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Balarabe Musa: Jonathan can wait till 2015



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FG to drop 7-point agenda today

By Idris Ahmed

THE 7-point Agenda that was much trumpeted by the late President Umaru Yar'adua's Administration

as its key program of rule would be jettisoned by the Federal Executive Council (FEC) today in favour of a much scaled down agenda, *Daily Trust* learnt in Abuja

yesterday. Minister of National Planning Dr. Shamsuddeen Usman will present a memorandum to the Council today for a reconsideration

of the seven point agenda, according to a government circular.

The memorandum will look at the implementation of the agenda so far and the

likely areas to be reviewed, a circular signed and sent to all ministers by Secretary to the Government of the Federation Mahmud Yaya Ahmed stated.

Late President Umaru Musa Yar'adua released the Seven-point Agenda on August 1, 2007. Its 7 items include: Power and Energy; **Continued on page 5**

PHOTO: NAN



SCENE at the Asiwaju Bola Tinubu Tanker Terminal at Orite Iganmu, Lagos where 20 petrol tankers were engulfed in flames yesterday.

Welder's fire guts 20 tankers in Lagos

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

TWENTY petrol trucks belonging to the Petrol Tanker Drivers (PTD), a subsidi-

ary of the National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG) were gutted by fire yesterday at Orile area of Lagos. Though no deaths or serious injuries

were reported, the fire forced commuters and dwellers to scamper for safety and the area was completely deserted.

A man who witnessed the incident told

our correspondent that passers-by noticed smoke coming out of one of the stationed tankers in the early hours of the day and

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PIC: NAN



PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan acknowledging cheers on arrival at the Sultan Abubakar III International Airport, Sokoto, en route to Gusau for a one-day official visit to Zamfara State, yesterday.

Yobe may increase taxes

From Hamza Idris, Damaturu

A committee set up by the Yobe State government to find a way of diversifying its internally generated revenue (IGR) has called for the upward review of some taxes and levies to supplement revenue from the Federal Government.

The chairman of the 14-man Advisory Committee on Enhanced Revenue Generation, Alhaji Mohammed Abacha Geidam, who stated this while presenting the committee's report to Governor Ibrahim Gaidam in Damaturu yesterday said 80 per cent of the taxes generated by government was from the Pay As You Earn (PAYE) tax while less than 20 percent was from other sources.

Geidam said some revenues collected were not fully remitted to government, saying the annual IGR had never exceeded N1.2 billion.

Gaidam attributed the continued stagnation of internally generated revenue in the state to non-review of existing taxes and levies, proliferation of revenue accounts by government ministries, departments and agencies, perpetration of corruption in revenue collection and tax evasion as well as inadequate sensitization of the general public on IGR.

Responding, Governor Gaidam assured the committee that government would study the report and fully implement its recommendations.

"While I commended the committee on producing this wonderful report on how to diversify our economy by depending less on federation account allocation, the State Executive Council will adopt this report for immediate implementation after the State House of Assembly must have finally endorsed it," he said.

Gaidam said diversifying revenue sources had become necessary because of competing expectations from the people and dwindling income from the Federal Government.

Jonathan commissions Zamfara factory

From Sadeeq Aliyu, Gusau

PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan yesterday commissioned the Zamfara Integrated Solid Minerals Processing Factory with a pledge to assist any foreign company that wants to invest in areas where the country's economy would improve.

The president said at the commissioning that wealth is not created from a vacuum but by economic activities and that was why government was emphasizing on not just having six geo-political zones alone but to make sure that in each of the zones, government encourages economic activities that states within the zone have

their comparative advantages.

He said geological records had shown that Zamfara State has solid minerals and for that reason the zone is one where solid minerals development would be emphasized.

"We are happy that the state government has taken this bold initiative of working with foreign investors to develop this sector, we will encourage the company that is doing this with the state and other companies that the Federal Government is very ready to assist any company that wants to invest in this country," he said.

While commending the Chinese firm which partnered Zamfara State in establishing the fac-

tory, President Jonathan urged them to be mindful on the environment as mineral exploitation is another economic activity that has a lot of impact on the environment.

He cautioned that the exploration should be done according to international standard so that tomorrow, children do not suffer from the environmental impact of the mining activities.

Governor Mahmud Aliyu Shinkafi said the project was conceived following the discovery of large deposits of solid minerals in the state which include gold, copper, iron ore, tantalite, manganese, kaolin and gemstones among others. He said the total

cost of the project is N4.2 billion out of which 45 per cent was contributed by Zamfara State and 55 per cent by the Chinese Fame Corporation.

Shinkafi stated that as soon as the project was commissioned, the commercial production of processed copper ore and gold ore would start and the first shipment would be within one month as all arrangements to that effect had been concluded.

Minister of Mines and Steel Development Architect Musa Mohammed Sada said the decision by Zamfara State government to commission the factory was apt with the need to add value to the nation's exports.

Kaduna deputy governor's selection causes ripples

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

A crack has appeared in the Kaduna State Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) following moves by Governor Mr. Patrick Yakowa to nominate the state Commissioner of Finance Alhaji Muktar Ramalan Yero as the Deputy Governor.

Initially, Yero's name was supposed to be submitted to the state House Assembly for confirmation yesterday but the dust raised by the people of Kaduna Central zone made the governor to delay it, a party member said.

"We are not going to allow this to happen because the governor, the SSG and others are from zone 3, the Northern zone have the Speaker of the state Assembly, Alhaji Hassan Jumare, the chairman of our party, the Head of Service. So if they want to be fair to us the deputy governor should be given to us," he said.

Speculations were high yesterday that the name of the commissioner of finance was submitted to the Assembly for confirmation but principal officers of the House denied it, saying

they are still waiting to receive it. Speaking to our correspondent on phone, a member of the state Assembly, Mr. Jonathan Kish Adamu, said, "I am not aware that the governor has sent his nomination but we are expecting it. Any moment from now, he will send it" he said.

When contacted on phone, the Vice Chairman of PDP in Kaduna, Alhaji Hussaini Jallo said, "I cannot comment on this issue now because as I am talking to you I am in Abuja".

Meanwhile, the Northern Youth Organization yester-

day blamed the Vice President Mohammed Namadi Sambo for the situation. The president of the organization Malam Abdulahi Bayero while addressing newsmen yesterday urged the vice president to allow Governor Yakowa to pick his deputy, urging him not to impose anybody on him.

But a close aide of the vice president described the allegation as untrue, saying the former governor only gave his successor six names to pick from and that it was the governor that picked the finance commissioner.



GOV. Patrick Yakowa of Kaduna State

Masari: Jonathan can contest in 2011

● He can wait until 2015, says Balarabe Musa

By Abass Jimoh & Muideen Olaniyi

FORMER Speaker of the House of Representatives Aminu Bello Masari has said that President Goodluck Jonathan can contest in the 2011 presidential election.

Masari, who is a key figure in the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Reform Forum, told journalists in Abuja that the Nigerian Constitution did not bar anybody from contesting for any political office in the country.

He spoke at an occasion organised by the International Republican Institute on 'Political Parties Dialogue for improved Relationships between INEC and Political Parties.'

When asked to express his view on whether it will be proper for Jonathan to contest the 2011 Presidential election, he said: "What does the constitution of Nigeria say? Anybody can contest for election. You have answered it yourself."

On the controversy over the

zoning arrangement in the PDP, Masari said the issue of rotational presidency between the North and South was not an issue muted by one political party alone.

"We are repeating the history of 1993 when Abiola won election and he was denied to be sworn in as president and people saw it differently. They gave it regional and tribal colourations but it was entirely a military affair.

"So when the return of another democracy came all the parties

agreed that there will be rotation. You can ask question on what were the reasons for zoning in 1998 and if they are still relevant today or not. Then you can answer it yourself if they are still relevant."

National Chairman of the Conference of Nigeria Political Parties (CNPP) Alhaji Balarabe Musa said any attempt by President Jonathan to contest in 2011 would distract him.

"Jonathan should not waste his

time seeking for the Presidency in 2011 because he has a lot to do during this one year. He will not be able to do anything if he confuses himself with the ambition of contesting 2011. He is still young and can wait for 2015," he said.

Also speaking at the occasion, the former Minister of Health and political Adviser to former President Olusegun Obasanjo, Prof. A.B.C. Nwosu said: "Zoning in PDP can be reviewed. In the world over, nothing is static."

EFCC to summon Siemens AG

By Boco Edet

THE Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) said it will soon summon Siemens AG over the alleged bribing of four ex-ministers of communication and former senior public servants with 17.5 million Euros to win telecom contracts in Nigeria.

Two former Siemens managers were found guilty by a Munich Court in Germany of breach of trust and abetting bribery in Nigeria and Russia in April.

Speaking when Senator Smart Adeyemi visited her in Abuja yesterday, EFCC's Chairman Mrs. Farida Waziri also disclosed that the agency has set up a team to identify and seize assets of individuals acquired through ill means, adding that the commission would invoke Section 7(b) of the EFCC Establishment Act 2004 to go for the assets of the corrupt.

She said the agency will also demand compensation on behalf of the Federal Government from Siemens at the end of the investigation when suspects indicted would be prosecuted.

"That is why we are going to call Siemens AG and Siemens Nigeria. We are also going to call the MDs of NITEL and PHCN. If somebody has made a self confession we endorse it and use it but where it is denied you need documentary evidence, you need the witnesses of two, so it is difficult but we are not going to leave it," she said.

She said the Attorney General of the Federation Mohammed Adoke is working to obtain the Certified True Copy (CTC) of the Munich court judgement to fast track the case.

On the proposed extradition of former Delta state governor James Ibori she said, "I spoke to our men in Dubai and MET Police they have not filed anything yet but the Met Police are trying to see if they would extradite him to England or he would be tried in Dubai."



Senator representing Anambra North Alophonsus Igbekwe (middle) with well-wishers after his swearing in at the Senate Chamber, National Assembly, Abuja, yesterday.

23 parties fail to stop EFCC from prosecuting Iwu

By Adelanwa Bamgboye

TWENTY-three political parties have failed in their bid to stop the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) from probing and prosecuting former chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Prof Maurice Iwu.

The Federal High Court Abuja, presided over by Justice Adamu Bello, said the legal action of the parties seeking to stop the anti-graft agency from initiating investigation and trial of Iwu over alleged economic and financial crimes lacked merit.

While dismissing the suit, Justice Bello described the political parties as meddlesome interlopers who acted outside their rights by dabbling into issues of less concern to them.

The court held that the chairman of the Conference of Nigeria Political Parties (CNPP) who instituted the court action seeking an order to compel the EFCC to investigate and prosecute Iwu over alleged crime did so in his personal capacity and not on behalf of any

political party.

Balarabe Musa had filed a case at the federal High court seeking for an order to compel the EFCC to investigate and prosecute Iwu for alleged contract sum inflations, contract splitting, collection of money under false pretences and other economic and financial crimes.

But in a bid to save Iwu, the 23 political parties rushed to the Federal High Court and applied to be joined as interested parties in the suit on the ground that they have a stake in the matter.

The parties said Balarabe Musa did not consult them before instituting the case against EFCC and said the suit should be stopped for not making them parties.

Justice Adamu Bello however wondered how the interest of the 23 parties would be jeopardized when the case was not instituted on their behalf.

The judge dismissed the suit of the 23 political parties and adjourned hearing in the case to July 19 for adoption of written addresses.

CBN limits banks' exposure to margin lending to 10%

By Idris Ahmed

THE Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has limited banks' exposure to margin lending to 10 percent of their total loan portfolio to prevent a repeat of the reckless lending that caused asset bubble and the near collapse of the banking system last year.

"A comprehensive guideline on rules to regulate margin trad-

ing would be issued soon and its full compliance is expected on or before September 1," the spokesperson of CBN Mohammed Abdullahi said.

He said the Financial Services Regulation Coordinating Committee (FSRCC) met and extensively discussed the need to issue clear-cut rules and guidelines on margin trading and noted that most operators that suffered

losses in margin trading lacked the capacity, technology and framework to embark on margin trading.

These factors, he said, contributed immensely to the fate they suffered and the spiral effect during the financial market meltdown.

Accordingly, the FSRCC directed that banks' aggregate exposure to margin lending shall

not exceed 10 percent of total loans and advances.

However, banks are advised to be more prudent by adopting lower exposure limits.

Banks are also directed not to use their shares in margin trading but they can continue to use their shares as collateral for bank lending. "Thus, the restriction placed on bank shares are only in respect of margin trading," CBN said.

FRSC gets 5 deputy corps marshals

By Misbahu Bashir

FIVE Assistant Corps Marshal (ACM) in the Federal Road Safety Commission were yesterday promoted to the rank of Deputy Corps Marshal (DCM).

Those promoted are Boboye Oyeyemi, Aminu Dutse, Baba Gana Ibrahim, Adeyemi Omidiji and Louis Nwugo.

Corps Marshal of the FRSC Osita Chidoka said the promotion was based on merit and the beneficiaries have passed both physical and oral tests.

He said the aim was to motivate officers by ensuring level playing ground, transparency

and competence in the corps.

"The officers have successfully gone through all processes of promotion including physical test, written and oral examinations and are in fact found worthy of character and commitment to the development of the corps," he said.

The selection of the officers was based on federal character principle as each of the six geopolitical regions in the country is represented. FRSC has six DCMs now.

Chairman of the Board of FRSC Lawan Gwadabe said issues relating to welfare, promotion are being addressed.

U.S official visits Kano to fortify ties with Muslim leaders

By Aisha Umar Agaie

A top United States official said he will visit Kano State to meet with local Islamic leaders, emirs, governor and civil society to establish more trust between U.S and Islamic society.

Deputy Secretary of State Management and Resources Jacob J. Lew said U.S President Barack Obama was particular during his visit to Cairo last year on the need to build dialogue with Islamic communities around the world.

Lew spoke at the U.S. embassy in Abuja yesterday at a press briefing. He said

the purpose of our visit is to spend couples of days looking closely at areas of partnership between Nigeria and U.S, particularly in the area of health and food security.

He said the U.S-Nigeria bi-national commission programme will begin working on transparency, integrity working group process very important discussions on fighting corruption.

Ambassador Robin Renee Sanders said she was quiet impressed with the way Nigeria has moved forward in terms of developing a national security plan, and in terms of planning by ministry of defence.

Ribadu to get police orderly

By Misbahu Bashir

THE police authorities in Abuja are set to provide the former Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission Nuhu Ribadu with all benefits of retired Assistant Inspectors General of Police including police orderly, *Daily Trust* gathered yesterday.

Ribadu who was demoted to the rank of Deputy Commissioner and dismissed from the police force by the Police Service Commission was Monday pardoned by the Commission and re-enlisted as retired AIG.

His lawyers and the presidency had pleaded with the commission to restore his rank and re-enlist him into the

force.

Police sources yesterday said the letter confirming the decision of the PSC has not been given to the Inspector General of Police Ogbonna Onovo who will approve all entitlements to be enjoyed by Ribadu including financial benefits and police protection.

A source at the PSC said the meeting that led to the decision on Ribadu was impromptu and enough time will be given to the permanent secretary to prepare correspondence to the IGP on the matter.

The Police Force Public Relations Officer ACP Emmanuel Ojukwu said the police will comply with the decision.



PEOPLE waiting to buy kerosine from a filling station in Abuja, yesterday.

Dozens of appointments waiting for President's approval

By Mohammed S. Shehu

DOZENS of appointments of heads of key Federal Government agencies and parastatals are waiting to be made by President Goodluck Jonathan following the expiration of the tenures of the heads of the agencies.

Jonathan has made a number of appointments since becoming president on May 6 which include that of Austin Oniwon as Group Managing Director (GMD) of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) following the removal of Shehu Ladan, who was appointed seven weeks earlier.

Jonathan also appointed Mike Oghiadomhe as Chief of Staff, Mallam Hassan Tukur as Principal Secretary and Ima Niboro as Special Adviser on Media and Pub-

licity.

He is expected to appoint a new chairman for the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) following the sack of Prof Maurice Iwu, and the expiration of the tenure of some commissioners of the electoral body.

Other vacant posts waiting to be filled include that of the Executive Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Communications Commission (NCC) where Engineer Stephen Adedayo is now acting following the expiration of the tenure of Ernest Ndukwe in March having served out his second term in office.

The Bureau of Public Enterprises, Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMFAC) and

the Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) are also without substantive heads.

Jonathan will have to approve 24 new commissioners for the RMFAC commissioners, who are appointed based on recommendations from the states.

Daily Trust gathered that while some of the heads of agencies have vacated their seats upon the expiration of their tenures, others whose tenures had expired have refused to vacate their offices.

They include: Managing Director, Nigerian Export Processing Zones Authority (NEPZA), Mr. Sina Agboluaje; Director General, Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON), Dr John Akanya; Managing Director of Oil and Gas Free Zone Mr. Noble Obe and Director General, Consumer Protection Council, Mrs. Ifeyinwa Umenyi.

FG tells Nigerians to prepare for higher electricity tariff

By Fidelis Mac-Leva

NIGERIANS must brace up for higher electricity tariff because the anticipated review would be done to reflect the cost of power generation, Minister of State for Power Nuhu Somo Wya has said.

The minister told journalists after declaring a workshop on Rural Access and Renewable Energy in Abuja yesterday that the electricity tariffs were cost reflective and Nigerians must be prepared to pay more in order to encourage the economy.

"Nigerians would get improved power supply only if the regulations are put in proper perspectives. We must review the tariff to reflect the cost of power generation. You cannot use 10 percent to generate power and expect it to be supplied at 6 percent. The operators

would not be encouraged", Wya said.

He said Nigeria was facing challenges of imbalance between electricity supply and demand with an attendant low access of about 40 percent in the rural areas.

He said the federal government was creating the

enabling environment for integration of renewable energy based power supply and energy efficiency by removing barriers to investment and market development through appropriate regulatory framework.

The one day workshop jointly organised by the

power ministry and the World Bank was aimed at disseminating the concept of the proposed Rural Access and Renewable Energy project with a view to obtaining feedback from the state officials and other key stakeholders of the power sector.



A pregnant woman receiving a free insecticide treated net at the Model Primary Healthcare Centre in Oshimili South Secretariat, Asaba, Delta State, yesterday.

PHOTO: NAN

Welder's fire guts 20 tankers in Lagos

Continued from page 1

instantly alerted policemen on patrol in the area, who later informed the Federal Fire Service.

However, Chairman of the Lagos State chapter of the National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers [NUPENG] Tokunbo Korodo told our correspondent on telephone that the inferno was caused by the carelessness of a welder who was not registered by the union.

According to him, the welder was brought into the parking terminal by a petroleum tanker driver to repair his truck but as he went about the repair, a petrol tanker fully loaded with Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), otherwise known as petrol, stationed very close to the truck being repaired suddenly exploded.

Said he, "In fact our union has suffered a big loss but thank God no life was lost to the inferno, only the welder was badly injured."

An official of Ascon Petroleum with a filling station near the scene of the fire expressed regret that most of the trucks were parked on major roads in the area without specific allocation in any of the fuel depots at Orile and Apapa.

According to him, the fire was caused by the activities of some truck drivers who were siphoning fuel from the tankers at the expense of the owners of the product being lifted for distribution.

Fire fighters were still battling to put out the fire as at press time, while 20 petrol trucks were burnt in the inferno. Smoke billowing from the scene enveloped the entire Apapa area.

Police Public Relations officer (PPRO), Mr. Frank Mba, in a reply to the text message of our correspondent, said the situation is being brought under control by men of the Federal Fire Service.

He said 12 trucks were burnt to ashes.

He said he cannot say for now what was responsible for the fire, but that no life was lost. Mba said there will be a thorough investigation of the immediate and remote causes of the fire.

FG to drop 7-point agenda today

Continued from page 1

Food Security and Agriculture; Wealth Creation and Employment; Mass Transportation; Land Reform; Security; and Qualitative and Functional Education. Yar'adua had said the agenda would transform the country and lead to the desired goals. Many experts and analysts advised the late President to cut the agenda and concentrate on power and food security, but he refused.

President Goodluck Jonathan, who succeeded Yar'adua upon the former's death on May 5, has not publicly committed himself to implement the 7-point agenda. A Presidency source told *Daily Trust* last night that "I think what President Goodluck Jonathan wants to do is to concentrate on those aspects of the agenda that are very dear to the hearts of Nigerians. He may decide to focus on power and energy."

Other issues to be discussed by the FEC today include contract for the dualization of the Port Harcourt/Aba Expressway, Obehia-Azu-

mini-Ukanafun 50km Road in Abia/Akwa Ibom State and ratification of the termination and re-award of the contract for land reclamation and shoreline protection project at Kurutie Community, Gbaramatu Clan, Warri South Local Government Area of Delta State.

Also on today's agenda is the contract for the provision of engineering infrastructure to Katampe District of the Federal Capital City through public private partnership and approval of the National Policy on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in Education.

FEC would also look into the award of contracts for the purchase of vehicles for the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission and report of the 1st Nigeria-USA Business Forum on Available Opportunities and Challenges of Doing Business in Nigeria, held in Atlanta, Houston and Chicago in USA from April 12 to 20, 2010.

Minister of Aviation Mrs Fidelia Njeze is expected to present to the Council a report of the African Regional Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation Security held in Abuja from April 11 to 13, 2010.

Resident doctors threaten strike over salary

By Ruby Leo

THE National Association of Resident Doctors of Nigeria (NARD) has issued the federal government a 21 day ultimatum to immediately implement the payment of the new medical salary or be faced with an indefinite strike action nationwide.

Rising from a meeting, NARD President Dr John Tunde Aremu said the association will embark on a 3 day nationwide warning strike with effect from June 1st to June 3rd 2010 to press home their demand.

The association is also asking the government to improve on infrastructural development of hospitals and adequately staff all hospitals so as to stop overseas medical treatment. Another demand of the association is the introduction of mandatory post part 1 overseas

clinical attachment for resident doctors, as well as budgetary provision for training of resident doctors to improve the quality of specialist doctors.

Meanwhile the Minister of Health Prof Onyebuchi Chukwu has said that all medical staff will in June 2010 begin to enjoy their new Consolidated Health Salary Structure (CONHESS) and Consolidated Medical Salary structure (CONMESS) for Medical and Dental officers. The minister who made this known at a meeting with the representatives of the professional bodies in the sector yesterday said his desire is to create unity and harmony in the sector.

Responding, Comrade Ayuba Wabbar, President, Medical and Health Workers Union of Nigeria, noted that "teamwork can only thrive in an atmosphere of Justice and Fairness and equity".

Reps moves to delist Armed Forces from pension scheme

By Turaki A. Hassan

THE House of Representatives has read for a second time a bill seeking to amend the Pension Reform Act 2004 and exempt the Nigerian Army, Navy and Air Force from the contributory National Pension Scheme.

Chairman of the House Committee on Defense Rep. Oluwole Oke (PDP, Osun) who led debate on the general principles and merit of the bill said Nigeria was the only country in the world where the military are part of the contributory pension scheme.

But arguing to the contrary, Rep. Femi Gbajabamila (AC, Lagos) who is also the Deputy Minority Whip of the House said the move is contrary to section 173 of the 1999 Constitution, which provides that all pension and gratuity matters of public servants must be regulated by a law; which is the PENCOM Act of 2004.

Rep. Bala Ibn Na'Allah (PDP, Kebbi) who chairs the House Committee on Judiciary said the military was a specialized unit with specialized responsibilities, and should therefore be given special treatments where the need arises. After a heated debate, the bill was referred to the joint House committees on pensions and public service matters for further legislative action.

ICPC arraigns former staff over fraud

By John Chuks Azu

TWO persons, including a former staff of the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC), were yesterday arraigned before an FCT High Court in Maitama for alleged conspiracy and official corruption.

Gabriel Musaminu Ogida, a former accountant with the ICPC, and Babatunde Aliyu, manager of Grace Atiba Spring Enterprises, were arraigned by the ICPC on a three count charge of conspiracy to sign out and receive an ICPC cheque valued at N396, 000 on behalf of the said company for which value was received for no consideration knowing same to be a property of the ICPC.

The offences are punishable under section 19 of the Corrupt Practices and other related Offences Act (2000).

The accused persons, however, pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Justice Mudashiru Oniyangi adjourned the case to June 22, 2010. Meanwhile, the court has granted bail to the accused persons in the sum of N1 million each and a surety in like sum. The accused persons were ordered to be remanded in Kuje Prisons if they fail to meet the bail conditions.

Reps want killing of Nigerian in Poland investigated

By Turaki A. Hassan

THE House of Representatives has called for probe into the circumstances that led to the killing of a Nigerian in Warsaw, Poland.

Chairman House Committee on Diaspora Rep. Abike Dabiri-Erewa (AC, Lagos), who made the call yesterday condemned the act and expressed deep concern over the death of the unnamed Nigerian and arrest of several others.

She said there is a need to investigate the remote and immediate cause of the death of the unnamed Nigerian, adding that, "This is another pathetic treatment. The last time in Switzerland, the Ambassador apologised, and that was the end of it," she said. The lawmaker said though the federal government had on Monday summoned Polish ambassador to Nigeria Mr Przemyslaw Niesiolowski, "We will see what's next. We must, as a nation, demand better treatment. We demand full justice in this matter."



GROUP Managing Director and Chief Executive of FinBank Plc, Mrs. Suzanne Iroche (middle), with the Chairman/CEO of Phillips Consulting, Mr. Foluso Phillips (right) and the Executive Director, Finance and Strategy of the bank, Mr. Abdulrahman Yinusa, at the re-launch of Fin-Bank's FlashmeCash product and launch of its innovative debit card, FlashWallet, in Lagos, recently.

Insurance scheme retrieves licence from errant health providers

By Ruby Leo

THE National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) has begun suspending the licences of health providers unable to meet demands of the scheme by providing quality health care for Nigerians.

The scheme had earlier warned that sanctions will be meted on erring stakeholders in the industry if they failed to abide by the terms of agreement which they swore to respect.

Already, Ayodele Medical Centre, Ilorin, had its accreditation license withdrawn by

NHIS for breaching the terms of its engagement with the health insurance regulator.

Announcing the facility's de-accreditation during a surprise visit to its premises in Ilorin, Kwara State, the Deputy General Manager Enforcement, Dr. Kabir Mustapha said the action was taken to protect the industry and ultimately the patients.

Mustapha directed the hospital administration to surrender the accreditation certificate issued by the scheme within two months.

He said that Ayodele Medical Centre had sent a bill of medical procedure they claimed

to have carried out but which the scheme found "funny".

