police. The problem of most residents is that they will not employ their own private guards and they will start complaining about insecurity. The police cannot be everywhere every time."

He stressed: "Any complaint about insecurity in any part of Gwarimpa is not genuine at all. The estate is generally very secure. Even on

master plan for a place of worship, as they have said, but for more than ten years as the estate grows nobody came forward with a development plan for that place. Nobody came to say this is what we want to do with that place.

"If you go to Gwarimpa now you will see the pressure for land there. Therefore, the plot of land in question was re-allocated for another purpose. The master plan is not something that is static. It is open to review every time. In Gwarimpa there are many Mosques. On First Avenue alone you can count more than three Mosques. So it is not as if somebody doesn't want Mosque there. In fact, there are residential buildings converted to Mosques, against Development Control Regulations. In this particular instance, the plot of land was laying fallow for so long, ten years as I have said, and the Authority reserves the right to re-allocate any land in Gwarimpa Estate. It is within our purview," he argued.

"About the illegal

development control officials will intensify activities to ensure that all those neighbourhood centers are used for the clear purpose for which they were allocated," the FHA image maker argued, stating, "we want to maintain the original plan. Anywhere we see illegal structures, whether in the corner shops or anywhere, the FHA development control department will pull them down."

Mr. Tunde debunked the resident's complaint about insecurity, saying, "I live in Gwarimpa Estate, and I can tell you that I have never lost sleep because of insecurity threat there since I went there. I think people should be more tolerant of others. We have agreed to live together in that estate. There are things you do which I don't like and there are things I do which you don't like. We meet at a common ground. Compromise is the word."

Who is right on the state of security in Gwarimpa Federal Housing Estate? The residents or the authorities?

BUSINESS TRUST

Our achievements, our challenges

It is not lost on Government that the multitude of slogans describing government policy intentions can be confusing. But while the Nigeria Vision 2020 remains what its name connotes: a vision, an aspiration and a long term view of where we intend to be by the year 2020, the Administration's ongoing development agenda is defined by the 7-Point Agenda. It is important to note that the 2009 Budget, as conceived, is a clear demonstration of the Government's determination to achieve its long-term vision objective through faithful implementation of the 7-Point Agenda, which itself is a medium term development strategy. In attempting to rationalise if the slogans, Vision 2020 and 7-Point Agenda are mere political sloganeering or are, in fact economic growth mechanisms, there is need to briefly describe the nature and structure of the 2009 Federal Government Budget.

The Budget this time around was premised on the need to, partly, address the historical bottleneck to budget implementation and performance in the country, and also, to achieve the well defined deliverables that constitute the 7-Point Agenda. The preparatory process in the budget followed a more focused approach, emphasising the need for a people-centred budget, the outcome of which is a bold step in the introduction to Nigeria of a comprehensive result-oriented, performance-based budgeting system, backed by appropriate monitoring and evaluation structures and strategies. Because the budget was based on the vision of Mr President, it necessarily means that the various items of the 7-Point Agenda provide the focal points for assessing the success or failure of the 2009 budget.

Let me quickly highlight some of the measurable targets and outputs envisaged in the 2009 budget.

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Power
The Budget envisages the goal of attaining 6000MW of power generation in 2009, setting aside over N200 billion for implementing gas projects, aimed at acquiring capacity to deliver 1.2bn scf of gas to domestic market. The projects associated with the above allocation include: National Domestic Gas Projects, Trans-Sahara Gas Pipeline Project, Calabar-Umuahia-Ajaokuta Gas Pipeline, Ajaokuta-Abuja-Kano Gas Pipeline, Gas Supply Pipeline to PHCN Delta IV, Gas pipelines to power plants including: Omotosho, Papanlato and Alaoji, Mambilla hydro-electric power generation project, Other Generation projects, Transmission Projects, Distri-

By Tanimu Yakubu

bution Projects

Under the transportation sector, allocations have been made to achieve the following sub-sectoral projects: Rail Transport, Modernisation of locomotives, coaches and wagons; rehabilitation works on tracks, stations, bridges, signalling equipment and culverts; procurement of tools, cranes & other railway equipment; etc. Marine and Inland Waterways Transport, Completion of Ajaokuta-Warri Line to Delta Steel Jetty, Dredging of Lower River Niger, Road Transportation,

Nationwide Works

Maintaining 30,000km of roads (for completion in 3 years), Construction and rehabilitation of 3,293km of roads, Engineering design of 699.05km of roads, Completion of 2,821m length of bridges, Rehabilitation of 262m length of bridges, Zonal intervention in road projects to cover about 2,400km of roads, Access Roads to 6 NNPC refineries and ports, Highways rehabilitation and construction, Construction of 2nd Niger Bridge at Onitsha (on PPP basis), Guto/Bagana Bridge (on PPP basis), Emergency rehabilitation road works in all 6 geopolitical zones, Zonal Intervention Road Projects across all 6 Geopolitical Zones as follows:

North-Central

140km Length Realignment and Construction of dangerous curves along Akwanga-Lafia Road 120km Length Otuoacha-Ibaji-Odolu-Ajegwu Road, 68km Length 9th Mile-Otukpo-Makurdi Road Lafia, 100km Length Otukpo-Ayangba-Ajaokuta-Okene Road, 70km Ilorin-Jebba-Mokwa

North-East

239km Length Maiduguri-Bama-Gwoza-Mubi with spur to Banki, 190km Length Gombe-Numan-Yola Road Section II, 100 km Length Nafada-Gombe Abba Road, 100km Length Wukari-Mutum Biu-Jalingo-Numan Road.

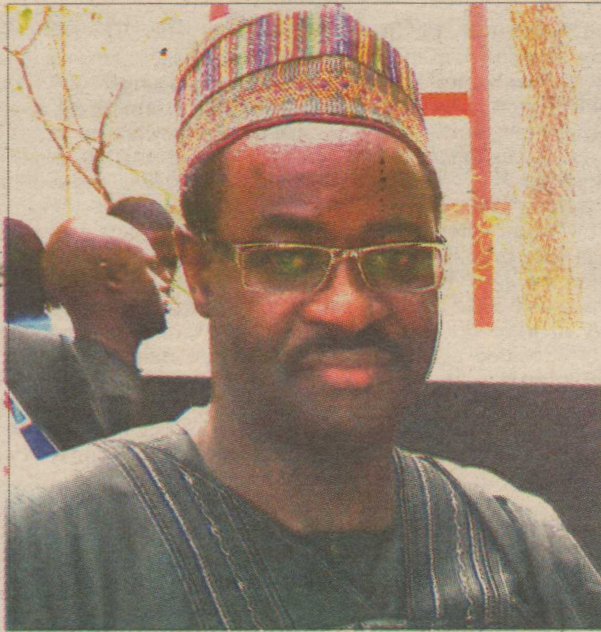
North-West

125km Length Kano-Katsina-Jibia Road Gusau, 90km Length Mararaba-Panbenguwa-Saminaka-Jos 150km Length Kano-Dutse-Kazaure-Daura-Mai-Adua-Hui, 120km Length Zaria-Funtua-Gusau-Sokoto-Birnin Kebbi.

South-East

90km Length 9th Mile-Enugu-Port-Harcourt with spur to Okpanku and Nkomor, 140km Length, Obannewi-Okigwe Road with spur to Alor, 100km Length Nsukka-Obollo-Afor-Eheamufu-Nkalagu, 122km Length Enugu-Onitsha with a spur to Inyi, 60km Length Abakaliki-Afikpo Road with spur to Itigidi.

South-South



Malam Tanimu Yakubu

92km Length Yenegwe-Okaki-Kolo-Nembe-Brass Road, 70km Length Calabar-Ugep-Ogoja-Katsina Ala with spur to Abakaliki Road, 50km Length Calabar-Itu-Ikot Ekpene-Aba Owerri Road

South-West

140km Length Kabbamuo-Ifaki-Ado Ekiti-Aramoko-Itawure-Erinmo-Oshogbo Road, 60km Length Shagamu-Ajebandele-Ore-Benin Road, 36km Length Ibadan-Oyo-Ogbomoso Road

Dualisation of Abeokuta-Ota-Owode Road (Ota-Owode Section with spur to Igboora Bridge at Lafenwa).

Federal Capital Territory

In the Federal Capital territory, the budget covered the completion of three key headquarters structures, namely the Foreign Affairs Headquarters, the Shehu Shagari Complex and the Federal Secretariat Building Phase II (Bullet House) so that MDAs can relocate to these premises instead of embarking on multiple headquarters projects.

FOOD SECURITY AND AGRIBUSINESS

The recent growth of the economy has been largely attributable to the non-oil sectors, especially agriculture. As well as guaranteeing national food security, the Agriculture sector offers the best opportunity for achieving rapid economic growth, greatly increased employment opportunities and industrialisation. The Federal Government's proposed expenditures in the agriculture sector is aimed at raising the sector's contribution to GDP to higher levels through ongoing projects and targets over the next 3 years including:

- Counterpart funding for FADAMA III, IFAD and AfDB projects etc.
- Assistance to States' production initiatives through 40% contribution to financing production infrastructure in the State to attract agribusiness investments

- Completion of ongoing silos projects and construction of new ones to bolster food security by upgrading national strategic storage capacity to 1 million tonnes
- Rehabilitation and construction of dams to increase irrigated lands and acquire power generation capabilities at some of the dams
- Rehabilitation and expansion of irrigation infrastructure to add 150,000 hectares in addition to optimisation of currently 220,000 hectares of irrigation infrastructure

- Increasing land under cultivation by 5% in the next season and 15% over a period of 3 years
- Increase in yields by 50-250% of different crops, and 20% increase in production of targeted commodity crops
- Provision of N200 billion credit for commercial agriculture development
- 35% increase in domestic agribusiness and 15% increase in export of selected commodities
- Increase in fish production by 230% from 650,000 metric tonnes to 1.5m metric tonnes p.a.
- 40% increase in availability of rural infrastructure (road, energy, water and housing)
- Increase in the agriculture sector's contribution to GDP by at least 5%

Related to this also is the fact that Government has embarked on the amendment of the Land Use Act, in order to remove the obstacles and inconveniences of transacting in land for housing and agriculture and bring out the inherent capital in landed assets.

WEALTH CREATION AND HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

Government is aware that productivity growth, equity, poverty eradication and security can all reinforce one another. And for that to happen, requires widespread access to wealth-creating assets, espe-

cially through education, the basis for acquiring skills and grasping opportunities. The 2009 budget has adequate and measurable provisions to address the issue of wealth creation, human capital development and guarantee of security to life and property.

Under the health sector, government made provisions in the 2009 Budget for: Completion of ongoing projects for modernisation of 7 Specialist Hospitals in Kaduna, Maiduguri, Kano, Calabar, Enugu, Abeokuta & Lagos, Completing of ongoing projects for modernisation of 3 Teaching Hospitals in Calabar, Awka and Ife.

INTERNAL SECURITY

Under internal security Government's prioritization has been reflected in the 2009 budget including allocations for security and community policing in 7 cities (Abuja, Kano, Lagos, Port-Harcourt, Maiduguri & Onitsha) identified as having the highest incidences of criminal activity, with the view to reducing this by 40% in 2009.

NIGERDELTA

Toward implementation of the Administration's Niger Delta Agendum, provisions have been made in the 2009 Budget for:

New road projects such as the Warri-Kaima Road, East-West Road (Section I) Warri-Kaima

East-West Road (Section II) Warri-Port Harcourt, East-West Road (Section III) Port Harcourt-Eket

East-West Road (Section IV) Eket-Oron, Erosion Control Projects, Idumuje Unor Erosion Control Project, Delta State, Forestry Projects, Conservation and Development of Coastal Ecosystem (Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem) G-clime (Rivers & Bayelsa State), Youth Training/Development Centres in the Niger Delta, Digital security surveillance, Acquisition of Marine boats and equipment,

Provision of observation posts along major highways in the country

POLICY THRUST OF THE BUDGET

There is a determination to shift focus from resource commitment to MDAs, to considering what was actually delivered by the various MDAs. To ensure improved efficiency, effectiveness and productivity of government's expenditure, the Budget Office of the Federation, working with the National Planning Commission, Office of the Chief Economic Adviser and the MDG office, has designed a framework to monitor and evaluate the budget performance. Quarterly budget monitoring and evaluation reports will be published in line with the provisions of the Fiscal Responsibility Act 2007.

One of the challenges of the past had been the slow

passage of the Appropriation Bill, which has been reversed this year as the President has already assented to the 2009 Budget Act. In like manner, there is now no constriction on funds releases with a new flexibility in the approval process. The Federal Executive Council (FEC) approved upward revisions to the approval thresholds for procurement of goods and services, combined with enhanced monitoring. As a result of the upward review of thresholds and the fact that a handful of MDAs established in-house branches of the Due Process Mechanism (DPM) outfit, the DPM has now been made easier. Most MDAs are now also more aware of the Public Procurement Act (PPA), which, no doubt, would hasten the issuance of "no objections" in contract execution.

Closing the critical infrastructure gap is a major policy thrust of this Administration. Targeted, measurable and verifiable critical infrastructure projects under the 2009 budget have been prioritized to ensure their implementation. In the medium to long term, the changed infrastructural environment will make the Nigerian economy grow at an accelerated rate and lead to enhanced competitiveness.

It is equally important to recognize that new strategies of domestic borrowing, privatization, PPP and the use of unspent capital votes have been adopted in place of the inefficient traditional ways and means of utilisation and abuse of cash calls on capital projects implementation in the oil & gas sector. The whole process is now aimed at improving cash-backing in budget implementation and making necessary provisions to finance the development strategy in the sector and attain the highest quality of spending to increase economic growth.

Finally, a Cash Management Committee shall be established to ensure effective implementation of the 2009 budget by, among others, managing and controlling cash available to Government at any point in time and ensuring that budgetary revenues are realised and that adequate machineries are put in place for prompt collection, accounting and remittance to the relevant revenue accounts on a real-time basis. This is to be set in the context of changing international environment and the challenges that this could pose for the implementation of the budget.

Being excerpts of a speech delivered by the Chief Economic Adviser to the President, Malam Tanimu Yakubu, at the 2009 edition of the All Nigeria Editor's Conference held in Kaduna last week.

FINANCE BUSINESS

THE NIGERIAN STOCK EXCHANGE

REPORT AS AT TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2009

Company Name	No of Deals	Quotation(N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares
2ND-TIER SECURITIES				
CAPITAL OIL PLC	3	13.83	16,200	224,046.00
Sector Totals	3		16,200	224,046.00
AGRICULTURE				
AFPRINT NIGERIA PLC	1	0.86	4,000	3,480.00
FTN COCOA PROCESSORS PLC	33	1.10	947,639	1,049,761.35
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	21	1.08	221,631	260,634.58
PRESCO PLC	1	5.33	2,000	10,660.00
Sector Totals	56		1,175,270	1,324,535.93
AIR SERVICES				
AIRLINE SERVICES AND LOGISTICS PLC	1	10.64	2,600	26,286.00
NIGERIAN AVIATION HANDLING CO. PLC	90	6.80	477,039	3,183,164.14
Sector Totals	91		479,639	3,209,450.14
AUTOMOBILE & TYRE				
DUNLOP NIGERIA PLC	33	0.52	6,129,948	3,065,424.00
R. T. BRISCOE (NIGERIA) PLC	3	9.16	1,350	11,758.50
Sector Totals	36		6,131,298	3,077,182.50
BANKING				
ACCESS BANK PLC	169	4.90	3,619,555	17,736,248.45
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	82	4.97	2,460,503	12,402,880.08
DIAMOND BANK PLC	84	4.73	3,324,922	15,850,971.38
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	6	27.96	8,500	237,660.00
FIRST CITY MONUMENT BANK PLC	79	4.70	17,188,617	79,146,876.06
FIDELITY BANK PLC	112	2.32	3,904,764	9,105,544.46
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	909	15.65	7,984,109	125,180,285.66
FIRST INLAND BANK PLC	27	2.25	312,998	724,229.30
GTBANK PLC	429	10.00	25,847,067	260,279,025.61
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	82	5.35	3,662,774	19,676,724.56
INTERCONTINENTAL BANK PLC	327	6.93	10,448,987	72,055,680.22
OCEANIC BANK INTERNATIONAL PLC	207	6.49	4,351,304	28,202,429.83
BANK PHB PLC	96	5.20	5,417,548	27,849,914.41
SKYE BANK PLC	74	4.25	2,103,772	8,991,010.20
SPRING BANK PLC	1	5.59	28,409	158,806.31
STERLING BANK PLC	46	1.26	7,372,447	9,052,337.50
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC	335	8.50	4,735,378	39,944,392.42
UNION BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	146	11.02	1,309,715	14,356,325.98
UNITYBANK PLC	33	1.15	2,055,861	2,345,596.63
WEMA BANK PLC	9	3.65	5,044,600	18,412,790.00
ZENITH BANK PLC	216	11.30	4,203,567	47,192,040.40
Sector Totals	3,469		115,385,397	808,901,769.46
BREWERIES				
GUINNESS NIGERIA PLC	45	89.53	65,704	5,846,838.48
INTERNATIONAL BREWERIES PLC	57	2.85	7,124,232	20,323,040.05
JOS INTERNATIONAL BREWERIES PLC	1	4.82	1,000	4,580.00
NIGERIAN BREWERIES PLC	115	37.00	1,628,124	60,274,293.22
Sector Totals	218		8,819,060	86,448,751.75
BUILDING MATERIALS				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	65	8.35	747,031	6,262,162.54
BENUE CEMENT COMPANY PLC	41	22.68	1,073,618	23,890,104.49
CEMENT CO. OF NORTHERN NIGERIA PLC	47	7.45	154,100	1,148,505.00
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	62	17.35	2,196,625	37,532,756.78
Sector Totals	215		4,171,374	68,833,528.81
CHEMICAL & PAINTS				
CHEMICAL AND ALLIED PRODUCTS PLC	6	32.77	6,200	193,068.00
DN MEYER PLC	1	9.88	1,000	9,390.00
Sector Totals	7		7,200	202,458.00
COMMERCIAL/SERVICES				
COURTVILLE INVESTMENTS PLC	6	3.14	108,900	327,050.00
RED STAR EXPRESS PLC	12	1.98	209,500	400,385.00
Sector Totals	18		318,400	727,435.00
COMPUTER & OFFICE EQUIPMENT				
OMATEK VENTURES PLC	13	0.81	639,600	508,010.00
THOMAS WYATT PLC	1	2.22	500	1,055.00
TRIPPLE GEE AND COMPANY PLC	2	7.39	52,000	384,280.00
Sector Totals	16		692,100	893,345.00
CONGLOMERATES				
A. G. LEVENTIS (NIGERIA) PLC	2	6.79	6,500	41,990.00
CHELLARAMS PLC	6	19.19	119,540	2,293,972.60
JOHN HOLT PLC	1	11.97	2,000	22,760.00
PZ CUSSONS NIGERIA PLC	17	16.27	47,838	768,891.37
TRANSNATIONAL CORP. OF NIG. PLC	42	0.53	1,864,900	978,700.82
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	45	29.01	518,551	15,160,142.43
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	70	7.90	650,746	5,081,900.66
Sector Totals	183		3,210,075	24,348,357.88
CONSTRUCTION				
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	78	4.85	392,851	1,855,994.44
JULIUS BERGER NIGERIA PLC	17	22.80	251,052	5,723,985.60
MULTIVERSE RESOURCES PLC	26	0.55	786,314	406,241.94
Sector Totals	121		1,430,217	7,986,221.98
ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY				
CUTIX PLC	3	6.72	38,732	247,497.48
INTERLINKED TECHNOLOGIES PLC	1	5.15	50,000	257,500.00
NIGERIAN WIRE AND CABLE PLC	2	1.41	4,485	6,009.90
Sector Totals	6		93,217	511,007.38
FOOD/BEVERAGES & TOBACCO				
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	13	37.05	48,983	1,819,262.10
BIG TREAT PLC	4	2.35	59,744	140,398.40
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	37	10.60	109,167	1,082,592.40
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	52	8.37	120,921	994,630.09
DANGOTE SUGAR REFINERY PLC	130	14.70	1,993,225	29,756,971.20
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	55	14.02	446,807	6,387,377.05
NATIONAL SALT COMPANY NIGERIA PLC	50	3.62	1,650,731	5,917,747.08
NIGERIAN BOTTLING COMPANY PLC	12	22.50	719,402	16,179,635.40
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	52	135.51	103,057	14,421,626.57
TANTALIZERS PLC	45	0.98	1,430,291	1,333,476.86
UNION DICON SALT PLC	1	7.97	4,000	30,320.00