"This prompted NHIS to launch a thorough investigation into the matter," Mustapha said, adding that the report indicated that no such treatment took place, as the patient involved personally confirmed that the report was a fraud. The hospital, according to him, later corroborated the patient's statement.

On the fate of patients who access care at the facility, he said NHIS has re-distributed such patients to nearby facilities within Ilorin metropolis.

Africans urged to emulate late Tajudeen Abdul-Raheem

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

AFRICANS have been urged to emulate the leadership qualities of late Dr. Tajudeen Abdul-Raheem who was passionate towards the development of the Africa region.

Minister of State for Information and Communications Mr. Labaran Maku said this at the first Tajudeen's Annual Memorial Symposium organised by the Center for Democracy and Development (CDD) in Abuja yesterday.

He said Africans should dream and work together and save the continent from underdevelopment and poverty as preached by the late pan-African.

Tajudeen died last year in a car accident in Nairobi, on his way to lunch a maternal health campaign in Kigali, Rwanda.

While launching a compendium titled 'Don't agonize, organise! A tribute to Tajudeen Abdul-Raheem' the minister said reflections on the remarkable achievements of Taju

in uniting the continent wouldn't be overemphasized and called on younger generation to sustain the effort.

In their various speeches, Professor Abubakar Momoh, Dr. Adele Jinadu, Abdul-Fata Mussa and Muthoni Wanyeki as well as Bisi Adeleye-Feyemi from Kenya and Ghana respectively hailed late Taju's contributions towards the establishment of the philosophy of Pan-Africanism and good governance in the continent.

UN plans drug interception system at Lagos airport

By Misbahu Bashir

THE United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) plans to build drug interdiction capacities at the Murtala Muhammad International Airport (MMIA) Lagos and some selected international airports in the West African sub-region.

This was disclosed by the Country Representative of UNODC and leader of the project assessment mission team Mrs Dagmar Thomas during a visit to the Minister of Police Affairs Adamu Maina Waziri in Abuja.

She said the project will establish Joint Airport Inter-

diction Task Forces (JAITFS) in the selected international airports and connect them with international law data bases and communication networks.

She said the project will promote intelligence and information sharing between services at national and international levels to facilitate the interception of illicit shipments.

The project is being financed by the European Union, with the first phase estimated to cost about \$3.8m.

Accompanied by officials of the International Police Organization (INTERPOL) Mrs Dagma said the MMIA Lagos was selected to be among the first batch of benefi-

ciaries from the project because it is a major hub of international travels. Other beneficiaries are the Casablanca, Praia and Bamako airports.

The minister expressed delight at the development which he said demonstrates the concern of the international community over the evils of drug trafficking which had hitherto defied solutions.

Also speaking at the event, Director-General of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) Otunba Lanre Ipinmisho called for the involvement of all participating airports in post seizure investigation and prosecution to make the project holistic.

Youths protest refusal to swear in Assembly member

From Monday Osayande, Asaba

ABOUT 200 youths from Agbor, Ika South Local Government Area of Delta State yesterday stormed the state House of Assembly, protesting against the refusal of the Clerk, Mr. Raymond Yavbirie, to swear in Mr. Kingsley Nonye Philips as the member representing the area.

The Federal Court of Appeal in Abuja had on May 12 ordered the Speaker, Mr. Martin Okonta, hitherto representing Ika South constituency to vacate the seat for

Mr. Philips because he (Okonta) was not the rightful candidate sponsored by the PDP to run for the election in 2007.

But Mr. Kingsley Philips who was issued the INEC Certificate of Return a day after the court judgment is yet to be sworn in by the Clerk, even after the former Speaker, Mr. Okonta, had vacated the seat.

Following the delay, the youths yesterday locked up the two main gates to the Assembly, preventing entry and exit.

The youths alighted from 16 eighteen seater buses that brought them from Agbor

town at 7am. They carried placards with several inscriptions. Some read, "Do not subvert justice, swear in Kingsley Nonye Philips Now", "We have waited for three years, our vote must be respected", "Governor Uduaghan swear in our candidate, it is the right of the people of Ika South to be represented obey the rule of law". They also sang war songs, beating the iron gate as their music instrument to convey their messages to the authorities concerned that Mr. Kingsley Philips' mandate must not be swept under the carpet. The House hur-

riedly adjourned till June 15 to avoid the youths. After the adjournment, the Deputy Speaker, Basil Ganagana, covered by security personnel, appealed to the protesters to apply a legal means to pursue their case.

Ganagana informed them that the house had indeed received the court order and a stay execution from the former Speaker.

"But what we have done in this circumstance is to direct the legal department of the House to liaise with the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice to advise us on what to do", he said.



FROM left: Mr Kofi Annan, Chairman, Africa Progress Panel and former UN Secretary-General, Mr Peter Eigen, Founder and Chairman of the Advisory Council, Transparency International and former President Olusegun Obasanjo at the presentation of the Africa progress report in Johannesburg, South Africa, yesterday.

PIX: NAN

Ogun teachers set to issue 21-day ultimatum

From Kehinde Akinyemi, Akinyemi, Abeokuta

THE Ogun State chapter of the Nigeria Union of Teachers (NUT) is set for a fresh showdown with the state government, with a planned 21-day ultimatum to press home their demand for 15 issues bordering on welfare.

Among the demands are the promotion of primary school teachers since 2006, scrapping of rural allowance, leave bonus of secondary schools for 2008 and 2009, primary school/secondary schools running cost, 2010 promotion exercise, and lateness of salaries for both primary and secondary schools.

Our correspondent gathered

that the demand also include pension scheme remittances, computerization of federal teachers' salaries, planned retrenchment of teachers with 30-33 years in service and January arrears of the new Teachers' Salary Scale (TSS).

At the extended executive meeting of the Union in Abeokuta Monday, the decision to issue a 21-day ultimatum to the government was reached. The Assistant Principal Coordinating Secretary Chief Wale Oyeniyi confirmed the planned action.

In a telephone interview, the state Chairman of NUT Comrade Sam Idowu said the Union would come out with its final position on June 1, saying the action was still at the planning stage.

ANPP chairman, Shekarau differ over Takai

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

THE chairman of Kano chapter of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) Alhaji Sani Hashim Hotoro has said the party neither endorsed nor anointed Alhaji Salisu Sagir Takai despite Governor Shekarau's open support for Takai's aspiration.

Addressing journalists yesterday at the Kano NUJ Secretariat, Alhaji Hotoro said Governor Shekarau did not impose any aspirant on the party but only stated his personal opinion.

He said the governor had the right to state his personal opinion, which is not binding on the party. "Rumours are making the rounds that ANPP had already selected all the candidates that will fill elective positions. I can categorically tell you that this is a categorical lie as our

party did not anoint or endorse any aspirant," he said.

He said the party resolved after their last Thursday meeting to do justice to all aspirants. According to him, the governor was given the exclusive right by the state party stakeholders to pinpoint any aspirant. "Although he had been dodging the issue, the stakeholders pressed, and the governor later pointed at his choice in order to heed their request," he said.

The chairman further stated that they would follow the dictates of the party's constitution to the letter. "We will first try to reach a consensus, but when the aspirants fail to agree with this, then we will definitely go to the polls as contained in Section 21 of our party's constitution," said Hotoro.

Gombe to distribute 1.5m mosquito nets

From Aliyu M. Hamagam, Gombe

THE Gombe State Malaria Booster Project is to distribute about 1.5 million treated mosquito nets to 517,000 households in its effort to fight malaria.

The Project Manager, Dr. Arnold Abel, yesterday in Gombe while presenting a paper at an interactive session with journalists stressed the need to contribute in the crusade against the spread of malaria and the use of treated mosquito nets.

According to him, a census of households was conducted in the state and registration cards will soon be issued to each household as the mosquito nets will be given upon presentation of the card.

He added that each household would be given two mosquito nets with the assumption that in each household there should be five people out of which two were expected to be under the age of five.

The Project Manager added that a survey conducted on 12

per cent of the women population that were previously given the nets revealed that only 2 per cent used it.

Dr. Abel further stressed that the fight against malaria was not only confined to the distribution of mosquito nets but that plans were underway to supply ACT, a new malaria drug which would be sold at a highly subsidized rate.

He said malaria was responsible for over 60 per cent of clinic attendance and the cause of 25 per cent of infant mortality in Nigeria.

NIPOST to install security gadgets in post offices

From Ibrahim Musa Giginyu, Kano

THE Nigeria Postal Service (NIPOST) is to give high priority to mail security as plans are underway to install security gadgets in major post offices nationwide, Postmaster General of the Federation Ibrahim Mori Baba said in Kano yesterday.

Speaking at the 2009 North-west merit

awards, the Postmaster General also said the organization had taken steps to address the problem of quality of service headlong.

"Very soon, our initiative will begin to yield positive results. As we all know, the quality of service delivery is an important basic parameter that determines the success of any organization. All hands must be on deck to achieve high quality of serv-

ice delivery", he said.

Baba also spoke on the major constraints to improved quality of service and staff welfare, saying, "We need to improve on our revenue performance despite the fall in person to person mail occasioned by the effects of new communications technology." He also said the National Mail Route System would continue to be

fine-tuned and would soon be extended to mail security.

Earlier in his address, the Area Postal Manager Kano Territory Malam Yakubu Mohammed Mahuta called on NIPOST staff to always remember the clarion call to share NIPOST's vision of making the organization the best parastatal in Nigeria.

Storm destroys houses in Katsina

From Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

ABOUT 20 houses have been destroyed and several people displaced from their homes in Danja Local Government Area of Katsina State, following a heavy

windstorm in the area. Our correspondent who visited the area reports that many houses had their roofs blown off. Schools, mosques, electricity poles and cables were also affected by the storm. Chairman of Danja Local

Government Area Alhaji Abdul-lahi Balarabe Dabai who spoke with our correspondent yesterday said the council was accessing the damage and taking a list of those affected with a view to assisting them. He said already, the coun-

cil had directed its Department of Works and Social Welfare to liaise with officials of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) and managers of the affected public infrastructures to come up with a solution to the problem.

The chairman who sympathized with the people, said his council would assist them and that those that are beyond the council would be directed to the state's Relief and Emergency Rehabilitation Agency (RERA).

PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE



DIRECTOR General, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAM) Alhaji Nadada Umar (middle), Assistant Director, other Financial Institutions and Supervision Department, Central Bank of Nigeria, Tajudeen Lasisi (right) and Group, Head Planning and Research of SMEDAM, Olawale Fasanya, during, during the Micro Finance certification training programme of operators of microfinance banks in Abuja, yesterday.

NIPR urges genuine reconciliation in Plateau

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

THE Nigeria Institute of Public Relations (NIPR) Plateau State chapter has called for a genuine reconciliation among the people of the state.

The state chairman of the NIPR, Barrister Haroun Audu, in a statement yesterday said, "Time is indeed ripe for genuine reconciliation to take firm root." He added that the place to start was in the heart and mind.

"The past may not be easy to forget, but it is imperative for everyone to forgive as that is what will set us free. The current realities require that we honestly search ourselves to locate, frontally correct and address the issues that led to this terrible situation. This ought to be followed by a commitment by everyone on the Plateau to ensure that, we do not tread this path ever again," he said.

Audu added that the reconciliation should be followed by the creation of sustainable governance platforms that must be driven by the government and its agencies.

CNPP charges aspirants on sources of income

From Yemi Bamidele, Ibadan

THE Conference of Nigeria Political Parties (CNPP) has called on those aspiring to occupy political offices in the 2011 general elections to declare their sources of income. In a statement by factional chairman Dr. Olapade Agoro in Ibadan yesterday, the CNPP

tasked the nation's anti-graft agencies, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Independent Corrupt Practices and other related Offences Commission (ICPC) to support the country's on-going war against corruption by blocking all avenues that would aid the influx of 'bad money' into the polity.

"Irrespective of the good promises by President Goodluck Jonathan to ensure a credible election in 2011, it could be marred by bad money in politics, particularly by members of the president's party, the PDP. For the war against corruption and bad money in politics to be won, it must be fought from the stand point of every citizen.

Henceforth, anyone who wants to contest elections in Nigeria or wants to purchase and build any structure above N10 million or wants to invest in any business worth N 5 million should be asked to declare his or her sources of income to the combined team of EFCC and ICPC," the CNPP added.

Jonathan in brief stopover in Sokoto

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

PRESIDENT Good luck Jonathan made a brief stop-over in Sokoto State yesterday en route Gusau, Zamfara State. He arrived the Sultan Abubakar International Airport, Sokoto in a presidential jet with registration No. 5N-FGT at about 10.13am and was received by Governors Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko of Sokoto and Usman Nasamu Dakingari of Kebbi. The president was then taken to the VIP lounge and thereafter took off to Gusau.

Among those on the president's entourage were the Senior Special Adviser on Aviation Captain Shehu Iyal and Special Adviser on Security retired General Aliyu Gusau.

ECOWAS trade delegation in Rivers

From Muhammad Bello, Port Harcourt

A trade delegation from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has arrived Port Harcourt, Rivers State to enlighten private companies in the South-South zone on business opportunities available within the ECOWAS sub-region. The leader of the delegation, Mr. Limane Barage, who led the team to visit Governor Chibuike Amaechi, said the team was in

the state to sensitize Niger Delta entrepreneurs on the existence of a system that allows firms within the sub-region to collaborate. Mr. Barage, who is also the Principal Programme Officer of ECOWAS, said the region had developed a web based system where companies were encouraged to get registered free of charge to enable them access prospective partners in terms of goods and services within the region. The leader of the delegation added that the sys-

tem was developed over ten years ago, but that many people did not know about it, hence the need to hold seminars in various cities like Port Harcourt.

"If you want any information on Cote d'voire,

Guinea, Senegal etc, you don't have to travel there, just go to the website and you will get all the information you are looking for," he said.

He flayed the situation where people from West African go out-

side the region for business transactions when such opportunities exist within the region.

Receiving the delegation on behalf of Governor Amaechi, the state Commissioner for Commerce and Industry Prince Ogbonna Nwuke thanked the ECOWAS business delegation for the choice of Port Harcourt as one of the centres for the sensitization workshop. He pledged the state government's support to the success of their mission.

Sheriff reviews c'ttee recommendations on Boko Haram

From Sharafa Dauda, Maiduguri

GOVERNOR Ali Modu Sheriff of Borno State has rejected some of the recommendations made by the Ambassador Usman Gaji Galtimari led committee on last year's Boko Haram crisis.

The governor maintained

that instead of the 30, 40 or 50 per cent compensation being recommended by the committee for the victims, the state government would only offer them some assistance.

Though the recommendations have yet to be made public, our correspondent gathered that the state government, out

of the 48 recommendations, only approved 16 while 14 are still under consideration.

The Chairman of the committee, Ambassador Galtimari, while presenting the report Monday, said about 85 affected persons appeared before the committee and recommended that N208.4 million be paid as

compensation.

The committee said it had earlier given about N1.1million to five victims who sustained severe injuries from the crisis.

It also suggested the reactivation of moribund skills acquisition centers as well as the establishment of new ones to provide employment for

youths in the state.

Sheriff commended the committee for a job well done, saying a memo on the recommendations accepted would be submitted to the state House of Assembly during the week.

He added that the report would also be forwarded to the Federal Government.

PIC:FELIX ONIGBINDE



CHIEF of Policy and Plans, Naval Headquarters, Rear Admiral Sylvester Umosen (right) with Chairman, 2010 Navy Week, Commodore Samuel Ojetitan, at a press-briefing on the Navy Week, in Abuja, yesterday.

Forum urges revitalisation of River Basins

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

THE All River Basins Forum has stressed the need to revitalise the River Basin Development Authorities (RBDAs). In a communiqué issued at the end of its meeting in Sokoto State, the forum emphasised the need for mechanised agriculture and procurement of new equipment.

It also called on the Minister of Water Resources to approve the recruitment of more workers into River Basins Authorities to beef up its staff

strength to ensure enhanced productivity. The forum faulted the secondment of ministry officials to RBDAs, calling for the appointment of substantive officers or deployment of senior officials of RBDAs to ensure the systematic career progression of officers.

It also called on RBDA managements that were yet to stop the deduction of the National Housing Fund from staff salaries as directed by Nigeria Labour Congress to do so with immediate effect.

The forum emphasised the need for mechanised agriculture and procurement of new equipment

Armed robbery, car snatching increase in Nasarawa

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

ARMED robbery and car snatching seem to be on the increase in Nasarawa State as no week passes by without the state capital, Lafia recording a robbery case.

The latest was last week's robbery around the College of Agriculture in Lafia, where the bandits after beating up their victims, robbed several houses and carted away valuables. A week before that, over 30 armed robbers were reported to have stormed the

police station in Giza Development Area of the state and carted away five AK47 guns from the armoury of the police and injured some policemen in a gun battle.

The state Police Commissioner Uzor Amakulor said last week in Lafia that efforts were on to apprehend those behind the operation. He also paraded 10 robbery suspects, who were arrested on a tip off. Six cars were recovered from them. He said after investigations, the suspects would be charged to the court.

Niger seeks NSCDC training college

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

NIGER State Governor Muazu Babangida Aliyu has called on the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) to establish its training college in Niger

Governor Aliyu who made the call at the passing-out parade of cadets of the NSCDC in Minna yesterday, said the state government was prepared to provide them with all necessary logistics, including a land. "I urge the Niger State command of the civil defence corps to lobby for a training college here, in Minna, as we as a state government are prepared to

provide the land and other logistics to help them serve the society better", he said.

He urged local government chairmen in the state to assist members of the NSCDC posted to their areas, adding that they would work better if the environment was conducive. "I give you chairmen, two months to come up with ways of assisting officers of the corps posted to your local government areas", he said. Aliyu who said he was of the view that the NSCDC would serve Nigeria better if they were equipped with firearms, urged the cadets to always operate within the confines of the law.

Yakowa appoints media adviser

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

GOVERNOR Patrick Yakowa of Kaduna State yesterday appointed the Kaduna State Bureau Chief of THIS DAY newspaper Mr. Reuben Buhari as his Special Adviser on Media and Publicity.

The governor in a statement issued by his Senior Special Assistant, Mr. Francis Maikarfi, said the appointment of Reuben takes immediate effect.

Born on October 29, 1971, in Kaduna,

Buhari holds a Higher National Diploma in Mass Communication and a Post-Graduate Diploma in Management Science from the Kaduna Polytechnic.

The governor also appointed Mr. Timothy Gandu as his Principal Private Secretary. Gandu, a seasoned educationist holds a Masters degree in Public Administration. These are the first appointments by Governor Yakowa since his elevation last Thursday.

Meanwhile, the Nigeria Union of Jour-

nalists (NUJ), Kaduna State council has commended Governor Yakowa for appointing Reuben Buhari as his spokesperson.

The union in a statement by the council's chairman, Malam Yusuf Idris, said the appointment was an indication that the governor was ready to involve journalists in the running of the affairs of the state.

"Reuben Buhari is a humble and hard working person and we are going to rally round him to ensure that he succeeds", the union added.

Senator Yale loses mother

From Isa Umar Gusau, Maiduguri

SENATOR Kaka Malam Yale, representing Borno Central senatorial district in the National Assembly has lost his mother, Hajja Falmata Lawan Yale.

An aide to the senator, Mohammed Sheriff, said yesterday in Maiduguri that Hajja Falmata, popularly known as Bawa, 80, died at a hospital in Cairo, Egypt on Friday after a protracted illness.

Her remains were flown into the country Saturday night and buried on Sunday in Konduga town, Konduga Local Government Area of the state. She is survived by nine children.



**NATIONAL TEACHERS' INSTITUTE (NTI),
KADUNA**

**APPOINTMENT OF COORDINATING/BIOMETRIC
CONSULTANT FOR CAPACITY
BUILDING WORKSHOPS (MDGs)**

The National Teachers' Institute (NTI), Kaduna, is in the process of implementing the 2010 Capacity Building Workshops for 140,000 primary school teachers in about 280 designated training centres nationwide. The workshops are scheduled to hold during the Long Vacation (August – September 2010).

The essence of the training is to refresh the participants on the effective techniques of teaching the four primary school core subjects i.e. (English Studies, Mathematics, Social Studies and Basic Science and Technology). Participants will also be supplied with a CD each containing video recordings on classroom instructional strategies.

The workshops will be funded from the Debt Relief Grant and implemented under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Projects.

The National Teachers' Institute is by this advertisement inviting reputable consulting firms to apply for prequalification appointment to coordinate some activities during the six-day training workshops in the six geo-political zones.

The Coordinating Consulting firms will be expected to:

- i. Coordinate the provision and distribution of light refreshment to Participants and Resource Persons in each designated centre in the states within the each geo-political zone and
- ii. Coordinate the provision and distribution of customised stationery items to Participants and Resource Persons in each designated training centre in the states within each geo-political zone.

The Biometric Consultant will be expected to:

- i. Assist the Institute in creating Data base of participants
- ii. Assist the Institute in screening out repeaters
- iii. Generate statistics for decision making according to different criteria
- iv. Generate Report according to the Format decided by the Institute

PREQUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Interested firms should submit their bids along with the documents mentioned hereinafter in a sealed envelope to the address indicated below. Failure to submit any of the under listed documents may lead to the disqualification of the bid:

- i. Full detail of the Company's profile
- ii. Certificate of Registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission
- iii. Tax Clearance Certificate for at least Three years
- iv. Evidence of similar job(s) executed in the past (with verifiable addresses)
- v. Organisational structure, available manpower and list of technical staff with their resumes
- vi. List of equipment/Distribution facilities
- vii. Evidence of financial capability/ Bank Reference and Annual Turn Over of at least N50 Million Duly Stamped by the Bank
- viii. Company audited accounts over the past three years
- ix. Evidence of Registration with Pensions Commission in compliance with provisions of Section 16(6) (d) of the Public Procurement Act, 2007 (PPA 2007)
- x. Payment of non-refundable bidding fee of N30,000.00 (Thirty Thousand Naira only).

Enquiries for additional information should be directed to the address below. Please, note that samples of stationery items are available at NTI Headquarters, Kaduna.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Consulting firms will be selected in accordance with the provisions of the Procurement Act 2007 and Due Process mechanism.

BID PRESENTATION

Interested firms are to submit separate prequalification Proposal in sealed envelope. The proposal together with the documents earlier listed are to be submitted in sealed envelope addressed to the Director-General and Chief Executive, National Teachers' Institute, Km 5 Kaduna-Zaria Road, P.M.B 2191, Kaduna, duly marked: "COORDINATING OR BIOMETRIC CONSULTANCY". The bid should be dropped in the Tenders' Box in the office of the Registrar.

Bidder's name, address and telephone numbers should be indicated on the reverse side of the envelope. Bidders are to ensure that they also sign the Submission Register in the Registrar's office.

CLOSING DATE

All bids must be delivered to the address below not later than 12.00 noon on the 14th Day after the date of this publication.

**SIGNED
Acting Registrar**



**NATIONAL TEACHERS' INSTITUTE (NTI),
KADUNA**

**INVITATION FOR THE PREQUALIFICATION
OF THE PRINTING OF TRAINING MANUALS
FOR CAPACITY BUILDING FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL
TEACHERS (MDGs PROJECT)**

The National Teachers' Institute (NTI), Kaduna, is in the process of implementing the 2010 Capacity Building Workshops for 140,000 primary school teachers in about 280 designated training centres nationwide. The workshops are scheduled to hold during the Long Vacation (August – September 2010).

The essence of the training is to refresh the participants in the effective techniques of teaching the four primary school core subjects i.e. (English Studies, Mathematics, Social Studies and Basic Science and Technology) within the thematic areas. Participants will also be supplied with a CD each containing video recordings on classroom instructional strategies.

The workshops will be funded from the Debt Relief Grant and implemented under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) projects.

The workshops will be facilitated by selected resource persons using specially designed self-instructional manuals (one on each subject).

The National Teachers' Institute is by this advertisement inviting reputable printers/ multimedia firms to tender for the prequalification of the printing of training manuals and video CDs.

The printers will be required to meet the standards determined by the Institute in terms of quality of materials and finished products, capacity for timely delivery, and adequate facilities to deliver.

The specifications for the manuals and video CDs are available for collection at the NTI Headquarters, Kaduna.

PREQUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Interested companies should submit their prequalification proposal along with the documents stated hereinafter in sealed envelopes to the address below. Failure to submit any of the under listed documents may lead to disqualification.

- i. Full details of the company's profile
- ii. Certificate of Registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission
- iii. Three years Tax Clearance Certificate
- iv. Evidence of VAT Registration and Remittance
- v. Evidence of similar job(s) executed in the past (with verifiable addresses)
- vi. Organisational structure, available manpower and list of technical staff with their resumes
- vii. List of equipment
- viii. Evidence of financial capability/ Bank Reference and Bank Statement with Annual Turn Over of at least N50 Million Duly Stamped by the Bank
- ix. Company audited accounts over the past three years
- x. Evidence of Registration with Pensions Commission in compliance with provisions of Section 16(6) (d) of the Public Procurement Act, 2007 (PPA 2007)
- xi. Payment of non-refundable bidding fee of N30,000.00 (Thirty Thousand Naira only).

SELECTION CRITERIA

Printers will be selected in accordance with the provisions of the Procurement Act 2007 and Due Process mechanism

PRESENTATION

Interested firms are to submit prequalification / Technical Proposals in sealed envelope. The proposal together with the documents earlier listed are to be submitted in sealed envelope addressed to the Director-General and Chief Executive, National Teachers' Institute, Km 5 Kaduna-Zaria Road, P.M.B 2191, Kaduna, duly marked "PRINTING".

The bid should be dropped in the Tender Box in the office of the Registrar. Bidder's name, address and telephone numbers should be indicated on the reverse side of the envelope. Bidders are to ensure that they also sign the Submission Register in the Registrar's office.

CLOSING DATE

All bids must be delivered to the address below not later than 12.00 noon on the 14th Day after the date of this publication.

**SIGNED
Acting Registrar**

Online Reactions

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON www.dailytrust.com



MINISTER of State for Finance Remi Babalola

FG to slash 2010 budget

FOR an average Nigerian, the budget will only make meaning to him if our roads becomes motor-able, our hospitals are transformed to a status that both the leaders and the led will have confidence in their services, our public schools are equipped with facilities that will make our students compete favorably with their counterparts anywhere in the world and most of all, that the Government should make good their promise of restoring power supply to all Nigerians.

We hope this year's budget will not go the way of the previous budgets that added little or no value to the lives of Nigerians.

Ibrahim T. Ibrahim
elkutigi@gmail.com

Leaders, can't you even imitate what they you when you travel abroad? Just use that to replace all the planning for the 2011 budget.

Usman Ahmed Danbaba
danbaba1986@yahoo.com

'Why Nigeriens flock to Nigeria'

IT baffles my imagination that people still run to Nigeria when Nigerians are running to countries like Yemen, Sao Tome and Principe, Malabo and so on. The immigrants should be shown where greener pastures exist and not a battered economy like Nigeria. This is reverse migration.

Mustafa Ali
mustafaa@yahoo.com

Jonathan visits Zamfara today

IT is indeed an achievement by the present government of the state but it is also disappointing that the potholes on some of the major roads in the state capital only received attention because of the presidential visit. Have they forgotten that it was the people that voted for them and not the President? When will our leaders stop this kind of attitude?

Abdulkadir S. Daura
dauraas@hotmail.com

PSC bows to Jonathan: Ribadu gets back AIG rank

...One trouble too many for Nuhu Ribadu. I am pleased to note his retirement with the rank of Assistant Inspector General of Police. However, I want to ask the Police Service Commission this: whose script were they acting when they dismissed him in the first place? This idea of President Goodluck Jonathan intervening on his behalf is not a good sign of fairness. What happens to the remaining officers who were equally demoted alongside Ribadu? I congratulate Ribadu on his reinstatement. I couldn't explain to my eight year old son who said he wanted to be like Ribadu why Ribadu was dismissed from the police, but I can now explain to him why he has now been reinstated. Perhaps that will encourage him and other younger Nigerians to be courageous, fearless and dedicated to serving mother Nigeria.

Abdulrahman M. Alfa
abdulrahmanalfa@yahoo.com

If Nuhu Ribadu's case is reviewed, what of the other 139 officers demoted along with him? Or is there justice in singling him out for preferential treatment after corruption charges against him have been dropped?

Mustapha
almustash@yahoo.com

We should stop deceiving ourselves in this country. We all know Ribadu was the target of the demotion. Most, if not all demoted, have had their rank restored long ago. For once let us tell the truth. He should be returned to the force fully. The former I.G, Mr. Okiro, had the same promotion as Ribadu. Ribadu is only

being victimized due to his handling of some corruption cases.

Kabiru Adegoke
demoleeng@yahoo.com

This is indeed a bad precedent and certainly it will not augur well for our country. Here is a man who, among 140 others, was promoted unconstitutionally and it was later corrected. He was posted but out of sheer disrespect to the authorities refused to report to his duty post for which he was dismissed. Now all of a sudden everything is reversed just because someone somewhere thinks he is above the law. My question here is what of the remaining 139 who were also demoted? Are they now going to have their cases reversed?

Sunusi Musa
iyando22@yahoo.com

Reinstating Ribadu is a good consideration by the presidency

Ibrahim Fagge
fagetso@yahoo.com

This is ridiculous! Where are the men and women of principle and conscience? What of the reasons given to us by the PSC chairman for dismissing Ribadu? Are the reasons no longer tenable? Was it an error of judgment? How many members of the PSC will now throw in the towel for this shameless act? What will be the fate of other 139 officers that have no Jonathan in Aso Rock? More questions begging for answers.

Babangida Dangora
babangidadangora@yahoo.com

Why is the PSC afraid of reinstating an intelligent and diligent police officer like Malam Nuhu Ribadu?



AIG Nuhu Ribadu

Can anyone tell me one single person accused of a crime that he did not commit by EFCC under Ribadu? This tells you that all the fight against corruption in Nigeria is just a gimmick.

Abdulkadir s. Daura
dauraas@hotmail.com

Congratulations Mr. Ribadu. Regaining your rank as AIG is a great achievement and it's my appeal that the PSC will have to enlist you back into the police force because you are an active gentleman and we Nigerians still need your services.

Abubakar Chika Maru
abubakarsuleiman2009@yahoo.com

So, days into his substantive presidency, Lucky Johnny is already acting out a script. This smells suspiciously like Obasanjo's regime all over again. In Nigeria the more things change, the more they stay

the same.

Abdalla Mohammed
neoteny7@yahoo.com

Ribadu...why the agitation to re-instate him back by the presidency?

Nuraddeen
nuraddeen@hotmail.com

The story of Ribadu's re-instatement portrays how inconsistent the Nigerian Government is. This action now proves to us that all what Ribadu did when he was in EFCC was right. But what I don't understand is where are all the allegations by some Nigerians that he was use to destroy political rivals? I am not against his re-instatement or otherwise but I feel Nigerians need an explanation about whether those allegations are true or not.

Musa
thefacttruth@yahoo.com

Jonathan can run in 2011, NLC says

IT'S high time we ignore our selfish interests and work as a team in order to achieve our set political objectives and also actualize our goals as the political society that we are.

Nigeria being a child of necessity needs a credible hand that will mobilize all possible factors to pull Nigeria to the promise land. If President Goodluck is yearning for 2011 and he is found worthy in terms of accountability, transparency and

above all has gained acceptability by the masses - putting aside all factors of zoning, tribalism and religious sentiments - by all means let him go and we will back him with our prayer and support. We will speak with one voice instead of seeing it as a sacrilege or putting knife to things that held our political struggle together. God Bless Nigeria!

Anara Osim Nzan
osimanara@yahoo.com

By making such a pronouncement, you are in danger of putting the respect the Union has on the line. I assure you that this man have shown no sign of being different from the various steps taken so far.

Mustapha Warabe
miwarabe@yahoo.com

I see no reason why we should keep on disturbing ourselves with the issue

of who is to contest and who is not. Instead, I think we should insist on conducting free and fair polls come 2010 by pressurizing the Federal Government, the National Assembly and the State Assemblies to at least pass into law and implement all the Uwaisu panel recommendations. That will be a stumbling block to a lot of candidates.

Usman Ahmed Danbaba
danbaba1986@yahoo.com

EFCC quizzes PDP deputy chair over Siemens scandal

SO finally we can all look up and hear/see those that contributed to the decadence of NITEL as a government company. The reason why NITEL could not function well to serve Nigerians in the past despite the increased demands for Telecoms in Nigeria since the early 80's can be attributed to the SIEMENS scam and related man-

agement issues. If found guilty, what would happen to the culprits? Will these funds be recovered and used to pay NITEL employees' unpaid salaries and the debts the company owes, or will it go back to the Federation account and be mismanaged once again? Can Nigerians especially, their leaders, change for the better or are we

just going to go down this way until the country becomes bankrupt and start all over again?

Shehun Lapai
lapais@yahoo.ca

What a shameful thing that in this country that the ruling party was a major beneficiary in the 17.5million Euros Siemens bribery scandal,

according to Dr. Bello Haliru. Yet these are the people ruling our dear country. He collected gratification and give it to PDP. Mr. President, please allow the EFCC to do their job. Bode George and Aminu Dabo are already in prison. Let the others join them.

Kabir Ibrahim Gusau
aahlulzikri@yahoo.com



By Tunde Asaju

Suckling on the Doctrine of Necessity

Wicked people, they want to put me in trouble with Yerima's brand of Sharia. Is it my fault that before Nigeria was born, Lord Lugard of accused memory had split my country into two? You don't need a degree in law to know that the penal code operates in my part of the country while the criminal code operates in the other part of Nigeria. We have penal sanctions because our lives are simple, and the criminally minded people of the south had criminal charges waiting as their reward. Is that my fault? And the age of consent differs in the north than in the south, because, as it stands, northern girls develop faster than their southern counterparts.

But see how they are all accusing me of sticking with my brother. Before *nko*, who should I stick with? My enemies? They should never forget Nasir el-Rufai's logic. Accused of nepotism in the revocation and re-allocation of plots in the FCT, the diminutive wisecrack retorted that it is natural to allocate land to friends and family than to feather the nest of enemies. The logic is unbeatable; take care of your friends while you

Why is Babangida suddenly to answer oil windfall questions if not to keep his evil genius fingers off the political pie come 2011?

can because your enemies can always take care of themselves. It's the doctrine of necessity.

Me I have no axe to grind with Yerima. Imagine if my youngest daughter had been schooling in Egypt? She might have been lucky enough to bring me some of those crispy dollar notes and save my household from this grinding poverty which Magnus Kpakol is perpetuating with jerry-curl ease. And my dear country, Nigeria would not have lost that badly needed foreign exchange. I believe that it's only those who lost out in the cash transaction that are crying wolf. If you must charge Yerima for any misdemeanour, it must be economic sabotage – all that dollar for Egypt, *kai*. Sincerely, how many of you critics would not have looked the other way if your daughter or sister had returned home with such booty?

As for me, I have secured my toddlers from the radar of randy assemblymen. It's my own domestic doctrine of necessity. And for size, Yerima did not go to Delta to seek the hand of a toddler in marriage; he knows what Isoko people can do with their sharp cutlasses, so *wetin be una own now?*

At any rate, I find this new obsession with toddler marriages quite funny. Is it because the Sheikh of

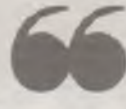
Sharia is involved? Why has nobody accused randy senators and members of paedophilia, is it because the exotic cars of legislators are tinted? The last time I had the misfortune of visiting the National Assembly, I couldn't help noticing the number of Yerima's brides' age grade loitering around the offices like pretty bush allowances. If you think I lie, please check it out. You might be forgiven for thinking its children's day. And if you can't confront the sergeant at arms, when next you see a tainted car with NASS registration number and a toddler sitting pretty at the back cuddling a grey-haired man in heavily starched guinea brocade or *akpooche*, ask the police to stop the car and find out if the toddler is a daughter or a mistress?

Ihear that, when men age, they seek the accompaniment of nubile damsels and if memory has not failed me, I would have asked you to check out at what age the Great *Owelle* of Onitsha himself married his last wife. Or was it because his bride was 16 at the time? Again, it's the doctrine of necessity. I forgive our tendency for selective amnesia in thinking that the doctrine of necessity is David Mark's addition to the political lexicon. It has been there for as long as Methuselah.

Why is Babangida suddenly to answer oil windfall questions if not to keep his evil genius fingers off the political pie come 2011? Suddenly we remember that there is no statute of limitation for corrupt practices here. A few years back, Umar Ghali Na'Abba, the former *Shango* of the House of Representatives and so-called nemesis of Olusegun Obasanjo alleged he was bribed by the wizard of Ota. And to prove it, he splashed a whole wad of stinking Naira notes on the mace. The stench oozed through my television screen, *Allahi*. It was so odious that investigating officers requested that the Naira be taken to a famous dry-cleaning joint. Unfortunately, the machine operator poured acid on it instead of bleach and the cash was cindered. Such small matters never go too far because of the doctrine of necessity.

Wicked people now say that there is an agreement that the north should have an unbroken eight year presidency irrespective of the painful and irreplaceable loss of our dear Yar'Adua. According to the recent interpretation of the doctrine of necessity, this agreement, like so many other things may have to be altered. In this era, the doctrine of necessity is a moving train. And those who remember the proverbial MKO Abiola would take his advice that only a mad man would stand defiantly in front of a moving train. It may not have been the turn of the *Izons* to produce the next president, but don't they say that the cow without tail relies on God to chase off flies? That also is a divine doctrine of necessity.

(tundeasaju@yahoo.co.uk)



By Uche Ezechukwu

The myth of Obasanjo's support for Akunyili

The main opposition party, the Action Congress, recently made a widely-circulated statement declaring the Minister of Information and Communications, Professor Dora Akunyili ineligible for the position of chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). In it, the party's spokesman, Alhaji Lai Mohammed, claimed that Akunyili would be a terrible choice for the position. He asserted that "apart from being a serving cabinet member, Akunyili is a card-carrying member of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). She is also a known loyalist of President Jonathan. These are not the qualities that Nigerians are looking for in the new INEC chair, who must be neutral, non-partisan, honest, fearless and be imbued with a sense of history."

The Action Congress based its opposition to Akunyili on the strength of a report that in *The Nation* newspaper of May 23rd, in which it was alleged that Akunyili was being sponsored and supported for that position by the former President Olusegun Obasanjo. "Obasanjo, the apostle of do-or-die politics, left Nigeria in its worst electoral mess in its 50-year post-independence history. He appointed Maurice Iwu, the worst electoral umpire in Nigeria's history. Any (INEC Chair) candidate who has Obasanjo's tacit support must be treated like a leper", the AC declared.

These outbursts would have made better sense had they not been fraught

The truth is that integrity acquired by birth and over the years cannot just be capriciously jettisoned overnight

with illogicality and avoidable lapses. In the first place, the highly speculative and vague report in a paper that belongs to well-known chieftains of the Action Congress had alleged that President Obasanjo was backing Akunyili for the INEC chairmanship position without any form of attribution or corroboration beyond the dubious "credible sources". The report never cared to elaborate on the details of the Obasanjo's alleged support, nor show any proof thereof, most probably because there is no proof of such allegation.

Obviously, AC was essaying to play on the sentiments of the public which might be honestly wishing that President Jonathan should resist the widely-specified meddlesomeness of the former president, if he is not to inherit the odium which the generality of the citizenry now reserves for Obasanjo. All those frenzied references to the PDP and cabinet membership were all desperate and obtuse attempts to achieve the same aim. But such attempts flopped for the following reasons, apart from the fact that for most Nigerians, AC

cannot boast of a better image than PDP, in the elections conducted where it controls, as Lagos.

In the first place, being a card-carrying member of a political party is not a disqualification for being the chairman of INEC. While most Nigerians would wish that the Uwais Report on Electoral Reforms was passed without further delay to enable Nigeria have non-partisan and independent electoral officers, the fact remains that until that goal is attained, the Constitution demands that any person occupying that position for now, must belong to a political party. While some lawyers argue that Section 156 (1) (a) of our Constitution is one of those grey areas that require further interpretation or amendment, no one can doubt the fact that to be eligible for the chairmanship of INEC, the candidate must be eligible to run for the House of Representatives. Who does not know that to qualify to do that, one must first belong to a political party? Or is the AC inferring that Akunyili should have belonged to AC instead of PDP?

Next point is that because the AC spokesman or anybody for that matter would be unable to proffer a proof that everybody in PDP is evil while everybody in AC is saintly, it would be commonsensical to assume that being a PDP member does not necessarily make one lose his or her integrity. In the case of Dora Akunyili, there are many credible Nigerians who can swear with their lives that her proven integrity would make her the right candidate to ensure that no matter whose ox is gored, she would always stand on the side of the law and justice rather than on the side of her boss or anyone for that matter. Did she not amply prove that fact when she moved against those who were using the condition of the ailing President Yar'adua to threaten the health of the nation? Contrary to the thinking of many people, Akunyili was not doing it for Jonathan or anybody; she was standing up for Nigeria, for justice and for God. It is obvious that she cannot change her principled ways, this late in her life.

The AC argument that Akunyili would bend towards a contesting Jonathan is also dubious and lacking in logic. Why did she not stick with the 'cabal members' because of the fact that Yar'adua had appointed her minister in spite of the well-known Obasanjo's opposition to the appointment in 2007? The truth is that integrity acquired by birth and over the years cannot just be capriciously jettisoned overnight. That was why Dora did not compromise in her fight against product faking even when it was her own Igbo people that were the main perpetrators.

In trying to make a mountain out of a molehill in the reported support by Obasanjo, AC refused to admit the truth which must be available to it, which is that Obasanjo and Dora are like parallel lines which cannot meet. Even in her days at NAFDAC, Obasanjo only acknowledged her tongue-in-cheek, because he hated her no-nonsense guts.

Ezechukwu wrote from Abuja (onukeube1@yahoo.com)



By Gboye Jacob

Jonathan and Bankole: In the national interest

Love works Wonders is the title of one of Bertha M. Clay's many books. This essay however is not about love, but to testify that God indeed works wonders. Truly, He is the God that answers by fire. How can one explain that shortly after a former president of this country proclaimed that our youths are incapable of ruling Nigeria, a young man, son of a fisherman from Ijawland, Goodluck Ebele Jonathan was sworn in as President, and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Africa's largest country.

Again, that is not the focus of this write-up but the ability of the president to attract to himself and the nation the services of other young men to move the nation forward. Take the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Dimeji Bankole. Who still says Nigerian youth have not arrived?

Contrary to the drum of imaginary crisis political jobbers have been beating between the duo, President Jonathan on his first day in office sent a subtle warning to those concerned that to the contrary, he has a lot of confidence in the Speaker and demonstrated that by assigning Bankole to lead the Federal Government delegation to the burial of the late President Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'adua in Katsina. Not only that the speaker was also later to be on the entourage of Mr President to the convocation ceremony of the University of Port Harcourt. But for the fact that both of them are from the Southern part of the country, "Ghana must go" Politicians might have sworn that Jonathan has secretly designated Bankole as Vice President with these moves.

Like King Solomon, Jonathan must have asked God for wisdom to rule over a population of 150 million Nigerians. With the divine guidance, he has been able to confuse, if not silence, the political vampires within and outside the House of Representatives who had wanted to sow seeds of discord between the president and top leadership of the House.

Unfortunately, these "opposite people" did not understand that Jonathan like Bankole, does not believe in perfidy but loyalty. With traducers scratching their heads on how to cause disaffection between the president and speaker wounds, to keen political observers however, the rapport between the duo of the president and the speaker cannot be accidental. An insight to this was given by the president personally during a church service at the National Christian Centre on Sunday May 16th, 2010.

The president as widely reported by some newspapers on Monday May 17th advised Nigerian politicians to demonstrate loyalty and patriotism to the nation, and not him. Drawing from his experience as the Governor of Bayelsa State as reported the Punch same day Jonathan noted that "Nigerians were usually quick to pledge loyalty to a new leader, even through they were plotting to stab you in the back. So I will tell them don't be loyal to me, but be patriotic to the country"

The above has shown that loyalty to the nation and not to individuals is the basis for the cordial relationship between President Jonathan and Speaker Bankole. While Jonathan demonstrated loyalty to the office of the Governor of Bayelsa State during the travails of the then Governor DSP Alamiesiegha, Bankole and the new president demonstrated loyalty to the office of the President of the Federation and not to the person of the late president, during his protracted sickness. While the set of politicians Jonathan has described as "always quick to pledge loyalty" were urging the House to proclaim Yar'adua incapacitated to allow for the ascendancy of Jonathan, Bankole tactfully threaded the path of caution and constitution because to protect the sanctity of the office of the president, irrespective of who is the occupant of that office.

There is no doubt that President Jonathan has justified the confidence of loyalty reposed in him by the late president Yar'adua by refusing to be prompted into a vaulting ambition by the "always quick to pledge loyalty politicians" when they were urging him to take the crown. Nigerians should not forget in a hurry that Jonathan's greatest asset as a politician is loyalty which had earned him the position of the Vice President to Yar'adua.

It may be concluded therefore that Jonathan cherishes loyalty and would therefore want people with a demonstrated record of loyalty and proven political integrity around him. He has found Mark Anthonio in Bankole. The Cascas should keep off. There is no doubt that preserving the good relations between President Jonathan and Speaker Bankole is in the national interest.

Jacob wrote from House 38, Federal Housing, Phase II, Lugbe, Abuja.

Prospects for sustainable development in Africa (II)

By Mohammed Yamma Abdullahi

Cont'd. from yesterday.

However, in spite of this impressive record, education has been unable to escape the crisis afflicting the continent and much of the progress made between 1960s and 1970s had been severely eroded by the crisis of the 1980s and 1990s.

The overall political and economic environment and the consequent brain drain constitute a grave obstacle to Africa's economic and social recovery. If the political and economic factors are stable, and the universities have the necessary leadership and capacity management and administration, the problem of brain drain in Africa would be reduced.

African nations must therefore provide the specific appropriate material incentives, improve political, economic and social conditions, and implement attractive policies that guarantee job satisfaction.

Science and technology are the strategic development efforts

required in the management of Africa's transition from economic crisis to sustainable development.

In the last four decades, there had been a gradual build-up of capacity in science and technology in Africa, especially in the development of human resources. For example, there has been a tremendous growth in the number of universities and research institutes in African countries since independence and the region has made international contribution in some scientific disciplines such as health and agriculture.

However, the science and technology development efforts are still not adequate and have therefore not been reflected in the economic performance of the continent. On the average, per capita income has fallen by about 12 percent since the mid-1980s while Africa's share of world market declined from 2.4 percent in 1970s to 1.3 percent in 1990s which made the de-industrialization process to set in.

Although other developing regions facing the same adverse external factors such as oil shocks and deteriorating capital flows have

progressed, Africa continues to fall behind due to internal factors such as political instability, undemocratic governance, corruption, inappropriate economic strategies and policies which have fallen short of their objectives.

In the last four decades, science and technology activities in Africa have not been systematically linked to the productive sector, thus the impact of S&T on economic development has been insignificant. The S&T system must be managed to respond to the main economic challenges facing each country and the region. Based on the economic crisis in Africa and the development in the international economy pressure must be put on the structural adjustment programmes, the business imperatives of new and emerging technologies and the need for environment protection to improve science and technology in Africa.

Concluded.

Excerpts of a lecture by Dr Abdullahi of Nasarawa State University, Keffi, at the 4th International Conference on Development Studies at University of Abuja, last month.

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

Not so fast

SO on the 2nd Abuja Airport runway, the Bunu committee saved N13bn? Good, but what happens now to all those who prepared the bills? Nigerians are waiting for that and others with similar discoveries. **MA Babakatun, Life Camp, Abuja, 08023082100.**

Bunu's committee report is misleading

LET the committee tell us which Quantity Surveyor prepared the contract Bill of Quantity for the award. There is no quantity surveyor in the Presidential Advisory Committee, which is an omission that could be corrected by the president. Reducing the scope of the 2nd Abuja Airport runway is not the issue, than to let Nigerians have value for the tax payers' money. **MOHAMMED Kabir, 08037035544.**

And this, too

CONGRATULATIONS, Nuhu Ribadu, for getting your AIG rank back, though you'll never wear it again. But what happens to other 139 police officers demoted along with you? **08035960587.**

Is Ribadu the Chosen One?

RESTORE all those that were illegally dismissed in the police, customs, etc. President Jonathan, what are you teaching the youths? Remember how you got up there. **AMINU Bella, 08066051791.**

Responding to the economic meltdown

THE world is still facing economic crisis and signs have started showing in Greece, Spain, England, USA and other nations including Nigeria. As interim measure, Nigeria labour unions should

stop asking for more pay, while all political office holders' salaries and allowances should be cut. They are the highest paid group in Nigeria; they fix their pay. **SULEIMAN Yusuf Doguwa, 08036074100.**

Partisan Daily Trust

YOUR Tuesday editorial has finally exposed your partisanship. It's clear you want PDP to field a Northerner who should be voted for, or else you all move to other parties. What a shame! **DR. Aboh, 08023348334.**

Re: Marriage, Islam and Child's Right Act

DR Aisha Garba Habib's article is a masterpiece. It's an objective analysis of the situation at hand. It's non-political, scientific and religious. God bless her. **YUSUF, ATBU, 08036924729.**

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EDITORIAL

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

Lassa fever outbreak

A recent outbreak of Lassa fever killed seventeen people in Kebbi State. According to officials of the state Ministry of Health, they became aware of the disease when a test on its epidemiology was conducted by the Lagos University Teaching Hospital (LUTH) which confirmed it as Lassa fever. It is said to be currently prevalent in three local government areas of Kebbi State: Augie, Birnin Kebbi and Kalgo. Out of the seventeen fatal cases, the highest with nine occurred in Birnin Kebbi.

Following reports of outbreaks of the Lassa fever in some parts of the country, including the Federal Capital Territory earlier this year, the Senate in a resolution urged the three tiers of government in the country to take appropriate measures to tackle the annual menace. The chairman, National Lassa Fever Stakeholders Forum, Prof. George Akpede, recently declared at a news conference in Abuja that some 51 million Nigerians are at the risk of contracting Lassa fever. Akpede said the number of Lassa fever-related illnesses might reach three million with an annual death of about 58,000.

Lassa fever, an acute viral hemorrhagic fever that was discovered in 1969 in the town of Lassa in Borno State, Nigeria, is transmitted through contact with the faeces or urine of rodents, particularly the shrew. It is associated with persistent high fever caused by the Lassa virus. The fever is endemic in West Africa, causing up to 5,000 deaths annually. Persons of all age groups are susceptible to being infected by the virus. However, those living in areas of poor sanitation and health workers managing infected cases are more at the risk.

The illness usually starts with fever, general weakness and malaise. Other signs and symptoms of Lassa fever include headache, sore throat, pains behind the breast bone, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, cough, abdominal pain and red spots. In severe cases, it may progress to swollen face, bleeding from mouth, nose and groin area, gastrointestinal tract and low blood pressure.

People can also be at risk by eating infected bush rat or eating food contaminated with the rat excreta/urine deposits on surfaces such as floors, beds, household utensils or in grains spread out for drying by farmers along the roads. Person to person spread of the disease also occurs by direct contact or inhalation of infected body fluids such as blood, urine, saliva, throat secretions, etc. The virus may similarly spread through contaminated medical equipment such as re-used needles. Lassa fever is said to be difficult to distinguish from many other diseases which cause fever, including malaria.

Although the control of rodent population may not easily be achievable in the immediate future, members of the public are advised to store their foodstuff and water in rodent-proof containers. Government, especially at the local level should educate them through enlightenment campaigns on how best to handle their foods and water. The public should also be educated on the need to discard any food that is partly eaten by rats; cook all foods thoroughly; block all rat hideouts; desist from burning bushes which could force rodents to move to houses close to the bushy environment. A clean house and environment may help to prevent Lassa fever.

The battle against the disease has been largely hampered by lack of political will and underfunding. Provision of more testing facilities in hospitals across the country should be a priority. Family members and health workers should avoid contact with the blood and body fluids of infected persons while caring for them. Patients suspected to have Lassa fever should be cared for under specific "isolation precautions", which may include the wearing of masks, hand gloves and face shields. Environmental laws should also be enforced by concerned government agencies and officials such that residents who err are made to pay penalties. A deadly disease like Lassa fever cannot keep recurring if we are serious about environmental sanitation. It is the first step to a healthy nation.