Company Name	No of Deals	Quotation(N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares
UTC NIGERIA PLC	2	3.01	100,000	301,000.00
Sector Totals	453		6,786,328	78,365,037.15
HEALTHCARE				
EKOCORP PLC	2	5.87	5,500	30,690.00
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	2	2.66	880	2,226.40
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	9	2.39	231,835	520,601.91
GLAXOSMITHKLINE CONSUMER NIG. PLC	23	14.99	2,034,769	30,992,977.46
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC.	12	4.50	60,650	277,800.80
NEIMETH INTERNATIONAL PHARMA. PLC	13	1.78	68,259	117,217.72
UNION DIAGNOSTIC & CLINICAL SER. PLC	14	0.58	808,632	459,113.28
Sector Totals	75		3,210,525	32,400,627.57
HOTEL & TOURISM				
IKEJA HOTEL PLC	1	4.11	64,500	265,095.00
Sector Totals	1		64,500	265,095.00
INDUSTRIAL DOMESTIC PRODUCTS				
B. O. C. GASES NIGERIA PLC	6	16.16	30,075	510,072.00
NIGERIAN ENAMELWARE PLC	1	58.97	1,000	56,030.00
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIGERIA PLC	2	1.95	240,000	468,000.00
VITAFON NIGERIA PLC	10	3.90	85,000	331,500.00
VONO PRODUCTS PLC	2	1.99	1,001,500	1,992,985.00
Sector Totals	21		1,357,575	3,358,587.00
INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION & TELECOMMUNICATION				
CHAMS NIGERIA PLC	54	1.14	2,963,250	3,516,351.24
MASS TELECOM INNOVATION NIG. PLC	5	0.59	583,500	344,265.00
STARCOMMS PLC	36	2.02	2,357,307	4,760,706.44
Sector Totals	95		5,904,057	8,621,322.68
INSURANCE				
AIIICO INSURANCE PLC.	170	0.99	8,467,556	8,125,231.12
CONTINENTAL REINSURANCE PLC	7	0.90	739,900	655,613.00
CORNERSTONE INSURANCE CO. PLC.	11	1.24	668,335	820,251.90
CUSTODIAN AND ALLIED INS. PLC	41	2.09	2,117,210	4,440,160.13
EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC	8	1.71	160,120	273,805.20
GREAT NIGERIA INSURANCE CO. PLC	2	0.86	4,000,000	3,400,000.00
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	2	0.50	279,000	139,500.00
GUINEA INSURANCE PLC.	11	0.52	432,038	224,659.76
CONSOLIDATED HALLMARK INS. PLC	22	0.50	7,222,721	3,624,600.50
INVEST. AND ALLIED ASSURANCE PLC	14	0.50	4,104,000	2,052,000.00
INT'L ENERGY INSURANCE CO. PLC	48	1.10	3,310,592	3,531,239.94
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC.	34	0.88	647,640	544,198.36
LAW UNION AND ROCK INSURANCE PLC.	2	1.35	2,500	3,225.00
LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	9	0.50	166,200	83,100.00
MUTUAL BENEFITS ASSURANCE PLC	33	0.74	1,272,091	952,053.36
N.E.M. INSURANCE CO. (NIG.) PLC.	41	0.65	830,574	516,005.34
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC.	12	1.54	146,832	227,245.16
OASIS INSURANCE PLC	1	4.67	22,400	99,456.00
REGENCY ALLIANCE INS. CO. PLC	4	0.50	160,400	80,200.00
SOVEREIGN TRUST INSURANCE PLC	10	0.81	656,400	531,684.00
STANDARD ALLIANCE INSURANCE PLC	17	0.59	7,159,773	4,224,266.07
UNIC INSURANCE PLC.	14	0.73	206,350	144,910.00
UNIVERSAL INSURANCE COMPANY PLC	9	0.54	1,883,000	1,016,820.00
INTERCONTINENTAL WAPIC INS. PLC	26	2.28	1,129,013	2,574,149.64
Sector Totals	548		45,784,645	38,324,374.48
LEASING				
C&I LEASING PLC	1	6.04	3,000	17,220.00
Sector Totals	1		3,000	17,220.00
MARITIME				
JAPPAUL OIL & MARITIME SERVICES PLC	141	1.79	1,849,595	3,316,042.86
Sector Totals	141		1,849,595	3,316,042.86
MEDIA				
DAAR COMMUNICATIONS PLC	212	1.38	7,693,100	10,286,190.00
Sector Totals	212		7,693,100	10,286,190.00
MORTGAGE COMPANIES				
ABBAY BUILDING SOCIETY PLC	1	2.78	25,000	66,250.00
ASO SAVINGS AND LOAN PLC	26	1.00	20,584,105	20,168,465.70
UNION HOMES SAVINGS AND LOANS PLC	50	1.37	1,990,190	2,731,794.98
Sector Totals	77		22,599,295	22,966,510.68
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS				
CRUSADER NIGERIA PLC.	3	3.62	28,000	96,320.00
DEAP CAPITAL MANAG AND TRUST PLC	4	5.71	14,277	77,524.11
ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC	3	2.17	101,000	219,170.00
Sector Totals	10		143,277	393,014.11
PACKAGING				
NIGERIAN BAG MANUFACTURING CO. PLC	368	1.27	863,571	1,112,419.34
Sector Totals	368		863,571	1,112,419.34
PETROLEUM(MARKETING)				
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC.	39	79.62	144,193	11,480,646.66
CHEVRON OIL NIGERIA PLC	5	90.30	1,480	140,318.80
CONOIL PLC	7	67.23	2,565	163,826.55
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC.	3	26.68	68,295	1,822,110.60
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC.	8	96.61	5,184	525,864.96
OANDO PLC	49	68.00	114,591	7,937,350.16
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	20	143.32	23,043	3,207,560.05
Sector Totals	131		359,351	25,277,677.78
PRINTING & PUBLISHING				
UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC	4	3.99	359,120	1,432,888.80
Sector Totals	4		359,120	1,432,888.80
REAL ESTATE				
UACN PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT CO. PLC	7	17.30	11,150	183,306.00
Sector Totals	7		11,150	183,306.00
ROAD TRANSPORTATION				
ASSOCIATED BUS COMPANY PLC	13	0.96	156,000	147,740.00
Sector Totals	13		156,000	147,740.00
THE FOREIGN LISTINGS				
ECOBANK TRANSNATIONAL INCORP.	112	9.10	6,993,197	64,162,405.45
Sector Totals	112 </			

FINANCE BUSINESS

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Top 10 Trades

Symbol	Volume	Value	Trades
STDINSURE	7,159,773.00	4,224,266.07	17
HMARKINS	7,222,721.00	3,624,600.50	22
STERLNANK	7,372,447.00	9,052,337.50	46
DAARCOMM	7,693,100.00	10,286,190.00	212
FIRSTBANK	7,984,109.00	125,180,285.66	909
AIICO	8,467,556.00	8,125,231.12	170
INTERCONT	10,448,987.00	72,055,680.22	327
FCMB	17,188,617.00	79,146,876.06	79
ASOSAVINGS	20,584,105.00	20,168,465.70	26
GUARANTY	25,847,067.00	260,279,025.61	429

Gainers

Symbol	Last Close	Yesterday's Close	Change
AP	75.83	79.62	+3.79
BCC	21.63	22.68	+1.05
NBC	21.60	22.50	+0.90
NB	36.40	37.00	+0.60
UBN	10.50	11.02	+0.52
CADBURY	10.10	10.60	+0.50
DANGFLOUR	7.98	8.37	+0.39
INTERCONT	6.60	6.93	+0.33
NAHCO	6.48	6.80	+0.32
ASHAKACEM	8.05	8.35	+0.30

Losers

Symbol	Last Close	Yesterday's Close	Change
OANDO	70.50	68.00	-2.50
NESTLE	138.00	135.51	-2.49
JBERGER	24.00	22.80	-1.20
CHELLARAM	20.19	19.19	-1.00
GLAXOSMITH	15.76	14.99	-0.77
FLOURMILL	14.65	14.02	-0.63
CCNN	7.84	7.45	-0.39
TRIPPLEG	7.77	7.39	-0.38
DANGSUGAR	14.99	14.70	-0.29
INTERLINK	5.42	5.15	-0.27

Market State: Closed

Index	: 20,018.55
Deals	: 6,708
Volume	: 246,067,733
Value	: N 1,297,318,548.73
Cap.	: N4,528,650,882,917.90

FG appoints new MD, EDs for Mortgage Bank

By Jibrin Abubakar

The Federal Government has appointed Mr. Abdulsalam Yahaya Ahmed as the new Managing Director of Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN).

Before his appointment, Mr. Abdulsalam Yahaya Ahmed was the Acting Managing Director of the Bank.

This was contained in a statement signed by Lawrence Ojabo Assistant Director (Public Relations), Federal Ministry of Works, Housing and Urban Development.

President Umaru Musa Yar'adua yesterday also approved the appointment of four executive directors. They are: Newman Nyore Ordia - Executive Director, Securities, Insurance and Market Development; Muhammad Kabir Abubakar - Executive Director, Loans Production; Otunba Wemmy Olumide Osude - Executive Director, Loan Setup and Pay off and Magaji Muhammed Bello - Executive Director, Organizational Resourcing.

The other, the statement

said is going to be the representative of the Central Bank of Nigeria who will be in charge of Central Bank of Nigeria who will be in charge of Policy and Strategy.

The statement said: "All appointments are for a four-year period in the first instance, and take effect from 3rd April, 2009. The appointments are aimed at strengthening and repositioning the Bank in its delivery of robust housing financing, to meet the expectations of the Government in its lands and housing reforms."

The new Managing Director has been on acting capacity since he took over from his predecessor Mr. Moses I. Atagher on April 14, 2008.

Until his appointment as MD, Ahmed was the pioneer general manager, policy and strategy of the bank, a position he held since January 2006 with responsibilities for policy and strategy formulation, corporate planning, overseeing the implementation of prudent

risk management framework as it relates to the bank.

He was also tasked with monitoring operational procedures and accreditation of the banks business relationship partners with a view of successfully restructuring and repositioning the FMBN to meet the country's housing finance challenges.

The acting MD, who has over 19 years of banking experience, is an alumnus of the prestigious Bayero University Kano, where he obtained an MBA, he also holds a B.sc in agricultural economics from the Ahmadu Bello University Zaria and an M.sc in corporate and

international finance from the University of Durham England.

Before joining the bank, he was divisional head of the risk management group of Unity bank Plc, and was assistant general manager and head, risk assets management department of the defunct First Interstate bank Plc.

He also served in various capacities in the credit division and the Ilorin branch of the former Habib Nigeria Bank where he rose to become the pioneer head, corporate finance and special loans unit of the bank in 1996, to mention a few.

Foreign exchange inflow to Nigeria drops

By Idris Ahmed

Provisional data on aggregate foreign exchange flows through the economy in January showed a decline of 12.1 percent from what obtained in December to stand at \$4.93 billion, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has said.

The total inflow also showed a decline of 54.8 per cent from the levels in the corresponding month of 2008, CBN said in its January Economic report posted on its website.

The report said that foreign exchange inflow and outflow through the CBN in January 2009 were \$1.98 billion and \$4.40 billion respectively, representing a net outflow of \$2.42 billion.

Relative to the respective levels of \$2.51 billion and \$7.15 billion in the preceding month, inflow and outflow fell by 21.1 and 38.5 per cent, respectively.

"The fall in inflow was attributed to the decline in crude oil receipts, while the fall in outflow was due largely to the reduction in funding of the inter-bank segment of the foreign exchange market, reinforced by the decline in other official payments", the report said.

According to the report, oil sector receipts, which accounted for 37.5 per cent of the total, stood at \$1.85 billion, compared with \$2.29 billion in the preceding in December.

The report also said that non-oil public sector and au-

tonomous inflow fell by 36.4 and 5.1 per cent and accounted for 2.8 and 59.8 per cent of the total, respectively.

At \$4.45 billion, aggregate foreign exchange outflow from the economy fell by 38.2 per cent from the level in the preceding month.

"The decline in outflow was attributed to the 35.0 and 56.8 per cent decline in funding of the inter-bank foreign exchange market and other official payments, respectively", the report said.

CBN has warned that the Retail Dutch Auction System (RDAS) funds should not be eligible for investment in securities denominated in foreign currencies.

The bank said that the development is in furtherance of the ongoing reforms of the foreign exchange market.

CBN said: "Authorized Dealers and the General Public are hereby notified that, with effect from the date of this circular, RDAS funds shall not be eligible for investment in securities denominated in foreign currencies abroad and setting up of offshore subsidiaries/branches of Nigerian companies.

"For the avoidance of doubt, only funds from other sources shall be used to finance these transactions. Please ensure compliance accordingly."

I was never arrested -NDIC boss

From Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna

Contrary to news reports, Alhaji Abdulganiyu Ogunleye, the Managing Director of Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) was never arrested by the police but was merely invited to clarify certain issues and afterwards he was allowed to go, the NDIC boss has explained.

Narrating what happened to newsmen, Ogunleye said that a depositor whose N260 million was trapped in Fortune bank, had petitioned the National Assembly, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the police, asking for his money. "But at the same time, the owners of the bank have gone to court to challenge the revocation of their license," he said, adding that "we cannot pay depositors in Fortune bank and Triumph bank because the two cases are in court."

Ogunleye further said that the petitioner also accused NDIC of selling Karu market and giving N500 million waivers. He explained that the

transaction involved a debt by Nasarawa state government which it borrowed from Fortune bank to finance the market project. Ogunleye said that the governments requested for a 100% waiver to enable them repay the loan. "After a protracted negotiation, they were given a waiver of 60% and this transaction was duly approved by our minister," he added.

According to Ogunleye, the police invited him in the course of their investigation, asking "me to explain some issues and I explained them." He further said that he was asked to write a statement which he did and was allowed to go afterwards but the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) reported that he was arrested by the police.

The NDIC boss, who said that he was embarrassed by the story, did not however disclose whether he will seek redress or not.

Intercontinental's anniversary forum moves to Enugu

By Jibrin Abubakar

Intercontinental Bank's 20th Anniversary celebration train will today move to the coal city of Enugu, in Enugu State where the bank's customers in the South East region would be appreciated as part of activities lined up for the celebration of the bank's 20th year anniversary. The kick off took place last Thursday in Kano.

According to a statement from the bank, it had started its anniversary reward spree early in February with a gift for every customer that visited any of the bank's branches across the country.

It said the second phase is marked by hosting the customers to a dinner in several locations across the country in addition to high profile gift items meant for the winners of its anniversary bonanza.

According to the Group Chief Executive of Intercontinental Bank, Dr Erastus Akingbola the customers' forum is intended to appreciate the customers for their loyalty and patronage in the last 20 years, adding that the bank would continue to offer banking services with emphasis on

convenience for the customers.

Akingbola said that the bank is appreciating all its customers in a reward spree tagged "Every body is a winner" with various gifts items ranging from refrigerators, plasma TV sets, DVD player, water dispensers, travel cooler bags among others.

Meanwhile the Intercontinental Bank State Scholarship Scheme would be launched for Ebonyi State indigenes same day in Abakaliki the State capital, the statement said.

It said currently the bank has over 1000 students from

ten states namely Bayelsa, Edo, Kwara, Anambra, Ekiti, Kogi, Niger, Osun, Lagos and Jigawa States enjoying this scheme. Other States are in the pipeline.

"This number is in addition to our annual Intercontinental Diamond Fund (IDF) Scholarship Programme targeted at the wards of the customers across the country. The number of beneficiaries in this programme is well over 500 bringing the cumulative number of beneficiaries of Intercontinental Bank's Scholarship Schemes to over 1500 across the country", it added.



THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF QUANTITY SURVEYORS

Office of the President

YEAR 2009 PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATIONS

1. EXAMINATION SCHEDULE:

The Year 2009 Professional Examinations of the Nigerian Institute of Quantity Surveyors has been scheduled as follows:

- (i) Examination Dates: **Tuesday 14th to Thursday 16th July, 2009**
 (ii) Examination Centres: **Abuja, Benin City, Enugu, Kaduna, Lagos, Port Harcourt and Bauchi**

2. ELIGIBILITY OF CANDIDATES:

- (i) **Probation Examination**
 Registered Technicians of the NIQS or equivalent in cognate disciplines such as Architecture, Building Technology, Civil Engineering etc.
- (ii) **Graduateship Examination:**
 a) Registered Probationers of the NIQS
 b) Registered Technicians of the NIQS who have passed the NIQS Probation Examination.
- (iii) **Test of Professional Competence (TPC) Examination:**
 a) Registered Graduate/Probationer members of the Institute with not less than two Years post-NYSC experience
 b) Registered Probationers of the NIQS who have passed the Graduateship Examination conducted by the NIQS and with at least 2 years post-NYSC experience.

3. LOG BOOKS AND DIARIES:

Candidates applying for the TPC Examination are presumed to have submitted to the Institute's Secretariat their Log Books and Diaries covering the first twenty-four (24) months of their practical experience while the logbooks and diaries covering the second and final installment of twelve months are expected to reach the Institute not later than Friday 22nd May, 2009.
 All Logbooks and Diaries should be addressed to the **Chairman, Education Committee (Nigerian Institute of Quantity Surveyors)** through the NIQS Secretariat.

4. EXAMINATION FEES: (NON-REFUNDABLE AND NON-TRANSFERABLE):

Entry Point	Probation Exam	Graduateship Exam	TPC Exam	Prof. Competence Interview
Full Exam Fee	N15,000.00	N15,000.00	N15,000.00	N12,000.00
Re-sit Exam Fee	N12,000.00	N12,000.00	N12,000.00	N12,000.00
Log Book Re-assessment Fee			N12,000.00	

5. METHOD OF APPLICATION:

- (i) Entry Forms for all the examinations are obtainable from the Institute's Secretariat or the State/Zonal Chapters of the Institute at a cost of =N=5,000.00 each. Candidates are also advised to obtain a copy of the Syllabus, Rules and Guidelines for the Institute's Examinations at a Cost of =N=1000.00 per set (2 volumes) for more details.
- (ii) All payments can be made by **Bank Draft payable to "The Nigerian Institute of Quantity Surveyors"** or directly into the institute's account with
 a) Stanbic IBTC Bank Plc, No.76, Adetokunbo Ademola Street, Victoria Island Branch, Lagos. Account No. **1111398281**
 b) First Bank of Nigeria Plc, NIJ House Branch, Adeyemo Alakija Street, Victoria Island, Lagos. Account No. **243-20300-00781**
 c) Zenith Bank Plc, Herbert Macaulay Road, Yaba-Lagos. Account No. **6019204141**
 d) United Bank for Africa Plc, 19 Issa Williams Street, Oke-Arin, Lagos. Account No. **011-300300-00-1-23.**
 Payments can be made at any branch of these Banks nation-wide.
A copy of the pay-in-slip should be returned with the Application Form to the Institute after payment to update our records.
- (iii) The completed Application Form with photocopies of all relevant credentials including letter of election/registration for the current NIQS Membership Grade, Exemption letter, the appropriate Examination Fee or evidence of payment of fee and 2No. self-addressed envelopes (each with stamp) etc. are to reach the Institute's Secretariat not **later than Monday 4th May, 2009.**
- (iv) **Late Entry:** Applications received after **Monday, 7th May, 2009** but not **later than Monday 25th May, 2009** may be considered if accompanied with additional =N=10,000.00 late entry fee.

(v) Notice To All TPC Candidates

Please be advised that the Measurement Exam for TPC consists of Two (2) separate papers of three hours each.
 The first paper is on Building Works and Services; the second paper is on Civil and Heavy Engineering Works.

- (vi) Copies of Past Question Papers are obtainable from the Institute's Secretariat

6. EXEMPTION:

Candidates should note that only those, whose exemption request has been granted prior to **Thursday 30th April, 2009** will be entertained in this year exam.

7. PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE INTERVIEW (PCI)

- (i) The Test of Professional Competence Interview will provisionally hold on **Thursday 8th October, 2009** at **Abuja Enugu and Lagos** and the Application Forms are obtainable at the Institute's Secretariat, Abuja Liaison Office at QSRBN or at State/Zonal Offices at a cost of N5,000.00 each. Completed Interview Form should be returned not later than **Wednesday 30th September, 2009.**
- (ii) **Eligibility**
 (a) Those that have passed the written Test of Professional Competence (TPC) examination and satisfactorily completed their Logbooks and Diaries.
 (b) Those referred in a previous Professional Competence Interview.

NB: Candidates who previously had problems with their Diaries and Logbooks must submit updated Logbooks and Diaries as instructed which must reach the Institute's Secretariat not **later than Friday 22nd May, 2009.**
 This supersedes any earlier publication in this or any other new media, on this subject matter.

Signed:

S.I.J. Onwusonye
 Chief Examiner/Chairman Board

Alhaji Bashiru Ahmad
 Secretary Examination Board

NIGERIAN COLLEGE OF AVIATION TECHNOLOGY

P.M.B. 1031, Zaria Aerodrome
 Kaduna State.



INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR THE UNDER-LISTED PROJECTS

The College intends to undertake the under-listed projects as part of its year 2009 capital projects and hereby invites reputable contractors to indicate interest to pre-qualify for the project.

PROJECT TITLE:

Construction and furnishing of student's hostel

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS:

All pre-qualification submissions shall include:

- Detailed company profile including registered address, name, functional telephone, fax nos and email address(es) of the company.
- Names, address(es), telephone nos, email address(es), qualifications & experience of key personnel. Attach copies of certificates.
- Certificate of Incorporation, Memorandum & Articles of Association.
- Veritable evidence of similar jobs successfully executed within the last five (5) (2004 - 2008) years in similar & allied works. Attach letters of award and certificate of completion.
- Reference from a reputable bank stating the financial ability to carry out such project(s).
- Audited company's statement of accounts (2006 - 2008) & tax clearance for at least three (3) years (2005 - 2007).
- Evidence of access to equipment and resources required to be deployed for the project.

SUBMISSION:

The completed Pre-qualification documents in hard and soft copy (on CD) should be enclosed in an envelop, sealed and marked "**Pre-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND FURNISHING OF STUDENT'S HOSTEL**" and addressed to:

**The Secretary,
 Procurement Planning Committee,
 Nigerian College of Aviation Technology,
 P.M.B. 1031, Zaria Aerodrome,
 Kaduna State.**

All submissions should reach the above not later than **20th of April 2009** at **16.00 pm.**

Please note that this is not an invitation to tender as only pre-qualified companies would be invited to tender.

MANAGEMENT



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DIGEST

As we age, our eyes inevitably take on a baggy look. Now scientists think they know why.

Fat in the eye socket expands.

The finding could prove useful to the growing number of people not satisfied with the natural look.

Eyelids are not just extraneous flaps of skin. They are crucial for protecting the eye from debris and damage. The eye and eyelid are so connected that the pressure of the eyelid on the eyeball may cause one of the most common vision problems, researchers learned in 2006. Not something you want to muck around with.

Yet eyelid surgery, top or bottom, is more common than you might think. Nearly 241,000 U.S. residents had it performed last year, putting it in the top four among surgical cosmetic procedures performed.

Why do we get baggy eyes?

Most of these surgeries don't remove any fat, however. They just move it around or, in a more

invasive move, tighten the muscle that surrounds the eye or tighten the ligament that holds the eyeball in place.

No data indicated this was the right approach, the researchers point out in the September 2008 issue of

the Journal of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

"A common treatment performed in the past and present is surgical excision of fat to treat a 'herniation of fat' — meaning that the amount of fat in the eye socket does not change but the cover that holds the fat in place, the orbital septum, is weakened or broken and fat slips out," said the study's lead researcher Dr. Sean Darcy, a research associate in the division of plastic and reconstructive surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and a plastic surgery resident at the University of California, Irvine.