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e-mail: opinion@dailytrust.com

Now that a government is in place

Goodluck Jonathan, Nigeria's President swore in his Vice President Namadi Sambo

last Wednesday, and though you cannot by this event say it signalled the dawn of a new era, you must acknowledge that a new page has opened in the country's political life. A government is firmly in place, and Nigeria is one nudge ahead into the prideful position of a stable democratic polity. The country has overcome the threatening challenges of transitioning from the doldrums created by the tragedy of an ailing President with a firm grip on power, and a country still being pulled at its weak seams by primordial cleavages. It is a feat worth celebrating to achieve the steady shift of power to the second in command with all the attendant booby traps. It is a giant leap for a country that constantly totters to the edge of a precipice all too often on mundane dichotomies that have refused to go away. For once, the strength of the country's stability was tested, and for sure there is reason to cheer. The rhyme in the old discarded anthem Nigeria we Hail thee has been tried and tested and in deed, though tribe and tongue differed, Nigerians stood in brotherhood. Democracy has gained depth and political maturity is becoming all encompassing.

To watch and hear Goodluck Jonathan tell his Vice President Sambo patriotic pledges like, "I promise you full cooperation.... I will make sure that we work together as a team..." was the healing balm that the country needed from the tragedy of former President Yar'adua's long illness, absence, and eventual death. The successful transition is a milestone in the emergence of Nigeria as a virile case of the fulfilment of the people's yearning for democratic and responsive governance. The political mood of the nation shows that there is a groundswell of support and unity behind the new government, and expectations are high that the nations pressing maladies will begin to be addressed.

All this is not to say that everything went well. There were ugly red flags. A situation where the Governors were Gunners and pressurized President Jonathan to pick one of

Timawus Mathias

timmathias@yahoo.com

their own, while the Legislators pitched as Red Devils insisting that it must be a lawmaker, was painfully and shamefully typically Nigerian. Leaders are not chosen that way.

A vice president must be made of sterner stuff than being governor or legislator. Good, if he has experienced political office but he must be a competent change agent with a genuine track

conflict with his predecessor now Senator, Ahmed Makarfi. Pundits had touted Makarfi as the likely choice. In arbitration typical of President Ibrahim Babangida, Goodluck Jonathan selected Namadi Sambo and the upper hand was determined. One hopes that the last has been of the Sambo-Makarfi quarrels.

This is only a hope because the conflict was over the political soul of Kaduna State and clearly Sambo is set to gain even more ground from the ceremonies and the protocols of a Vice President coming home to Kaduna on weekends. While it will not be easy for Makarfi to let go on his bid for a firmer political grip of Kaduna, Namadi

“In arbitration typical of President Ibrahim Babangida, Goodluck Jonathan selected Namadi Sambo and the upper hand was determined”

record of delivery on mandate promises. He must be an articulate thoroughbred politician with potential for firmly holding the rudder while the helmsman steers the ship of state into a vision. Sadly Obasanjo's name has to appear in this article like a sore thumb. He it was who in 2007 narrowed our choice of Presidential candidate in the PDP to Governors only. It was obvious then, as it is now, that the PDP as a party is weak and without capacity to set the standards required of the executive and a manifesto (what is that?) for the nation.

If only the Party executive could take their hearts off the phantom contracts and concentrate on the development of sustainable democratic principles; if only the National Assembly could concentrate on ensuring budget implementation according to the law, but that is only if.

In selecting a vice president, Goodluck Jonathan waded into the turbulent political waters of Kaduna State where then Governor Namadi Sambo was in

Sambo can not afford to turn his back either. Much capital will be gained from being constantly within an earshot of the President. Not that this advantage helped Atiku Abubakar for whom Adamawa State has nothing to point at as a compliment of his Vice Presidency. For the benefit of the people of Kaduna State, this feud should truly end and both friends should bury the hatchet and work for the common good of the nation. It behoves President Goodluck Jonathan to see to this.

The sad factor about time is that it keeps passing by. A today hoped-for quickly becomes a yesterday of fading memory. I worry that President Jonathan is spending too much time re-rolling in the appearance of power and not the substance of it. Nigerians want instant noodles of visible change, possible only when the substance of power is exercised. When will the old road go beyond the well known cul-de-sac of hopelessness that past regimes have steered the nation onto after much empty rhetoric?

The Presidential Advisory Committee under Abon TY Danjuma has already laid bare what needs to be done and I believe a work plan that assumed the temporary holding of forte for ailing President Yar'adua was made. Nigerians should begin to see action towards change for the better.

Jonathan and Sambo must get on the good foot with the consciousness that theirs is a short timeframe within which to deliver on the mandate and make impact on the national life.

“If only the Party executive could take their hearts off the phantom contracts and concentrate on the development of sustainable democratic principles”

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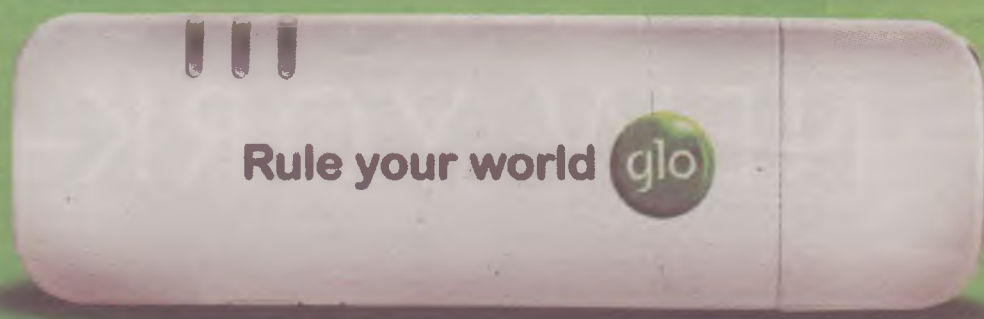
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The Delta logo, featuring a stylized white triangle above the word "DELTA" in a bold, sans-serif font. To the right of the word is the SkyTeam logo, which consists of a circular emblem with a stylized wave and the word "SKYTEAM" written around it.

DELTA 

A photograph of the Brooklyn Bridge at dusk or night. The bridge's massive stone towers and intricate steel suspension cables are silhouetted against a deep blue twilight sky. Warm lights from the bridge's walkways and street lamps create a glow, reflecting on the water below. An American flag is visible atop one of the towers. In the bottom right corner, there is a large, stylized red and white geometric logo.

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AFRICA REPORT

Sudan charges opposition journalist with terrorism

SUDAN has charged a detained opposition journalist with terrorism and espionage and he has been tortured in custody, his lawyers said yesterday.

PCP lawyer Mohamed al-Alim said the deputy editor in chief of the paper, Abu Zur al-Amin, had been charged with terrorism, espionage and destabilising the constitutional system.

Al-Alim said the other three newspaper staff had not been charged so far and Turabi "has not even been questioned".

The government has accused Turabi of directing rebel attacks in the strife-ridden Darfur region.

Al-Alim said al-Amin had been tortured in jail. The PCP sent Reuters a picture of al-Amin's back with a large bruise

which his brother said was from security forces beating him. Al-Amin remains isolated in police custody. A security source denied any torture had occurred. "This absolutely does not happen," the source said.

"The National Congress Party is trying to silence political opponents, the media, and activists to stifle criticism and dissent and consolidate control," said Rona

Pelagal, acting Africa director at Human Rights Watch.

"This repression sends a clear message that, instead of strengthening democracy, the April multi-party elections merely emboldened the party in its abuse." Sudan also reimposed censorship on two papers last week. Much of the northern opposition boycotted the April election, undermining their

credibility. Those who participated rejected the results and accused the NCP of rigging the vote. International observers said the vote did not meet international standards and expressed concern at intimidation, especially in the south.

Bashir is wanted for war crimes -- in Darfur -- by the International Criminal Court, but he rejects its authority.

'Rich nations not meeting aid promises to Africa'



A woman weeps during food distribution in Buge village, Wolayita region in southern Ethiopia in this picture taken on September 8, 2008

A human right group has accused the world's seven industrialized nations for not meeting their promises to double aid to Africa by 2010, a report said yesterday.

ONE Campaign against poverty, supported by U2 singer Bono and rocker Bob Geldof, has provided an annual scorecard of the Group of Seven nations' progress in meeting pledges they made at the 2005 summit in Gleneagles, Scotland.

The G7 leaders' summit promised to increase aid by up to \$50 billion from \$25 billion, write off the debts of 18 of the world's poorest countries, and cut trade subsidies and tariffs under the Doha round of global trade negotiations.

A final verdict on the Gleneagles targets may only be forthcoming next year, but ONE Campaign said it had enough data to show that the G7 -- Britain, the United States, Germany, France, Canada, Italy and Japan -- fell short of its promises.

The report said Italy was "an utter failure" as a G7 member, saying it had retreated on its promises by cutting aid from 2004 levels, which brought down the G7 average.

ONE declared Britain "the indisputable overall leader" in meeting the Gleneagles commitments and said the United States, Canada and Japan delivered on, and surpassed, modest targets. France and Germany both set ambitious targets but are on course to deliver on only a quarter of them.

The report called for a new era of development to meet the UN's Millennium Development Goals, in which more than 150 heads of state signed on to eight goals that include halving poverty by 2015.

The report said G7 members are on track to provide a combined \$13.7 billion of the \$22.6 billion in aid they promised at the G7 summit.

These figures are based on a projected \$3.8 billion in aid from G7 in 2010, according to budget calculations and discussions with G7 governments, the report said.

It said the G7 had fulfilled its promise to cancel the debts of the poorest countries but failed on its trade commitments as momentum to complete the Doha round dissipated. The report said where aid had been delivered the results had been impressive in providing drugs to fight HIV/AIDS and to reduce deaths from malaria, Africa's biggest killer.

Ethiopia's Meles urges recognition of poll result

ETHIOPIAN Prime Minister Meles Zenawi urged foreign nations yesterday to respect his landslide election win and told the opposition they would be consulted on decisions of national concern.

The country's electoral board told state television the ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) and allies had won 477 seats out of 479 declared, giving Meles an overwhelming majority in the 547-member parliament.

"Even if you don't have seats in parliament we promise to consult you on issues of national concern. We consider you an important part of this renaissance," Meles said, reaching out to opposition leaders at a victory rally in Addis Ababa.

Meles told tens of thousands of cheering supporters that foreign forces could not overturn the outcome of the poll in this Horn of Africa nation and key Washington ally and warned against any post-election bloodshed.

A European Union observer mission, however, said the election was marred by the EPRDF's use of state resources for campaigning, putting the opposition at a disadvantage ahead of the vote, but this did not mean the count itself was invalid.

"Everyone was equal, but some were more equal than others," chief observer Thijs Berman told a news conference, saying the poll fell short of some international standards. "The European Union observation mission considers that the playing field for the 2010 election was not sufficiently balanced, leaning in favour of the ruling party in many areas."

Middle East



POLICE could not immediately give details on how much was stolen in the robberies.

Gunmen kill 14 in Baghdad jewellery robbery

DARING gunmen swooped on jewellers in the Iraqi capital in a brazen morning rampage yesterday, killing at least fourteen people, including one policeman, and bombing five stores after robbing them. They robbed the shops along a street in the Bayaa neighbourhood of southwest Baghdad and shot the owners and staff, with one of the assailants dying in an ensuing shootout with security forces.

"More than 10 gunmen in civilian clothes, carrying silencers and machine-guns, entered" Ashreen street, Bayaa's main thoroughfare, having bypassed strict security controls, an interior ministry official said, on condition of anonymity.

The ministry official and witnesses interviewed by AFP at the scene said the men launched their attack by throwing stun grenades into the targeted shops to cause panic. Most of the gunmen stood guard outside and fended off security forces from a nearby checkpoint and a passing police patrol as their fellow assailants entered the stores.

"Then they went into the shops, robbed everything, and killed the owners," the ministry official said. "Afterwards they ran away -- there were cars waiting for them." Police could not immediately give details on how much was stolen in the robberies. "Security forces killed one of the assailants and found in his possession a bag filled with gold and jewels," said Atta.

American tourists kidnapped in Yemen freed

AN American couple kidnapped in Yemen have been released, government officials have said. The tourists were seized on Monday along with their driver and tour guide as they drove near the capital Sanaa.

The kidnapers, from one of Yemen's many powerful clans, demanded the government release a jailed tribesman.

The US government had said the kidnapping of the US nationals - a man and a woman - was "not believed to be terrorism related". Yemen's tribes frequently kidnap people to gain leverage in rows with Sanaa.

Air raid kills Yemen al-Qaeda mediator

A local government official in Yemen has been killed in an air strike aimed at the al-Qaeda militant whom he was meeting.

Local tribesmen then blew up an oil pipeline in retaliation for the death of Jaber Ali al-Shabwani, the deputy governor of Maarib province. He had been trying to get a key al-Qaeda militant

to surrender, reports said. The militant, named as Mohammed Said bin Jordan, was injured but escaped. Three of Mr Shabwani's bodyguards were also killed in the bombing, security sources told reporters. The Yemen army had meant to bomb the farm but hit the deputy governor's car instead, Reuters reported. Armed mem-

bers of the al-Shabwan tribe then attacked a pipeline that links a nearby oilfield with a Red Sea port of Al-Salif.

They blew up the pipeline with rocket-propelled grenades, and then struck at army units who came to repel them. Maarib province is believed to be an al-Qaeda stronghold.

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May you continue to keep the flag flying as you lead the state to her desired position.

His Excellency,
Mr. Patrick Ibrahim Yakowa
(Dan Masanin Gwong)
Executive Governor of Kaduna State



Mr Philip A. Ashin
PDP Chairman,
Kaura Local Government

Signed:



Barr. James A. Kanyib
Chairman,
Kaura Local Government

Compass, Tribune, Leadership & Ekiti Tribunal Judgment

By Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu

My attention has been drawn to a news story in *Leadership* newspaper (Sunday 23 May 2010), headlined "Tinubu deploys N500 million to discredit Ekiti Tribunal judgment" (page 2); sourced from an opinion piece, "Ekiti Election: Tinubu, Salami and pecuniary interests" (p.67) of the same issue. This same opinion piece, by the same writer, one so-called Segun Akintola, titled: "Ekiti and the politics of Appeal Court composition," was repeated in the *Nigerian Compass* of Friday 21 May 2010 (back page) and in the *Nigerian Tribune* issue of Sunday 23 May 2010. All are aimed at starting an illicit campaign to stall the impending appeal of Dr. Kayode Fayemi, the Action Congress (AC) gubernatorial candidate in the 2007 election, using me as a distraction.

From the style of writing, all stories appear to come from the same source, which is linked to the Public Communications Bureau of the Ekiti State government. "Dr. Kazeem Adekunle", who purportedly heads an unregistered Elections Transparency Group (ETG), and "Segun Akintola" are pseudonyms from the same stable. The ETG itself is a Trojan horse that feigns disinterestedness in the matter, given its name, but is really a battle ship to fight the Ekiti Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) attempt to keep a stolen mandate and seek to destroy anyone perceived as standing in the way.

In its story, *Leadership*, quoting "Dr. Kazeem Adekunle" and his ETG, claimed that I had budgeted N500 million to allegedly discredit the Ekiti tribunal judgment, in the run-up to Dr. Fayemi's appeal. It claimed I held a meeting with some Senior Advocates of Nigeria (SANs) and some other eminent citizens, including the Chief Judge of Lagos State, Justice Inumidun Akande, at a hotel in Ajah, Lagos, to consummate the plot.

While I leave other distinguished Nigerians so mentioned to defend themselves (and in fact, many of them have already started the processes to sue the newspapers), it is important to state that on the day the meeting was alleged (20 May 2010) to have taken place, I was in Abuja, on merger talks with some friendly political parties, under the auspices of the National Democratic Movement – and most Nigerian newspapers so reported. So, the so-called meeting is a figment of their infantile imagination.

But a trend is clear here. This same ETG, led by "Dr. Kazeem Adekunle" had claimed, in an advertorial in the Monday 19 April 2010 of *Nigerian Tribune*, that I had amassed a war chest of a hefty sum of N4 billion to allegedly compromise justices of the two tribunals in Ekiti and Osun states. But when the Ekiti Tribunal judgment came out in their favour, they have now started another campaign of calumny against everyone,

perceived to be a threat to their scheme. So, the person that allegedly amassed a N4 billion war chest to compromise judges, after losing the case, has now built another N500 million to discredit the judgment and influence the appeal! What balderdash!

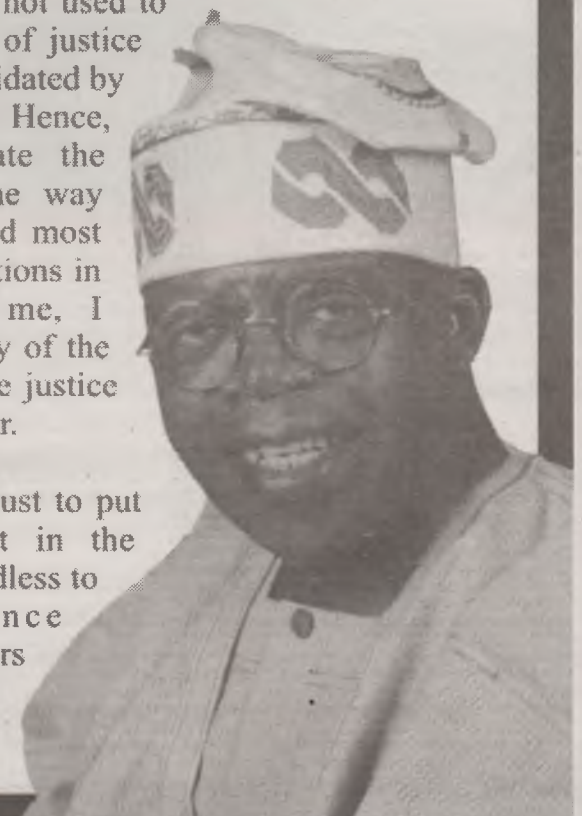
It is obvious that the guilty are afraid and their mission is so clear: it is to stall the judicial process by blackmailing the judicial authorities with a situation where the case would be hanged and may never be heard at all, so that those who have stolen the people's mandate can continue to enjoy the filthy lucre and illegitimacy. This habit of using phony organizations and pseudonyms to publish libelous, fabricated and ridiculous stories, calculated to tie the hands of the judiciary, must be resisted.

The *Nigerian Compass* and *Nigerian Tribune* stories, using the same false organizations and pseudonyms to deceive the unsuspecting readers, also share the same blackmailing tendencies. It is nothing but an attempt to disparage the judiciary and bring it to the gutter, where these publications and their sponsors belong.

Stories about my familiarity with some judges are not new. They are tales by moonlight, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing. It is written by the same people who claimed I was in Lagos when newspapers reported correctly that I was in Abuja attending the merger talks between our party and others. Pray, can one person be in different places at the same time?

My passion for pursuing the cause of justice remains unassailable. As a governor of Lagos State between 1999 and 2007, I took the federal government to court on what I considered as the unjust treatment of the people of Lagos State and other states. I won most of the cases. It is only those who are not used to pursuing the cause of justice who would be intimidated by the judicial process. Hence, they must desecrate the judicial process, the way they have desecrated most of the public institutions in their states. For me, I believe in the ability of the judiciary to dispense justice without fear or favour.

This advertorial is just to put the record straight in the public domain. Needless to say, I have since instructed my lawyers to institute action against the three publications.





Late Mrs Naomi Zira

Obituary

Announcement

The Governing board and the entire staff of **Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria**, Yaba, Lagos wish to announce the passing on to glory of our cherished and beloved former board member **Late Mrs Naomi Zira** on the 30th April, 2010 and has been buried on 5th May, 2010.

Signed
MANAGEMENT



Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA)
Groupe Intergouvernemental d'Action contre le Blanchiment d'Argent en Afrique de l'Ouest (GIABA)
Grupo Inter Governamental de Acção contra o Branqueamento de Dinheiro em África Ocidental

GIABA WORLD PRESS CONFERENCE, OPEN HOUSE FORUM AND INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH MEDIA EXECUTIVES IN WEST AFRICA

The Inter-Government Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA) is a specialized institution of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) as well as Financial Action Task Force (FATF) – Style Regional Body with its headquarters located in Dakar, the Republic of Senegal. GIABA's mandate is to foster cooperation amongst ECOWAS member States to implement the FATF 40+9 Recommendations as well other acceptable international standards to prevent the misuse of their economies to the purposes of laundering the proceeds of crimes and financing of terrorism.

GIABA invites stakeholders in the fight against money laundering and financing of terrorism and the general public to attend an International Press Conference, interactive session with media executives in West Africa and an Open House Forum to be addressed by the Director General of GIABA, Dr Abdullahi Shehu slated to hold as follows:-

Date: Thursday, May 27, 2010
Venue: Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Centre, Abuja, Nigeria
Time: 10:00 am

OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of the event is to present to member States of the ECOWAS and the international community the following important reports:-

1. GIABA 2009 Annual Report.
2. Report of the study on Corruption-Money Laundering nexus.
3. Report on the Threat Assessment on Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing in West Africa.

The above mentioned reports revealed critical issues of interest to policy makers, diplomats, private sector operators, legal, law enforcement, regulatory officials and journalists, especially, curious financial and economic crime reporters, who are interested in exploring the negative impacts of transnational organized crimes, in particular, corruption and money laundering on sustainable development.

You cannot afford to miss this opportunity.

COME ONE!

COME ALL!!

Dr Abdullahi Shehu
Director General, GIABA

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ACTION GROUP AGAINST MONEY LAUNDERING IN WEST AFRICA
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S/NO	MODEL	QUANTITY
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3	FRESENIUS A 2008c	THREE (3)

Interested buyers are hereby advised to contact the Coordinator, UMTH Kidney Centre to inspect the items within two (2) weeks of this publication. The prospective buyers are however requested to communicate their interest to the Director of Administration in writing within four (4) weeks of inspection.

Signed:
Management

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World

Turkey coach crash kills Russian tourists

SIXTEEN people have been killed in a coach crash in Turkey's Mediterranean province of Antalya, Turkish and Russian officials say. In Moscow, a Russian tour operators' association said an 11-year-old boy had died and that all five children on the bus lost their parents in the crash, the Interfax News Agency reported.

"The bus hit the bridge railings, broke the railings... and then plunged into the stream," Seyman told the Anatolia news agency.

Television footage showed the vehicle lying upside down in what appeared to be

an almost dried-out stream bed.

The cause of the accident "appears to be carelessness" by the driver, Seyman told Anatolia, while the NTV news channel said the man had fallen asleep.

Tourism Minister Ertugrul Gunay, who flew to Antalya to visit the injured, raised also the possibility that the driver might have suffered a sudden health problem.

"We have issued warnings in the past that drivers should not be put on working schedules that may cause over exhaustion and that old vehicles should not be used," Gunay said in televised remarks.



THE vehicle ended up upside down in what appeared to be an almost dried-up stream bed.



NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL (NECO)

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Prof. Promise Okpala
Registrar/Chief executive



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Former Head of State

DAY ONE

1 **Arbitration in the Resolution of Maritime Disputes**
Resource Person:
Mrs. Doyin Rhodes-Vivour
(President, Maritime Arbitration Association of Nigeria)

Commentator
Chief Bayo Ojo SAN
Chairman, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators,
Nigeria Branch

2 **Legal Aspects of Piracy**
Resource Person:
Mr. Louis. N. Mbanefo SAN
Mbanefo & Mbanefo

DAY TWO

3 **Arrest and Detention of Vessels & Crew**
Resource Persons:
i. **Hon. Justice O. Okeke**
Judge, Federal High Court

ii. **Mr. L. Chidi Ilogu**
Principal Partner
Foundation Chambers, Lagos.

iii. **Abdul Salam Mohammed**
Managing Director
Nigerian Ports Authority

Commentator
Mrs. Oritsematosan Edodo-Emore
Oritsematosan Edodo, Thorpe & Associates

4 **The New Federal High Court Rules - Matters Arising**
Resource Person:
Mrs. Omolola Ikwuagwu
(George Ikoli & Okagbue)

Commentator
Hon. Justice A. O. Faji
Judge, Federal High Court

DAY THREE

5 **Carriage of Goods and Passengers by Air**
Resource Person:
Mr. Pekun Sowole
(Pekun Sowole & Co. Solicitors Advocates & Notaries Public)

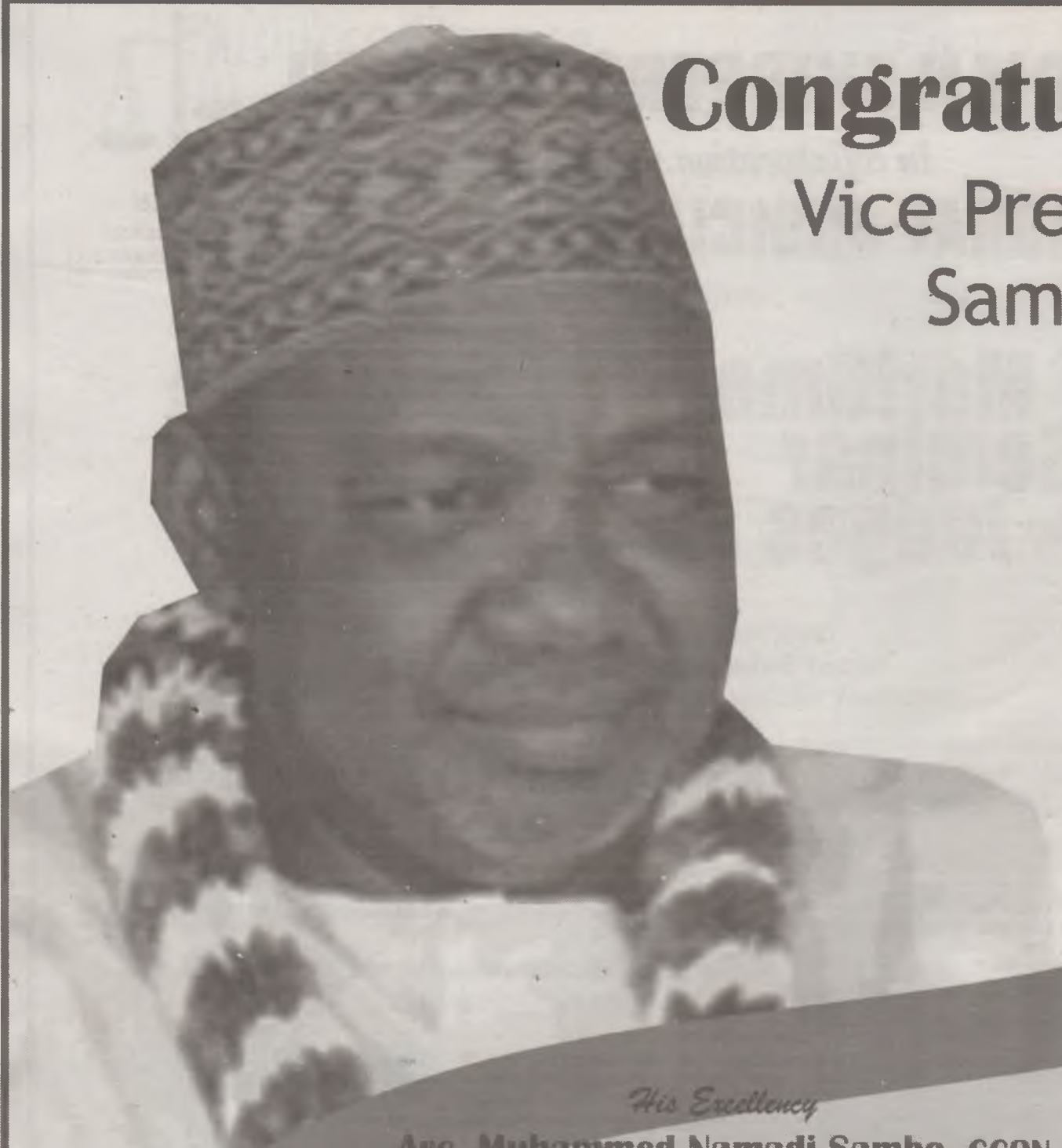
Commentator
Mrs. Bridget Gold
Company Secretary
Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria

6 **The Rotterdam Rules: An Overview**
Resource Person:
Mr. Kofi Mbiah
Managing Director
Ghana Shippers' Council

Commentator
Mr. Hassan Bello
Director, Legal Services, Nigerian Shippers' Council

Venue: Sheraton Hotel & Towers Abuja
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Congratulations

Vice President Sambo

His Excellency

Arc. Muhammed Namadi Sambo, GCON
Vice President, Federal Republic of Nigeria

We hereby congratulate His Excellency, Architect Namadi Sambo, on his assumption of duty as the vice president of our great country.

We believe that your appointment, legislative clearance and inauguration without any hitch are clear demonstration of the fact that our country is waxing stronger in its democratic journey.

Your emergence has made all Nigerians proud by demonstrating, again, that Nigerians, on their own can choose their own leaders on their own terms, in an ordered manner.

It is also a measure of the confidence reposed in you by the President, the National Assembly, your party and indeed millions of Nigerians.

As a man who has served Kaduna State well as governor, and who believes in a great future for our country, we hope that you will deploy all your energies and talents in working with President Goodluck Jonathan in the arduous but urgent task of putting our country on the path of sustainable development.

There is great expectation in the land. You and President Jonathan carry the burden and hopes of Nigerians here at home and in the Diaspora. Even though the administration has very little time, Nigerians and the international community expect that you and the President constitute a solid team capable of confronting the immediate challenges facing the most populous black nation on earth.

We recall with extreme pride the recent visit to Kaduna State of the NGF peer review delegation where we witnessed first hand your landmark achievements, from the massive infrastructural developments, rehabilitation of the train service, to the commendable interventions in education (particularly the almajiri pilot programme), health, and poverty alleviation. We also observed the superb cordial relationship you had with your then deputy: Mr. Patrick Yakowa.

We have no doubt that Your Excellency would excel in your new assignment and we assure you of our continued loyalty and co-operation.

We urge you to solidly back President Jonathan in his determination to reform the electoral system and conduct free and fair election next year. As chairman of the National Economic Council, we expect that your team, which has your former colleagues in the NGF as members, will take drastic measures capable of transforming our country into African's economic powerhouse and industrial giant. As you know, one of the ways we can achieve that is by solving the problem of epileptic power supply in our country.

Once again, congratulations!



Nigeria Governors' Forum

Asishana Okauru
Director-General

BUSINESS

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Eterna Oil appoints Mahmud Tukur new MD

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

AN indigenous downstream oil company, Eterna Plc has announced the appointment of Mr. Mahmud Bamanga Tukur as its new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Mahmud is son of the chairman of the African Business Round Table and former governor of old Gongola State, Alhaji Bamanga Tukur.

At a news conference yesterday at its headquarters in Lagos, the company said Tukur's appointment is part of a succession plan which the Board of Eterna started recently to ensure that the long term strategic goals of the company are sustained.

Tukur, a joint graduate of Accounting and Management from the Business School of the University of Wales, College, Cardiff took over from Mr. Ibrahim Boyi after five years service to the company.

The new helmsman of the company has a solid track record of business success, well developed organizational skills and has garnered skills and experience spanning over 16 years in the oil and gas and maritime sectors.

He has also served for a number of years

as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Daddo Maritime Services Limited, Vice Chairman of Ecomarine Group, a shipping line and Terminal Operator with operations throughout West Africa and Executive Director of Independent Energy Limited.

Speaking, Tukur said his appointment would be a transition to that of his predecessor with a long term aspiration to grow the company in the nation's oil and gas sector.

Meanwhile, the company has announced N6,376,629 million as its turnover for the first quarter ended 31st March, 2010, representing 250% leap over N1,820,786 its performance in the corresponding period last year. Its Gross Profit and Profit After Tax during the period under review stood at N442.194million and 238.413million respectively.

Eterna Plc says it has won a N2.2billion for the supply of Fuel Oil to Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) thermal station to supplement gas supply for electricity generation in the country.

The supply contract, according to the indigenous oil and gas Company, is billed to be executed in 90 days.

Railways: New locomotive engine arrives Kano

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

THE Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) said on Tuesday that its new locomotive engine and other facilities have arrived Kano preparatory to the commencement of the Challawa-Kano intra-city mass transit train service.

The locomotive, built by General Electric is one of the five brand new locomotives received by the NRC in its bid to revive the rail system in the country.

The locomotive engine which was safely transported from Lagos to Kano will be joined to the refurbished power cars and coaches from Zaria for the making of the train in preparedness for the relaunch of mass transit rail transportation in the city.

NRC managing director, Adeseyi Sijuwade, however expressed his delight at the safe arrival of the locomotive engine and likened it to the child's first steps in life.

"The arrival of the locomotive engine in Kano signifies the success of the first steps in our efforts towards launching a new era in rail transport system in Nigeria," he said. He stated that the robustly built locomotive has design adaptability to the corporation's existing 1067mm cape gauge. "All C25-EMPD locomotive engines were specifically manufactured to be resilient and dependable in tropical domain such as ours. They comply with Nigeria's weight per axle and clearance characteristics", he added. The locomotive engines, whose model is C25-EMPD, have the GE's 7FDL12-cylinder reliability. Each of the 2,500-horse power locomotive engines can run at a speed of 103 kilometers per hour; weighs 105.9 metric tons and has a bogie-to-bogie weight distribution to ensure balance while running and stabling.

Speaking about readiness for the Kano launch, Sijuwade further said that the corporation has completed construction of two new halt stations with platforms in Gandu-Albasa and Zawa-ciki, installed six level crossing barriers as well as signals and telecommunications facilities along the Challawa-Kano route to ensure hitch-free operations. The corporation has also concluded training of newly employed junior staff while equipping its operational staff with new uniforms.

The Nigerian Railway Corporation recently embarked on a holistic rehabilitation of all its facilities across the six major operational zones to launch a rejuvenated rail transport system and bring back the glorious days of NRC in the country.

BRIEF

'Nigerians to pay more for electric power'

By Fidelis Mac-Leva

NIGERIANS must brace up for higher electricity tariff because the anticipated review would be done to reflect the cost of power generation, Minister of State for Power, Nuhu Somo Wya, has declared.

Fielding journalists' questions after declaring open a workshop on Rural Access and Renewable Energy in Abuja yesterday, the Minister said electricity tariffs were cost reflective and Nigerians must be prepared to pay more in order to encourage the economy.

"Nigerians would get improved power supply only if the regulations are put in proper perspectives. We must review the tariff to reflect the cost of power generation. You cannot use 10 percent to generate power and expect it to be supplied at 6 percent. The operators would not be encouraged", Wya said.

He said Nigeria was facing challenges of imbalance between electricity supply and demand with an attendant low access of about 40 percent in the rural areas.

STOCK MARKET INDEX

Date:	Tuesday, May 25, 2010
Index:	26,400.62
Deals:	17,002
Volume:	412,989,851
Value:	N4,543,237,968.12
Cap:	N6,421,665,451,274.24

TRUST INDEX

Inflation	12.5%
GDP	6.68%
Budget	N4.6tr
Ext. Reserves Acct	\$40.1bn
Excess Crude Acct	\$4.3bn
Poverty Ratio	54.4%
Monetary Policy Rate	6%
Banks	24
Oil Price	\$70 a barrel
Power Supply	3,600MW
Oil output per day	2.6mbd
Broad Money Supply	N11,010,063.6m
Credit to Private Sector	N10,037,422.5m
Inter-Bank Rate	1.2200%
Treasury Bills	1.3%
Deposit Rate	7.51%
Prime Lending Rate	18.06%

CBN EXCHANGE RATES

24/5/2010	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)
CFA	0.2628	0.2728	0.2828
DANISH KRONER	24.5574	24.6501	24.7436
EURO	183.0039	183.6227	184.2415
POUNDS STERLING	212.3117	213.0296	213.7475
RIYAL	39.432	39.5654	39.6987
SDR	217.9012	218.638	219.3748
SWISS FRANC	127.5731	128.0045	128.4359
US DOLLAR	147.87	148.37	148.87
WAUA	218.0651	218.8025	219.5398
YEN	1.6379	1.6435	1.649

Bureau de Change Rates

BUYING	
Dollar	N152
Euro	N190
Pound	N225
SELLING	
Dollar	N154
Euro	N193
Pound	N228

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



CBN

Business/Agric

Livestock farming

Infection: Farmers get compensation

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

GRAND Cereals and Oil Mills Limited (GCOML), a subsidiary of UAC of Nigeria Plc and makers of Vital Feeds, and Nigeria Agricultural Insurance Corporation (NAIC) have compensated farmers who suffered losses due to infection of their livestock caused by Marek Disease, a viral infection common with birds.

The farms affected by the disease and duly compensated include: Janesh Farm situated at Akwanga, Nassarawa State; Anamonye Farms Ltd; and Planglan Poultry Farm.

The farmers were compensated according to the number of birds lost to the dreaded disease.

Speaking during the presentation ceremony at Janesh Farm, Akwanga, Austin Dalyop, Marketing Manager, GCOML stated that the challenge militating against poultry farming in Nigeria and the world is the emergence of new animal disease and the re-emergence of old ones.

According to a statement, Dalyop said several farmers have lost their means of livelihood to some of these diseases.

According to him, Marek disease usually affects two to five months old birds and causes lymphoid tumours with symptoms varying according to the position of the tumour.

He explained that once contracted, the nerves of the birds are affected and spastic paralysis occurs either in the legs, wings, or neck.

He said in order to forestall this unpredictability and reduce the losses of farmers, Grand Cereals & Oil Mill Limited, in conjunction with Nigeria Agricultural Insurance Corporation (NAIC) now insures poultry farmers free of charge.

At the event, Mrs. Barki Sameel, Farm Manager, Janesh Farm received a cheque of N1.2million as compensation for the loss of 1,300 birds. Rev. Stephen Okolie of Anamonye Farms Ltd., was presented with a cheque of N259,689.60 for 300 birds while Mrs. Josephine Shike, owner of Planglan Poultry Farm who suffered a loss of 200 birds received N158,961.00.



LIVESTOCK farming is not attractive to African farmers, agriculture ministers in Africa said.

Livestock farming unattractive in Africa

By Tina A. Hassan

LIVESTOCK farming is not attractive to African farmers, agriculture ministers in Africa have said.

Minister of State for Agriculture and Rural Development Najeem Adewale said current policies and institutional environments in the animal sector are not conducive making it unattractive to private sector.

He was speaking at the 8th conference of African Ministers of Agricultural in charge of Animal resources

held in Kampala, the Ugandan capital with the aim of improving access to markets for African animal resources for economic growth and poverty reduction.

A statement signed by Ibrahim Mohammed for the Assistant Director of Press said that Adewale expressed displeasure at the low level of investment by both the private and public sector in animal resources development.

He said there is need for reliable and accurate data, tools and mecha-

nisms required in ensuring international best practices and developing quality investment plans.

He observed that the poor competitiveness of African producers in domestic, regional and global markets as a result of poor infrastructure, legislative barriers, persistence of non-tariff barriers including sanitary regulations, inadequate market intelligence and limited involvement of stakeholders along the value chain constitute a lot of encumbrances to effective livestock development.

NAFDAC destroys rotten fish worth N3.5m

THE National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) said in Port Harcourt on Monday that it had destroyed imported rotten fish worth N3.5 million.

The Deputy Director, Ports Inspection, Mrs Oluremi Olarewaju, said the 20 feet container load of the rotten frozen fish was imported from Norway by Bharat Ventures Ltd. based in Lagos.

She noted that the 1,260 cartons of fro-

zen Horse Mackerel fish was inspected at Onne Port in Port Harcourt by NAFDAC officials in February and found to be rotten and accordingly impounded.

The deputy director, who spoke with newsmen at the destruction site in Port Harcourt, noted that on further inspection, the fish was found to be defrosted, rotten and smelling.

Olarewaju said the fish got spoiled in the high seas before it got into the

country and attributed it to the malfunction of the cooling system of the container.

She disclosed that due to bad storage system, out of 15 containers of frozen fish imported by the company, one container of 1,260 cartons of fish worth N3.5 million went bad.

She then advised fish importers to ensure that their storage systems were in perfect order to avoid wasting their resources. (NAN)

Cattle routes checked farmer, grazer conflicts in Yobe'

DR. Mustapha Gaidam, Programme Manager, Yobe State Livestock Development Programme, says the establishment of 222km of stock routes in the state will stem the rate of farmer/grazer conflicts.

Gaidam said in Damaturu on Sunday that the programme in conjunction with

farmers and Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association demarcated and protected the routes against trespass.

He said "the 130km Badegana to Ngelzarma, 50km Jakusko to Gogaram and 42km Nguru to Gumsi stock routes have taken care of conflicts in these areas with large concentration

of animals.

"Trespass into cattle routes by farmers or grazers' incursion into farms had been the major cause of conflicts between farmers and grazers.

"The stock routes adequately took care of this problem last year and I am optimistic it will continue this year."

Agricultural commodity average prices as collected by Abuja securities and commodity exchange on May 23, 2010

Commodity	Variety	Location	Price/Ton (Naira)
Palm Produce	Palm Oil	Benin	200,000.00
	P.K.O	(Edo State)	185,000.00
Cocoa	Palm Kernel	Akure	55,000.00
	Graded	(Ondo State)	320,000.00
Maize	Ungraded	Bodija	315,000.00
	White	(Oyo State)	58,163.00
Maize	Yellow	Mangu	71,428.00
	White	Plateau State	48,000.00
Maize	Yellow	Dawanau	52,000.00
	White	(Kano State)	53,000.00
Sorghum	Yellow	Dawanau	46,000.00
	Red	(Kano State)	46,000.00
Soyabeans		Gboko, Benue State	N.A
		Dawanau Kano State	55,000.00
Sesame	Cleaned	Dawanau	60,000.00
	Uncleaned	(Kano State)	150,000.00
Sesame	Cleaned	Gboko	142,000.00
	Uncleaned	Benue State	150,000.00
Sesame	Cleaned	Mangu	N.A
	Uncleaned	Plateau State	160,000.00
Sesame	Cleaned	Muna	N.A
	Uncleaned	(Borno State)	147,000.00
Groundnut	Shelled	Mai Bargo	N.A
	Unshelled	Bahaushiya	120,000.00
Groundnut	Shelled	Dawanau	108,000.00
	Unshelled	Kano State	N.A
Groundnut	Shelled	Dakar	136,905.00
	Unshelled	Kampala Muna	129,000.00
Groundnut	Shelled	(Borno State)	107,337.00
	Unshelled	Agric	126,000.00
Groundnut	Shelled	Native Gboko	126,000.00
	Unshelled	(Benue State)	45,000.00
Gum Arabi	Grade 1	Muna	190,000.00
	Grade 2	(Borno State)	115,000.00
	Grade 3		N.A

N.A means Not Available
Palm Oil is from New Benin Market
Palm Kernel is from Ikpoba Hill market

Congratulations



To
 His Excellency,
Alhaji Muhammadu Danjuma Goje, the Executive Governor of Gombe State on your successful hosting of Mr President, Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria,
Dr Goodluck Ebele Jonathan GCFR to a befitting First Convocation ceremony for Gombe State University which took place on Saturday May 22nd, 2010.

With this achievement, your name has been written in **GOLD**. We pray to Almighty God to continue to bless and guard you and the good people of Gombe State to the promise land. The Waja people are solemnly behind you.

His Excellency,
Dr. Muhammadu Danjuma Goje
 (Sarkin Yakin Gombe)
 Executive Governor, Gombe State

*Long Live Waja Community,
 Long Live Gombe State,
 Long Live Federal Republic of Nigeria*



Ishaya Adamu Jagafa MFR mni
 Deputy Controller of Prisons (rtd)

Star Feature

Inside Kano's Unguwa Uku motor park

Everyday, touts create a mayhem of sorts at Kano's Unguwa Uku motor park. **Lawan Danjuma Adamu** reports

THE University of Jos Theatre Arts student was in a hurry to catch the available vehicle back to school in Plateau State, after attending a wedding ceremony in Kano over the weekend. But as the motorcycle taking her to Unguwa Uku motor park, pulled over for the lady to come down a few metres away from the park entrance, about a dozen touts who were hunting for would-be travelers along Zaria Road, accosted the motorbike.

For some minutes, altercations on who first approached Sarah Chunduk (not real name), her destination and whose vehicle she would travel in, ensued among the touts and rent the air. Finally, she was won over by a slim and shabbily dressed young man, who quickly requested to help with her water bottle, an act that was apparently aimed at putting usurpers at bay, by showing absolute 'ownership' of the passenger. But just as she trailed behind him towards the loading area, another tout appeared and started telling her to drop the choice of traveling in a bus, and join his master's wagon instead. "Bus does not fit your status," he tried to convince her.

In a rude manner, her 'captor' who was leading her to a loading point, abandoned their target to explain, in strong terms, why the intruder should stay away from his catch. But while she remained docile and quiet as a fight to convey her to Jos was about to break out, Sarah manifested preference for travelling in a car, and the potential usurper had taken note of it. So he flouted the warning from his rival, and continued with his desperate plea to her.

Soon, the two touts started exchanging hot words, after which Sarah's guide removed his Kaftan and blows started to fly from either direction. When the territorial bout ended, Sarah meekly followed the tout that first got her to his Jos bound bus.

In the fierce and primitive battle for passengers that is raging on a daily basis at Unguwa Uku International Motor Park, and

judging from accounts of other travelers, the theatre arts student can be said to have been treated fairly, not minding the fact that the choice of the vehicle to travel in, was made by someone else for her. Perhaps, she might have been deprived of an opportunity to return to school with a script for the semester.

The disorderliness at the motor park becomes obvious as one approaches its entrance. The park itself is situated almost opposite the Federal Government College Kano. Although there is no signboard to show the location and direction of the park, the place can be made out from the motley touts, mostly youths that almost take over the section of the Zaria Road expressway near it. When vehicles or motorcycles conveying passengers drive by, the youths will throng them like ants over sugar. Often, they are forced to drop the passengers outside the motor park, where they will be practically subjected to hostile treatments. Passengers, who inadvertently made the mistake of revealing their destinations, could risk being wrestled to a vehicle by force.

Seldom have travellers encountered the hostile attitude of the touts without losing purses, luggage or escaping with shredded dresses. Fights with passengers, who are ready to throw caution to the wind to engage the youths, are common in the way



"SOON, the two touts started exchanging hot words."



OUTSIDE Unguwa Uku motor park, some youth looking for passengers.

violent skirmishes occur among the army of touts. Clashes among the boys have seen the free use of dangerous weapons, with attendant fatal casualties.

Reliving his experience in the hands of the touts, a passenger who does not want to be mentioned, narrated that his wallet, containing N5,000 and valuable documents, were stolen at

the garage, on his return from a recent journey to Abuja. He said immediately the vehicle that conveyed them back to Kano entered the motor park, youths crowded around it. He recalled that he did not entertain any suspicion about them, but said he later discovered that his wallet was gone. He said the theft left him stranded at the park, until he pleaded with a driver who took him home subsequently.

When this reporter went to the park on a commercial motorcycle, touts numbering up to eight gave the bike a hot chase. They kept shouting "where are you going," at the reporter, who tried to end the pursuit by politely replying "I'm not traveling." On hearing the response, some of the youths gave up the chase. But three remained defiant up to the point where the reporter disembarked from the motorcycle, where the following ensued:

Tout: "Where are you going?"

Reporter: "I'm not travelling."

Another tout: "Then how can you convince us?"

Reporter: "Can't you see I'm not carrying a bag?"

Tout: "But why did you come to the park in the first place?"

As the reporter tried to wriggle his way out of the challenging poser, another motorcycle came passing with a passenger. As they spotted them, they gave the bike a hot chase, and left the reporter off the hook.

All that gingers the touts to behave rudely to passengers, and fight among themselves, is the prize they gain after turning in passengers, as well as the influence of the illicit substances they use, it was gathered. A passenger going to Maiduguri, for instance, pays N1,500 as transport fare. Out of the amount, N50 is given to the tout who scouted for the passenger as commission. Thus the touts make the job a do-or-die affair.

They use drugs to get the strength to chase vehicles, shout destinations, carry loads and shuttle between the various loading areas in the park, and the major road, for a whole day.

Najibullah Zizi was the tout that fought over Sarah, the student. While speaking to our reporter, shortly after he secured a seat in a 16-seater bus, for his student passenger, he expressed his anger at the attitude of the fellow who wanted to take his catch away. He vowed,

Uwa

ANI MAAIKATANGA & LAWAN DANJUMA ADAMU



chap had persisted on snatching the lady, could have given him cause to regret. At the person in the centre of the storm, appeared calm while the little fracas was

The threat which touts pose to passengers at Unguwa Uku motor park is largely believed to be triggered by the allure of financial rewards from motorists.

raging, was conquered by fear. To start with, she was on her second visit to the state, thus scarcely has knowledge of the park's notoriety and the rough culture of its touts.

Her intention was to pick a car, and not a bus, to Jos she revealed. But according to her, the aggressive behaviour of the touts forced her to abandon her choice and surrender herself to their dictates. "I was scared and afraid he would turn his anger on me if I said I would not follow him, as my plan was to take a car not a bus," she said of her encounter with Zizi.

"When the second person mentioned a wagon, I almost shouted yes it's what I want, but the sight of the fuming tout warned me of unsavoury consequences, so I remained quiet," the student explained. Sarah, who said she had already developed cold feet for fueling a fight between two strangers she had never met, added that it took the grace of the Almighty for her to remain composed. "I never witnessed such type of aggression before, and I didn't like it a bit, because all attention was focused



TOUTS cover a passenger.

on us, as if we were special persons," she lamented.

The threat which touts pose to passengers at Unguwa Uku Motor Park is largely believed to be triggered by the allure of financial rewards from motorists. But the menace could also be seen to be linked to fierce competition for supremacy among the antagonistic unions operating in the garage. Four transport unions, National Union of Road Transport Workers, NURTW, National Association of Road Transport Owners, NARTO, Drivers Venture and Road Transport Employers Association of Nigeria, RTEAN, operate loading spaces for journeys to the same terminus in the same garage.

Thus, a natural struggle to get advantage over one another is visible among the unions, coupled with resultant delays for passengers who have to wait endlessly for their vehicles to load fully. Most of the touts are hired by the union to scout for passengers.

Some of the youths, *Daily Trust* was reliably informed, are fugitives with crime records in other parts of the country or sections of

the state, who come to take refuge at the park, by disguising as touts. This charge was confirmed to our reporter by three union chairmen. On his part, the chairman of NARTO Unguwa Uku branch, Usman Sarki Abdurrahman, recalled hiring a tout who happened to be a thief, and who in no time, carted away passenger's goods. He said it took him to Zamfara State to locate the boy's parents, but he could not trace his whereabouts up to now.

Also speaking in the same vein, the chairman of NURTW, Alhaji Bako Umar, narrated that many of the youths are of dubious character, adding that they often engage in fighting travelers and robbing them of their valuables.

But the union leaders argued that they have been trying on their part, to reform the recruitment process, such that only men of good character are employed as touts in the garage. Showing the recruitment form to our reporter, the chairman of Drivers Ventures, Atiku Makama Tofa, said each applicant is asked to produce two guarantors before he is employed to work for the union.

Alhaji Bako, who disclosed that passengers from neighbouring Chad Republic and Cameroun use the motor park, attributed all the problems affecting the park, to mismanagement on the part of Tarauni Local Government officials. "It is a fact that travelers are forced to board vehicles against their wishes, with some sustaining injuries in the process. There is a motor park along Zaria Road near Gidan Wanka, where a tout was killed by his colleagues last year. In addition to allowing various motor parks to spring up and thrive along Zaria Road, the council approved the proliferation of over 20 roadside loading spots for transport companies from the south," he charged.

The chairman further explained that the existence of what he termed "illegal motor parks" and the state of disrepair

in the Unguwa Uku motor garage, means the passing of a death sentence on their business. For that he said, they have resolved to abandon the park immediately the rainy season sets in and come out to join the illegal loading points.

Because the new garages are closer to the main road than Unguwa Uku Park, passengers are cornered and picked up by other transporters before they entered the established park, the unions claim. The development, they said, resulted in the shutting of flow of income to them. In order to come out of the pigeon-hole therefore, they recruit more touts and order them to go all out for passengers, they explained to *Daily Trust*.

Owners of the roadside motor parks are rented the places by the local government on temporary basis, after paying N150,000, the council's revenue officer, the Chairman of Drivers Ventures, Makama Tofa revealed.

But the Chairman, Tarauni local government denied creating any illegal motor parks since he assumed office, saying instead he met the roadside garages in existence when he was elected as chairman. Amanallah Ahmad Muhammad said several shocking vices were going on in the park. He said however, the "shocking" activities of the touts were not created by the local government.

He equally dismissed the charges of neglecting the garage as made by the unions, disclosing that not more than N3,000 is realized as revenue per day from the motor park. He put the minimum amount that can be expended to give the Unguwa Uku garage a meaningful facelift, at N100 million. He said the council has other uses for the money generated from the garage, and advised the unions to "resort to self help" in addressing some of the problems. Ahmad told *Daily Trust* that arrangement is underway to hand the park to private investors to develop.