This orbital septum weakening or herniation-of-fat theory is what most plastic surgeons have been taught, Darcy said.

"However, our study showed there is actually an increase in fat with age, and it

is more likely that the fat increase causes the baggy eyelids rather than a weakened ligament," Darcy said. "There have been no studies to show that the orbital septum weakens."

The researchers looked at detailed MRI images of 40 subjects (17 males and 23 females) between the ages of 12 and 80. The findings showed that the lower eyelid tissue increased with age and that the largest contributor to this size increase was fat increase.

"Our findings may change the way some plastic surgeons treat baggy eyes," said study co-author Dr. Timothy Miller, professor and chief of plastic surgery at the Geffen School. Fat removal should be at least part of the process, the researchers figure. Or, of course, people could just look the other way.

Culled from livescience.com



Eyelid surgery is the fourth most common surgical cosmetic procedures in America. But they might be doing it all wrong. Credit: Dreamstime.com

Birds can 'read' human gaze

We all know that people sometimes change their behavior when someone is looking their way. Now, a new study reported online on April 2nd in Current Biology shows that jackdaws—birds related to crows and ravens with eyes that appear similar to human eyes—can do the same.

"Jackdaws seem to

recognize the eye's role in visual perception, or at the very least they are extremely sensitive to the way that human eyes are oriented," said Auguste von Bayern, formerly of the University of Cambridge and now at the University of Oxford.

When presented with a preferred food, hand-raised jackdaws took significantly longer to retrieve the

reward when a person was directing his eyes towards the food than when he was looking away, according to the research team led by Nathan Emery of the University of Cambridge and Queen Mary University of London. The birds hesitated only when the person in question was unfamiliar and thus potentially threatening.

In addition, the birds were able to interpret human communicative gestures, such as gaze alternation and pointing, to help them find hidden food, they found. The birds were unsuccessful in using static cues, including eye gaze or head orientation, in that context.

Unlike most birds, jackdaws' eyes have a dark pupil surrounded by a silvery white iris. The researchers said they believe jackdaws are probably sensitive to human eyes because, as in humans, eyes are an important means of communication for them. The hand-raised birds examined in the study may be even better than wild jackdaws at attending to human gaze and responding to the gestures of the people who have raised them.

The findings are particularly notable given that most other species investigated so far, including our closest relatives the chimpanzee and "man's best friend," the dog, are not particularly sensitive to eye orientation and eye gaze, von Bayern said. Rather, she continued, chimps and dogs seem to rely on other cues such as head or body orientation in determining the looking direction of others and do not appear to appreciate the eyes as the visual organs. The results suggest that birds may deserve more respect for their mental abilities.

"We may have underestimated the psychological realms of birds," von Bayern said. "Jackdaws, amongst many other birds, form pair bonds for life and need to closely coordinate and collaborate with their partner, which requires an efficient way of communicating and sensitivity to their partner's perspective."

Culled from sciencedaily.com



We all know that people sometimes change their behavior when someone is looking their way. Jackdaws — birds related to crows and ravens with eyes that appear similar to human eyes — can do the same. (Credit: iStockphoto/Dmitry Maslov)

Why teenagers are moody, scientists find the answer

Teenagers are selfish, reckless and irritable because their brains develop slower than their bodies, scientists have claimed. Psychologists used to blame the unpleasant characteristics of adolescence on hormones.

However, new brain imaging scans have revealed a high number of structural changes in teenagers and those in their early 20s.

Jay Giedd, at the National Institute of Mental Health in

Bethesda, Maryland, led the researchers who followed the progress of 400 children, scanning them every two years as they grew up.

They found that adolescence brings waves of so-called 'brain pruning' during which children lose about one per cent of their grey matter every year until their early 20s. This reduction trims unused neural connections that were overproduced in the childhood growth spurt,

starting with the more basic sensory and motor areas of the brain. These mature first, followed by the regions involved in language and spatial awareness and then finally those involved in more cerebral functions.

Among the last to mature is the very front of the brain's frontal lobe, which is involved in control of impulses, judgement and decision-making, which scientists say might explain some of the bizarre decisions made by the

average teenager. This area also controls and processes emotional information sent from the amygdala — the fight or flight centre of gut reactions — which may account for the short-temper among some teenagers.

As grey matter is lost, the brain gains white matter, a fatty tissue which helps conduct electrical impulses and stabilise neural connections.

Culled from telegraph.co.uk



Nerve cells play a key role in itching

How scratching can stop an itch

Scientists have shown scratching helps relieve an itch as it blocks activity in some spinal cord nerve cells that transmit the sensation to the brain.

However, the effect only seems to occur during itches itself — scratching at other times makes no difference.

While it is widely-known scratching relieves an itch, the physiological mechanisms for how this works are little understood.

The University of Minnesota study appears in Nature Neuroscience.

Previous research has suggested that a specific part of the spinal cord — the spinothalamic tract — plays a key role.

Nerve cells in this area have been shown to be more active when itchy substances are applied to the skin.

Blocks activity

The latest work, in primates, found that scratching the skin blocks activity of nerve cells in the spinothalamic tract during itches — preventing the spinal cord from transmitting signals from the scratched area of skin to the brain.

Researcher Dr Glenn Giesler hopes the work could lead to ways to relieve chronic itch effectively for the first time. However, he said more information was still needed about the chemistry underpinning the effect.

Professor Gil Yosipovitch, an expert on itching from Wake Forest University in North Carolina, said the finding was "potentially significant". He said: "Although there is a long way to go, methods that can induce a pleasurable scratch sensation without damaging the skin, via mechanical stimuli or drugs that can inhibit these neurons, could be developed to treat chronic itch."

However, Professor Yosipovitch stressed that scratching and itching were complex phenomena involving factors such as emotions as well as physiology.

Culled from bbc.co.uk

DIGEST

SUDOKU PUZZLE

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.

EASY

54.

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

SOLUTION TO SUDOKU PUZZLE No. 53

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

SIGN LANGUAGE

客房部

Dear guest:

Because of rainy day.The swimming pool pause opens!The inconvenient forgives please HouseKeeping department

公告

We do hope you get the message
Photo location: Hotel in Tai Chung, Taiwan by Josef Furse
Culled from the telegraph.co.uk

FIND & CIRCLE JUMBO

FIND & CIRCLE JUMBO puzzles are solved by finding all the hidden words in the diagram. The words are always in a straight line and may read up, down, forward, backward, or diagonally. Cross a word off your list once you have circled it. Many words will overlap.

43

Closely knit

Argyle	S	I	Z	E	V	K	B	O	O	K	S	I	F	L	J
Armhole	T	K	I	V	C	N	P	O	R	D	N	Y	Z	O	L
Back	R	E	T	A	E	W	S	N	R	S	Z	W	C	O	L
Block	E	S	B	E	M	L	R	Z	T	D	E	A	A	W	O
Books	G	B	K	W	W	E	O	R	G	F	E	F	S	R	O
Border	D	S	U	C	T	E	U	H	T	P	R	R	T	Z	S
Button-hole	E	L	H	T	O	C	L	K	M	O	U	I	O	A	E
Cable	C	I	A	O	T	S	C	B	N	R	S	R	N	Z	L
Cast on	R	P	C	I	L	O	D	T	A	O	A	K	L	G	D
Circular	E	T	O	E	L	D	N	L	A	C	E	A	I	K	E
Decrease	A	N	E	B	Z	I	U	H	G	W	M	K	M	P	E
Double	S	V	I	Y	E	C	T	D	O	U	B	L	E	Y	N
Drop	E	L	A	K	R	I	Z	I	E	L	Y	G	R	A	X
Edge	X	R	S	I	N	C	R	E	A	S	E	G	U	A	G
Fringe	N	O	C	K	O	O	H	U	V	J	V	H	X	Q	S
Front															
Gauge															
Hold															
Hook															
Increase															
Instruc-tions															
Knit															
Loose															
Measure															
Needle															
Pattern															
Purl															
Size															
Skein															
Skip															
Sleeve															
Slip															
Socks															
Sweater															
Weave															
Weft															
Wool															
Yarn															

SOLUTION TO PUZZLE No. 42

O	O	O	K	S	R	R	R	S	E	E	K	N	A	D	
F	E	R	B	Y	O	E	T	A	G	I	R	B	R	G	
X	H	U	A	P	T	E	L	P	N	S	C	O	W	O	
U	X	I	E	C	A	M	F	W	C	T	D	D	U	T	
O	S	S	H	M	A	V	B	H	A	A	H	T	L	Y	
P	A	E	E	A	C	T	O	U	O	R	T	O	O	T	
K	I	B	O	S	D	O	A	B	O	E	T	E	B	V	
Q	L	H	S	T	N	K	G	M	E	Y	B	F	T	O	
R	B	O	S	E	T	U	X	E	A	O	S	M	A	I	
E	O	E	R	E	H	G	I	E	H	B	L	P	F		
I	A	U	A	A	L	R	C	M	O	T	A	I	F	A	
R	T	R	P	C	A	T	N	A	N	S	P	N	D	B	
B	U	N	A	B	O	U	D	Y	Y	E	Z	E	O	Q	
A	T	F	P	Z	J	N	J	A	V	O	R	B	Y	T	
C	L	I	P	P	E	R	X	K	B	U	M	O	Z	O	



CALL TO GLORY

The management and staff of the Office of the Surveyor General of the Federation (OSGOF) condoles the Surveyor General of the Federation *Surv. APC Njepuome fcim, fnis, ksm* and the entire Njepuome family of Amucha, Njaba LGA, Imo State on the death of their mother, wife and grandmother, *Lady Clara Ure Njepuome, Lsm* whom the lord called to glory on 26th March, 2009.

May the good Lord grant mama eternal rest and may He give the family the fortitude to bear the loss Amen.

Burial arrangement:
As announced by the family.



Late **LADY CLARA URE NJEPUOME, Lsm**

Signed
Management



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IKEJA
01-8920003, 0806 4799999, 07028006117, 8741005
07028022371
LEKKI
01-8920001, 0803 9765001

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0805 4099999
09-2349007, 2349304
0803 4099999, 0804 2133969
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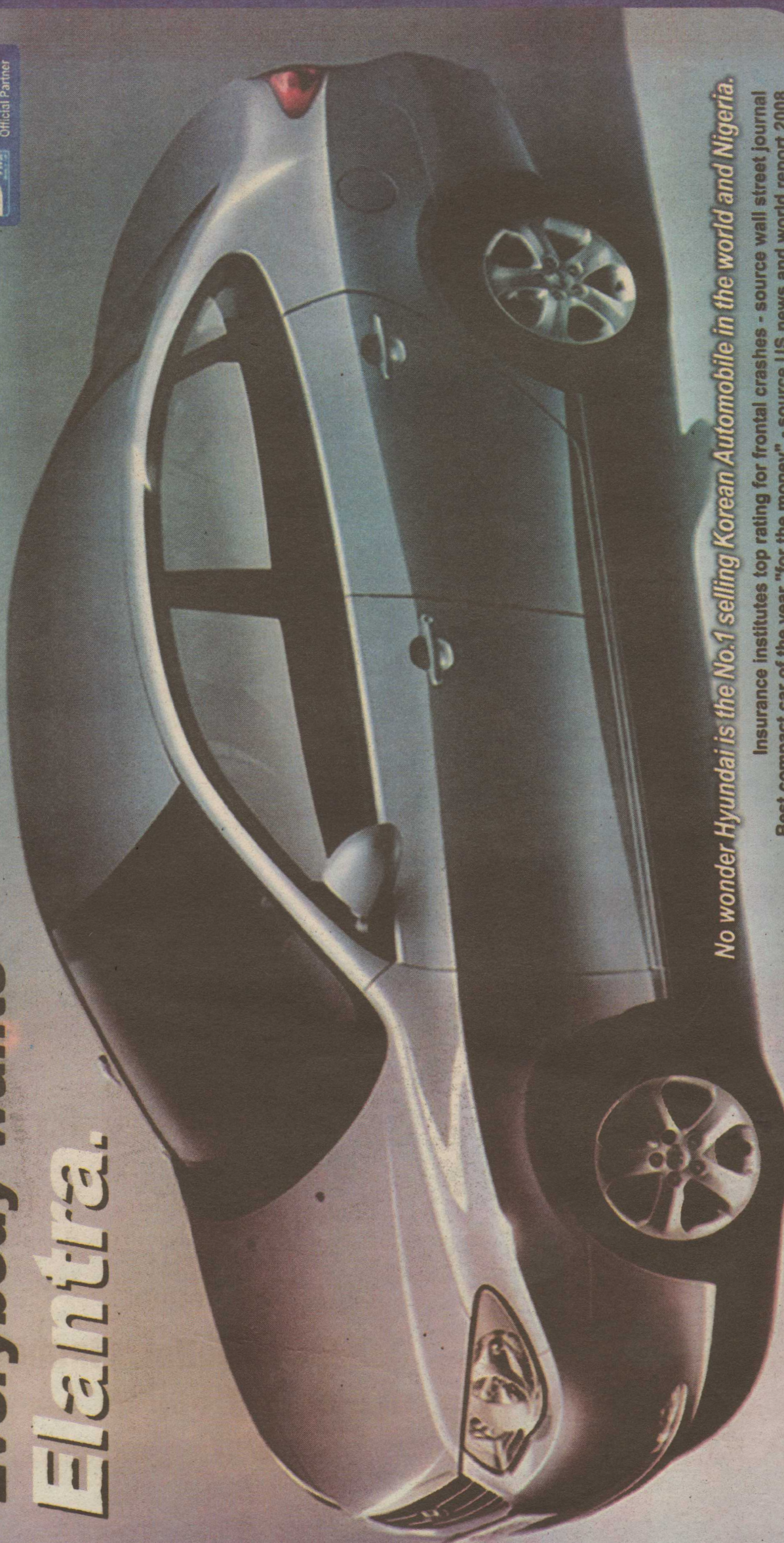
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Inna Lillahi Wa'inna Ilahi Rajiuna



With gratitude to Almighty Allah and total submission to His will, the Atta and Yakubu Families announce the passing on of our Father, Grandfather, Greatgrandfather and Uncle on the 1st of March, 2009. He has since been buried according to Islamic rites.

Alhaji
Salihu A. Yakubu

March 28th, 1929 - March 1st, 2009
Retired Business Mogul,
Yakubu Group of Companies.

40th Day Prayers

Date: April 11th, 2009
Venue: S. A Yakubu's Compound
Oboroke, Ihima, Okehi LGA
Kogi State
Time: 8am Prompt

Reception Follows Immediately
at the same Venue

May his soul rest in perfect peace. Amen.

Signed:
Family

PROPERTY

NIOB, Yabatech counsel students on ethics

The Nigeria Institute of Building (NIOB) and the Department of Building, Yaba College of Technology, Lagos have advised students of the institute on the need to be inquisitive and studious to get by in the competitive environment.

Speaking at an orientation programme organised by the department for the students, the Lagos chapter chairman of NIOB, Mr. Kunle Awobodu, challenged them on professionalism and ethics which he said would prevent substandard jobs which leads to building failures.

He encouraged them to take their studies seriously and ask questions when necessary from their lecturers in any grey area confronting them. The idea of the programme is to prepare the young minds for future challenges and make sure that they turn out to be responsible citizens in future. He discouraged them from reading to pass only for their examination but rather to internalise whatever they have been taught as they will need it in future on the field and site.

He said that his institute is working on early guidance and counselling to ensure that only those who love the course are admitted to study it. He regretted that sometimes people who don't have interest for the course is pushed to read the course by school authorities if they cannot find them placement in other departments. He stressed that the course is fit only for the physically strong and those who have eye for details in addition to those who are multi-talented and will be at home to interpret drawings.

A female builder, Mrs. Angela Jagun who spoke on the challenges of building technology to a female builder, said she personally does not see herself as a female builder but a builder that is female. She encouraged the female students amongst them to be the best they can be and give attention to details at site by working harder than their male counterparts to win their confidence and that of their bosses.

A builder needs versatility with a lot of technical and engineering drawing. Jagun tasked them on learning new things regularly as they may not have the opportunity to do that when they have left school. On peculiar challenges of the female builder, she identified sexual harassment which she said can however be tackled if the person involved can hold her head in the face of intimidation.

Kwara metro park: Contractor promises completion on schedule

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

The Chairman, Stabilini Visiolini, Mr Wale Babalakin, has further reassured the people of Kwara State and the state governor of his company's readiness to complete the on going Ilorin Metropolitan Square project on schedule. Conducting the governor round the site, Chief Wale Babalakin, explained that more personnel had been drafted to the site to hasten work on its completion.

As at the time of the governor's unscheduled visit to the project site, workers were seen working in all departments working to meet up their promise.

It would be recalled that the governor, some few weeks ago, gave a marching order of 57 days to the contractor to ensure that the project is completed by the middle of May this year. Governor Abubakar Bukola Saraki, who expressed satisfaction over the level of work done at the park, expressing hope of completion of the job on schedule,

The Governor enumerated the numerous benefits of the project to the people of the state, pointing out that when completed, the project would facilitate socio-economic transformation of the area.

"It is our intention that by the end of May, the project must be ready as the contractor has given us the assurance that it would be ready. Hopefully, if the company keeps up with this pace, it should be able to complete the project on time".

"From the report reaching us, it was clear that the company had stepped up activities by engaging more labourers and experts to work day and night to ensure that the mid-May completion date is met", the governor stressed. He urged the contractor handling the project to maintain the tempo in order to meet up with the May completion deadline.



Karu residents staring in anxiety at a bulldozer ready to commence demolition.

Pic: Mustapha Suleiman

Kano to construct raw water intake at Challawa River

As part of its efforts to ensure uninterrupted raw water supply to the Challawa water treatment plants, the Kano State government will soon construct modern raw water intakes at the Challawa River.

The state Commissioner of Projects Monitoring and Evaluation, Alhaji Ibrahim Garba disclosed this while inspecting the 6th Challawa raw water intake at the river side.

Alhaji Ibrahim Garba announced that both remedial and permanent

From Hassan A Karofi, Kano

measures would be taken to improve the supply of raw water to the treatment plants all year round.

He explained that the recent water shortage experienced in some parts of the state capital was due to the collapse of the temporary embankment at the Challawa River.

The commissioner stated that the state government had now contracted Dantata and Sawoe to construct modern embankments that would guarantee raw water inflow to the water treatment plants

at all seasons.

Alhaji Ibrahim Garba expressed satisfaction that the construction firm had already mobilised to site, adding that within two weeks the first phase of the project would be completed.

On his part, the General Manager, Production at the state Water Board, Alhaji Abdullahi Ibrahim Nashe said that the project was long over-due as it would ensure the constant supply of 110 million liters per day of raw water to the Challawa water treatment plants.

Alhaji Abdullahi Ibrahim Nashe assured that with the construction of the

embankments at the 6th and 11th water intakes, the problem of lack of raw water for treatment would be a thing of the past.

Commenting also, the Project Manager, Bagwai Irrigation Scheme being handled by Dantata and Sawoe, Mr. Salvatore Spoto stated that emergency measures would be taken after which a design for the permanent solution to the problem would be prepared.

Mr. Salvatore Spoto added that the design would incorporate silt traps that would make the raw water flow more efficiently and its cost-effective treatment.

FCTA warns on annexation of open spaces

By Nasir Imam

The FCT Executive Committee has approved the terms and conditions for conceding the maintenance of green strips within the neighbourhoods of the Federal Capital City, Abuja.

The FCT Minister, Senator Muhammad Adamu Aliero said this was one of the decisions taken during the bi-weekly FCT Executive Committee meeting on Monday in Gwarinpa Life-Camp, Abuja.

The Minister stated that for the purpose of this policy, owners of properties adjoining open spaces and green areas shall be given the right of first refusal for the enhancement and maintenance of such areas..

Senator Aliero said that where right of first refusal is rejected by a developer, Parks and Recreation Department shall enhance the site directly or through corporate organization(s).

services and infrastructure where applicable.

The Minister also revealed that the exco directed that the enhancement of open spaces abutting properties shall be by planting of tress, grass and minimal shrubs.

"The exco further directed that where open space/green strip adjoins more than one residential property, the open space/green strip shall be subdivided along the termination/ end of the adjoining properties and beaconed accordingly," he added.

His words: "Where open space/ green strip adjoins a block of flats owned by multiple owners like the former government block of flats sold to Civil Servants or bidders, the resident association, if available shall be given the right of first refusal and the space enhanced for the common

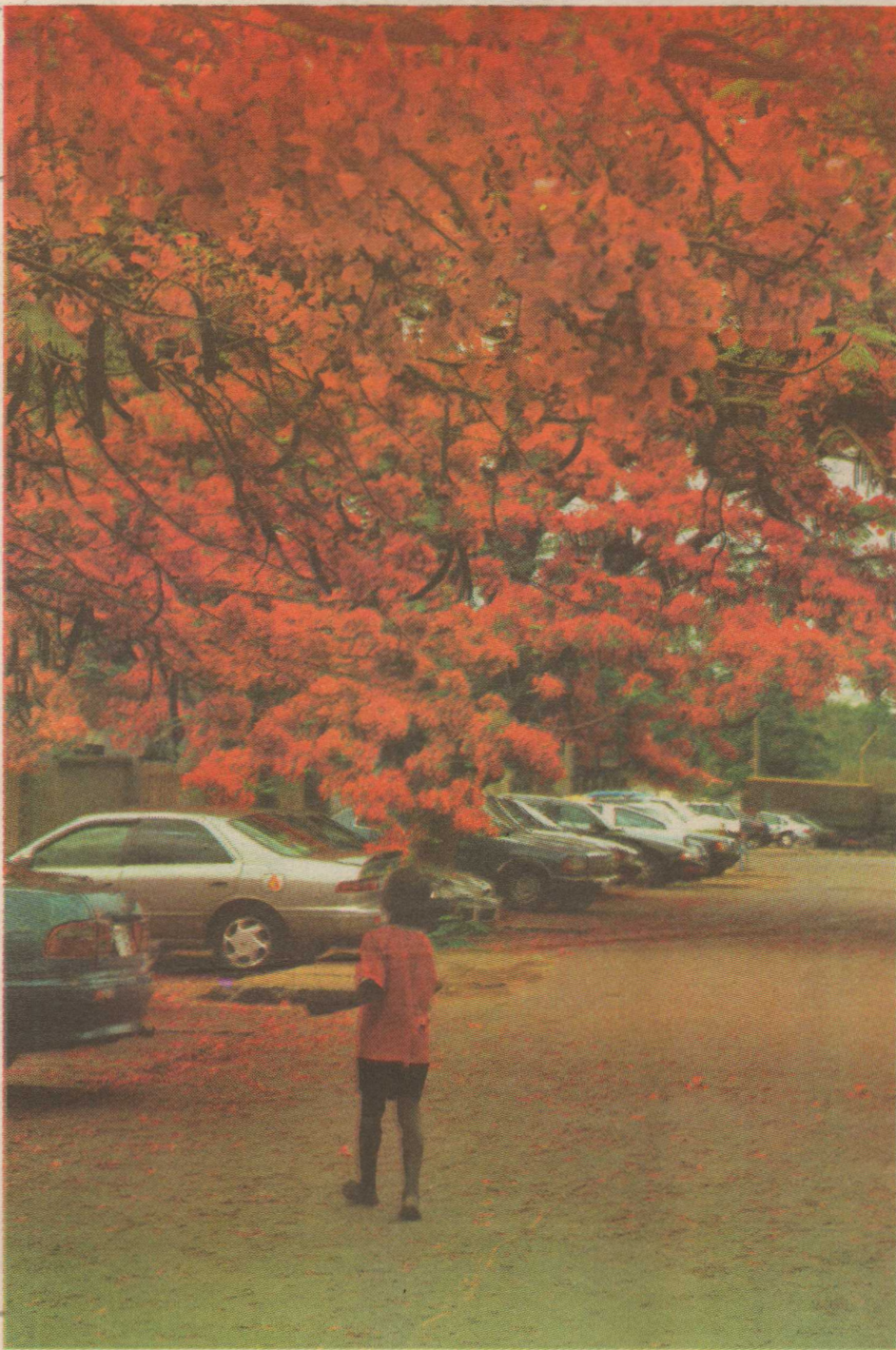
good of the residents".

Senator Aliero remarked that where the open space/green strip adjoins a public or private development (Govt. Or private, diplomatic, NGO) such developer shall be given the right of first refusal while common space adjoining more than one property, shall be developed for the common good of those concerned.

He stressed that the exco in session banned the introduction of building structures and garden furniture in open spaces or green strips as well as commercial activities.

He noted that enhancement/maintenance of the areas shall be subject to application for permit from Department of Parks and Recreation which on payment of stipulated amount by the property owner will specify necessary enhancement/maintenance guidelines.

ENVIRONMENT



The streets of Abuja are well beautified with orange petals.

Pic: Afolabi Sotunde.

Environmental pollution: Industries get May 6 deadline to enforce standards

The National Environment standards and regulations enforcement agency NESREA has given industries up to May 6th to construct secondary water treatment plants or face sanctions.

The director inspection and enforcement of the agency Mrs Ronke Soyombo disclosed this during an inspection tour of tanneries in Kano on Tuesday.

She said the agency decided to inspect tanneries in the state after a report carried out in 2008 indicates that most industries pollute their environment through the release of toxic waste without taking proper measures.

'A year ago we realized that industries mostly tannery groups pollute the environment most because they refused to treat their water treatment plants as

From Hassan A Karofi, Kano

stipulated by the law' she added.

Soyombo who described the trend as unfortunate and responsible for fatal health hazards said the agency decided to give all industries in the country up to May 6th to provide waste treatment plants or face sanctions.

'Very soon we will conduct pre-assessment visit to see how they are complying and any defaulter would be sanctioned according to the level of his offence' she added

The director revealed a meeting of the all stakeholders comprising of relevant industrialists would be converged to discuss ways of preserving the environment and preventing the release of poisonous chemical wastes into the society.

'You find that some of these wastes contains

corrosive materials, some with chromium that are very toxic and some of the wastes were used as fertilizers and end up in our farms with devastating consequences' she said

Chairman of the tanner's council of Nigeria Alhaji Lawal Sule Garo said the council is concerned about the development and added that already they are working in conjunction with the tanners to comply with the regulations on waste management in the interest of the people.

In one of the companies, Unique tannery the chief engineer Mr Niaz Ali who conducted the team round said very soon the company will commission its waste treatment plant the biggest in Africa.

He said adequate measures are being taken to ensure compliance with the regulations and safety of the environment.

Strong quake rattles Pacific islands

A 6.9-magnitude earthquake struck just east of the Kuril Islands in the Pacific Ocean early Tuesday, the U.S. Geological Survey reported.

No major tsunami was expected from the quake,

which struck at 12:24 a.m. ET, according to the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. But a quake of that size could create smaller tsunamis that could cause damage within 100 kilometers (62 miles) of the quake's epicenter.

The epicenter was about 300 km (185 miles) from part of the Kuril Islands.

The territory, disputed between Russia and Japan, is sparsely populated. An official population figure was not immediately available. (CNN)

AEPB gets new Director

By Sikiru M. Jimoh

Dr. Abubakar Shehu. Yabo, a civil engineer, was on March 19 appointed as director affairs of Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB). Before his new appointment, Eng. Yabo was an Assistant General Manager Environment and Pollution Control with the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) staff of the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA). He equally held the office of Asst Director Marine

Pollution, Ministry of Transport,; Asst General Manager, Environmental Pollution Control; supervisor and monitor of Lifting and procedures off-shore of Nigeria Ports Authority.

Before his return to the board to assume duty as the new director on March 30, he was the head of department of solid waste management of the board.

Disclosed in an address

to the media last Thursday, the Public Relations Officer of the board, Mr Samuel R. Musa, said the new director is a versatile human resources manager whose past managerial experiences will be of immense significance to the board.

He was appointed to replace the former director Engineer Kenneth N. Okafor who has been redeployed to Transport Secretariat Department of the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA).

Nigeria makes case for Africa on environment issues

By Nasir Imam

Nigeria has intewened on behalf of African states in the global debate on sustainability by making a clarion call for Euro-America to take a more critical view of the issues at stake.

A statement from Habu A. Gwani Ibrahim, Minister (Information), Nigeria High Commission

In Canada, the call was made by the High Commissioner of Nigeria to Canada, Professor Iyorwuese Hagher, who represented the Government of Nigeria during the 8th World Conference on Sport and Environment, held recently under the aegis of the International Olympic

Committee and the Organizing Committee of the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics at the Canada Place, Vancouver City, Canada.

Making the call during the plenary session of the Conference, the High Commissioner noted that the Western Countries seemed not to realize that the currently global economic crisis and the quest for greater standards on sustainability is not only because of crisis in liquidity, mortgages and stocks alone, but because Nigeria, African states and the developing world are fast emerging to

have a stake in higher energy consumption pattern like the Western society, in a world whose resource base is limited, and not elastic.

While proffering solutions, the High Commissioner urged the West to reckon with the objective needs and anxiety of African states over the issues of climate change. He advocated for a concerted sustainable strategy, and warned that as long as Western efforts to reduce emissions and carbon footprint is out of limited self interest and not all inclusive of global concerns, sustainability will be unattainable.

Senator seeks climate change commission

Chairman, Senate Committee on Environment, Senator Grace Bent, has stressed the need for the creation of a Climate Change Commission.

She said in Abuja weekend that the Commission, when created, would tackle the constant challenges in

atmospheric conditions. "The climate change commission would serve as a regulatory and monitoring body of the day-to-day weather conditions," she said.

According to her, it will also be able to anticipate and predict unpleasant climatic happenings as obtainable in the

developed world.

Bent said that the effects of climate change would be more on the African countries than the developed world, as the later possess the technology to handle the situation.

The senator said that African counties presently contribute 2.5 per cent of

the of the green house emission, posing that the heavy polluters of the environment are the developed world.

She advised that all tiers of government in the country should urgently address the likely effects of climate change on the citizenry so as to prevent future ecological disasters.

"A farmer in the village would not understand why he will put in so much, yet the harvest remains minimal. A man in the village will not understand why the sudden rain fall would become a flood and wash away his house," she said, adding all these are effects of climate change.

She however said that

Nigeria must act fast to put in measures that would halt the total destruction of the nation's environment.

She also called on all stakeholders to join the government to control the effect of climate change, remarking that the government cannot do it alone. (NAN)

PROPERTY



The Royal Livingstone Express railway across the Victoria Falls

Estate surveyors prepare members for global practice

Nigerian Institution of Estate Surveyors and Valuers (NIESV) has been charged to ensure that its members do not neglect the demands of the International Valuation Standards Committee (IVSC) requirements and guidance notes in valuations they carry out in the country.

A fellow of the institution, Mr. M.A. Bello, gave the call at a one-day Mandatory Continuing Development (MCPD) held in Lagos recently by the Lagos State branch of the institution.

According to him, valuations made in the country might be used for cross border investment transactions, which are common in globalisation these takes days.

He cited the example of the ENRON Independent Power Project (IPP) in Lagos. The ENRON turbines earlier rejected in Philippines at a cost of \$12

million later found its way to Lagos, Nigeria, at a cost of \$48 million.

This valuation, which ought to be in the negative, he said, later led some officials of ENRON and the valuers and some bankers who helped them in criminal convictions.

He commended the institution for coming up with national valuation standards, but that it was no longer enough in the face of globalisation where the growth of cross-border financial dealings call for valuation standards that are applicable, understood, accepted and trusted globally.

He pointed out the importance of IVSC, saying that it was a unique valuation body with global spread and approved by such bodies as the United Nations, the World Bank, International Finance Corporation, governments of 167 countries and accounting institutions globally.

He regretted that NIESV had not utilised the opportunity presented by IVSC membership by informing those requiring valuation services in the country of the members. This, he said, had made them lose a lot of businesses that should come to them through lawyers, engineers, and architects.

He restated the fact that it was only registered estate surveyors and valuers that were authentic in matters of valuation in Nigeria and globally as IVSC admitted the Estate Surveyors and Valuers Board of Nigeria as a member.

“Despite the noise making attempts by some so-called engineer-valuers to mislead unsuspecting Nigerian public, the Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE), is not a member of the International Valuation Standards Committee and the NSE is not recognised by the IVSC for the valuation of plants and machinery or any

property asset for that matter,” he said.

He condemned the attempt by those he called “half baked, amateurish professionals and valuation illiterates” who want the country to believe that their own form of engineering valuation and analysis is the same thing as the valuation of plants and machinery to determine the economic worth.

Earlier, the chairman of the Lagos State Branch, Dr. Joshua Patunla-Ajayi said the MCPD programme had become necessary considering the need for the principle and practice to fall in line with what is acceptable globally.

“There is a need for generally acceptable standard in content and format which our clients both national and international will accept as plain in our demonstration of professionalism that reflect global concord,” he said.

We have introduced land reforms in Ogun - Daniels

The place of land in the income generation and development efforts of the Ogun State has been put at high premium rating, even as participants in the first Gateway Lands Forum agreed that there was much to be tapped from the sector in future development of the State.

Real estate development, they said, hold the direction of development in the state which recently launched its regional development plan, which also emphasised the road map to future development, giving the clear direction on land use in the state.

Recognising the

strategic location of the state, the government, through the state Bureau of Lands and Survey, gathered the who is who within and outside the state, who met at the Valley View Hall to deliberate on the way forward. Speaking at the occasion, Governor Gbenga Daniel stated that before his administration came to power six years ago, the state lacked the necessary framework and process for tapping into its natural asset for the good of the people.

“Our precious land was regarded as just a piece of earth and little value was placed on it as a veritable means of enhancing the

internally generated revenue of the state.

“The state was not presented in a way that could attract investors to take advantage of the abundant land resources and strategic location. In those days of yore, demand was low as hardly anyone wanted to come here despite the immense difficulties of securing land from our southern neighbour.

“Thus, prior to 2003, it was doubtful that anyone paid up to N1million for a standard plot of land anywhere in Ogun state. Today, the story is very different,” he said.

He stated that his

government had realised the value of land resources and gone ahead to introduce reforms in land use system.

This, together with the re-organisation of the state’s land related agencies, he said, had impacted on the state and enabled it to translate into an industrial hub, thereby empowering the people and recording an influx of industries in the state.

He noted that with those developments on ground, there had been an unprecedented pressure on land in the state just as many investors had made Ogun State their destination of choice.

Residents sue LASG over planned demolition of houses

Residents of Itedo Community in Lekki, Lagos State, including churches, businesses, have dragged the Lagos State government before a Lagos State High Court, challenging the plan by the Lagos State government to seal-off and demolish their houses, offices and places of worship worth billions of naira. Bamidele Aturu, counsel to the residents, most of who are property owners, is praying the court for an order of interlocutory injunction, restraining the defendants, their agents, servants, officers, privies or otherwise howsoever, from sealing, further sealing, closing or further closing, from demolishing or in any other manner tampering with the buildings, homes and offices of the claimants pending the hearing and final determination of the substantive suit.

“An order of interlocutory injunction restraining the defendants, their agents, servants, officers, privies or otherwise howsoever, from obstructing, preventing, hindering or in any other manner restricting the free movement and liberty of the claimants from their buildings, homes and offices pending the hearing and final determination of the substantive suit.

One of the residents, Egun-Olu Adegboruwa, in a 43 paragraph affidavit in support of the motion on notice averred that most of them (residents/property owners) bought the land from the land owners and developed same, where they have lived for years with their families.

The relevance of building insurance

With the collapse of two buildings in Lagos within the space of a week, one would think that the long overdue compulsory building insurance should be fast-tracked so that the aim of checking same will be achieved. It was reported that as a result of the collapse of a four-storey building in Idi-Araba area of Lagos in March which resulted in unnecessary loss of lives and wastage of several million naira worth of property, the Lagos State government had reaffirmed its decision to hold landlords of collapsed buildings responsible and ensure they face the wrath of law, if such should occur again.

It was further disclosed that government would confiscate such properties. This, is in addition to the step it took to mark out some defective buildings and the subsequent seal off to stop such occurrences in future.

Until the last count, at least it was not less than 11 people that had been reportedly dead while 21 people that had been rescued from the rubbles were receiving treatment in both government and private hospitals within the state.

Kudos to the Lagos State government for her quick intervention in rescuing the victims and its efforts in ensuring that such occurrence becomes a thing of the past.

In some cases, it was learnt that government had gone to the extent of paying the hospital bills, sympathised with relatives of the victims.

The question is what happens to the relatives of the victims who eventually lost their lives in the incident? Some of these victims were the breadwinners of their families. If government had paid for the hospital bill of some rescued victims, who were permanently disabled during the incidents and might no more be useful for themselves, what happens to their children in schools?

What about the several million naira worth of property that were damaged? Some of these victims, investigation revealed, died of hypertension on their sick bed as a result of unnecessary imagination of how to start again. It will be recalled that it is not only buildings that collapse in Lagos, but fire had caused a lot of havoc also, where both young and old lives had been wasted.

This was what necessitated the implementation of the sections 64 and 65 of insurance Act 2004 which made it mandatory for all persons constructing any building that has more than two floors to insure their liability in respect of construction risks caused by their negligence or that of their servants, agents or consultants leading to bodily injury or loss of life or damage to property of any workman on the site.

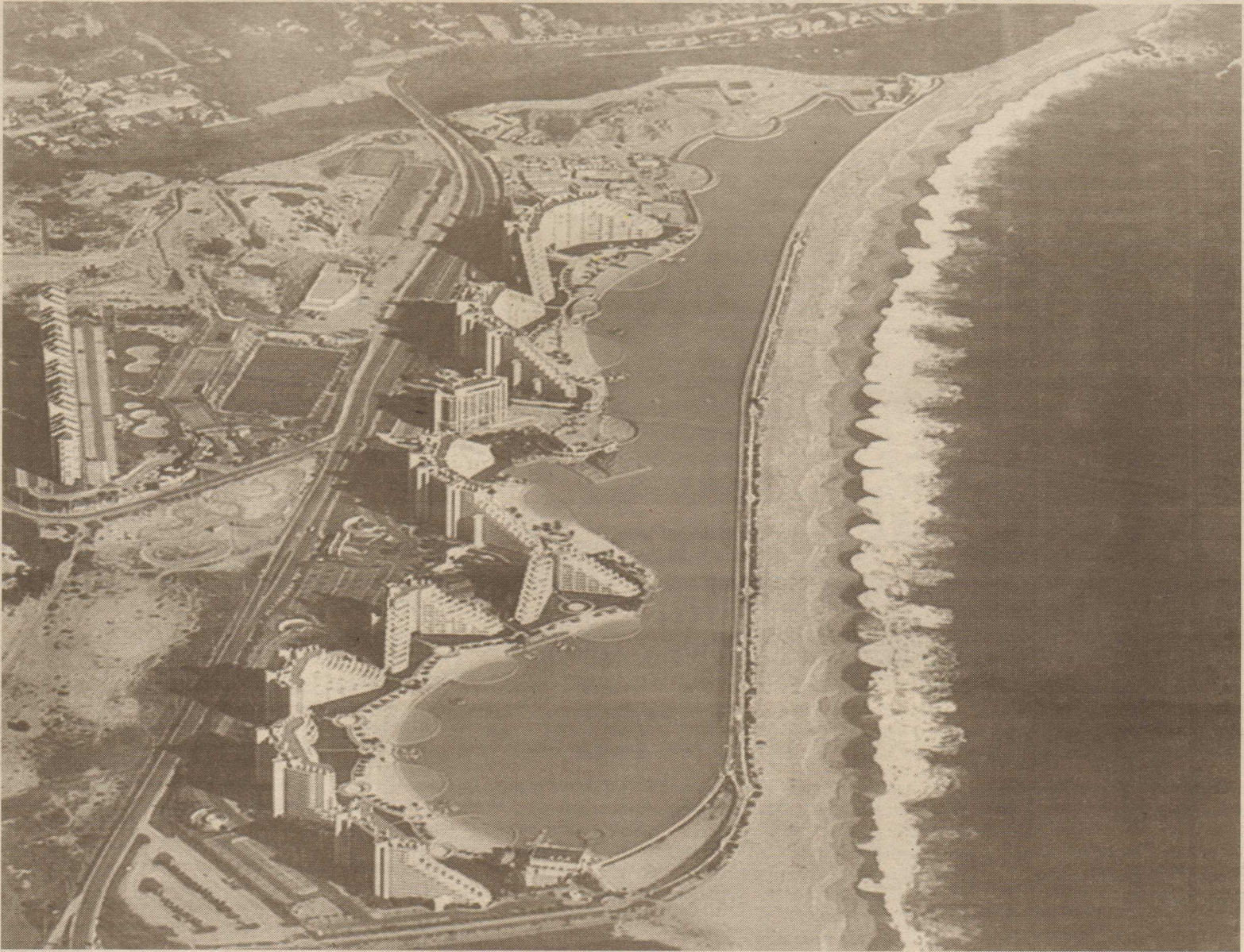
The Commissioner for Insurance and the boss of National Insurance Commission (NAICOM), Mr. Fola Daniel, who had been commended at several fora by stakeholders for his commitment to the growth of insurance awareness in Nigeria through prompt payment of claims in case of any unforeseen circumstance, had promised greater impetus to these sections of the Insurance Act.

Recently, he reaffirmed the commitment of the commission to the re-launch of compulsory insurance of public buildings by launching a fresh campaign in Lagos after the same had been done in Abuja last year.

Obviously, now is the time for the commission to expedite action and launch the compulsory insurance of public building with strict enforcement.

One can only imagine several lives that had been cut short and brilliant chaps that had been denied of proper education just because the breadwinner lost his live in building collapse.

PROPERTY



According to Guinness World Records, the man-made Crystal "lagoon" at the San Alfonso del Mar resort at Algarrobo, Chile is the largest swimming pool in the world. The coast-hugging pool is all man-made with a bit of patented technology that uses water from the nearby Pacific Ocean to fill it.

Can 'biochar' save the planet?

Over the railroad tracks, near Agriculture Drive on the University of Georgia campus, sits a unique machine that may hold one of the solutions to big environmental problems like energy, food production and even global climate change.

"This machine right here is our baby," said UGA research engineer Brian Bibens, who is one of a handful of researchers around the world working on alternative ways to recycle carbon.

Bibens' specialty is "biochar," a highly porous charcoal made from organic waste. The raw material can be any forest, agricultural or animal waste. Some examples are woodchips, corn husks, peanut shells, even chicken manure.

Bibens feeds the waste — called "biomass" — into an octagonally shaped metal barrel where it is cooked under intense heat, sometimes above 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit, the organic matter is cooked through a thermochemical process called "pyrolysis".

In a few hours, organic trash is transformed into charcoal-like pellets farmers can turn into fertilizer. Gasses given off during the process can be harnessed to fuel

vehicles of power electric generators. Biochar is considered by many scientists to be the "black gold" for agriculture.

Its high carbon content and porous nature can help soil retain water, nutrients, protect soil microbes and ultimately increase crop yields while acting as natural carbon sink - sequestering CO2 and locking it into the ground.

Biochar helps clean the air two ways: by preventing rotting biomass from releasing harmful CO2 into the atmosphere, and by allowing plants to safely store CO2 they pull out of the air during photosynthesis.

Scientists from Edinburgh and Oxford Universities used mathematical models to study "swarm behaviour". They found that bison or fish want to get to the centre of large groups to keep themselves safe from predators.

Ants and bees worked together as a single unit, and were prepared to die for the greater good of the colony.

The study's findings

"Soil acts as an enormous carbon pool, increasing this carbon pool could significantly contribute to the reduction of CO2 in the atmosphere," said Christoph Steiner, one of the leading research

scientist studying biochar. "It gives us a chance to produce carbon negative energy."

Worldwide use of biochar could cut CO2 levels by 8 parts per million within 50 years, according to

NASA scientist James Hansen.

Global carbon levels in the air have been steadily increasing at an alarming rate since the 1980s, according to NOAA. Since 2000, increases of 2 parts per

million of CO2 have been common, according to NOAA. During the 1980s rates increased by 1.5 ppm per year.