THEY use drugs to get the strength to chase vehicles, shout destinations, carry loads."

JIGAWA STATE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA



*The Government and people of Jigawa
invite the General Public to Dutse, the state capital
for a*

Political Discourse and Commissioning/Dedications Of projects as part of the "Tribute to History" programme of Jigawa state to mark this year's Democracy Celebrations.

1. Roundtable discussions in the theme "Contemporary Nigeria; where is the missing link"

Date: Friday, 28th May, 2010

Time: 10 am

Venue: 3 star Hotel

**2. Commissioning of G-9 Houses in honour of the founding fathers of the
People's Democratic Party (PDP)**

Date: Friday, 28th May 2010

Time: 4pm

Venue: G-9 Quarters

3. Commissioning of Malam Aminu Kano Triangle

Date: Saturday, 29th May, 2010

Time: 10 am

Venue: Malam Aminu Kano Triangle

**4. Unveiling of the Sawaba Monument in honour of the founding fathers of the
Talakawa Struggle.**

Date: Saturday, 29th, May 2010

Time: 10 am

Venue: Malam Aminu Kano Triangle

Sign

Alhaji Aminu Muhammed

Commissioner for Information Youth Sports and Culture

Business

'We may drop polymer notes if..'

Central Bank Governor Sanusi Lamido Sanusi says in this excerpted interview that there is an analysis on the costs and benefits of polymer notes going on at the CBN and that the country may be forced to revert to paper notes if the report is negative.



SANUSI Lamido Sanusi

HAS President Goodluck Jonathan expressed any views on the reforms or on your performance so far?

I have not had a discussion with him, I have not heard a public comment from him. My understanding is that he has always been supportive and I'm assuming that what is said to have been said by the National Security Advisor was his personal view and not the view of the government.

In any case you must remember that the Central Bank is an autonomous agency in the Federal Republic of Nigeria we have a responsibility to do what we think needs to be done to ensure that we take care of our national financial sustainability.

When I make policy I don't go around thinking about what is the President thinking about this, when it goes beyond central banking such as issues of prosecuting people, that's political decisions for political authorities. But issues of whether who should run institutions, how banks should be run, and what we do with money supply are totally immune from political consideration.

General Aliyu Mohammed Gusau, the newly appointed National Security Advisor, has strongly criticised your banking reforms. Are you concerned that there may be a political backlash against the changes you have made?

I'm not. I think people can make criticisms, sometimes it may seem that you have to be very intelligent and sophisticated. If you say that central bank policies have hurt the economy you have to say exactly which policies you are criticising: is it the policy that says people who take money from the bank should be removed, or the policy that the banks which make bad loans should provide for them? Is it to allow the system to continue the way it is operating and allow the banks to collapse and be handed over as failed banks? What is his option, what is his alternative? It is very easy to criticise, but what is your alternative?

None of the people that have been criticising the central bank have come up with what they would do if they were governor. That's the way I see it, I have to make sure that I don't get myself into confrontation with critics. Criticism is very good and I'm willing to engage anyone who has a criticism on an intellectual basis and I think it is a good thing that people should criticise, and I think it is a good thing for us because when people aren't doing anything there's nothing to criticise.

So I'm not troubled at all, I am worried that some of the insinuations, the suggestion that there is selective justice, basically cast aspersions on many bankers who have run their banks very well and have been honest. So for him to say that all banks did that and a few are being selected is a very unfair comment. I have said in an earlier interview with the Nigerian press that I have read the story in the newspapers, I have not spoken to the National Security Advisor, I do not know exactly what he said. But the point is as far as the economy is concerned our reforms have been very good for the country and its image, and our management of the economy has been very good.

When I became Governor of the Central Bank, the rate of inflation was 15%, as of March it was 11.8%. The differential between the official rate and the parallel market rate was about 25%, the naira was trading at 189/190 in the black market. It's been down to about 150/152 for a year now the gap between official and parallel market rate is less than 2%. Interbank rates were at 22%

and have now been down to about 2% for a long time, the stock market has gone up 30% since January (2010) so all the indicators of market confidence have gone up.

If you look at the lending of foreign banks to Nigerian banks that had been disappearing before we intervened, this has now come back up. We've got US EXIM giving credit lines, the European Investment Bank has come to give credit lines to Nigerian banks, the AFC which used to restrict itself to trade finance is now giving long term loans to Nigerian banks, the IFC, USEXIM, EIB, everybody is coming into Nigeria. ... how this hurts the economy I don't understand, but everyone is free, obviously, to criticise and we will respond.

Police in Australia are investigating Securrency, which is 50% owned by the Australian Reserve Bank, and have uncovered evidence that \$50 million in bribes were distributed by the company in Malaysia, South Africa and Nigeria. Australian police say they have hard information about bribes paid to officials in Nigeria who claimed to be able to influence the decision to sign a contract with Securrency for the introduction of polymer notes. Are you satisfied with the progress of this investigation in Nigeria?

I have spoken to the Australian journalists, and given my view, which is that to the extent we have been talking about Nigerian officials, there have been no names, so anything we say would be speculative and quite inappropriate. We would be happy to have the names of the Nigerians who were the beneficiaries of this. I have no doubt in my mind that if there is a claim that Nigerian officials were paid then Nigerian officials were paid. But were these people politicians in government or central bankers? I don't know. There has been no discussion of the names. If I as governor had any information that someone in the central bank either currently or in the past was a recipient I would go and take it to the authorities and say that this is information that has come to me and I think needs to be investigated. But in the absence of that I have to be very careful with what I say.

I understand you are in a difficult position but does this mean that there is an ongoing investigation in Nigeria as well, or is your investigation premised on what the Australian Reserve or Australian police say to you?

The decision to go with polymer notes was taken before I became governor. By the time I became governor the notes had been printed and my duty was to launch them. The question is would I have gone for polymer? I think we would have to wait and see the detailed cost-benefit analysis. My personal view is that I'm not sure that there is a compelling case that has been made for going to polymer.

I have already asked that I want to see the indices by which we measure the relative cost efficiency of polymer and paper and I want to see over time that we monitor those indices. If it's established that polymer has saved the country money then it becomes a justified decision but if we are just going to spend two or three times on polymer rather than paper and continue printing the same amount every year then frankly I don't see that we'd be better going to polymer.

So there's an internal analysis on the costs and benefits of polymer. Will you make that report public when you make a final decision?

At the end of the day we will have to monitor over a period, and in 3 years, when it's time to look at currency restructuring we are going to have to look at whether we go back to paper or remain on polymer. A lot of countries have gone to polymer and then gone back to paper. My gut feeling is: why aren't the Americans or Europeans going to polymer? What do they know that we don't?

The Asset Management Company is going to manage the distressed banks. Is that legislation going through the senate at the moment?

It has been accepted for debate in the Senate. Once it goes through that process it means that it has Senate approval. There are two more tests: one is to harmonise the Senate version with the House version, I'm aware that there is a difference of four clauses. After the harmonised version has been made it will go to the President for a signature, which is really just a formality.

When do you think the bill will become law and the money disbursed?

I believe that it will be law before the end of May.

It's nine months after the tumultuous announcement last August when you took over the management of some banks. How do you assess the health of the sector at the moment? Are you implementing the reforms as fast as you would like?

I think it has moved faster than one would expect. At the end of the audit we came out with a report that showed that 10 out

of 20 of the indigenously controlled banks had negative capital, the other four are foreign banks. We disclosed this information fully, we haven't had a run on an institution, no creditor has lost any money, shares are still being traded. The fact that we told the truth has increased confidence of the international community in the system because the major concern people had before we intervened was that everyone was saying that the Nigerian banks had not been affected by the crisis, and everybody knew this was a lie. What we have done is fully disclose the banks that were affected, ring fenced them and avoid a risk of contagion, as it had knocked confidence in the entire banking system. Now people know which banks are strong and which are weak.

We have improved and increased the level of disclosure in the accounts. Today, Diamond Bank is publishing its accounts. A year ago the bank would probably not have admitted that their profit was lower than the previous year. Now everybody understands that you can tell the market the truth that you had a bad year, we had an economic crisis and you have cleaned up your books. The market will understand that you have done the right thing and that going forward the fundamentals remain strong.

That is real progress, because the financial markets are built on confidence and trust. There are moral hazards, management always knows better than the investors, always know more than the regulator, so the more people are aware that there is a regulator forcing people to disclose losses honestly the more confident investors are in the risk they are taking on the industry.

The AMC bill has made progress towards recapitalisation and we'll go through mergers and acquisition process and once that is done we can put this behind us and go back into growth mode. We've made it clear that there will be personal responsibility for actions which again were a major problem in the sector, and we are improving the general regulatory environment.

Although the reform progress may have been impressive in the past nine months, the banks have become extremely risk averse, so lending to the private sector has gone down while lending to the public sector has gone up. Is that going to create a problem in the real economy?

Yes there are a number of issues, but it is a question of the chicken and the egg. The bank can only lend if they have capital and if the banks have had bad loans and the capital has been eroded they are not going to increase their lending. Looking at South Africa, credit growth was negative year on year and they haven't even had a banking crisis. In the United States and Europe you find negative growth in credit. The US, for example, has had a reversal of the credit crunch but if you look at the numbers there is still a decline in lending for businesses, the increase is still coming on lending to mortgages, so when you compose the numbers you still don't have money going into the real economy and production, it is still going into the area that caused problems.

The first thing is to have some perspective on that. The banking system lost 66% of its capital in Nigeria, it's a miracle that it is still standing and lending. Most of the lending is coming from the banks that have not been so badly affected. You must also look at the overall macro picture. Prior to our intervention the banks were not lending to the real sector anyway. Agriculture is 40% of GDP, in 2008 lending to agriculture was 1% and lending to SMEs was less than 5% of total loans.

All the growth in credit has been to the capital market and to the importation of petroleum products, so some of the criticisms are misplaced as it is assumed that the banks were lending to the real sector before and they were not. You then need to look at why the banks were not lending to those sectors, there are the technical issues of the bank not being able to assess the risk in SMEs, but looking at the wider economy, there is no power.

Most of the manufacturers are not viable, they don't have power, there is no infrastructure. So it is always easier to lend to the capital market, the federal government continues to borrow domestically and issue bonds. Until recently, the government was paying crazy rates of interest. If you have bonds out there in the market and the federal government is borrowing at 12 or 13% that is sovereign debt in the sovereign currency: risk free and tax free, you create a system - perverting incentive.

If I were sitting down and looking at a bank's portfolio, and I could invest in government bonds at 13% with no capital required, why would I make money from manufacturers? So the incentive has been created to put portfolios in favour of government instruments.

If you look at the structure of federal government debt there is nothing to worry about in terms of the absolute amount of debt. National debt is only about 15% of GDP, but foreign debt is only US\$4 billion dollars and we have foreign reserves of over \$40 billion. There is no source of concern there. But the domestic debt is 11% or 12% of GDP, as long as the government keeps issuing bonds to finance the deficit locally rather than diversify its sources, you have a crowding out.

(AFRICA Confidential)

Business



Bank PHB customers stranded nationwide

By Jibrin Abubakar

CUSTOMERS of Bank PHB nationwide could not make withdrawals yesterday. The problem started on Monday.

An official of the bank said the services were disrupted due to electrical fault that affected its main server in Lagos.

Daily Trust reporter who visited the Suleja and some of its branches in Abuja saw customers in sad mood in the banking halls.

Some of them who spoke to *Daily Trust* expressed disappointment. Last month the bank faced the same problem.

When our reporter visited the bank's branch in Wuse

Five months after court order, AfriBank yet to pay ex-staff

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

FIVE months after the National Industrial Court ordered Afri Bank PLC to settle the full benefits of its 506 retrenched staff, the bank is yet to comply with the court order on the premise that the bank's management has been taken over by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).

Delivering judgement on January 21, the presiding judge MB Dada said the judgement was declared in favour of the disengaged staff as the bank was not able to contravene all the claims adduced by its former staffers.

While ordering the bank to settle the full benefits of its ex-staffers, the court, which is the final arbiter in the dispute, said the bank also failed to bring any single document to substantiate their stand and vitiate the contents of the plethora of documents submitted by the claimants.

According to one of the affected staff, Nura Jafaru Dan-malam, their persistent appeals to the Central Bank of Nigeria, the Labour Union, the presidency, the Judiciary, and the National Assembly have fell into deaf ears.

He said: "The industrial court is the final arbiter in the case, and it delivered judgement in our favour. The amazing twist now is that the bank is now saying that they cannot pay us until the CBN directed them to do so. Does this mean there is any authority above the court? It is surprising that a court order will be violated with impunity."

In a letter dated May 19, the bank's lawyer, Nassir Abdu Dangiri, said "We did inform you and your clients' representative about the predicament of the management of Afri Bank Plc because the management of the bank has been taken over by the Central Bank of Nigeria."

market, all withdrawals were limited to N5,000.

A staff of the bank who does not want to be quoted said: "The N5,000 we are paying is risky because the system is not working. We only pay people whose accounts are domiciled in this branch."

Daily Trust observed that some cheques were not honoured. But an official said the problem is being rectified.

Wema Bank details recapitalisation plans

WEMA Bank said yesterday it planned to raise N49 billion through a special placement with foreign and local investors and was confident it could recapitalise before a central bank deadline.

Wema Bank was one of the nine lenders bailed out last year in a \$4 billion central bank rescue because their weak capital bases posed a systemic risk. It was given until the end of June, 2010 to recapitalise.

"The bank is optimistic that it will be recapitalised within the timeframe set by the central bank," Wema said in a statement to the Nigerian Stock Exchange.

The bank said N34 billion of the planned capital raising would be with identified foreign investors and a further N15 billion with selected strategic local investors.

It said it was also close to recovering N10 billion in bad loans and would recover a further N10 billion by discounting some non-performing assets with Nigeria's planned asset management company (AMC).

Legislation to establish the AMC is before parliament. It aims to buy up bad bank loans in exchange for government bonds in order to free up banks' balance sheets and get them lending. Wema said a further N2 billion of provisioned loans would be refinanced through a subsidised central bank fund.

The bank, which swung to a n795 million pre-tax profit in the first quarter from a 2.0 billion naira loss a year earlier, also said it would apply for a regional banking licence under proposed new central bank guidelines.

Central Bank Governor Lamido Sanusi has said he intends to do away with the universal banking model and separate banks' core lending business from more speculative capital market activities, such as stockbroking and asset management.

Different capital requirements would be introduced for banks depending on the activities they wanted to pursue -- regional banks will be required to have a minimum capital of N15 billion and must operate in 5-10 of Nigeria's states. *Reuters*.

Trading platform not obsolete - NSE

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

THE management of Nigeria Stock Exchange (NSE) has said that the nation's trading platform was not obsolete but one of the best with over 30 countries using similar platform around the world.

The director general of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Ms Aruna Oteh had said last week in Kenya that the NSE's trading platform is obsolete and not in tune with latest development.

But the NSE assistant general manager, Communications, Sola Oni said there was no iota of truth in the statement.

"Our trading platform is a world class. We acquired

the platform from NASDAQ OMS and NASDAX OMS and one of the best trading platforms, used by over 30 countries in the world. Our trading platform is called Horizon. SEC director general had in the past made similar pronouncement but we are not sure because the commission has many windows through which such operational issues can be discussed"

According to Oni, such channels include Capital Market Committee (CMC) and Financial Services Regulatory Coordinating Committee (FSRCC) which comprises the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), NDIC, SEC, NSE, NICON and other reg-

ulatory agencies in the financial market", he said

Oni said SEC should appreciate the sensitive nature of the market and that issues bordering on the operational activities of the market should not be discussed on the pages of papers.

"This brings to fore how the two regulatory agencies communicate. NSE had had course to get information from SEC through the media and several times we have complained of such. We believe we have a common goal to build the market and sustain investors' confidence", he said

He said trading activities since past five months have been growing. Oni said as at

December 2009, the market All share index of 20,817.60 points has risen to 27,227.26 points, about 30 per cent growth rate while daily transactions also rose from N14.1 billion at the period to N2 trillion.

"Before the global meltdown, our market was one of the best in the world. But when the crisis came, our market over corrected itself and its fundamentals became low. Consequently, the market became grossly undervalued. Today, it is paying off because the market has become a tourist centre for local and international investors. Almost on daily basis we receive enquiries and welcome visitors", Oni said.

Unity Bank imports armoured vehicles from S/Africa

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

FOUR Nissan UD 40 and UD 60 cash-in-transit armoured vehicles have arrived Nigeria. The customized vehicles were manufactured in South Africa by TFM industries Limited as part of efforts aimed at

strengthening security in the area of cash delivery by Nigerian banks.

Speaking at the public presentation of the vehicles in Lagos, Managing Director, Leks Technical services, Lekan Anlugbua, manufacturer's representative to TFM Industries said the

vehicles were built based on Unity Bank's specification.

"The vehicles were specially developed for the ever increasing need of a modular, upgradable, protected vehicle for the local as well as international cash in transit market", he said.

CORRECTION

IN our April 20, 2010 edition, we reported that the tenure of the acting chairman of the Revenue Mobilization Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) ends September this year. His tenure as a Federal Commissioner of RMAFC actually ends in November 2011 as he came into the Commission in 2001.

Business

S/Africa: Metro-rail coaches on fire as strike lingers

THE lingering strike by rail workers in South Africa took a new twist on Tuesday, when four coaches in the Metrorail fleet were burnt.

The incident came amid differences between two unions over an offer given by the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA) to resolve the strike which began on May 17, to press for better wages.

The South African Transport and Workers Union (SATAWU), United and Allied Transport Union (UTATU)

began the strike asking for a 16 per cent wage increase but after negotiations UTATU settled for a 11 per cent offer by PRASA, calling its members back to work on May 21.

Its sister union, SATAWU, which has a larger share of membership, however, rejected the 11 per cent offer, insisting on a better deal.

The situation caused resumption of partial services by the rail workers which brought only minimal relief to millions of rail users as they headed for work this week.

Amid the division, a fire near the Park station in Johannesburg early on Tuesday left the coaches damaged with PRASA saying it could not rule out sabotage.

Nanna Zennani, spokesperson for Metrorail, said investigations were on but sabotage was not out of the question. The fire was put off and no lives were lost in the incident.

The separate strike by unions in Transnet, which handles freight and port services among others is also

still crippling activities at the nation's ports.

Both unions are also seeking a better deal at Transnet and the action there is in its third week, taking a huge toll on the nation's economy.

UTATU last week settled for 11 per cent increase but SATAWU rejected it, vowing to intensify the strike and call for sympathy strikes by its affiliates by June 1.

Some workers in the nation's power company, ESKOM are also demanding better pay. (NAN).

Isuzu tops in US truck dealer survey

ISUZU has been named the number one medium duty truck brand in the United States. This is according to the Dealer Attitude Survey of Manufacturers of the National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA).

ISUZU has ranked first in the last two surveys and 10 of the last 12 years.

IN the survey, ATD member dealers of medium and heavy duty trucks evaluated their original equipment manufacturers in the categories of value, marketing policy, parts and people. Isuzu placed first in overall attitude, a combine measurement of 13 areas in these five general categories. The highest marks for marketing and policy also went to Isuzu.

NAC disburses N7.9b loan to 25 companies

THE National Automotive Council (NAC) has disbursed N7.9 billion to 25 companies as loans from the Automotive Fund as at April 2010.

The total amount collected by NAC and managed by the Bank of Industry (BOI) is N24 billion as at May 2007.

The Director General of NAC, Mr Aminu Jalal, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abuja on Monday that applications for loans totalling more than N10 billion had been received from 63 companies since 2004 to date.

"The applications have been received and assessed and passed to BOI for further financial assessment before final loan approval and disbursement can be made," he said.

Jalal, however, noted that a major factor that had militated against the development of the sub sector had been inadequate capitalisation and funding.

"Apart from the working capital needed, more than 70 per cent of the sector's inputs are imported and the current high interest rate charged by commercial banks make long-term loans unattractive," he said.

Jalal said that the council also supported research work aimed at advancing the frontiers of technological research.

He said that research would only be supported if the assessment panel found that "it is relevant to the development of automotive sector, technically feasible and have the potential for commercialisation".

Steel workers demand N7.4b pension

WORKERS in the steel sector have urged the Federal Government to immediately set machinery in motion to pay the N7.4 billion gratuities and pension arrears of some of their retired colleagues.

The workers, who made the demand in a position paper made available to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Ajaokuta on Tuesday, said the amount had been outstanding since 2005.

In the position paper sent to the government through the Minister of Mine and Steel Development, Mr Musa Sada, the workers said that N5.2 billion of the amount was the outstanding severance benefit of their colleagues disengaged in 2005 by the Delta Steel Company, Warri.

The paper represents the joint position of the two major unions in the industry; Iron and Steel Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (ISSAN) and the Steel and Engineering Workers Union of Nigeria (SEWUN) on the protracted crisis plaguing the steel sector.

Mr Otori Saliu, the President of ISSAN signed the paper on behalf of the unions. It stated that the balance of N2.2 billion was the accumulated pension benefit and gratuities of some former workers of Ajaokuta Steel Company Ltd.

According to the workers, the non-payment of the money has continue to be a source of friction between them and government. The unions also expressed concern over the state of Jos and Osogbo steel rolling mills, lamenting that the core investors in the companies had failed to inject life into them since 2005.

They also called for immediate dissolution of the 17-member Interim Management Committee put in place since 2008 to oversee the affairs of the Ajaokuta Steel Company and NIOMCO on the grounds that the committee had outlived its usefulness. (NAN)


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Sales • Finance • Services • Genuine Spares • Warranty

Business/Finance

Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

COMPANY Name	No of Deals	Quot. (N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
2ND-TIER SECURITIES				
CAPITAL OIL PLC	1	0.50	6,900	3,450.00
SECTORTOTALS	1		6,900	3,450.00
AGRICULTURE				
FTN COCOA PROCESSORS PLC	19	0.93	965,011	910,100.23
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	3	0.86	134,381	115,567.66
THE OKOMU OIL PALM COY PLC	21	14.25	524,898	7,479,858.10
PRESCO PLC	17	5.46	247,240	1,358,858.95
SECTORTOTALS	60		1,871,530	9,864,384.94
AIR SERVICES				
AIRLINE SERV.& LOGISTICS PLC	13	3.18	400,000	1,272,000.00
NIG AVIATION HANDLING COY PLC	106	11.50	1,665,960	19,523,266.16
SECTORTOTALS	119		2,065,960	20,795,266.16
AUTOMOBILE&TYRE				
DNTYRE&RUBBER PLC	5	0.50	29,347	14,673.50
R.T.BRISCOE (NIGERIA) PLC	68	4.40	1,286,445	5,667,969.12
SECTORTOTALS	73		1,315,792	5,682,642.62
BANKING				
ACCESS BANK PLC	205	8.36	15,664,608	131,732,303.30
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	84	2.00	5,714,879	11,606,439.05
DIAMOND BANK PLC	120	7.22	9,376,534	68,403,668.50
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	73	4.80	2,817,709	13,691,218.22
F/CITY MONUMENT BANK PLC	101	7.50	8,370,949	62,652,323.19
FIDELITY BANK PLC	175	2.82	13,062,084	36,562,583.85
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	1,004	14.05	36,352,988	510,975,922.38
FIN BANK PLC	77	0.55	15,494,561	8,827,700.54
GT BANK PLC	562	16.55	22,803,516	379,269,253.91
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	95	11.00	13,118,454	139,680,028.85
INTERCONTINENTAL BANK PLC	58	1.92	1,594,580	3,044,041.97
OCEANIC BANK INTER. PLC	162	1.61	9,195,707	15,378,122.03
BANK PHB PLC	206	1.50	4,139,230	5,908,462.83
SKYE BANK PLC	196	8.11	16,633,559	135,451,916.30
SPRING BANK PLC	15	0.90	116,851	106,372.46
STERLING BANK PLC	59	1.90	5,459,879	10,715,130.27
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC	166	11.64	6,334,772	73,805,871.32
UNION BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	163	4.95	1,624,607	8,122,988.80
UNITY BANK PLC	8	1.11	387,458	430,078.38
WEMA BANK PLC	59	1.02	3,479,422	3,547,148.98
ZENITH BANK PLC	528	13.82	19,944,715	275,957,042.93
SECTORTOTALS	4,116		211,687,062	1,895,868,568.06
BUILDING MATERIALS				
ASANKA CEMENT PLC	78	19.39	789,020	15,305,351.65
BENUE CEMENT COY PLC	58	62.71	706,366	44,475,215.85
CEMENT CO. OF NORTHERN NIG. PLC	74	19.12	1,660,038	31,602,252.84
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	42	38.50	314,929	12,132,978.08
SECTORTOTALS	252		3,470,353	103,515,798.42
CHEMICAL&PAINTS				
BERGER PAINTS NIGERIA PLC	11	7.64	34,882	262,924.98
CHEMICAL & ALLIED PRODUCTS PLC	40	25.76	390,533	10,058,271.88
DN MEYER PLC	2	4.98	100,000	498,000.00
NIGERIAN-GERMAN CHEMICALS PLC	2	14.29	142	1,928.36
SECTORTOTALS	55		525,557	10,821,125.22
COMMERCIAL SERVICES				
COURTVILLE INVESTMENTS PLC	9	0.55	1,679,000	923,450.00
RED STAR EXPRESS PLC	16	3.87	508,500	1,976,625.50
SECTORTOTALS	25		2,187,500	2,900,075.50
COMP&OFFICE EQUIPMENT				
OMATEK VENTURES PLC	32	0.68	1,674,990	1,124,713.20
THOMAS WYATT PLC	1	1.38	4,662	6,153.84
TRIPPLE GEE AND COMY PLC	5	4.37	3,917	16,294.72
SECTORTOTALS	38		1,683,569	1,147,161.76
CONGLOMERATES				
A.G. LEVENTIS (NIGERIA) PLC	7	4.18	35,360	140,732.80
JOHN HOLT PLC	2	9.28	10,066	88,782.12
PZ CUSSONS NIGERIA PLC	67	29.10	223,080	6,346,003.62
SECTORTOTALS	76		358,506	12,701.52
CONSUMER SERVICES				
TRANSNATIONAL CORP. OF NIG. PLC	10	0.50	192,300	96,150.00
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	87	41.99	3,181,965	25,995,875.51
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	86	23.70	682,715	16,240,139.06
SECTORTOTALS	261		4,327,020	148,920,384.63
CONSTRUCTION				
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	33	8.14	231,232	1,808,764.05
G. CAPPALC	1	14.46	11	151.14
JULIUS BERGER NIGERIA PLC	28	55.00	138,138	7,458,589.34
MULTIVERSE RESOURCES PLC	3	0.50	17,702	8,851.00
ROADS NIGERIA PLC	2	3.01	1,362	4,303.92
SECTORTOTALS	67		388,445	9,280,659.45
F&BEVERAGES&TOBACCO				
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	13	49.49	55,050	2,602,441.40
BIG TREAT PLC	18	0.72	807,586	586,977.78
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	95	29.00	658,040	18,660,259.52
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	296	21.12	3,707,207	78,881,883.68
DANGOTE SUGAR REFINERY PLC	134	18.00	3,672,502	63,888,760.42
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	92	68.00	1,281,372	87,370,398.80
HONEYWELL FLOUR MILL PLC	22	8.35	236,863	1,953,914.57
P.S. MANDRIDES PLC	1	5.66	12,000	64,560.00
NATIONAL SALT COY. NIG. PLC	39	8.34	726,207	6,163,289.68
NIGERIAN BOTTLING COY PLC	31	35.00	248,956	8,664,773.00
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	68	358.05	73,763	25,849,325.55
NORT NIG. FLOUR MILLS PLC	5	33.58	72,064	2,300,601.92