The process of making biochar can also lead to other valuable products. -CNN

Kwara procures 5 additional trucks for refuse disposal

Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Hajia Funmilayo Ambali, disclosed that the State Government has procured five additional trucks for refuse disposal within Ilorin metropolis.

The Permanent Secretary gave this hint while

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

briefing officers of environmental task

force after the state's monthly environmental sanitation exercise held at the weekend.

Hajia Ambali noted that

with these new trucks, which would be commissioned next week, Thursday added that the management of O'La clean would no longer have excuse for not evacuating the Roro bins within the metropolis promptly.

She advised residents of Ilorin to always report at the

Ministry of Environment if they have problem of evacuation of Roro bins in their areas.

Commenting on exercise, Hajia Ambali described it as successful due to the fact that the exercise was being held consecutively since the beginning of the year.

Bees and ants 'operate in teams'

Bees and ants are true team players unlike other creatures who seek safety in numbers for selfish reasons, according to researchers.

Scientists from Edinburgh and Oxford Universities used mathematical models to study "swarm behaviour".

They found that bison or fish want to get to the centre of large groups to keep themselves safe from predators.

Ants and bees worked together as a single unit, and were prepared to die for the greater good of the colony.

The study's findings

appear to echo the insect worlds portrayed in the animated films *Antz* and *Bee Movie*, in which the characters live in rigidly conformist societies.

In some co-operative groups of animals - known as superorganisms - members are closely related, and work together to ensure their shared genetic material is passed on, the researchers concluded. In other groups they perform a policing role, for instance in honey bee hives where worker bees destroy any eggs not laid by the queen to ensure the queen's offspring survive.

Dr Andy Gardner, from

the University of Edinburgh, said: "We often see animals appearing to move in unison, such as bison or fish.

"However, what looks like a team effort is in fact each animal jostling to get to the middle of the group to evade predators.

"By contrast, an ant nest or a beehive can behave as a united organism in its own right. In a beehive, the workers are happy to help the community, even to die, because the queen carries and passes on their genes.

However, superorganisms are quite rare, and only exist when the internal conflict within a

social group is suppressed - so we cannot use this term, for example, to describe human societies."

The findings, funded by the Royal Society, are published in the *Journal of Evolutionary Biology*. -BBC



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Immigration officer dies in auto crash

An unidentified female immigration officer last Thursday evening died in a ghastly motor accident that occurred along the Abuja-Lokoja highway.

Four persons, who were also passengers in the vehicle the immigration of-

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

ficer died in, were seriously injured.

According to an eyewitness, the accident happened when the immigration officer's Nissan car with registration number XA 755 RBC ran into a stationary Mandiesel truck with registration number XA 828 BKK that was loaded with bags of cement.

He said the truck broke down at the centre of the

road and the officer car hit the vehicle from behind, killing the officer on the spot.

"Immediately after the accident, residents of the area rushed to the scene to assist FRSC officials rescue victims that were conveyed to the hospital," the witness said.

Confirming the accident, the Abaji Unit Commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Mr. Joseph Ojerinde, blamed the accident on the truck driver.

He said the driver was wrong to have abandoned his vehicle at the centre of the road without traffic warning signs.

The commander said the truck driver was handed over to the police for prosecution, adding that he was negligent, and carried excess load.

"The truck was removed from the road after its contents were off loaded, while the immigration officer's corpse has been deposited at the University of Abuja

Teaching Hospital's Morgue at Gwagwalada.

In another development, Abaji Unit Command of the FRSC yesterday commenced its 2009 Easter special patrol along the Abaji-Lokoja highway.

The unit commander who led the teams of patrol along Chikara-Abaji road told newsmen that the spe-

cial patrol is meant to check the high level of vehicular traffic from the northern and southern parts of the country during the Easter period.

He said the command has mapped out strategy to watch all black-spots and accident prone zones in order to check reckless drivers, dangerous overtaking and overloading.

Boy declared missing at Masaka

By Abubakar Yakubu

The family of a sales boy, Eze Onyema Nwatu yesterday declared him missing after several efforts to find him since he disappeared on March 13, 2009.

Amaka, the sister of the missing person said he hails from Akpugo in Nkanu Local Government Area of Enugu State and he is dark in complexion.

"My brother has a psychiatric problem that started in 2007 and he was taken to Delta State for treatment and got over it on July 2008 until March 10," she lamented.

She said when the problem came up again, the family decided to seek spiritual healing and the boy was taken to the Christ Ascension Church, Masaka, where he disappeared on March 13, 2009.

Our reporter learnt that the boy's last place of work was at Building Materials Market in Zone 5, Abuja.

At the Masaka Police Station, a policeman said they received report on the missing boy and have circulated his picture among surveillance officers in order to locate him.



Missing Eze Onyema Nwatu



A tipper loaded with woods crashed into a store at Kwaita village, along the Abuja-Lokoja expressway recently.

Pic: Abubakar Sadiq Isah.

FCDA officials demolish illegal structures at NUJ premises

By Abubakar Yakubu

Officials of the Department of Development Control, Federal Capital Development Authority Monday evening demolished illegal structures that served as restaurants in the premises of the Abuja Council office of the National Union of Journalists at Utako.

The officials who came with a bulldozer demolished about four structures and vowed to come back to remove the fence created by Standard Chartered Bank that demarcates its building from the NUJ building.

They said the plot is a single one given to the NUJ and should not have been demarcated or leased out.

One of the official said they were in the bank to intimate them of their inten-

tion to pull down the fence because of the sensitive na-

ture of the operations that go on there.



The demolished structures at NUJ Abuja Council premises at Utako yesterday.

Pic: Abubakar Yakubu.

ABC Transport declares 15 persons wanted

By Abubakar Yakubu

About 15 persons were yesterday declared wanted by the management of ABC Transport Limited in Abuja.

The photographs of those declared wanted were pasted at the lobby of the bus terminus with inscriptions that stated thus: "Do you know these faces? Contact us if you do."

The notice of those declared wanted caused a stir at the bus terminus as people wondered about the nature of their offences.

"This notice is not telling us anything about their offences and how would we know what they did?" an onlooker commented.

A security man at the station told our reporter that those declared wanted were suspected robbers that robbed an ABC bus coming from Port Harcourt.

Our reporter also learnt that hidden cameras inside the bus captured their faces during the robbery operation.

City news

Police arrest suspected homosexual

The police yesterday said they have arrested a suspected homosexual that was making advances to another man.

According to a police source, the suspect,

By Misbahu Bashir

Maduka Nnamdi, a 25-year-old person told the police that he became gay by watching pornographic films on the internet.

The source said the sus-

pect confessed that he made contacts with four men through the internet and had sex with each of them.

FCT police Spokesperson, Jimoh Moshood, a deputy superintendent,

said the suspect met one John Alphosus at a restaurant in Maitama, Abuja and exchanged telephone numbers with him.

"The suspect and Alphosus (complainant) became friends and exchanged text messages on phone," the spokesperson said.

He disclosed further that the suspect said in his statement that he once sent N500 telephone recharge card to the complainant and N1,000 through his bank account.

"The suspect invited the complainant to a restaurant where they had earlier met and he sought

the cooperation of the complainant to have sex with him and started touching his body but the complainant turned down his advances and called the police," the police image maker stated.

He said after investigations, the suspect will be charged to court.

Mechanic charged for attempted

An automobile mechanic, Haruna Sakari, was on Monday arraigned before an Abuja Magistrate court for attempting to steal a car belonging to one Ademola Lukmon.

Prosecutor Umoh Inah told the court that on March 31, 2009, one Ademola Lukmon of the Protocol Unit, Head of Civil Service, Federal Secretariat, Phase 2, Abuja, reported to the police that the accused was caught inside the complainant's car where it was parked.

Umoh stated further that the accused was caught trying to disconnect the car wire in an attempt to start and drive it away.

According to the prosecutor, the offence committed by the accused is punishable under Section 95 of the Penal Code Law.

When the charge was read to the accused, he pleaded not guilty and requested for bail.

Magistrate Omolola Oladipo granted the accused bail in the sum of N100,000 with two sureties in like sums.

She also ordered that one of the sureties must be a civil servant of not below Grade Level 07, while both sureties must reside within the court's jurisdiction as well as swear to affidavit to produce the accused in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to April 27 for hearing.

In another court, a 36-year-old civil servant was on Monday arraigned for allegedly threatening to kill one Erakifon Jovial over a borrowed pillow.

The accused, Joseph Gift of Lugbe Zone 8, Abuja, was reported to have been arrested on April 3, 2009 by the police.

Prosecutor Jeremiah Elijah told the court that on April 3, 2009, one Erakhifon Jovial reported to the po-

car theft

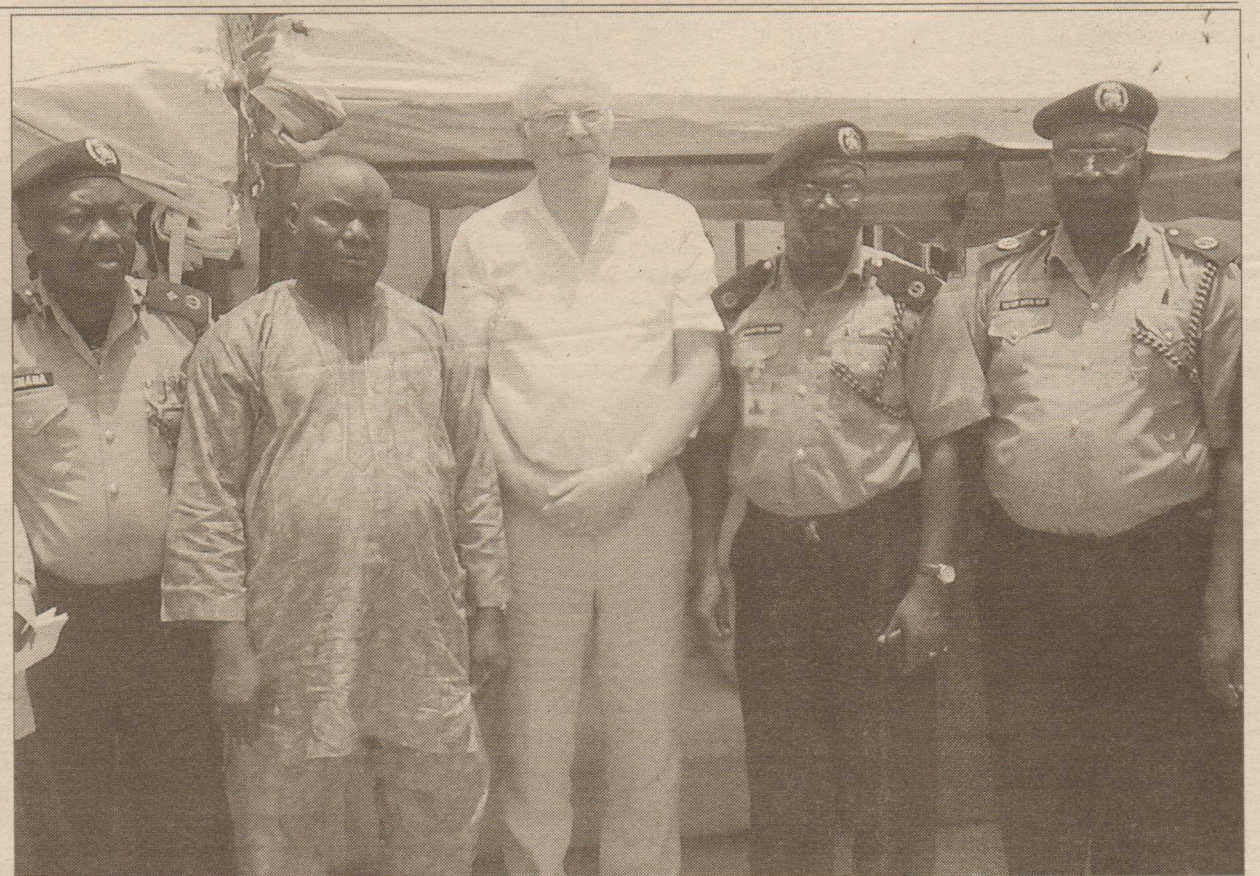
By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

lice that the accused threatened to kill him when he demanded for the pillow the accused borrowed from him in December, 2007.

The prosecutor further argued that the offence committed by the accused is punishable under Section 397 of the Penal Code Law.

When the charge was read to the accused, he pleaded not guilty and Magistrate Oyeyipo Ademuyiwa Olalekan granted him bail in the sum of N100,000 with a surety in like sum that must reside within the court's jurisdiction and swear to an affidavit to produce the accused in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to April 21 for hearing.



Chairman of Gwagwalada Area Council Alhaji Zakari Angulu Dobi (2nd left) and other dignitaries during the launching of community policing in Gwagwalada recently.
Pic: Abubakar Sadiq Isah.

SERVICOM faults National Hospital services

SERVICOM officials recently faulted some aspect of the services at National Hospital, Abuja and graded the hospital 'fair' in its evaluation exercise.

Chief SERVICOM Officer, Dr. Christiana Famro, who led a delegation to the National Hospital for the presentation of the evaluation

By Abubakar Yakubu

exercise, said customers of the hospital complained that there was preferential treatment of patients and that staff of the hospital were "rude and arrogant" and not customer friendly.

"There are no clearly defined processes involved in

monitoring performance against set standards, to show that the hospital adheres to its set standards in rendering services to its customers.

For instance, the set standard on customer care in the areas of promptness, speed of response and staff treatment of customers have no

process of monitoring as patients wait endlessly before services are rendered," she said.

The SERVICOM Office therefore recommended that the hospital set processes in motion to monitor waiting time standards and provide training for customer care for its frontline staff.

The report however praised the National Hospital for carrying out a customer satisfaction survey last year, setting up a public address system for dissemination of information to patients about staff and making adequate provision for waiting arrears within the hospital.

Responding, the Chief Medical Director of the Hospital, Dr. Segun Ajuwon said the choice of the General Outpatient Department in the exercise affected its score as the hospital originally was not supposed to run such a department but for the weak-

ness of the primary and secondary healthcare systems in the country in general and specifically in the FCT.

"People who naturally should have no business here come because they believe this is where they would get the best. We are supposed to be a tertiary health institution dealing with only referrals but we take all kinds of patients now.

The GOPD is our weakest link and once we improve it we would be excellent," he said.

Dr Ajuwon ordered that more information be provided for the patients for the customers to understand the hospital's preferential treatment, cost and charges policy.

He called on Nigerians to ensure that they pay for services rendered to them by the hospital pointing out that the hospital lost N72 million to patients who could not offset their bills in 2008.

...Speaks on PHCN's Challenge Fund award

SERVICOM yesterday clarified issues on the N5 million Challenge Fund award given to the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) to improve services at its Abuja Centre.

Assistant Awareness Manager of SERVICOM, Mr. Ikenna Okpani stated that the N5 million won from the Challenge Fund by the PHCN is to assist them improve services in their Abuja distribution centre. "The money was given to

By Abubakar Yakubu

them based on encouraging facts contained in their proposal on how they want to use the money and how ordinary Nigerians would benefit from planned service improvement," he said.

He said the money given was not an award for performance but funds meant to assist PHCN improve on their services.

According to him, most

PHCN offices lack information about services provided, cost of services, details of officers that can respond to complaints in case of service failure.

He said PHCN proposed to use the money from the Challenge Fund to provide accurate information timely to customers in order to minimize hidden costs, as well as remedy other feedback mechanisms so that customers can plan when to access services and get redress.

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) NIGERIA.

Kano State Education Sector Project (SESP), Kano
CREDIT NO: 4295-Uni

Procurement of Emis ii IT Equipment
IFB NO: KN/SESP/NCB/09/3

DATE OF ISSUANCE: April 8, 2009

1. This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in the dgMarket website issue of Thursday, May 31, 2007.

2. The Federal Government of Nigeria has applied for a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of Kano State Education Sector Project (SESP), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the Contract for Procurement of Emis ii IT Equipment

3. The Kano State Education Sector Project (SESP), now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Supply of Emis ii IT Equipment. Bidders may bid for any one or more lots and discounts offered for any lot would be accepted.

LOT NO	ITEM	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	DELIVERY PERIOD	BID SECURITY
1	1	Laptop Computers	10	60 Days	At least 3% of the Bid Price
	2	Printers	1		
	3	Anivirus and Consumables	1 Set		
2	1	Radio Link	2 Set	60 Days	At least 3% of the Bid Price
3	1	GPS equipment	30Set	60 Days	At least 3% of the Bid Price

4. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and are open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.

5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below between the hours of 9.00am through 4.00pm on Mondays to Thursdays and 9.00am through 1.00pm on Fridays, except on public holidays.

6. Qualifications requirements include: All, as contained/listed in the BDS of the Bid Document. A margin of preference for certain goods manufactured domestically shall not be applicable. Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents

7. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below and upon the payment of a non -refundable fee N15,000.00 (Fifteen Thousand Naira) only, or US\$100.00 (One Hundred United States Dollars) only. The method of payment will be in Cash or Bank Draft. The Bidding Documents will be collected by hand, or sent by courier services on request.

8. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 11 00.am, Monday, May 25 2009. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below at 11.00.a.m Monday, May 25, 2009. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of not less than 3% of the Bid Price or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.

9. The address referred to above for bid submission purposes is

Attention: **Danlami Garba,**

The Project Coordinator,

Kano State Education Sector Project (SESP),

Kano State Ministry of Education (SM0E),

3rd Floor, Gidan Murtala

Bayero University Kano (B.U.K) Road,

PMB 3042.

Kano

Telephone: M (234) 080-37881377, 0802-9180333

E-mail: kano_sesp0709@yahoo.com

The deadline for the submission of bids is:

Date: Monday, May 25, 2009

Time: 11.00 am



Unilever

VACANCY

Unilever Nigeria PLC, a leading FMCG company requires an experienced and business oriented person to be appointed as Key Distributor to cover our Bauchi territory. The Key Distributor will cover parts of Bauchi, Darasso, Soro, Alkalari, Tafawa Balewa, Dass, Dindima, Yankari etc.

Personal Profile:

- High integrity and trustworthiness
- Good target achievement and customer service orientation
- Good initiative and task execution skills
- Team player, highly energetic and positive attitude
- Good analytical and reasoning skills

Basic Requirements:

- Minimum Capital of N20,000,000.00
- Operational Sales Vans and Salesmen for redistribution.
- Warehouse
- Bank Statement of Account for the past 3 months
- Certificate of Business Registration

Interested applicants should send in their application to the Regional Office, Unilever Nigeria PLC, Plot 1259 Aminu Kano Crescent, Wuse II, Abuja within two weeks of this publication. For further enquiries please call the following numbers 08035350537, 08035250886, 08034022861 and 08034022901.



NATIONAL AGENCY FOR FOOD AND DRUG
ADMINISTRATION AND CONTROL

NAFDAC

CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS, ABUJA.

NOTICE OF INTERVIEW

Shortlisted candidates for recruitment into NAFDAC are hereby notified of an oral interview test scheduled for 16th, 17th and 18th April 2009.

Particulars of successful candidates at the aptitude test have been published on www.nafdac.gov.org.

Please log on to this website for further details on the next stage of the interview exercise or visit any NAFDAC office for assistance.

Signed:
Management.



NAFDAC...safeguarding the health of the nation

VOICES

email: voices@dailytrust.com

Niger Delta militants: What's the worth of FG's amnesty?

President Umaru Yar'adua said Thursday that he was working out modalities to grant amnesty to militants in the Niger Delta and urged them to lay down their arms as the condition for that amnesty. Some of the militants replied that government could not be keeping some of their leaders behind bars and funding military actions against the rest and be talking of amnesty. Nigerian leaders, mostly from the Niger Delta, react to this seeming paradox in this week's VOICES

Pace is vital for development—Rt. Hon Peter Linus Umoh (PDP Akwa Ibom), former speaker, Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly.

President Umaru Yar'adua is a peace-loving leader who has extended amnesty to the youths in the Niger Delta so that the nation could stand as one harmonious whole and in order that the Niger Delta could have peace and development. I advise my brothers at home to take the president's offer of amnesty in good faith and lay down their arms. It's vital that there should be no armed struggle in the creeks if development is to reach there.

You can't have development where there is turmoil. You could only work for progress properly when you are at peace with yourself and with everyone else. I see in Yar'adua a sincerity to sort out the Niger Delta and take lasting peace and Development to the region. He has just created a ministry exclusively to rise to the development needs of the region. This is the first major intervention by the Federal Government after the establishment of Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC). The ministry of the Niger Delta has been established to handle matters of human and infrastructural development. Allocations to the region are now bound to increase. The ministry is just beginning to work. Let's see this early stage for the ministry as a test run. We will see how it works. We must give it an opportunity to do what it has been charged to do.

If my people do not calm down and let peace reign, work by the ministry or any other authority will be difficult. Contractors will not be able to execute projects in an environment marked with fear.

If people are in the creeks fighting the authorities because development is not reaching there, they are doing so for all the people in the region who share the agony of neglect which gave rise to the militancy that we are talking about. As representative of the people in the National Assembly, I know that the people want peace so that they can have the development they have always wanted. There is fear, that we have an opportunity through developments like

By Onimisi Alao & Mustapha Suleiman

the creation of the Ministry of the Niger Delta which we must not miss. If opportunities like this is wasted because crisis dispels development activities, we may never have it again in the near future. The Niger Delta Region has been neglected and people have a reason to

ety. The Federal Government should act on it and ensure that it is total. There must be no room for anyone to manipulate and render it ineffective.

On their part, I urge the intended beneficiaries of the amnesty to comply by stopping the aggression and sur-

Ijaw Peace Monitoring Group (WIPMG)

The decision of the Federal Government to grant amnesty to Niger Delta fighters and at the same time re-organizing the Joint Task Force (JTF) into a robust military outfit with a very senior military officer as head leaves much to be desired. It shows that the Federal Gov-

to the barracks to carry out its primary assignment of protecting the territorial integrity of Nigeria. We demand an immediate review of the Joint Venture Agreement to reflect community stake holding rights of equity participation and employment/empowerment quota for oil producing and impacted communities. New or satel-

politics that is at play. I want to hope that I am wrong and Yar'adua means business. He should back up his words with action. That's when we will see him for what he is saying that he is.

Amnesty will help development in the Niger Delta - Governor Timipre Sylva of Bayelsa State

The offer of amnesty by



Rt. Hon. Peter L. Umoh

be annoyed, but I maintain that we need to give Mr. President an opportunity to prove his sincerity.

It is also up to those who will implement Mr President's promise to the best of their ability because the president can only work through people as he can't be in more than one place at the same time.

Amnesty should make the militants want to lay down their arms - Chief Edwin Clark, Frontline national Ijaw leader.

Just days before the President announced amnesty, I renewed my call on the President to grant amnesty to the militants, including Henry Okah (who is being held). So, it is good that the government has now agreed to grant them amnesty because that is what one can hold and be talking about peace in Niger Delta with authority. The issue of granting amnesty to militants took a long time in coming. The genuine freedom fighters deserve amnesty from the government for it is one of the ways to integrate them back into the system.

It will make the militants to lay down their arms and get integrated into the soci-



Governor Timipre Sylva

rendering their arms. Some of their leaders are being held by the authorities. One will be within what could be expected by asking that such leaders should be released in the spirit of the amnesty.

It's not militants that need amnesty - Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND)

MEND considers the amnesty for surrender of arms offer by Mr. Umaru Yar'adua as unrealistic. Any offer by a government known for its insincerity must first be given to those who are being held captive by the Nigerian state for the rest of us to take seriously. Ironically, it should be the people of the Niger Delta considering amnesty for the military and the past and present leadership of a corrupt Nigeria for the evil perpetrated in the region. As the government prepares its military for war against the peace loving people of the Niger Delta, we wish to warn that the freedom fighters are ready. Our differences have been put aside to face a common enemy.

Yar'adua's amnesty is a Greek gift - Chief Patrick Bigha, chairman, Warri-

ernment is not willing to address the root cause of the Niger Delta crisis. Amnesty without addressing the problem in the region is like a Greek gift that will result in more crises in the region. He who has been pronounced free must be seen to be free in all ramifications. It must be pointed out that the more the Federal Government militarizes the Niger Delta, the more it creates a kind of consciousness in the fighters as well as energizes them.

That said, we wish to state that amnesty is a welcome development, but it must be a solution-driven one. The Federal Government must have the political will to address the issues that led to the Niger Delta crisis, as it has admitted on several occasions, there is truly a problem of long criminal neglect of the region by past governments. A holistic programme must be instituted to usher in a lasting peace in the region. We wish to refresh the memory of Mr. President with the demands of the Niger Delta people, particularly the Ijaw, that Mr. Henry Okah should be released unconditionally to be part of the peace process.

The military must go back

lite towns must be developed in the region, accompanied by infrastructural development and industrialization.

We demand the creation of Toru-Ibe and Oil Rivers states to rightly accord the Ijaw an appreciable political space in the allocation of our God-given resources, as the resources of our region are being controlled, managed and allocated through indices like states and local government areas by the Federal Government. It is crucial to point out that as the federal government begins to appreciate and work on these demands, justice, equity, tranquillity and peace will gradually set into the region and all will be well with the government and the people.

Yar'adua is not serious about amnesty - Mr. Paul Bebenimibo, Former secretary of the Ijaw Youth Congress (IYC)

President Umaru Yar'adua cannot be serious. Mr. President cannot be taking seriously if he is talking about amnesty to militants at a People's Democratic Party (PDP) forum. Yar'adua declared his amnesty at the 47th National Executive Council Meeting of the PDP in Abuja. It can only mean that it is still

President Umaru Yar'adua is an olive branch help to accelerate development in the Niger Delta. Yenagoa is a capital for investors. It is a village fast transforming into a city. We thank President Umaru Yar'adua for granting amnesty to all militants. With the issue of militancy coming to an end, Bayelsa will witness unprecedented development.

Justina Abedo, National Coordinator, Awareness for Development

Government has much work to do if it means to solve the problem of the Niger Delta. I don't see how the militants are going to give up their arms at the promise of amnesty. I say this because kidnapping is still on all over the place. Amnesty that does not address the criminal dimension that militancy in the Niger Delta has assumed will amount to nothing. Only those who are sincerely fighting the Niger Delta cause are going to be impressed by amnesty. Those who now steal, abduct and claim huge sums as ransom are most likely to go on with what has become a means of living. So, government needs much more than amnesty to sort out the Niger Delta phenomenon.

INSIDE POLITICS

Constitution review still on course

The process of reviewing the constitution by the National Assembly has been stalled because of disagreements between the Senate and House of Representatives. What is going on behind the scenes? Is there any hope that the process will pick up again? Suleiman Abdulrahman Kawu, Deputy Minority Leader in the House of Representatives, answers these and other questions in this interview. Excerpts:

—Reps Minority Leader

Many people believe the constitution review is no longer feasible given the impasse between the Senate and the House. As one of the leaders of the House, what can you say on this?

By Tashikalmah Hallah

We have resolved to pursue the constitution review. We are calling on Nigerians to submit memorandum on the sections of the constitution they think are better altered for the development of the country. And both the legislative and executive arms of government can also originate the sections they feel when reviewed will help the country. I can assure as a member of the constitution review committee that on our part we will pursue it to the logical conclusion. We will do it to the satisfaction of Nigerians. I think this is the right time to have constitution review because most of us who go to our constituencies are being asked to review the constitution. One of the constraints of Nigerian development is the present constitution. For example what happened at the House over Ogun State crisis is lack of internal democracy in our party and electoral processes as well as constitutional problems. Lack of internal democracy demonstrates the way people are imposed on electorates during elections which contributes to the failure of democracy. Secondly, the Ogun State Assembly is not independent as it is supposed to be. They cannot operate without the consent of the state governor. Had it been they are independent, I believe they would have done a better work to their people. Nobody can undermine them.

Do you mean the executive has emasculated the state assembly?

I think the nature of democracy has made state governors to manoeuvre their members of House of Assemblies because they depend on them on almost everything they do. They governors have to sign budget for the members of House of Assemblies as well as other entitlements thus jeopardising their jobs. But in the case of the House of Representatives, members of the opposition are up to 100 which will make it uneasy for the President to have the whole House without strong

opposition. It will not be easy for him to impose legislation on us especially those of us from opposition parties. This is because we are not waiting for him to have our tickets. We have nothing to do with Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) unlike Ogun State where all members of the state assembly are from the same party. Take Osun and Ekiti states as another example where opposition members of the state House of Assembly are equal to those in the ruling party yet governors influence activities of the Houses. Also our level of thinking, our educational background, culture and orientation are far different from members of state assemblies. So we must have a review of the constitution for us to be independent from the state governors. Therefore the need to review the constitution review is paramount. And we will appreciate the role of press and civil societies to mount pressure on us.

Recently you accused the Presidency of doctoring the electoral reform report to extend the tenure of President Umaru Yar'adua by two years. How prepared are the opposition parties for the coming debate on the report?

I can assure that the Presidency cannot achieve their aim of tenure elongation for President Yar'adua. Going by what is happening and the pressure by both opposition parties and the pressure groups in the country, it clearly shows that they will not succeed. Also going by what is happening within and outside the country, I can assure you that the lawmakers are ever ready to give a serious fight. And we from the opposition parties with the help of good members of the ruling party are thinking of coming with a bill on the electoral reform which will frustrate government efforts to impose the report on us. So, we will not allow the executive to have the day.

It is common for legislators to have sour relationship with their state governors. What kind of relationship is there between you lawmakers from Kano State and the governor?

Well, I think 95 per cent of us are solidly behind our

governor and the government of the state because we are carried along in major decisions which affect the state. Between 75 and 80 per cent of the lawmakers from the state are from the same

listed his priorities and targets for the government in four years and he entrusted the programme under the Director of Research and Documentation. Therefore he planned what he wanted to achieve by the end of his tenure. He carries us, the legislators along in the implementation of these programmes. And we are satisfied by the way he executes the programmes. Also the governor implements these

security in the state and this cannot be achieved without removing these illegal structures that serve a hiding place for criminals. Our streets have to be cleared so that people with criminal antecedents will be exposed and the society should have peace. More so, the state is known for flood during the rainy season which is caused by erection of illegal structures. Therefore by their demolition we can tackle

achieved without demolition of illegal structures that retard our development and cause environmental hiccups.

How would compare the Seven-Point agenda of the federal administration and the programmes in Kano State?

We can assess President Umaru Yar'adua's performance as achieving only 25 per cent. It is on the news that he couldn't implement his plans, because there's nothing on the ground to show. The Federal Government whose responsibility is to ensure security of people and other issue does not play that role very well. In Kano State we have such plans, we are ready to complement the Federal Government in its efforts at ensuring peace and other developmental programmes but it seems they are not ready. Our concern is the development of the people. We don't care where it comes from. Even if it comes from Satan, we will welcome it as long as it will benefit our people. You can't have a comprehensive security in Kano State without having road accessibility or removal of illegal structures. Let me tell you also that we have achieved in security unlike before when there was crisis in other parts of the country, you will see people in the state burning places of worships in protest to what happened to their relatives in those parts. Now people understand the wisdom of Kano State government and all the stakeholders are doing their best to ensure peace reigns. So if the Federal Government is ready to work with us, they are welcome; and if they are not ready then I can say we have gone far ahead of them.



Suleiman Abdulrahman Kawu

party with the governor. The government is relating very well with all of us including those who are not from our party, the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP). We are doing a lot for the betterment of the people without regard to party affiliation. And we have achieved a lot in doing so. In short I can say there is cordial relationship between the governor and his team on the one hand and the legislators representing the state at the National Assembly on the other.

Let's look at the development in the state. You have travelled to other parts of the country and have seen what is going on there. In comparison, are you satisfied with what your state governor has been doing especially between 2007 and now?

Actually I am 100 per cent satisfied with initiatives of the governor. We have a road map for the development of the state. The governor had designed his programmes, whereby he

programmes in consideration of the money allocated to the state as well as the internally generated funds so that the projects will not fail. We have programmes on farming system, city beautification, urbanisation of the city and rural areas, education, commerce and industry which Kano is known for. In essence, I can say the government is doing well towards the development of the state. The state stakeholders have designed a programme where we can ensure the progress of the state in these four years.

The state government has embarked on demolition of illegal structures and people are complaining that the government is witch-hunting the opposition using the beautification project as a cover. How do you react to this?

Well, their insinuation is not true. You cannot stop people from saying their mind. But the truth of the matter is that the government wants to restore the

these problems and ensure sanity in the state. We want to have a city where everybody will admire. We are thinking of developing a state that can be an investor-haven and this cannot be

Group endorses Farouk Lawan for Kano guber poll

From Hassan A. Karofi, Kano

Hundreds of People's Democratic Party (PDP) supporters from Kano North Senatorial District stormed Gwarzo town yesterday to express their support for the emergence of Rep Farouk Lawan as the party's candidate for the 2011 gubernatorial elections. The leaders of the delegation, Malam Abdurrahman Sani Gwarzo and Sani Suleiman Janbirji from Shanono Local Government Area said they were at Gwarzo town kick start the process of gathering support for Lawan to fly the party's flag in the next governorship poll. They said the decision to campaign for Lawan was because of his commitment to the people of Kano State throughout his tenure as member representing the Bagwai/Shanono Federal Constituency. "Farouk Lawan is a good leader who sacrificed his life and time in moving the state and the entire northern part of the country to greater position and we must support him in 2011 with a view to voting him to power as Governor of Kano in 2011 God willing," Janbirji said. He said PDP will regain its position in Kano when the party chooses the chairman of the Integrity Group as its candidate for 2011.

TRUST CLASSIFIED

LEADWAY FAMILY CHURCH

This is to notify the general public that the above named Church has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under part (C) of the Companies and Allied Matter Act Cap 59 Law of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

- | | | |
|------------------------|---|----------------|
| 1.PASTOR DAVID SOLOMON | - | PRESIDENT |
| 2.MRS. DAVID SOLOMON | - | VICE PRESIDENT |
| 3.PASTOR STEVE OSUNGLE | - | MEMBER |
| 4.DEACON DAYO EKUNDAYO | - | MEMBER |
| 5.BRO. OSSAI NWACHUKWU | - | SECRETARY |

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CHURCH ARE:

I) TO PROPAGATE THE FULL GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

II) TO EQUIP THE SAINTS FOR LIFE AND MINISTRY

III) TO REACH LOST SOULS WITH THE LOVE OF CHRIST AND MAKING THEM DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

Any objection(s) to the registration should be forwarded to the registrar-general Corporate Affairs Commission, Wuse zone 5, Abuja within 28 days of the publication.

SIGNED
JUSTICE AHIAKWO (ESQ)

ALBARKA C.D. SELLERS ASSOCIATION

The general public is hereby notified that the above named foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, No. 1 of 1990 (As Amended), Cap C20 LFN 2004.

TRUSTEE:

- Alhaji Isiyaka Idris Yellow
- Mr Kossy Amarikwa
- M. Yahaya Isah
- Mr Gabriel A. Okonkwo

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To promote peace, unity and justice among members
- To seek ways of contributing positively towards the social-economic development of her members
- To inculcate discipline in the minds of members of the association.

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 565, Ndola Square, Off Michael Opera Street, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed: Secretary

PUBLIC NOTICE

ARTICLE DEALERS ASSOCIATION LAGOS

This is to inform the general public that the above named Association wishes to apply for the amendment of some sections of its constitution to Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC).

Any objection to this constitutional amendment is to be forwarded to the Registrar General Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja within 28 days of their publication.

Signed:
Management

OREOFE WOMEN HEALTH AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

The general public is hereby informed that the above named body has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

- OLATOMI OLASUNBO COKER-OGBUEHI
- OMOWUNMI HELEN AMEH
- AKINMUYIWA OLAITAN AYODEJI
- OMOYEMI ADEOTI
- FLORENCE OREOFE OTTO

THE AIMS/OBJECTIVES:

- To promote health issues amongst women.
- To promote self reliance and economic empowerment amongst womenfolk.
- To create the necessary environment for women to fully develop their God given potentials and partake in the awakening of the challenges of contemporary times.

Any objection(s) to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420 Tigris Crescent Maitama, P.M.B 198, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
Rose and Oak Solicitors
Suite 601, Theodak Plaza, Central Business District, Abuja.
08033074202

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public that the Original C of O belonging to **ABUBAKAR SULE** dated 26/02/2009 with **Old File Number KN421** and **New File Number KN40777**, Plot Number **BDEX240** Bwari Area Council is declared missing. All efforts made to trace the missing document proved abortive. If found, please return to AGIS, Bwari Area Council or call 08037032052 or 08033119870.

SIGNED:
YUSUF HAMZA

FOR SALE

GRAND CHEROKEE JEEP (LAREDO)

- Model:** 1999
Colour: Red
Price: N620,000



Enquiries: 08034298350,
07026398350,
07090561992

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public that the original offer of Allocation paper of Plot No. 185 Mpape 'E' of 1200 sqm belonging to **MAISHANU ISAH** is declared missing and effort to trace it prove abortive. If found, please return to the nearest Police Station or the Speaker of Bwari Area Council.

NSUKKA BROTHERS CLUB OF NIGERIA

The general public is hereby informed that the above named CLUB has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

- Ifeanyi Ujah
- Barr. Ameh A. Edwin
- Eugene Okoro
- Fredrick Mba
- Ibekwe Asogwa
- Eugene Ngwu

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

- To foster Unity and progress amongst members.
- Provision of social structure for the less privileges at Nsukka Zone
- To develop Nsukka Communities on basic infrastructures.

Any objection(s) to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420 Tigris Crescent Maitama, P.M.B 198, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Any objection(s) to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420 Tigris Crescent Maitama, P.M.B 198, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
Barr. Ameh A. Edwin
08033110740, 08054794635

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MISSIONARY.

CHANGE OF NAME/BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The general public is hereby notified that te above Association has applied to Corporate Affairs Commission Abuja for change of its name and Board of Trustees.

The new name is INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MISSIONS OLD TRUSTEES

- Pastor Kingsley Anoka
- Bro. Emmanuel Mamidu
- Mrs. Catherine Madujibeya
- Mrs. Comfort Ekemoye
- Mrs. Chinedu Madujibeya

NEW TRUSTEES

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1.Rev. Dr. M.K. Iloh | 2. Rev. Mrs. Edith Iloh |
| 3.Rev. Dr. Mike Adewusi | 4. Barrister Agu-Imo |
| 5.Bro. Emmanuel Ekemoye | 6. Pastor K.I. Gbadebo-Okukenu |
| 7.Apostle Gift Peters | 8. Barrister (Mrs) Ufuoma Lamikanra |
| 9.Pastor Kingsley Anoka | |

Any objection(s) to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420 Tigris Crescent Maitama, P.M.B 198, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
Barrister S.N. Mbaezue

LOSS OF ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF

This is to inform the general public of the loss of original Certificate of Incorporated Trustees of **ZUMA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL IRRUA** and the Constitution of the organization which was incorporated on the 17th day of February 1994 with Certificate Number 7708.

The original copy of the certificate was in the custody of the pioneer chairman, **DR. CHRISTOPHER GBELOKOTO OKOJIE** who died on the 7th day of October, 2006. Hereforth all efforts to trace the documents proved abortive. And as such we are hereby applying to Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for the re-issuance of certified true copy of the said documents.

Signed:
Dr. S.E. Okojie
Hon. Justice S.O. Oigbokje

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public that the Original Letter of Acknowledgement, file No. **MISC 55815** of Plot No. **H314 Cadastral Zone C04** belonging to **BINTA MOHAMMED** is missing. All effort to trace it prove abortive. If found, please return to the nearest police station or the undersigned.

Signed:
Abdullahi Muhammed Alkali
Auditor General of Federation
FCT Area Council
08036200430

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as **MISS OLUBUNMI OLALEYE** now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS OLUBUNMI OLALEYE FOLARIN**. All former documents remain valid. Presidency and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **AMINU ABBAS** now wish to be known as **ABDULLAHI MU'AZU**. All former documents remain valid. Kiyawa L.E.A, Jigawa State and the general public should please take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS EZE CHINWE GERALDINE**, now wish to be addressed as **MRS IKHUORIA CHINWE GERALDINE**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS DANIEL BLESSING UNEKWUJO**, now wish to be called **MRS ADEJO BLESSING UNEKWUJO**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **OKERE FESTUS ONOIWU**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ONYENOBI FESTUS TOCHUKWU**. All former documents remain valid. UniAbuja, Servtrust Ltd and general public take note.

I, formerly **MISS MERCY OGEH**, now **MRS MERCY ODEYNJARANI**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **ALIYU OZERU**, now wish to be known as **MRS ALIYU UZAIRU OTARU**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS RITA RAKIYA AYUBA**, now wish to be known as **MRS RITA RAKIYA HARUNA**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly **AISHA SADIQ MUSA**, now wish to be **MRS AISHA AHMED**. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and General public take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as **MISS NJOKU CHINENYE BLESSED**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS UCHEGBU CHINENYE BLESSED**. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **FATIMA YAKUBU** henceforth wish to be called **MRS FATIMA L.Y. UMARU**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS ORUKEVWE MAY DAFIE WHARE**, now wish to be known as **MRS ORUKEVWE MAY ABBA**. General public to take note.

I, formerly **Hadiza Umar** now wish to be known as **Mrs.Hadiza Umar**. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I, formerly **PRECIOUS CHINEDU AZUBUIKE**, now wish to be **MRS PRECIOUS CHINEDU KOKKI**. Former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly know as **NKEGBU MALACHY AMAECHI**, now wish to be known as **OBODOEZE AMAECHI MALACHY**. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note please.

I, formerly **MR. LARAYETAN FOLORUNSHO EDWARD**, now **MR. LARAYETAN OLUFUNSHO EDWARD**. All former documnts remain the same, Federal College of Education Okene and general public should please note

TRUST CLASSIFIED

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to notify the general public of the loss of original R of O Acknowledgment paper with File No. BN 2364 dated 03/11/08, New File No. AN 12386 in respect of Plot No. LD126 located at Cadastral Zone A09 Guzape District, Abuja and dated 05/17/01 bearing T.Tyonongo.

All efforts made to trace the missing document have proved abortive. If found, please return to the nearest police station.

LEADERSHIP AND SOCIETY AID INITIATIVE

This is to notify the general public that the above mentioned Association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (C.A.C) for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act Cap 59, Laws of 1990.

The Trustees are:

1. Philip O.Omonoda—chairman
2. Chituru Iwa Adediran—Secretary
3. Adeyemi Olushola—Treasurer
4. Mary I Ogbolu—PRO
5. Odiaka Okonkwo
6. Jovita E.Osamor
7. Daniel Ekpan

The Aims and objectives are:

1. To enable the youths to have a safety life from HIV/AIDS protection.
2. To give hope to our future leaders.
3. Generating fruitful ideas to assist those in leadership in taking decision with respect point 1 and 2 above.

Any objection (s) to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-general, Corporate Affairs Commission, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

SIGNED
Barr . Chituru Iwa Adediran

INTERNATIONAL YOUTHS FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

The general public is hereby informed that the above named Association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

Trustees

1. Pastor Young Sun Ban
2. Pastor Yemi Awopeju
3. Pastor Elder Salimon William

Aims and Objectives

1. To create international friendship among the youths

Any objection(s) to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420 Tigris Crescent Maitama, P.M.B 198, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

Pastor Elder Salimon William

MATERNAL MORTALITY AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH INITIATIVE

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, CAPC20 LFN 2004.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Dr. Mairo U. Mandara
2. Kole Ahmed Shettima
3. Dr. Haliru Yahaya
4. Hon. Saudatu A. Sani
5. Amina J. Ibrahim
6. Dr. Mojisola Odeku
7. Mr. Mike Egboh
8. Bilkisu Yusuf

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Increase public funds devoted to reproductive health.
2. Advocacy to change law and policies to promote the provision of reproductive health services.
3. Increase donor commitment to reproductive health for Nigeria and globally.