TANTALIZERS PLC	23	0.86	204,929	1,701,394.81
UTC NIGERIA PLC	13	1.45	45,736	63,115.68
SECTORTOTALS	850		13,645,270	298,351,626.76
HEALTHCARE				
EVANS MEDICAL PLC	4	1.55	16,833	24,912.84
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	31	3.20	779,482	2,491,397.20
GLAXOSMITHKLINE CONSUMING PLC	28	26.30	497,734	13,308,428.74
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC	22	6.32	16,021,334	101,601,156.80
U/DIAGNOSTIC & CLINICAL SERV. PLC	31	0.67	1,783,041	1,221,703.35
SECTORTOTALS	116		19,098,424	118,647,598.93
HOTEL&TOURISM				
CAPITAL HOTEL PLC	1	3.42	1,400	5,026.00
IKEJA HOTEL PLC	14	2.20	224,253	489,372.80
SECTORTOTALS	15		225,653	494,398.80
INDUSTRIAL/DOMESTIC PRODUCTS				
ALLUMACO PLC	1	8.13	82	635.50
B.O.C GASES NIGERIA PLC	2	10.71	110,000	1,171,000.00
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIG. PLC	12	0.50	1,358,023	682,555.80
VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC	18	6.55	1,353,711	8,921,680.71
VONO PRODUCTS PLC	1	0.48	16	8.00
SECTORTOTALS	34		2,821,832	10,775,880.01
INFO.&COMMU.TECH.				
CHAMS PLC	29	0.73	2,091,765	1,529,098.45
MASSTELECOM INNOVATION NIG. PLC	1	0.50	10,000	5,000.00
STARCOMMS PLC	57	2.36	16,100,480	36,841,073.50
SECTORTOTALS	87		18,202,245	38,375,171.95
INSURANCE				
AFRICAN ALLIANCE INSUR. PLC	1	0.50	330	165.00
AIICO INSURANCE PLC	49	1.25	2,796,528	3,526,708.07
CONTINENTAL REINSUR. PLC	36	1.22	13,830,420	16,066,304.00
CORNERSTONE INSUR. CO. PLC	23	0.76	6,105,039	4,593,720.13
CUSTODIAN & ALLIED INSUR. PLC	29	3.51	4,845,950	17,429,322.50
EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC	2	0.50	200,000	100,000.00
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	26	0.65	11,467,732	7,210,811.63
GUARANTY TRUST ASSUR. PLC	57	2.48	8,153,900	19,914,931.69
GUINEA INSURANCE PLC	1	0.50	50,000	25,000.00
CONSOLID. HALLMARK INSUR. PLC	1	0.50	120,000	60,000.00
INTER. ENERGY INSUR. COY PLC	31	0.58	4,558,446	2,606,002.10
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC	11	0.50	799,400	399,700.00
LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	1	0.50	10,000	5,000.00
MUTUAL BENEFITS ASSUR. PLC	7	0.50	426,500	213,250.00
NEM INSUR. CO. (NIG) PLC	36	0.60	3,491,962	2,121,603.08
NIGERINSURANCE CO. PLC	5	1.18	39,947	45,140.11
OASIS INSURANCE PLC	1	0.71	80,000	56,800.00
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC	3	4.00	15,500	58,900.00
REGENCY ALLIANCE INSUR. COY PLC	4	0.50	3,500,000	1,750,000.00
SOVEREIGN TRUST INSUR. PLC	1	0.50	4,085,043	2,042,521.50
STACO INSURANCE PLC	6	0.50	475,000	237,500.00
STANDARD ALLIANCE INSUR. PLC	29	0.50	3,338,751	1,682,332.80
UNIC INSURANCE PLC	8	0.71	242,080	172,005.50
UNITY CAPITAL ASSUR. PLC	1	0.60	1,000	570.00
UNIVERSAL INSUR. COY PLC	6	0.50	245,688	122,844.00
INTER. WAPIC INSUR. PLC	35	0.58	3,821,019	2,219,061.02
SECTORTOTALS	410		72,700,235	82,660,195.10
LEASING				
C&I LEASING PLC	36	2.90	1,703,500	4,945,311.40
SECTORTOTALS	36		1,703,500	4,945,311.40
MARTIME				
JAPAOIL & MARTIME SERV. PLC	53	1.76	6,157,578	10,837,337.28
SECTORTOTALS	53		6,157,578	10,837,337.28
MEDIA				
AFROMEDIA PLC	1	0.63	700	420.00
DAAR COMMUNICATIONS PLC	16	0.79	336,300	265,677.00
SECTORTOTALS	17		337,000	266,097.00
MORTGAGE COMPANIES				
ABBAY BUILDING SOCIETY PLC	1	1.61	200	306.00
ASO SAVINGS & LOAN PLC	20	0.50	1,028,575	514,287.50
RESORT SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	4	0.50	750,000	375,000.00
U/HOMES SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	28	0.81	1,052,100	857,981.00
SECTORTOTALS	53		2,830,875	1,747,574.50
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTL.				
CRUSADER NIGERIA PLC	18	0.87	483,683	416,171.56
ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC	4	0.80	10,780	8,224.00
SECTORTOTALS	22		494,463	424,395.56
PACKAGING				
NIGBAG MANUFAC. COY PLC	9,203	2.90	10,081,558	30,172,064.85
NAMPAK NIGERIA PLC	1	5.71	116	629.88
POLY PRODUCTS (NIG) PLC	1	3.45	66	216.48
SECTORTOTALS	9,205		10,081,740	30,172,911.21
PETROLEUM (MARKETING)				
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC	65	39.80	108,751	4,290,288.61
BEOPETROLEUM PRODUCT PLC	25	1.10	690,636	772,647.10
MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC	9	76.93	23,453	1,894,298.81
CONOIL PLC	45	49.86	153,225	7,408,259.70
ETERNAL OIL & GAS PLC	52	7.00	1,229,877	8,659,530.67
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC	42	150.90	197,941	29,328,947.24
OANDO PLC	312	81.00	2,226,763	180,902,089.38
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	23	242.00	99,098	23,937,330.37
SECTORTOTALS	573		4,729,744	257,193,391.88
OVERALL TOTALS	17,002		412,989.85	14,543,237,968.12

Who is a Floor Broker
An exchange member who is paid a fee for executing orders for clearing Members or their customers. A Floor Broker executing orders must be licensed by the exchange he is working on.

Google

GAINERS

CAP	1.22
UACN	0.63
BOCGAS	0.51
INTBREW</	



**NIGERIAN AIRSPACE MANAGEMENT
AGENCY (NAMA)
HEADQUARTERS MURTALA MOHAMMED AIRPORT
IKEJA - LAGOS**

INVITATION TO TENDER

(A): PREAMBLE

In compliance with the provisions of the Public Procurement Act 2007, The Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA) Headquarters Lagos intends to execute the under listed projects under its 2010 financial year capital budget. Consequently, the Agency wishes to invite reputable and competent interested companies to tender for the following projects:

LOT 1 PROCUREMENT, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF ILS/DME WITH BACK UP SPARE PARTS FOR 6 AIRPORTS, CVOR/DME WITH BACK UP TEST GEARS AND SPARE PARTS FOR 6 AIRPORTS.

The project is for procurement, installation and commissioning of ILS/DME with backup spare parts for 6 Airports and CVOR/DME with backup test gears and spare parts for 6 Airports for dependable Air Navigation Services to ensure Safety and Security of Nigerian Airspace.

LOT 2 PROCUREMENT AND INSTALLATION OF SOLAR ENERGY.

The project is for procurement and installation of Solar Power System as back up Power supply to Navigational Equipment, UPS and AVRs in LAGOS, ABUJA, KANO, PHC, ENUGU Airports & BIDA Enroute Station.

LOT 3 ACQUISITION AND INSTALLATION OF TERRESTRIAL COMMUNICATION FACILITIES.

The project is for procurement and installation of Terrestrial communication facilities to enhance effective and efficient ground to air and ground to ground communication in (22) twenty two Airports.

LOT 4 ACQUISITION AND INSTALLATION OF SATCOM COMMUNICATION FACILITIES.

The project is for procurement of spare parts for the maintenance of the SATCOM NETWORK at Lagos, Kano, Abuja, PHC, Maiduguri, Jos, Sokoto and Ilorin Airports to enhance effective operations.

LOT 5 PROCUREMENT AND INSTALLATION OF AUTOMATIC VOLTAGE REGULATORS FOR TRACON SITES

The project is for procurement and installation of Automatic Voltage Regulators for TRACON Sites to prevent damage to the highly sophisticated equipment due to Power surge.

(B): TENDER REQUIREMENT

To qualify for consideration, interested companies are required to submit the documents listed hereunder. Failure to submit any of the under-listed documents may lead to disqualification of the bid.

- Evidence of incorporation with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) of Nigeria or similar organization in overseas.
- Evidence of Tax payment for the past three (3) years
- Evidence of VAT registration & proof of past remittances
- Detailed Company profile and Technical experience/qualification of key personnel, including registered address, name, functional location, Telephone Nos and email address etc.
- Annual Turnover and Audited statements of accounts for the past three (3) years.
- Evidence of Recommendation from Company's Bankers indicating the Financial capacity and capability to undertake the project if awarded.
- List of equipment and plants with evidence of ownership and verifiable office location.
- Verifiable evidence of competence exhibited in the Award & timely execution of similar projects. (Attach letters of Award and certificate of completion.)
- Records of Company's Registration with Relevant Professional bodies.
- Evidence of dealership or manufacturers authorization.
- Evidence of Compliance with the provision of the Pension Reform Act 2004 as contained in Section 16 sub section 6 (d) of the Public Procurement Act 2007.
- Any other information that would be of advantage to the company

(C): ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Notwithstanding the submission of tender data, the Nigerian Airspace Management Agency is neither committed nor obligated to include your company or any bid list or award any form of contract to your company or Agent.
- The advertisement shall not be considered as a commitment on the part of Nigerian Airspace Management Agency or shall it entitle potential companies to make claims whatsoever or seek any indemnity from Nigerian Airspace Management Agency by virtue of such company having responded to the advertisement.
- All tenders should be accompanied with tender Security in the sum of 2% of the total quotation amount.

(D): NON REFUNDABLE TENDER FEE

- Tender documents can be obtained from the Agency's Procurement Secretariat within work hours i.e. 8am - 5pm on working days, before closing date, upon payment of a non refundable tender fee of N50,000.00 (Fifty Thousand Naira) only for each of the lots.

(E) SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Completed Financial and Technical Tenders are to be submitted in 2 separate envelopes marked Financial Bid or Technical Bid respectively. Each of the envelopes is to contain 1 original and 3 duplicate copies of the Tenders respectively. Both envelopes should be enclosed in a larger envelope marked CONFIDENTIAL on Top Left Corner and written Tender for ... (Specify LOT) at the Center. Tender to be addressed and submitted to the office of the Managing Director/CEO at the Agency's address supplied at the top of this advert. Submission of application closes on Tuesday, June 16, 2010 by 12.00 noon while the bid will be opened at 2.00pm on the same date at the NAMA Headquarters Conference Room Lagos.

Note: Only the Technical Bids will be opened on the date mentioned in this publication while the Financial Bids of the Bidders that pass the Technical Evaluation would be opened on a date that would be communicated to these companies.

Please note that this advert supersedes earlier advert made in respect of the above listed projects

**MANAGEMENT
NIGERIAN AIRSPACE MANAGEMENT AGENCY
LAGOS**

INVITATION TO TENDER



Family Health International is a public health and development organization working to improve the lives of the world's most vulnerable people. Our 2,500 staff work in 55 countries conducting research and implementing programs that advance public health and build local capacity to address development problems. Since 1971, Family Health International has been a global leader in family planning and reproductive health and, since 1986, in the worldwide response to HIV/AIDS. Our research and programs also address malaria, tuberculosis, and other infectious and chronic diseases. Our partners include US and international agencies, governments, foundations, research institutions, and individual donors.

Family Health International is leading a consortium of other implementing partners in executing the USAID-funded Global HIV/AIDS Initiative Nigeria (GHAIN) project. The project is supporting HIV/AIDS and other services in public, private and faith-based facilities in FCT and the 36 states of Nigeria. In order to boost laboratory services in supported facilities, FHI is inviting interested vendors to tender for the supply of the following laboratory consumables:

S/No.	Product description	Test/Unit pack	Quantity
1.	Pipette tips — 200 Ul yellow	1000	371
2.	Vacutainer EDTA tubes 2 ml	100	900
3.	Vacutainer EDTA tubes 4 ml	100	2134
4.	Vacutainer serum separator tubes	100	3065
5.	Vacutainer needles	100	3189
6.	Vacutainer needle holders	250	678
7.	Hand gloves (small)	100	3247
8.	Hand gloves (medium)	100	2443
9.	Hand gloves (large)	100	2861
10.	Ball point pen	50	35
11.	Fine tip marker	12	38
12.	Microfuge tubes	1	359
13.	Tissue wipe	1	5874
14.	Notebook	1	572
15.	Waste bags	20	1243
16.	Biohazard bags (small)	100	592
17.	Biohazard bags (medium)	100	490
18.	Biohazard bags (big)	100	627
19.	Masking tape	1	905
20.	Injection swab	100	2038
21.	Bleach (Jik)	12	618
22.	Liquid soap	1	2629
23.	Microscope slides	1	385
24.	Absorbent pad	25	56
25.	Pregnancy test kit	50	1239
26.	Hepatitis B surface antigen	50	1794

Interested companies, which must be competent and reliable medical/laboratory suppliers, should provide the following information along with their bids:

- Detail quotation showing the cost of supplying these items to FHI country office in Abuja
- Document defining the legal status of the organization (CAC certificate, etc)
- Tax clearance certificate and tax identification number (TIN)
- Evidence of financial capabilities, including reference letter from the bank
- Evidence of the organization's experience in supplying these and other similar items in the past
- Delivery period for the items

All bids should be sealed, marked "Supply of Laboratory Consumables" and submitted not later than Friday, 4 June 2010 to:

Associate Director Procurement, Contracts and Grants
Family Health International
Godab Plaza, JS Tarka Street
Area 3, Garki, Abuja

For enquiries, please contact fhi-procurement@ghain.org

DIGEST

Allergies 'slash risk of cancer': They help to boost immune system, say experts

ALLERGY sufferers are far less likely to contract cancer than everyone else, say scientists. They believe that adverse reactions stimulate the immune system, helping to ward off other potentially fatal conditions.

They found that asthmatics were 30 per cent less likely to get ovarian cancer than others, and children with allergies to airborne substances were 40 per cent less likely to develop leukemia than other youngsters.

'More work is still needed, but the numbers show that allergy is a statistically significant protective factor,' said Dr Zuber Mulla, an epidemiologist at Texas Tech University, who led the ovarian cancer study.

Medical researchers have long suspected an association between allergies and cancer, but studies have yielded mixed results. However in recent years a clearer picture has emerged which suggests there is a major advantage to putting up with allergies.

Doctors at Cornell University in America found children with airborne allergies also had reduced rates of throat, skin, lung and intestinal cancer.

Other research has pointed to a lower risk of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and stomach cancer, while Harvard epidemiologists observed 'a strong inverse relationship' between brain cancer and asthma, eczema, hay fever or allergy.

Canadian studies showed that having an allergy or hay fever lowered the chances of getting pancreatic cancer by up to 58 per cent.

'Allergies are a general activation of our immune systems,' said Dr Ronald Crystal, chief of pulmonary and critical-care medicine at Weill Cornell Medical Centre.

'It's hard to prove, and I've heard some scepticism, but it's a concept in this field and the studies add to that.' In Britain the main research into ovarian cancer is the UK Collaborative Trial of Ovarian Cancer Screening, which will assess over the next five years whether a national screening programme would be beneficial.

Preliminary findings suggest that ultrasound and a blood test may improve detection rates.

Currently there is no screening programme for the condition, the fourth most common cancer in the UK which kills 4,500 women a year.

The latest research into leukemia and cancer was carried out at Minnesota University



PROTECTION: Having an allergy can stimulate the immune system and help to protect against cancer and other potentially fatal conditions

Stretch mark zapper: Laser treatment claims to reduce them by 75%



THE Lux1540 laser is already being used in the U.S.

WOMEN are being offered a treatment that promises to zap away stretch marks.

The laser therapy can dramatically reduce the tell-tale white streaks by up to 75 per cent, its developers claim.

Although pregnancy is one of the most common causes

of stretch marks, they also affect teenagers and young women without a family.

Even celebrities like Kate Beckinsale are not strangers to stretch marks, caused by a tearing of the layer of skin known as the dermis.

Growth spurts and weight fluctuations can result in marks on the thighs and 'love handles', much to the distress of bikini-wearers.

Even actresses such as Kate Beckinsale and Scarlett Johansson have been spotted with the silvery striae – the medical term for the marks, caused by a tearing of the layer of skin known as the dermis.

Men can also become victims, with affected areas including the arms, legs and back.

As well as tackling stretch marks, the laser can treat surgical scars, acne scars, dark skin patches – known as melasma – and other skin conditions.

It works by creating columns of heat within the affected tissue which kick-starts a natural healing process that stimulates the growth of fresh, healthy tissue.

Previous surgical approaches, including other laser systems and topical creams, had a poor record.

Nine out of ten women – around 23million – are affected by stretch marks, which means there is a huge market for the cosmetic treatment, currently available only privately.

The developers say only four sessions are needed for

the best results.

But they come at a price, with the full course costing £1,200.

However, developer Dr Maurice Adatto insists the Lux1540 fractional laser treatment has the credentials necessary to leave customers happy.

It is the only treatment of its kind to be approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and results from clinical trials have been positive.

Dr Adatto, a specialist in dermatology, laser and cutaneous surgery, said: 'Clinical studies have shown that patients treated with the Lux1540 laser achieved an average improvement of between 51 per cent and 75 per cent in the appearance of their striae.'

The treatment had little or no impact on patients' daily activities, he added.

In a study of 200 patients with a range of skin types, 'dramatic clinical improvements' were achieved.

A minority needed local anaesthetics and there were no long-term side-effects.

The treatment is offered by The Harley Medical Group at its clinics in London, Birmingham, Manchester and Dublin, but is due to be extended nationwide.

Mel Braham, chairman of the group, said: 'I must have been presented with more than a hundred "wonder treatments" for stretch marks but I can say that this is the first that has lived up to the hype.'

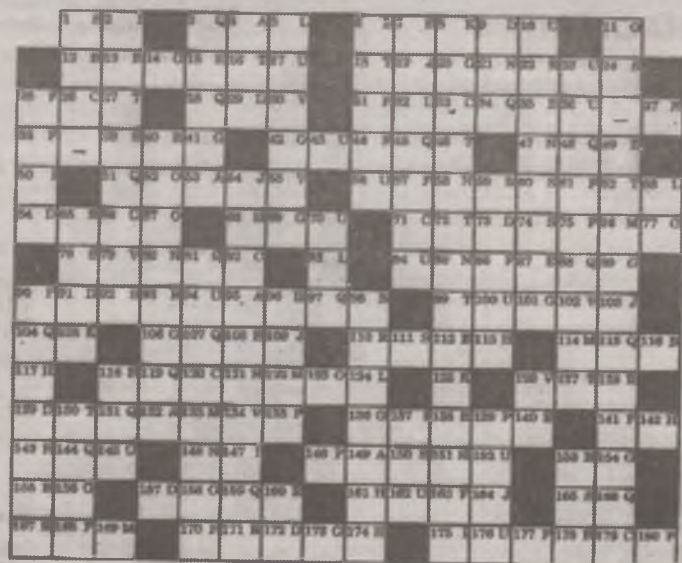
Sign Language



Lost in translation, just be careful
 Photo location: Ferry between Hiroshima and Miyajima,
 Japan, by David Viccars
 Culled from telegraph.co.uk

ANACROTIC 2

DEFINITIONS	WORDS
A. Purchase from a greenhouse	149 4 132 53 95
B. Addis Ababa resident	98 6 178 118 166 118 171 59 12
C. Connective tissue between muscle and bone	33 179 26 82 120 71
D. Expressing much emotion	9 91 172 129 64 29 73 157
E. Shone forth (from)	87 108 140 7 13 112 35 49
F. Artificial likeness	168 31 86 44 25 177 61 163 141
G. Ed Sullivan's series, for one: 2 wds.	14 101 156 68 173 136 89 20 69 154 41
H. Set up (a nation)	142 174 68 151 121 161 96 117 113
I. Citizen of Nero's empire	137 147 175 50 2
J. Pouts	54 19 109 164 103
K. City in Nebraska	105 8 15 167 125
L. Wandering tribesman	63 32 124 83 5
M. Bridge fees	114 76 122 133 169
N. Large, edible flounder	47 85 58 37 21 80 146
O. Listen without permission	123 11 158 52 77 106 145 42 67
P. Neighbor of Delaware: 2 wds.	38 90 170 75 57 180 148 139 135
Q. Just in time: 4 wds.	48 104 51 28 159 45 88 144 97 107 81 186 34 115 3 131 119
R. TV letter-turner: 2 wds.	143 22 128 160 40 110 65 138 153 93
S. Connected (with)	74 92 78 111 39 1 165 60 150 24
T. Second U.S. President: 2 wds.	16 62 18 46 72 27 127 99 130
U. Deranged: 3 wds. (slang)	17 84 43 162 23 70 10 36 176 94 162 100 56
V. Serious and grave	30 79 134 55 126 102



SOLUTION TO ANACROTIC 1

- A. High-Handed
- B. Entente
- C. No-shows
- D. Rooster
- E. Yellowed
- F. Footstool
- G. Overshoot
- H. Usherette
- I. Navaho
- J. Taxicabs
- K. Avocado
- L. Ignored
- M. Nehemiah
- N. Odd man out
- O. Bathsheba
- P. Sweets
- Q. Esteemed
- R. Reflect
- S. Vegetable
- T. Acrobatics
- U. Toothache
- V. Off-the-cuff
- W. Respected
- Y. Youthful

SUDOKU

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

156

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

Solution to Sudoku 155

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

News Extra

From paradise to hell: Police storm den of Jamaican drug lord wanted by U.S



BATTENING down: An overturned van makes up one of the barricades blocking police off from certain streets in Kingston

Eleven people have died in Jamaica after police stormed the stronghold of a druglord wanted by the U.S.

More than 1,000 police assaulted the Kingston council estate occupied by heavily armed gangsters as a 48-hour slum standoff over Christopher 'Dudus' Coke exploded into violence.

The Jamaican government has already ordered a month-long state of emergency.

The U.S. wants to extradite Coke to face cocaine-trafficking and drug-running charges.

It is not clear yesterday morning if he is still in Kingston or if he has managed to escape to another part of the country.

But some residents of the island nation's capital see Coke as a community leader, and many have barricaded the Kingston

slums to prevent his seizure by police.

Gangsters loyal to Coke began barricading streets and preparing for battle immediately after Prime Minister Bruce Golding caved in to a growing public outcry over his opposition to extradition.

Jamaica's leader, who represents West Kingston in Parliament, had claimed the U.S. indictment relied on illegal wiretap evidence.

West Kingston, which includes the Trenchtown slum where reggae superstar Bob Marley was raised, is the epicentre of the violence. But security forces also came under fire in areas outside that patchwork of gritty slums.

Officials said at least two policemen and one civilian were killed and seven police officers wounded in the attacks Monday night. There were also reports of looting and carjackings.

Helmeted police in flak jack-



RESIDENTS look on in horror as a wounded man is rushed to hospital in Kingston at the start of the violence on Monday

ets and brandishing automatic assault rifles tried unsuccessfully to storm past makeshift barricades and infiltrate the poor Tivoli Gardens area of West Kingston where Coke was believed to be hiding.

They were forced to retreat after masked gunmen opened fire on them from high-rise buildings overlooking the barricades, which closed off seven main streets leading into the area.

A woman in Tivoli Gardens

told Radio Jamaica that she and her terrified family were hunkered down in their apartment as a firefight raged outside.

'I really pray that somebody will find the love in their heart and stop this right now. It is just too much, my brother,' the woman told the station, the sound of a gunbattle nearby.

'The police is appealing to residents of Tivoli Gardens to desist from blocking the entrance to the community,' police force spokesman Karl Angell said in a statement.

'We are also appealing to the decent citizens of Tivoli Gardens who wish to leave to contact the police.'

The normally bustling streets were mostly deserted, as the country marked its Labor Day national holiday and motorists and passersby steered clear of the trouble spot.

Golding said on Sunday the state of emergency would remain in effect for a month and would demonstrate that Jamaica is 'a land of peace, order and security' where gang-related violence will not be tolerated.

'This will be a turning point for us as a nation to confront the powers of evil that has penalized the society and earned us the unenviable label as one of the murder capitals of the world,' he said.

In a gritty section of the capital of an island known more for reggae and all-inclusive resorts, the violence erupted after nearly a week of rising tensions over the possible extradition of Coke to the United States.

Golding had stalled the extradition request for nine months with claims the U.S. indictment relied on illegal wiretap evidence.

Lawyers for Coke - who in addition to Dudus is also known as Small Man and President - challenged his extradition in Jamaica's Supreme Court.