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 565, Ndola Square off Michael Okpara Street Zone 5, Abuja. P.M.B. 198, Garki, Abuja-Nigeria within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

Sarah J. Menta Esq.
Akika, abashi, okoye & mann

PECULIAR ANIONTED LIBERATION MINISTRY.

The general public is hereby informed that the above named Ministry has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Pastor Ifeanyi Fabian Udeozor
2. Pastor Ngozi Chinazom Udeozor
3. Elder Emmanuel Nwokone
4. Sister Ifeanyinwa Obiora
5. Elder Justine Uba
6. Lazarus Amah

Aims and Objectives

1. To propagate the word of God to the end of the earth.
2. To raise men and women of Christ like character and preach salvation to the world.

Any objection(s) to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420 Tigris Crescent Maitama, P.M.B 198, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to notify the general public of the loss of original AGIS Acknowledgment of collection of Title for Recertification Letter 28-04-2005 in favour of Kore Holdings LTD over Plot No 1168 CAD Zone B02 with file no MISC 10398. All efforts made to trace the missing document proved abortive, if found please return to the nearest police station or AGIS, Abuja.

Signed,
A.Ahmed ESQ.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

The general public is hereby notified of a missing original land application form with Ref. No MFCT/LA/92.MISC 9719 dated 13/08/1992 belonging to New Projects Nig Limited, P.O.Box 741, Minna and other documents. All efforts to trace the documents proved abortive. If found, please contact AGIS or the nearest police station.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

The general public is hereby notified of the loss of original AGIS Recertification Acknowledgement dated 08/29/06 in respect of Plot No. A370 at Sabo Lugbe, belonging to Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama (SAN).

The acknowledgement was discovered missing on 27/03/09 and all efforts to trace same proved abortive. If found, please return to the nearest Police Station.

VACANCY

- (i) Experience Site Engineer and (ii) Site Supervisor with vast knowledge in Building Construction. The two above must have worked with either Julius Berger, G-Cappa or R.C.C

Apply To
Mr. Lekan - 08036059097
No. 9, Nouackhott Street,
Wuse Zone 1, Abuja

PROPERTY

HOUSE FOR SALE: 4 units of 3 bedroom flat with 3 units of 2b/room Boys quarters (B/Q) attached at Team 1, Plot 439, Road II, 3rd Avenue, Gwarinpa Estate.

HOUSE FOR LEASE: 4 units of 3 B/room flat at Plot 113, Democracy Crescent, Gaduwa Estate.

HOUSE FOR LEASE: 4 units of 3 B/Room flat with 2 units of 2 B/Rm (B/Quarters) attached at No. 30 Eyadema Street, Asokoro Abuja.

CONTACT: MR YINKA-08033012355

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public that the original letter of offer to produce the property formerly owned by Federal Government of Nigeria situated at No. 250 A, Gwagwalada, Abuja now belonging to Mr Chris Aijenofe Omoruyi of No. 25 A, Phase 3, Gwagwalada is missing. FCTA Committee on Sales of Federal Government property, Abuja Geographical Information System (AGIS), the public, take note.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of Statutory Right of Occupancy in respect of plot 1269 of about 1,000.819sqm in Kuruduma Layout is missing. All effort made to trace the document prove abortive. If found please return to the nearest police station

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

This is to inform the general public of the loss of Statutory Right of Occupancy in respect of plot No. 2350 of about 1,137,717sqm and plot No. 2399 of about 1,000.067sqm all in Kuruduma layout is missing. All effort made to trace the documents proved abortive. If found please return to the nearest police station.

CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly known as Nafisat Hayatuddin now wish to be known as NAFISAT HAYATUDDINI MOHAMMED. All Former documents remain valid. General public take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly known as Miss Eyo Ima Edet now wish to be addressed as DR MRS OGBONNA S. IMA DEBORAH. All Former documents remain valid. General public take note.

THIS SPACE IS FOR SALE

THIS SPACE IS FOR SALE

SPORTS

Hotline:
08059100030 (Text Only)

Flying Eagles won't underrate any opponent - Lulu

President of the Nigeria Football Federation NFF, Alhaj Sani Lulu Abdullahi has assured Nigerian football fans that the Flying Eagles would not make the silly mistake of underrating any of their opponents at the 2009 FIFA U-20 world cup to be played in

By David Ngobua
Egypt.
The Flying Eagles of Nigeria have been grouped along with favourite Spain, Vanezuela and Tahiti in group B of the championship which Nigeria hosted in 1999.

In a chat with Trustsports in his office, the NFF president said that the temptation to undermine a country like Tahiti may be enormous but his federation will not try anything that would bring shame to the country.
He explained that every country that has qualified for the championship must be taken seriously because it must have played and won very tough matches to book a place

in the finals.
Lulu reiterated that even as most Nigerians soccer fans were of the opinion that Spain is clearly the team to beat in the whole championship, the Flying Eagles would pay equal attention to every other opponent.
He said, "I have already told members of the team's technical crew not to underrate any of their opponents. Even if every other person is of the opinion

that it is only Spain that will trouble the Flying Eagles in the group, we at the NFF still insist that every opponent is a threat and must be taken seriously".
The NFF president expressed confidences in the ability of the Eagles to not only qualify from the group but also go ahead to improve on its performance in 2005 when the team against all odds grabbed a silver medal in Holland.

He hinged his confidence on the technical ability of Coach Samson Siasia, the newly appointed chief coach of the team whom he described as versatile in handling youth players.
Lulu, therefore, called on Nigerian football fans not to use the team's performance in the last edition of the African U-20 Championship in Rwanda as a yardstick to measure the team's ability.

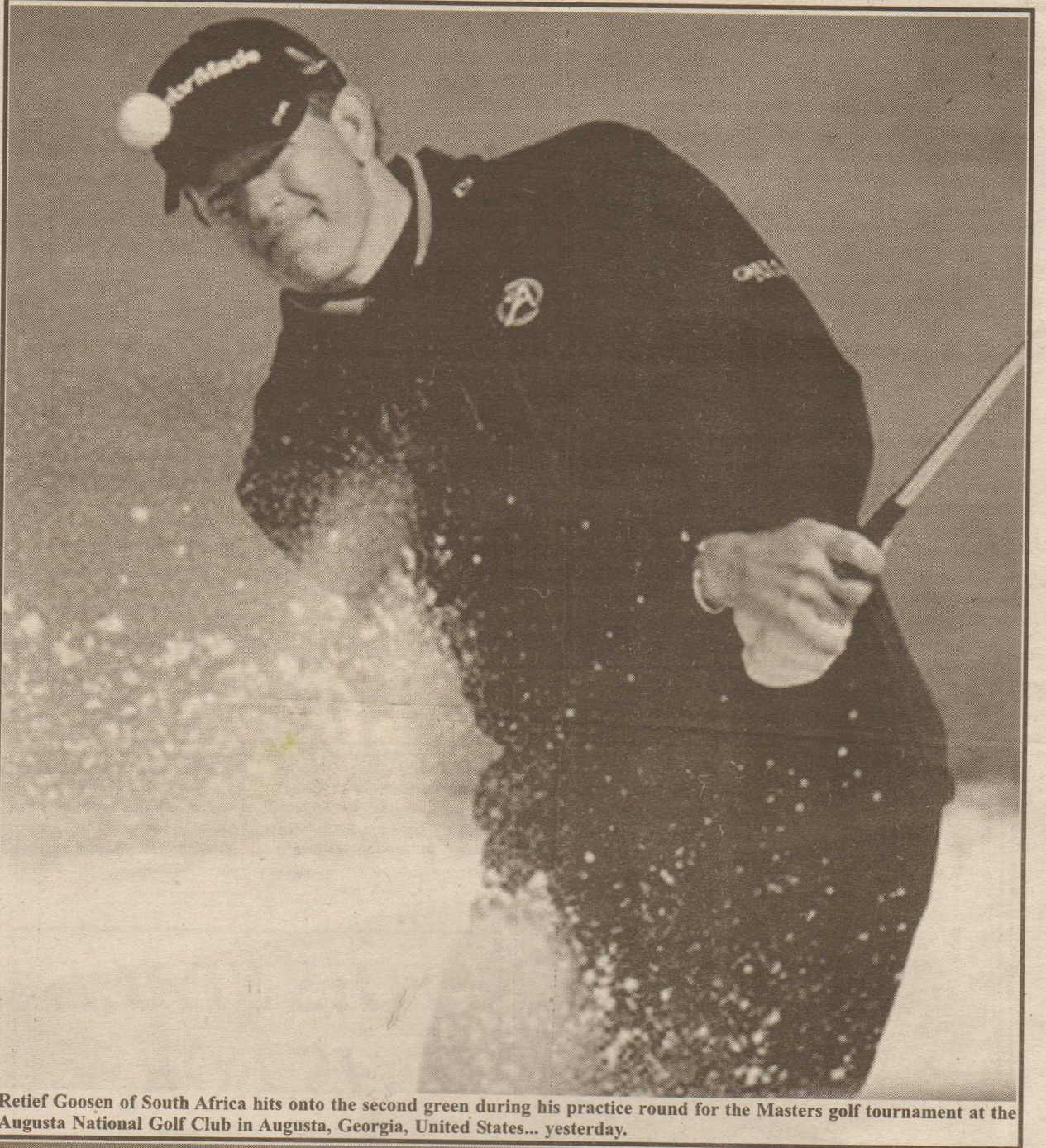
Abuja FA, others face dissolution

Acting director of sports in the Federal Capital Territory, Mr. Ayuba Bwamba Kwali said yesterday that it will be an act of illegality to elongate the tenure of the present board of the FCT football association just as he disclosed that any moment from now, the 31 Sports Associations in the FCT would be dissolved to pave way for new and more vibrant ones to be re-constituted.

By David Ngobua
precedence which he would not want to be associated with.
Kwali said, "the rules guiding the associations say it must be four years for each of the sports associations and we can not go outside that. We believe in obeying laid down rules and regulations".
Although he did not say exactly when elections into the sports associations would be held, he assured that once the secretary of the social services development secretariat acts on the memo which he had sent to her, he would commence full preparations for the elections.

Speaking to Trustsports, the director of sports disclosed that the life span of the present Associations have since expired and he had written to the Executive Secretary of the Social Services Secretariat for permission to formally dissolve them.
The present boards of the FCT sports associations were constituted in March 2005 during the tenure of the then Director of FCT Sports Council, Alhaji Sani Lulu Abdullahi.
Though there have been attempts in some quarters to have tenure elongation for the present board of the football association in the FCT along with other state football associations, Kwali said that the F.A would be dissolved along with others because they were constituted at the same time.
He said that even if other states have accepted to extend the tenure of their state FA's, the same would not apply to the FCT because the rules concerning the composition and dissolution of sports associations in the FCT must be followed to the letter.
The director of sports stated clearly that the tenure of each sport association is four years and anything to the contrary would amount to setting a bad

He, therefore, called on residents of the FCT who want to be part of the new sports associations to begin to prepare themselves as he aid that only those who are genuinely interested in sports would be encouraged to part of those who would constitute the new associations.
Meanwhile, in his reaction to the director's disclosure, an aspirant into the board of the F.A Mr. Godwin Bamigboye said that he was shocked when he discovered that there were attempts to extend the tenure of the present board.
He opined that those who demanded for tenure elongation for the present board of the F.A in FCT did not mean well for football in the federal capital territory.
Bamigboye, therefore, urged authorities of the FCT sports council not to be swayed by any argument as they prepare to dissolve the existing sports associations in the FCT.



Retief Goosen of South Africa hits onto the second green during his practice round for the Masters golf tournament at the Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Georgia, United States... yesterday.

Sponsors keep NCF guessing on championship

Nigeria Cricket Federation (NCF) is yet to receive response from corporate bodies in spite of letters sent to them for sponsorship to some continental tournaments.
Uthe Ogbimi, coach of the National U-19 team, said yesterday in Lagos that letters had long been dispatched to the potential sponsors.
"I know the secretary has sent letters to some organisations but they have so far been slow in their response. Although I do not have an update right now, the NCF secretariat is still keeping in touch with these corporate bodies," Ogbimi said.
According to him, preparations

for the World Cup African qualifier scheduled for Zambia on April 25, has commenced.
"We have been training consistently in the last one month. The team trains thrice a week on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.
"We will not allow the issue of sponsorship to dampen our spirit. I am sure Nigeria will be in Zambia for the qualifiers," he said.
Ogbimi banked on the youthfulness and the zeal of his players to excel at the competition.
"The players are truly U-19. There is no issue of over-age players in the team. They are young, rising in experience and desire to succeed," he said.

Pillars want all home matches played at ABS

Kano Pillars FC will want all their home matches played at the Ahmadu Bello Stadium (ABS), Kaduna, until they return to their base in Kano.
While the Kano side play the Globacom Premier League games at the Township Stadium, the Ahmadu Bello Stadium hosts the club's CAF Champions League matches.
Pillar's Chief Coach, Abdulmalik Jabir, said they would want all their games played at the Ahmadu Bello Stadium as the Township stadium was "too small".
"The players can not fully open up in that pitch, it is too small. ABS is bigger, more standard than the other one and the boys can open up there. You saw what happened during our African competition, if we were the other stadium, they would not have done what they did," Jabir said.
He said approval had been obtained for only continental matches at ABS, adding that "arrangements are ongoing for the use of that pitch for the domestic league."
Jabir said the township stadium was smaller than the Abacha Stadium in Kano, where the team trained and played their matches.
"We need something similar to the stadium in Kano for our boys to fully express themselves," he said.

Quote of the Day

“I would have never foreseen myself winning this many championships this soon but I’m not going to say it’s a bad thing either.”

—Golf legend, Tiger Woods, saying he never dreamed he would win 14 major titles by the age of 33. Woods resumes his pursuit of Jack Nicklaus' record of 18 career major crowns on Thursday at Augusta National.

Sports

EGYPT 2009 U-20 WORLD CUP

Experts urge against smugness, complacency

Soccer enthusiasts have urged the players and technical crew of the Flying Eagles to work hard, if they must excel at FIFA U-20 World Cup in Egypt.

Reacting to Sunday's draws held in Luxor, Egypt, the enthusiasts reminded the players and their handlers that there were no team regarded as weak in world football.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that Nigeria, Spain, Venezuela and Tahiti are in Group B and would play their first round games in the Egyptian capital.

Two-time coach of the national team, Adegboye Onigbinde, called for adequate preparation if the team must excel in the competition, as he would not regard any group as weak or strong.

"My position on an issue like this is that there is no weak group or strong group. What matters is the level of preparation of the participating countries."

"How prepared are we (Nigeria) for the competition? That should be our major concern not the countries," the Modakeke-Osun-born chief said.

Onigbinde noted that Senegal were not given much chance against defending champions, France, at the Korea/Japan 2002 World Cup.

"Senegal shocked France, the defending champions, 1-0 at the Korea/Japan 2002, while many had expected a wide margin victory for Argentina over Nigeria."

"Nigeria got a draw over highly-favoured England at the competition. Just last week, Bolivia defeated Argentina 6-1. That is preparation for you," Onigbinde said.

Former Nigeria international, Okey Isima, tipped the Samson Siasia-coached Flying Eagles to qualify from that group with Spain.

"I think we have a better chance to qualify from that group. Spain, like Nigeria, has a history of good Under-20 side."

"But Venezuela and Haiti do not have such history. I think Spain and Nigeria will qualify from that group. No cause for alarm," said the former Green Eagles defender.

Fabio Lanipekun, former Nigeria Television Authority (NTA) sportscaster, warned that Nigeria should be wary of Spain because of its pedigree in developmental football.

"Spain has been doing very well in world football in the past few years."

The country also has a track record when it comes to age-grade football in the world.

"The Latin Americans, the group to which Venezuela belongs, also play good football. We have to be careful playing against them," said Lanipekun.

He, however, described Tahiti as the 'whipping boy' in the group because of its poor economy.

"The only country that can be made a mince meat of in that group is Tahiti, a country with no enviable record in football," he said.

Friday Elahor, former Nigeria international, tipped Spain as the only hard nut to crack in the group.

The former left winger called for hard work from the Lukman Haruna-led squad to move past the first round in Egypt.

Homesick Pillars travel home on short break

Apparently homesick after being on the road for about six weeks, Kano Pillars will on Thursday go on a short break from their Kaduna base, to see their families.

Abdulmalik Jabir, Pillars coach, said in Kaduna on Tuesday that the team's recent slump in form was due to their absence from home.

Following the ongoing renovation of the Sani Abacha Stadium, Kano, Pillars moved their CAF Champions League and Globacom Premier League games to Kaduna.

"After one and a half months of playing our premier-ship and continental matches in Kaduna, the boys are becoming homesick."

"This is affecting their performances, we have been like nomads and our routine so boring, from training, we return to the hotel to eat, rest, then hit the road again."

"It is hectic, you know there is nowhere like home, it is just taking you to Accra to do your work, no matter the facilities, you will still miss home," said Jabir.

He expressed confidence that their performance would improve after the short break, which ends on Sunday, when they return to Kaduna to prepare for the CAF Champions League tie against cup holders, Al Ahly of Egypt in the third round.

"I assure you that their performances will improve after seeing their families," he said.

Jabir admitted that the team's biggest problem was the attack, which he blamed on the players, "they are slow in learning."

He, however, assured that the attack would be sharpened before their game against the Egyptians scheduled for the weekend of April 17.



Porto's Cristian Rodriquez gestures towards his team's technical area after scoring a goal against Manchester United during their Champions League quarter-final first leg match at the Old Trafford Stadium in Manchester, England... yesterday.

Samsung sign up Mikel as brand ambassador

Samsung Electronics has announced that Nigerian and Chelsea midfielder star, John Mikel Obi has become their brand ambassador in his native country.

The one year deal will see Mikel endorse a range of Samsung products including its mobile phones.

The official signing ceremony with the Managing Director of Samsung Electronics Nigeria Limited, Mr. James You, took place at the club's training ground in Cobham, London at

From Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

the end of last month.

As part of his ambassador role in the first half of 2009, he will be endorsing Samsung's latest mobile phone - C5212. The phone is a dual standby phone that comes with two active sim card slots eliminating the inconvenience of carrying two handsets at the same time.

The Samsung C5212 phone is a bar type phone with exciting features which includes 1.3

mega pixel camera, large 2.2" TFT display with 262k colour to showcase text, photos and video, full multimedia with external speakers, FM radio, memory capacity of 60MB as well as an external memory card slot.

Mr James You said: "The choice of John Mikel Obi as brand ambassador further consolidates Samsung's leadership stance in the dual standby segment of the mobile phone market and reinforces Samsung's commitment to

offer Nigerians the best of mobile experience at an affordable price."

The Samsung C5212 phone will be launched in Nigeria soon with the Chelsea player making three public appearances to meet local fans and supporters of Samsung.

Samsung Electronics are the official club sponsor of the Chelsea FC since 2005. Samsung have enjoyed the success by engaging in wider marketing activities with the club across the whole business.

Table tennis players vow to win laurels in Egypt

Nigeria junior table tennis players to the African Junior Championships scheduled for Egypt from April 9 to April 12 have vowed to return with laurels.

The players made the pledge when a News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) correspondent visited their training camp in Lagos, on Tuesday.

NAN learnt that a contingent made up of three boys, three

girls and three officials will depart Lagos for Cairo on Thursday.

Funke Hassan, a female player, said that she had been training before the camping, in readiness for the competition.

"I was in Egypt last year for this same championship where I won a silver medal in cadet and a bronze in the junior category."

"My opponents were able

to beat me because they were more exposed to modern facilities."

"I gathered a lot of experience and skill at that competition and I must confess that I am battle ready to grab the gold medals in both events," Hassan said.

Janet Friday, who will be in Egypt for the first time, said she embarked on intensive training soon after the National Sports Festival in Kaduna.

"Though it will be my first time to play in Egypt, I am not scared because I know I have prepared well and I participated at the KADA games," she said.

Friday, who claimed the players lacked training materials like canvas and bats, believed the provision of modern facilities would help improve their training and standard of play.

"Irrespective of these inadequacies, I have not allowed it to draw me back as I made do

with the available facilities," she said.

Onolapo Ojo, who won a silver medal in the 2008 edition, vowed to win gold this time around.

"I had problem with my movement and hits, but with the kind of training my coach has now exposed me to, I have been able to improve on my skill."

"I will utilise this to achieve my target," he told NAN.

NSC grants tax rebate committee one-month extension

The National Sports Commission (NSC) yesterday in Abuja granted the committee strategising on how sports can tap into existing tax laws, one month extension.

The NSC inaugurated the Tax Rebate Actualisation Committee on March 5, 2009 as part of efforts to attract private sector investments in sports.

It was given one month within which to submit its reports.

Sani Ndanusa, Sports Minister and NSC Chairman, told members of the committee who visited him in Abuja on Tuesday that he was satisfied with the committee's progress.

"We are satisfied with what you have done so far, and we can assure you that the recommendations you have made so far will be given appropriate attention," he said.

Ndanusa was represented by Dr. Patrick Ekeji, the acting Director-General of the NSC.

The minister expressed optimism that the committee's final report would help to chart a better direction for sports development in the country.

"Essentially, the outcome of your final report will determine to a large extent the new direction of the current initiative of public private partnership (PPP)."

"This new direction will help to ensure a rapid sports development without waiting for government funding alone," he said.

Hamilu Bala, Chairman of the 10-man committee, told the minister that the one-month extension sought was to enable the team finalise all aspects of discussions with the organisations it met.

The committee now has up till May 5, 2009 to submit its report. The committee's term of reference include unveiling the existing tax laws that give relief to corporate bodies and individual sponsors of sporting events.

Sports

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

United fail to gain advantage over Porto



European champions Manchester United were held to a 2-2 draw by Porto at Old Trafford to leave their Champions League quarter-final on a knife-edge ahead of the second leg in Portugal next week.

Both teams scored in the dying minutes with Carlos Tevez putting United 2-1 up after 85 minutes and Mariano equalising for Porto in the 89th.

The visitors took the lead after four minutes when Cristian Rodriguez fired a low left-foot shot past Edwin van der Sar after a poor clearance from Jonny Evans.

United scored a fortuitous equaliser after 15 minutes when Bruno Alves lost concentration and sent a woeful backpass straight to Wayne Rooney who waited for goalkeeper Helton to

commit himself before firing into an empty net.

United extended their record unbeaten Champions League run to 22 matches but failed to gain the advantage they wanted from an open and entertaining match.

Also yesterday, Emmanuel Adebayor's superb overhead strike secured Arsenal a 1-1 draw away to Villarreal in their quarter-final first leg match.

The game was only 10 minutes old when Villarreal midfielder Marcos Senna received the ball outside the area and scored with a fierce drive that flew into the top corner.

Arsenal were hindered by first-half injuries to goalkeeper Manuel Almunia and defender William Gallas who both had to be substituted, as Villarreal dominated.

But the Londoners

responded in the second half and Adebayor's acrobatic strike from Cesc Fabregas's pass in the 66th minute left the visitors with an away-goal advantage for the return leg in London on April 15.

Meanwhile, Chelsea striker Didier Drogba will be in the team when the west Londoners face Liverpool at Anfield tonight in the first leg of their Champions League quarter-final.

The news is less good for the Blues' Portuguese right-back, Jose Bosingwa, though, who will definitely miss out.

Drogba was seen training with the squad at their Cobham facility today, and appeared in high spirits as the team indulged in some light-hearted horseplay, flicking the striker's ears.

He is now likely to line up alongside Nicolas Anelka in a two-pronged strike force as Chelsea face Liverpool for the 23rd occasion in five seasons, and the for the fifth consecutive occasion in the Champions League.

Liverpool currently have the edge on the Londoners in this season's two encounters, having enjoyed a 1-0 win at Stamford Bridge and a 2-0 triumph at Anfield.

There is as yet no news from the Chelsea camp about Ricardo Carvalho's fitness. The Portuguese defender has been suffering the effects of a leg injury.



Bayern Munich's coach Jurgen Klinsmann attends a news conference at Nou Camp Stadium in Barcelona, yesterday ahead of the UEFA Champions League clash between Barcelona and Bayern Munich at the Nou Camp tonight.

Bayern face Barcelona without Lucio

German giants Bayern Munich have received some disturbing news from the treatment table in the build-up to the highly anticipated Champions League match against Barcelona.

Towering centre back Lucio has sustained a hamstring injury in Bayern's 5-1 league loss against Wolfsburg last weekend and will be unavailable for the match in Spain. The 30-year-old had to leave the pitch after 67 minutes of play due to the knock.

The Brazilian international will most likely be replaced by

his young compatriot Breno or Argentinean defender Martin Demichelis on Wednesday.

The news of Lucio's absence came as a shock for fellow defender Philipp Lahm and the German star expressed his concerns about the situation earlier, whilst speaking to Bayern's official website.

He said, "Lucio's unavailability is a huge blow for us. He's the captain of Brazil's national side and he has the class to keep the Barcelona attackers at bay. We have more good defenders though, so I think we can handle his absence."

Liverpool look to dynamic duo to pierce Chelsea

Liverpool will rely on their dynamic duo of Steven Gerrard and Fernando Torres to penetrate the Premier League's tightest defence in Wednesday's Champions League quarter-final first leg against Chelsea.

The Anfield clash will be the ninth in the two clubs' five-season Champions League series. None of the previous eight has been decided by a margin of more than one goal.

However, Torres and Gerrard have developed a wonderful partnership that makes Liverpool a match for any team in Europe when in full flow as the side demonstrated scoring four goals against Real Madrid then Manchester United last month.

Gerrard has already scored a remarkable 21 goals this season and Torres 11 and each has had a hand in many of the other's goals.

Gerrard's dynamic, forceful runs have been at the heart of Liverpool for years but, with the thoughtful running and magical touch of Torres in front of him, the midfielder has reminded everyone that he is also a master of the telling through-ball.

"Stevie has been getting a lot of praise from some of the best players in the world. That is quite right because I think he is the best in the world," Torres told Liverpool's website www.liverpoolfc.tv.

"He is a great team player but he can also win a game on his own when maybe we are not playing so well. I cannot think of a player I would rather be playing with."

Chelsea's Frank Lampard is matching Gerrard just about

stride for stride and is not far behind on the goals front with 16.

He got one of those in another man-of-the-match performance in Saturday's 2-0 win at Newcastle United when Chelsea took the sting out of the crowd excited by the return of Alan Shearer.

They will aim for a repeat of that on Wednesday, though quieting The Kop on a European night is easier said than done.

Striker Didier Drogba missed the Newcastle game with an ankle injury and coach Guus Hiddink said he will delay a decision on the Ivorian for as long as possible.

If he does play Drogba should expect a sympathetic welcome from the Liverpool fans who are preparing to mark the 20th anniversary of the Hillsborough disaster on April 15 - a day after the second leg of the quarter-final.

Drogba and Chelsea team

mate Salomon Kalou were involved in last week's World Cup qualifier against Malawi in Abidjan when the collapse of a stadium wall caused the death of 19 fans.

"We've talked about the tragedy in Abidjan with the whole squad," said Hiddink. "Winning and losing are very important but this showed there are other things in life to put them into some kind of perspective."

Probable teams:

Liverpool: 25-Pepe Reina; 17-Alvaro Arbeloa, 23-Jamie Carragher, 37-Martin Skrtel, 22-Emiliano Insua; 14-Xabi Alonso, 21-Leiva Lucas; 18-Dirk Kuyt, 8-Steven Gerrard, 11-Albert Riera; 9-Fernando Torres

Chelsea: 1-Petr Cech; 2-Branislav Ivanovic, 33-Alex, 26-John Terry, 3-Ashley Cole; 5-Michael Essien, 12-John Obi Mikel, 13-Michael Ballack, 8-Frank Lampard; 11-Didier Drogba, 39-Nicolas Anelka.

Barca wary of backlash from wounded Bayern

Barcelona might like to think that a Bayern Munich side smarting from a 5-1 humiliation at the weekend will pose no threat to their Champions League ambitions.

Coach Pep Guardiola, however, believes such a result is dangerous as his team prepare to meet the German champions in the first leg of their quarter-final at the Nou Camp on Tuesday.

"League form has nothing to do with the Champions League, but in my opinion it is the worst possible result for us,"

Guardiola said.

"Bayern have won the European Cup four times and have won their domestic league many times, and it is now sure they will arrive with even greater motivation," he told reporters. The Primera Liga leaders resumed their push for honours on three fronts with a gritty 1-0 win at Real Valladolid on Saturday, when Guardiola got away with resting Thierry Henry, and using Lionel Messi and Daniel Alves as substitutes.

The Catalans, who have already reached the King's Cup

final, maintained a six-point lead over chasing Real Madrid with nine games left.

"After the break for internationals the win over Valladolid was vital to get our competitive edge back," Guardiola said.

"The players gave their all and the shouts of happiness you could hear from the dressing room afterwards show how important we felt the three points were."

Guardiola has a doubt over the fitness of midfielder Yaya Toure who is due to return after a thigh muscle tear but captain Carles Puyol and midfielder

Andres Iniesta are fit again after injury layoffs.

Bayern coach Juergen Klinsmann has recovered Hamit Altintop from injury while striker Luca Toni played for the first time in the 5-1 defeat at VfL Wolfsburg on Saturday after more than four weeks out with a heel injury.

But the Germans, who defend an undefeated run in the Champions League this season, will be without striker Miroslav Klose, out for several more weeks after surgery, and central defender Lucio, who

sustained a thigh injury on Saturday.

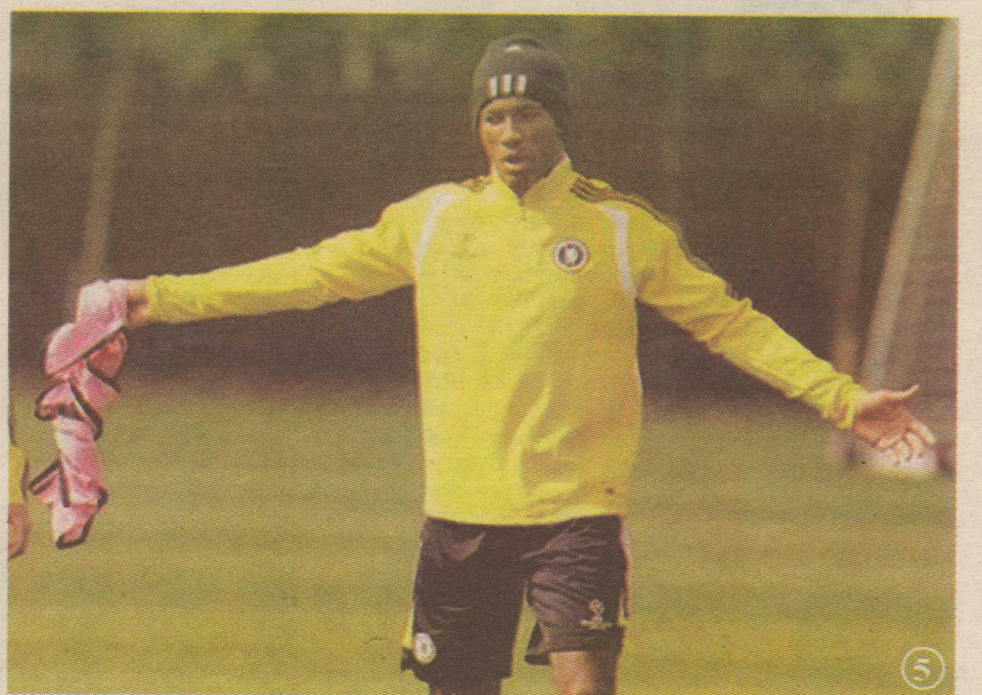
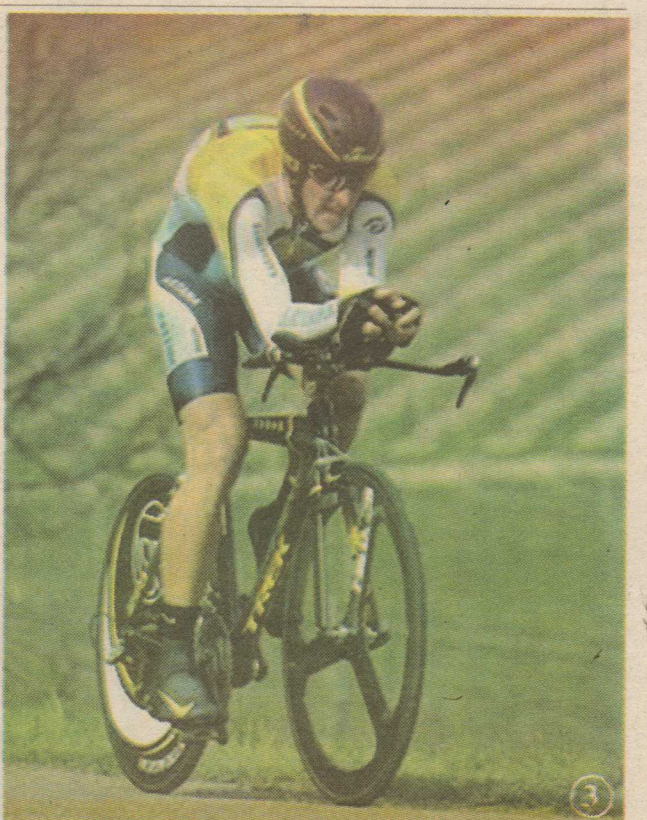
"We are not afraid of Barcelona," said Klinsmann. "The players know that the whole world will be watching and they will want to show what they can do."

But he demanded greater commitment following the defeat against Wolfsburg.

"The players must know that there will be consequences at some point," he told the club website (www.fcbayern.de).

He said he wanted to see "greater sacrifice and determination."

Sports Illustrated



CAPTION

1. Munich's Mark Van Bommel smiles during a press conference in Barcelona, Spain. Barcelona will face FC Bayern Munich in a Champions League quarterfinal 1st leg soccer match in Spain tonight.

2. Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland hits his tee shot on the first hole during a practice round for the 2009 Masters golf tournament at the Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Georgia.

3. Lance Armstrong, of United States, heads down from the halfway point in Los Olivos, Calif. toward

the finish line in Solvang during the Stage 6 Individual Time Trials at the Tour of California cycling race. Armstrong said he did not try to evade a March 17 test in which, blood, urine and hair samples were collected and were ultimately found to be drug free. France's anti-doping agency sent a report

on Armstrong's behavior during the test to cycling's governing body and the World Anti-Doping Agency. At question is a 20-minute delay when Armstrong says the tester agreed to let him shower while his assistants checked the tester's credentials.

4. Chelsea's John Terry, seen

here at a training session at Chelsea's training facility, has revealed he is still haunted by his penalty miss in last season's Champions League final and is unsure whether he will ever truly get over the experience.

5. Chelsea's Didier Drogba takes part in a Champions League training session at

the team's training facilities in Stoke d'Abernon, England. Chelsea play Liverpool in a Champions League quarter-final first leg soccer match tonight.

6. Al Ittihad's Saud Kharir kicks the ball against Al Jazira during their AFC Champions League soccer match in Abu Dhabi.

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DAILY TRUST

Wednesday, April 8, 2009

SPORTS Bits

Rummenigge: Beating Barca almost mission impossible

Karl-Heinz Rummenigge believes that Bayern Munich will need a miracle to beat Barcelona on Wednesday evening in the first leg of their Champions League tie. In a bid to put the pressure on the Catalan outfit, the German club's director general stated that the Blaugrana are playing so well that his side face a very difficult task.

Comparing Bayern's quest to that of the West Germany team that faced the mighty Hungarians in the 1954 World Cup Final, Rummenigge evidently feels his team will be up against it.



"It is almost an impossible mission, but through experience we know that in football miracles and surprises exist," he told the club's official website.

"In Bern in 1954, in the final, there was a team that everyone expected to lose by many goals, but they came out as champions of the world."

Bayern were beaten 5-1 at the weekend by Wolfsburg and Rummenigge claims that the club can do nothing and that the onus is on the team to bounce back.

"We have suffered now for two days and we will try to stand up again when we face Barcelona," he said.

Benitez: Ferguson talks too much

Rafa Benitez has launched another attack on Sir Alex Ferguson by claiming that the Manchester United manager is running scared of Liverpool. As the race for the Premier League and UEFA Champions League titles enters a crucial phase, the Spaniard accused his Red Devils counterpart of "talking too much" before adding: "I just think he is a little bit scared."

It is the second time this season that Benitez has had a dig at Ferguson, whose United side now have a one-point lead over Liverpool at the Premier League summit. Back in January, he accused his rival of playing mind games, saying "complained about everything".



Now, on the eve of Liverpool's Champions League quarter-final, first leg with English rivals Chelsea at Anfield, Benitez has had another go at the veteran Scottish manager. "He likes to talk too much about the others teams," said Benitez. "I don't play mind games. I just think he is a little bit scared."

Ferguson did his best to up the ante ahead of this tie by saying, after United's dramatic 3-2 win over Aston Villa last weekend, that whoever won the Champions League duel between Liverpool and Chelsea, who are four points off the top of the English table, would be the defending champions' closest challengers for their domestic title.

Relaxed McIlroy ready for Masters

Rising star Rory McIlroy believes he is capable of challenging for victory on his Masters debut this week. McIlroy says he is "just out to enjoy myself" at Augusta but insists his relaxed approach and lack of experience does not mean that he will not contend.

"If I can go out and play the way I have been playing, there's no reason why I can't go and try and win it," the Northern Irishman told BBC Sport.

"I don't have the bad thoughts or any negatives to think back on."

McIlroy soaked up the Masters atmosphere during his first official practice round on Monday and he was amazed at the size of the galleries so early in the week.

"It's only Monday but there were 30,000 or 40,000 people around the golf course. It's great to be here and I'm just going to enjoy every minute of it."

McIlroy has only played five professional events in the US but he is already a big name on the PGA Tour.

McIlroy said he would love to face Woods in the final group on Sunday.

"It would be an occasion that you would relish," he said.

"That's what you've practised so hard for your whole life, to be able to play in the final group of a major with the best player in the world."



The road to 20:2020

Of all the six papers billed for delivery at last week's 5th All Nigerian Editors Conference in Kaduna, perhaps the most topical, considering the theme of the conference – "Vision 2020, Economic Growth and the Nigerian Editor" – was the second paper whose topic was "What It Takes to Be among the 20 Most Developed Economies in the World." I don't know about the paper's three discussants that included this reporter, but the Guild couldn't have picked a more appropriate gentleman than the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to deliver the paper, if only because the business of finance has been widely regarded as the chief villain in the unfolding drama of the crash of the world's highly integrated economy.

Alas the session with Professor Chukwuma Charles Soludo turned into a no show because he could not come and, according to the organizers, he did not want to send any one to present the paper on his behalf. And so it was that the conference missed what would have been a somewhat perfect economic complement to the opening remarks by the chairman of the opening session, Chief Segun Osoba, former governor of Ogun State, who spoke at some length on how to end the election rigging that has bedeviled our politics since Independence in 1960 and which, in turn, has made the transparency in governance necessary for economic development impossible.

As I said on these pages last week, any talk of Nigeria being counted among the world's top 20 economies 11 years hence is nothing but a pipe dream, given the enormity of the work that has to be done coupled with the serious deficit in the commitment and competence of those to lead us to the Promised Land.

Even then we can head in the right direction if only we can give priority to four sectors, namely, education, energy, security of life and property, and agriculture, but, even more importantly, if our public policies and conduct will be guided by transparency and equity.

President Umaru Yar'adua's much-touted Seven Point Agenda contain these sectors, except perhaps education, but any one with even half an eye can see that, as with virtually all previous regimes, Yar'adua's has talked more about the virtues of transparency and equity than practiced them.

Worse, all too often, it has preached one thing and done the exact opposite. One obvious example of this mismatch between talk and action was contained in his address to the Guild conference read on his behalf by his Minister of State for Information and Communication, Alhaji Ikra Aliyu Bilbis. "My abiding guiding philosophy," he said, "is that government should stay focused on service delivery and refrain from propaganda knowing that what counts at the end of the day is what the people see and not what they are told".

Yet this same government recently embarked on a re-branding campaign aimed at telling Nigerians why they should feel good about themselves and their country in spite of the fact that, all these decades, government after government have raised their expectations only to shatter them.

If the damage the absence of transparency in public policy and conduct has done to this country is glaringly obvious, the same can hardly be said of the absence of equity in the land. And the introduction of the so-called "Washington consensus" – the one-pill-cures-all economic prescription of the IMF, the World Bank and the American Treasury all based in Washington DC – more than two decades ago, has brought nothing but inequity among the country's population.

The Structural Adjustment Programme of this consensus in its many disguises has been promoted as the only cure for our economic problems. Instead it has merely succeeded in creating a huge disparity in income between the privileged and wealthy few in the country and the vast impoverished masses. The most obvious manifestation of this disparity, though by no means the worst, is the way our elected politicians have voted mindboggling salaries and allowances for themselves and also budgeted hefty sums for so-called "Constituency Projects" in which legislators, as the *Nigerian Tribune* (April 7) pointed out, are "the

WEDNESDAY COLUMN

with **Mohammad Haruna**

08059100107 (Text only)

initiators, the executioners, the supervisors and the certifiers." This is at a time workers or what is left of them after their decimation by SAP are being told that raising the country's minimum wage can only make matters worse.

Among the most important features of SAP is its advocacy of privatization and deregulation of the economy. These two sides of a coin are said to be necessary to attract foreign investment which, in turn, is also said to be necessary for the development of poor countries like Nigeria. The most frequently touted proof of this connection between foreign investment and development has been the so-called Marshall Plan for Europe's recovery after World War II.

In truth, the role of the Marshall Plan in Europe's recovery has been grossly exaggerated, to say the least. And there is no better proof of this than the words of Mr. Alan Greenspan, the longest serving and arguably the most influential governor of America's central bank, the American Reserve Bank.

"Conventional wisdom" he said, in his 2007 auto-biography, *The Age of Turbulence*, "credits the Marshall Plan for Europe's recovery. I do not doubt that the Marshall Plan helped, but it was too small to account for the remarkable dynamics of the postwar recovery. I would regard the freeing of the product and financial markets in 1948 by West German economics director Ludwig Erhard as by far the more important spur to the postwar recovery of Western Europe".

What Greenspan failed to add was that in freeing West Germany's economy from government dictat the Germans pursued a policy that discouraged the kind of inequality that the neo-conservative economic policies of President Ronald Reagan inflicted on America, and eventually on the rest of the world, beginning from 1980. Today's global economic meltdown can be traced to those policies.

Equity, it has been shown by many of the World's leading economists including Nobel laureates Joseph Stiglitz and Paul Krugman, is not merely ethics but sound economics. In his 2005 critic of Greenspan, titled *Greenspan's Fraud: How two Decades of His Policies Have Undermined the Global Economy*, the economist Ravi Batra, demonstrated how historically the American economy – and indeed the Japanese and German economies – grew during those periods when the wage-gap was narrow and shrank anytime the gap widened.

This, he argued, is because wages are the main source of demand while productivity is the main source of supply and if wages and productivity grew hand in hand, the macro-economy was guaranteed to grow without consumer or public borrowing.

"A rising wage gap," he said, "creates exponential growth in debt which in turn generates exponential rise in profits leading to the share price bubble. Inevitably growth slows so that the demand-supply gap rises to the surface; profits plummet and stock markets collapse".

Clearly this is what is now happening to the world's economy including ours. True, our own economy may differ from the developed ones in that it suffers from low productivity but this had come about less from any inadequacies in the labour force than from the decay of our critical infrastructure like electricity, water supply and transportation.

What all this means is that we must re-examine our acceptance of Structural Adjustment Programme in all its disguises. Contrary to what the apostles of free-markets tell us, the problem really has never been the size of government but on whose behalf it intervenes in the economy. Big or small, the government that intervenes to make the rich richer and the poor poorer, as those that subscribed to the Washington Consensus have done, is a government that is incapable of creating the greatest good for the greatest number of its subjects – and this, i.e. the greatest good for the greatest number, is much more important than merely growing into one of the world's 20 leading economies eleven years hence.



President Umaru Yar'adua