Profile: Christopher 'Dudus' Coke

The alleged drugs and arms trafficker is one of America's most-wanted men but is seen by many as a benefactor in Kingston's slums



ALLEGED drug gang leader Christopher 'Dudus' Coke.

Christopher "Dudus" Coke is a man who inspires conflicting emotions. To the US government he is one of the world's most dangerous criminals, responsible for trafficking cannabis and crack cocaine around the Caribbean, North America and the UK in exchange for guns and money. To the residents of Tivoli Gardens, the poor west side of Kingston where his gang has immense support, he is the benefactor who provides them with food, acts as mediator in disputes and even sends their children to school. They call him Presi, Bossy, Shortman or, most commonly, Dudus.

That Coke, 40, should be resisting arrest before possible extradition to the US to face drug charges is perhaps unsurprising, given the end that his father came to.

Lester Coke, a leader of a gang called Shower Posse, died in 1992 in a fire that mysteriously broke out in his prison cell where he was awaiting extradition to the US on drug charges. The elder Coke's death occurred on the same day as the funeral of Mark Coke, Dudus' brother, who had been shot three weeks earlier.

According to US authorities, Dudus Coke has stepped into his father's shoes, running the Shower Posse that in the 1980s had been blamed for more than 1,000 murders.

Until recently he enjoyed substantial protection from the ruling Labour party and the Jamaican prime minister, Bruce Golding, whose local constituency is Tivoli Gardens.

Culled from the guardian.co.uk

News Extra

9/11 attacks 'triggered surge in miscarriages of male babies across U.S.'

Nationwide shock after the 9/11 terrorist attacks on New York may have led to an unexpected surge in miscarriages across the United States, say scientists.

Researchers found that numbers of lost male babies spiked around the time of the September 11 2001 suicide attacks which destroyed the World Trade Centre.

Throughout the US, significantly fewer boys were born two months later than should have been.

A review of all foetal deaths occurring at or after the 20th week of pregnancy showed that male losses rose 3 per cent above expected levels in September 2001.

Dr Tim Bruckner, assistant professor of public health at the University of California, Irvine, said: 'The theory of 'communal bereavement' holds that societies may react adversely to unsettling national events, despite having no direct connection to persons involved in these events.

'Our results appear to demonstrate this, as the shocks of 9/11 may have threatened the lives of male foetuses across the US.'

Almost 3,000 people lost their

'It's statistically meaningful,' he said. 'The sex ratio is responding to 9/11.'

lives after al Qaeda terrorists flew two hijacked passenger jets into the 110-storey World Trade Centre twin towers, causing both to collapse.

Most of those who died were trapped in the floors above the impacts.

Dr Bruckner's team analysed foetal death rates from all 50 US states between January 1996 and December 2002 to calculate how many male losses would be expected in a normal September.

The researchers focused on boys because, across many species, stress is known to reduce male birth rates.

'This is commonly thought to reflect some mechanism con-



HIJACKED United Airlines Flight 175 from Boston crashes into the south tower of the World Trade Centre and explodes at 9.03am on September 11, 2001

served by natural selection to improve the mother's overall reproductive success,' said Dr Bruckner.

A previous study had found that male foetal death rates in California increased after the 9/11 attacks.

The new findings appear in the online journal BMC Public Health.

The scientists wrote: 'The terrorist attacks of September 11 2001 induced widespread social and economic disruption, leading to high levels of stress and anxiety in the United States population.'

'It's a striking finding but the scientific literature has not been clear whether male fetuses are more affected by stress hormones,' said Thomas O'Connor, professor of psychiatry and psychology at

the University of Rochester Medical Centre.

It's possible that male fetuses react differently to the stress hor-

mones, said Dr. Sarah Berga, a professor and chairman of the department of gynecology and obstetrics at the Emory University School of Medicine.

'We do know that the cellular machinery of males [and] females is more different than we used to think,' she said. 'We're in the cusp of beginning to understand it.'

The mean monthly number of male foetal deaths was 995. But for the month of September 2001, the number spiked to 1,115, according to the research, and the actual number of miscarriages was likely higher because of under-reporting, Dr Bruckner said.

In the following December, the ratio of male-to-female births fell by 0.8 per cent. While that appears small, Bruckner said it's still significant.

'The sex ratio of live births, it's very stable. It doesn't jump up and down that much. It's very rare to have a sex ratio to change more than 1 per cent,' he said.

'It's statistically meaningful,' he said. 'The sex ratio is responding to 9/11.'

This could mean that the number of males died before their expected delivery in December 2001.

There were no statistically significant variations in the sex ratio eight, nine or 10 months after the terrorist attacks.

'In terms of the take-home message, we know very little about what affects foetal loss,' Bruckner said. 'There's very little research on it. This paper suggests that we can identify these population stressors that can affect the likelihood of male foetal loss.'



TERRIFIED New Yorkers run from the devastation in the moments after the attacks in 2001 as the towers burn in the background

News Extra

March 1974: A Turkish Airlines flight crashes near Paris after a rear cargo door that had not been closed properly blows out. All those on board - 33 passengers and 12 crew - are killed.

March 1977: Two Boeing 747s collide on a foggy runway in Tenerife, in the Canary Islands, killing 583 people.

Jan 1978: An Air India 747 crashes into the ocean after take-off from Mumbai, killing all 190 passengers and 23 crew. The disaster is believed to have been caused when the pilot became disoriented by the failure of flight instruments.

May 1979: An American Airlines DC-10 crashes after take off from Chicago's O'Hare airport. The left engine falls off the plane, severing critical control lines and a wing, making a successful return to the airport nearly impossible. A total of 275 people are killed.

August 1980: A Saudi Tristar makes an emergency landing in Riyadh and bursts into flames, killing 301 passengers.

November 1983: A Boeing 747 jumbo jet travelling from Paris to Madrid crashes about five miles east of Madrid's Barajas airport, killing 181.

August 1985: A Japan Air Lines Boeing 747 crashes into a mountain after losing part of its tail fin. With a death toll of 520, it is the world's worst single-plane disaster.

December 1988: A terrorist bomb explodes on board Pan Am flight 103, destroying the aircraft over the Scottish town of Lockerbie and killing 270 people.

April 1994: A China Airlines Airbus A300 crashes on landing at Nagoya Airport in Japan, leaving



RESCUE workers help passengers after a Turkish Airlines passenger plane crashed while attempting to land at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport on February 25, 2009.

Timeline: The world's worst air disasters

Some of the world's worst plane crashes of the past 36 years

264 people dead.

July 1996: A TWA Boeing 747 explodes and crashes into the Atlantic off Long Island, New York, leaving 230 people dead.

November 1996: A Saudi Boeing 747 collides with a Kazakh

cargo plane near New Delhi. All 349 people on board are killed, making it the world's deadliest mid-air collision.

August 1997: A Korean Air Boeing 747-300 crashes on landing in Guam. Former leader of

the National Congress for New Politics Shin Ki-ha and his wife are among the 228 people killed in the crash.

September 1997: A Garden Indonesia Airbus A300 crashes near the airport in Medan, Indonesia, leaving 234 dead.

February 1998: A China Airlines Airbus A300 crashes on landing at the airport in Taipei, Taiwan, leaving 203 dead.

October 1999: An EgyptAir Boeing 767 crashes off Nantucket, killing 217 people. The National Transportation Safety Board blames actions by the co-pilot.

July 2000: An Air France Concorde, headed for New York, crashes into a hotel outside Paris shortly after takeoff. The death toll is 113, including four people who were on the ground.

September 2001: Al-Qaida terrorists hijack four US passenger airlines, flying two of them into the twin towers of the World Trade Centre and another into the Pentagon. The fourth crashes into a field near Pittsburgh. Nearly 3,000 people are killed in the attack.

October 2001: A Scandinavian Airlines System jet collides with a small plane in heavy fog at Milan's Linate airport, killing 118 people.

May 2002: A China Airlines Boeing 747 breaks apart in mid-

air and crashes into the Taiwan Strait, killing 225 people.

January 2003: A Turkish Airlines plane crashes as it is coming in to land at Diyarbakir, killing 75 people on board.

February 2003: An Iranian Revolutionary Guard military plane crashes into a mountain, leaving 275 dead.

August 2005: A Helios Airways flight from Cyprus to Prague, carrying 121 people, crashes north of Marathon and Varnavas, in Greece, after the cabin pressure falls. All on board are killed.

December 2005: At least 116 people are killed when an Iranian military plane crashes into a block of flats in Tehran.

January 2008: A Polish Casa military transport plane crashes in the north-west of the country, killing 20 people, many of whom were officials who had attended an air safety conference.

June 2009: An Air France Airbus A330 runs into thunderstorms over the Atlantic and disappears, with 228 people on board.

June 2009: An Airbus A310-300 jet from Yemen carrying 153 people crashes into the Indian Ocean off the Comoros, leaving only one survivor.

April 2010: A Tupolev 154 crashes in dense fog while trying to reach Smolensk airport in Russia, killing 96 people - including the Polish president, Lech Kaczynski.

May 2010: An Air India Boeing 737-800 crashes after overshooting the runway at Bajpe airport near Mangalore in southern India, leaving 158 dead.



INVESTIGATORS trawl through the wreckage of a plane crash.

Culled from guardian.co.uk

PROPERTY

property@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 07041632079

'FG to halt construction failure'

By Mustapha Suleiman

IN an effort to halt the increasing cases of building collapse in the country and strategize towards finding a lasting solution to the menace, the Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, Mr. Nduse Essien has said that

this administration is set to halt construction failures and bring them to book.

The Minister, who made this assertion during his meeting/interactive session with the stakeholders in the building industries in his office in Abuja, charged the stakeholders to form a strong alli-

ance with the Standard Organization of Nigeria (SON) and other regulatory bodies to ensure that only quality building materials are brought into the Nigeria market.

Essien, who cried out on pains for the menace of the collapse building and lives it has cost the nation, told the professional bod-

ies to sit up and enforce their building code and standard.

Earlier on in his remark, Mr. Anthony Ozodinaobi, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Lands Housing and Urban Development, gave overview report of his inspection team from the collapse 3-storey building in Auchi,

Edo State.

He observed during his inspection throughout the country, that there was a very weak concrete mixture used in the construction of structural elements (beams, columns and slabs) hence the column at lower level failed due to excessive stress.

NSE gets new branch in Bida

By Nasir Imam

THE Council of the Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE) has approved the establishment of Bida branch in Niger State as the 53rd branch of the society. The President of the society, Mr. Olumuyiwa Alade Ajibola is expected to inaugurate the branch in a later date.

According to a statement from NSE's Head of Media and Publication, Ikenna Emeka Okpani, the decision was taken at the last council meeting of the society held in Uyo, Akwa Ibom state last week.

An inauguration committee, he said, is expected to be set up by the members of the new branch. The inauguration marks the official commencement of the branch and the end of series of activities in the process of becoming a branch of the Nigerian Society of Engineers.

He said the Association of Engineers in Bida had applied to be made a branch after meeting stipulations in the article of association of the society. In a letter dated 11th January and addressed to the President of the society, the leader of the group, Mrs. A. L. Musa Makama said "the branch was required following the large number of registered members as well as non registered Engineering graduates some of whom are members of Council for the regulation of engineering in Nigeria (COREN) who are willing to register with NSE". Apart from this, she said, Bida also houses a Federal Polytechnic which has a large number of engineering graduate staff (academic and non-academic) as well as students.

The Executive Secretary in charge of the NSE Secretariat, Ahmed Amshi in a presentation to the council requesting the approval of the branch said it had met all the requirements including the minimum number of corporate members required for a branch to be approved by the NSE.

The approval has been conveyed to the chairman of the new branch by the Executive Secretary who requested her to commence plans for the inauguration of branch.



LAGOS Marina, with the Holy Cathedral to the right.

PIC: AFOLABI SOTUNDE

Compensation assessment begins in Nasarawa

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

THE Nasarawa State government has commenced the acquisition of land at Auta Balefi in Karu Local Government Area, adjoining Abuja, and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) for the purpose developing the proposed 11,450 which agreement was recently signed in Lafia.

Governor Aliyu Akwe Doma, the management and board of the Federal Housing Estate (FHA) as well as the UK based private partner in the federal government planned

11,450, Sharp Little City Limited, had earlier signed a tripartite agreement to regulate the partners in the execution of the project called "Little City". The project which will be executed at the estimated cost of N453 billion, entails the private firm developing the structure, the state government providing the land, security and other inputs while the FHA monitors the implementation.

"Already Notice of intention to acquire have been posted via last known addresses of those who have formal applications for statutory grants

with the state in addition to the publication", a statement from the Permanent Secretary Mahmud Zubairu has said.

The statement said, "Nasarawa State Government wishes to use this medium to also clear the air that compensation to the dispossessed landowners is yet to be determined as insinuated in certain quarters. Adequate compensation to each and every proven holder/occupier will be promptly paid prior to any major physical activity/presence on the site by Government."

FG embarks on land degradation mapping

By Mustapha Suleiman

THE Federal government has embarked on land degradation mapping and assessment study for prevention and control of potential erosion hazards in Nigeria.

This was disclosed by Mr. Nwune Chikelo, Project Manager Land Degradation Mapping and Assessment, Ministry of Environment in a chat with newsmen.

He described land degradation as the most complex and devastating of all ecolog-

ical problems affecting the country hence the need for the mapping.

The project was designed to characterize and map the different types, locations, magnitude and the extent of land degradation in the country and the study would make recommendation on appropriate methods to ameliorate and control the problems.

The study would further provide clear direction for the management of land degradation in Nigeria, identify areas most

prone to erosion, especially in the south-east, south-south, the eastern portion of the north central zone and parts of North-east," he said.

The project manager noted that erosion is high in many areas of the country while calling for appropriate measures to address it for the sustainability of the environment.

He also said that the study is important to land use practices in order to identify appropriate land use techniques most suitable in high erosion areas.

Property

EYE ON ABUJA

WITH Umar Shuaibu
umarshuaibu1@yahoo.com



FCT land fees, land use act and housing affordability

ABUJA city has the centripetal magnet to attract people from far and wide due to its glamour and the opportunities both real and imagined, but as a result of economic considerations many factors made it possess the centrifugal force to repel those attracted to its hinterland. It is well known that just as there are problems of rapid urban growth anywhere in the world so it also in the nation's capital city. The only difference is that the cost of living in cities could differ due to their unique characters; one of such problems in the capital city is the very high cost of housing, either for rent or outright purchase, rendering them unaffordable to the ordinary citizens.

These problems are not unconnected to the slow pace of the implementation of the city master plan at a much slower pace than its population increase, consequence upon rapid immigration in addition to the gross inadequacy of tenement houses which are abode of the Nigerian low income earners in cities. Others are administrative bottlenecks on the process, and exorbitant cost of land acquisition in the face of very high demand. The high standard of development guidelines adopted for the city, not because it is not required for the class of city which Abuja belongs as a nation's capital, but is such that is practically unaffordable to the ordinary citizens.

The FCT administration was reported to have promised to seriously look into the growing housing problems of workers with the view to ameliorating them. Truly, what should preoccupy the minds of our policy makers should be more on how to make houses affordable not only by increasing their numbers, and not because the available houses are adequate, but, due to the fact that it is no longer news that there are many habitable houses now in the city, most of which are exotic suits

and luxury apartments, built by the few very high income class, but without occupants.

It seems the approach adopted by the administration is that of provision of thousands of houses through the mass housing scheme, but going by the prevailing circumstances of the exorbitant cost of their anticipated rents or outright sale when completed the efforts might in the long run not make any difference so long as the factors responsible for the repulsion of people away from the city to areas mostly outside the FCT than within, is not looked into an addressed. We might then end up with more workers repulsion and more unoccupied houses. The causes as we have stated are well known, but implementing the solutions on the part of those responsible for the city administration is where the problem shall be expected, due to the authority's approach to the management of land more as the major revenue for financing other projects than being held in trust as a social service.

Among the basic components responsible for housing affordability is the accessibility to land, it is known that the cost of land in many parts of Abuja far outweigh the actual cost of building average houses for the workers accommodation, courtesy also of the authority's official recognition for that. When the former Minister, Senator Aliero increased the land fees he was quoted to have advanced the reason of provision of infrastructure not only for servicing the plots but for financing other social services like education and health. On the contrary, the Land Use Act which is the law that vests lands to governors in states and minister for the FCT stated that it is to be held in trust for the people. For the avoidance of doubt and further misconceptions we wish to state that among the four major objectives for the promulgation of the Land Use Act is to assist the citizen, irrespective of social status to realize his ambition and aspiration

for owning the place where he and his family will live a secure and peaceful life.

The central issue that necessitates land legislation is town and country planning and to make land available to the government for the implementation of projects for public use, hence, the terminology "overriding public interest", and not primarily for revenue drive. The revenue charged from the service should be subsidiary and not to be excessive enough to defeat the main objective. The latest proof that increasing house rent in Abuja is in response to unpopular government policies on land matters was the spontaneous increase of rents in response to the latest increased charges during the defunct Aliero administration, despite the later reduction of the increased charges by half.

It is worthy of note that the premium charged is as high as 10,000 naira per square area, with other exorbitant charges for building approval fees and stringent development measures, do we then expect the cost of rents to be low? On the other hand in those neighbouring settlements outside the FCT like Suleja in Niger State and Karu in Nasarawa state tenement houses are readily available to the low and medium income group at affordable prices, the process of land acquisition is less cumbersome than that of the FCC and there is a less standard and less stringent measures on development control than that of the FCT. Imagine such a scenario with these entities at commuting distance, it is obvious the low income class would prefer where he could acquire his accommodation at a cheaper rate.

Two of the obvious approach therefore is either to relax the high cost of land fees and the standard of development such that the houses shall become affordable to more citizens, or assist those satellite towns both within and outside the FCT to provide more decent houses or both.



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Paint colour of the year unveiled

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

THE mobile Dulux Colour Centre, a mobile paints sales outlet of the paint, has been launched into the Nigeria market.

Sold through a van, Dulux customers could buy all of colours of the paints as the drives through their neighbourhood or when a customer's calls for it.

Speaking at the launching of the new sales solution in Lagos and the unveiling of the 2010 Dulux colour of the year, Mr. Larry Ettah, Chairman of CAP Plc, the manufacturers of Dulux paints, said the mobile Dulux Colour Centre is the first in West Africa and offers convenient paints sales out.

He stated that, the "initiative shows that despite the clear and present threats in

the operating environment, we are determined to sustain of strategic momentum to achieve greater results. We shall not relent on our drive for excellent service delivery through continuous consumer and market relevant innovation in our products, brands and processes."

Speaking on the 2010 Dulux Colour of the year, Mrs. Lara Elemide, the CAP Plc managing director said as a major producer of paints and coatings, colour is extremely important and Dulux demonstrates knowledge of colour trends and colour formulations in paints with colour of the year.

The Dulux Colour of the year she said was introduced in 2005 with Orange colour. In 2006, it was Kiwi Crush, Candy love in 2007 and Majestic Yellow in 2009.



NASARAWA State Governor Aliyu Akwe Doma, supported by his deputy John Michael Abdul (left), and the Administrator of Farin Ruwa Development Area, Dauda Ngwai (right), commissioning a rural electrification project in the area during his "Meet the People Tour."

Court halts reconstruction of ex-minister's property

By Adelanwa Bamgboye

THE Court of Appeal has been asked to halt further reconstruction works on a property belonging to the late First Republic Finance Minister, Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh, and known as No. 1 Milverton Road, Ikoyi, Lagos.

The property which, according to an application before the court of Appeal in Lagos, has been a subject of litigation for some years now, is owned by the deceased minister's company, - Afro Nigeria Export and Import (Properties) Limited.

The application - a motion on notice, was filed along with a notice of appeal by the company, its sister company, Afro Nigeria Export and Import Company Nigeria Limited and two of the deceased minister's children - Mrs. C. R. Akele and Chief Adolo Okotie-Eboh.

Named as respondents are Fidelity Bank Plc, Grovecrest Properties Limited (described as an arm of First City Monument Bank Plc) and Mrs. Alero Jadesimi.

They said the property was preserved in its original state and meant to house "the Okotie-Eboh Foundation", an agency to be established by the late minister's family to preserve his name. The appellate court has set the application down for hearing on June 17 this year.

The applicants hinged their prayer on the ground that it was unjust for the court to allow the respondents, particularly Grove crest, to sustain its reconstruction works while a suit challenging the purported sale of the property and an appeal

on the suit were pending.

The ex-minister's first son, Adolo, said in a supporting affidavit, that the property was initially let out to Globestar Engineering Company Nigeria Limited in 1997 by him, on behalf of the Afro Nigeria Export Import properties.

He added that prior to the expiration of Globestar's five-year tenure, it sub-let it to another company, FSB International Bank (which later merged with Fidelity Bank) in 1999. He averred that Fidelity bank continued the tenancy and paid rent in advance up to July last year.

Adolo said the applicants were surprised to discover in 2007, prior to the expiration of Fidelity Bank's tenancy, that the structure had been demolished. He added that on enquiry, Fidelity allegedly claimed to have yielded possession of the property to Grovecrest upon its (Grovecrest's) exhibition of a court judgment.

Adolo further averred that despite that an appeal is pending in the case, Grovecrest and FCMB "have manifested a continuous conduct actively aided by Otunba Subomi Balogun who is actually the direct beneficiary of the building being erected on the land."

Justice Adesanya had in her ruling on July 2 last year, in suit No:LD/296/08 elected to stay proceedings indefinitely until the outcome of the suit that arose from a dispute over the directorship of Afro Nigeria Properties and its sister company.

While the appellate court has fixed June 17 for the hearing of the application, it is yet to fix a date for the hearing of the appeal.

PIC: HIR JOSEPH

Property



property@dailytrust.com
HOTLINE: 07041632079

'Nigeria won't progress without survey efforts'

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

Dr. Olushola Atilola is the out-going National President of the Nigerian Institution of Surveyors (NIS). In this interview with journalists in Lagos, he says Nigeria won't achieve sustainable development without survey effort. He also speaks on other topical issues. Excerpts:

Sir, your tenure ends May. Would you say that you have been able to achieve your set goals?

I thank God that we have been able to achieve quite a lot during my tenure. "Nobody achieves everything. There are some set goals that we have achieved in concrete terms and there are some that are on-going. Most of the programmes are in such a way that they are on-going; you cannot say that you have done something and that is the end of it. No, others would come to

add to it.

Can you highlight some of the things that you have done and which your successor can work or build on?

When we started, we took the issue of rebranding the institution seriously. That entails that we worked assiduously to ensure that the institution is recognized and gets into the consciousness of the common man. We want the ordinary man to know who the surveyor is, what we do and how do we do it and what is our relevance to the people and the development of the country. And in concrete terms, we have been able to change the logo of the institution. The one we had before was not easily interpretable but now the new logo is more urbane and can easily be identified by the public. We have also been able to introduce jackets that surveyors can wear when they are going to sites so that they could be identified as genuine surveyors. This would in one way or

the other, eliminate the preponderance of quacks. Also, we have visited a number of states and the reason for these visits is to ensure that we promote the profession in those states, preach the gospel of rebranding and ensure that we assist the states in achieving a number of things.

During my tenure, we won the FIG (International Federation of Surveyors) working week to be hosted in Abuja in 2013. It is the umbrella body of surveyors all over the world. It consists of over 100 member countries.

As a layman on the street, how can one identify a surveyor?

A surveyor is a person with academic and practical technical qualification. One who has gone through prescribed courses and studies, either in the university or polytechnic and after that is registered by the Surveyors' Council of Nigeria. So, it is the registration that makes you a surveyor. The Survey-

ors Council of Nigeria is the regulatory arm of our profession and it seeks to discipline, and also ensure that minimum academic qualification is attained. A layman that wants to do a job of our nature must first of all, be registered because it is the registration that makes him or her a surveyor. The layman thinks that the surveyor is somebody that carries poles around and goes into the bush and so on. We do more than that. The type of surveying people see on the wall is just property survey for corner plots. We survey from the ground, we survey from the air to take aerial photographs and we also use satellite images. Equally, we determine the profile of the sea and we also do on-shore and off-shore survey. In fact in the areas of pile exploration, surveyors are the first to be called in and even in exploration itself, surveyors are equally important. We also determine heavenly bodies using our knowledge of geology.

The little that the public sees is the one that actually dents the image of the surveyor.

The primary role of the surveyor is to carry out surveying and mapping of the geographical space of any nation. Now, when you carry out that, then all planning, execution of projects, maintenance and so on, now depend on the survey that you have carried out. The purpose of any survey is to determine the characteristics of the land, its nature, the height, diversion and so on. So, you must know the characteristics of any land before you can plan on it. For any sustainable development, you factor survey input to it. That is the major duty of a surveyor in national growth. Any nation that does not use survey or mapping or survey products in its planning plans to fail. You cannot plan without survey data.

There can never be sustainable development without survey plan. There could be growth but growth is not



DR. Olushola Atilola

the same thing as development. And when there is development, it must be meaningful. The most developed nations in the world are the best mapped.

Would you say that you are fulfilled having served as president of NIS?

Yes, to God be the glory. I am fulfilled. I think that my presidency would not have come at a better time than now. I got cooperation from all and sundry and we have been able to push surveying to the consciousness, of the nation in our little way.

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FOUNDATION FOR TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY (FTA) is a nonprofit; Non Governmental organization with a vision to have a developed and a corrupt free Nigeria and a Mission to ensure transparency, accountability and sustainable development towards a developed Nation (Nigeria).

FTA, has instituted an annual transparency and accountability award. This is to promote the fight against corruption, reward and recognize the most transparent and accountable Nigerians, Government and public institutions who have shown, encouraged and promoted transparency and accountability in the discharge of their selfless duty towards the development of our dear country Nigeria.

NOMINATION

Nominations are hereby open for the following award categories;

- i. Most transparent and accountable Governor
- ii. Most transparent and accountable Senator
- iii. Most transparent and accountable Member House of representative,
- iv. Most transparent and accountable Federal Government parastatal,
- v. Most transparent and accountable State House of Assembly,
- vi. Most transparent and accountable News paper,
- vii. Most transparent and accountable TV station
- viii. Most transparent and accountable Insurance company,
- ix. Most transparent and accountable Bank.
- x. Most transparent and accountable Pension fund.
- xi. Most transparent and accountable University.

Nominations should be sent to FOUNDATION FOR TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY (FTA)
Suite 006, APC plaza, plot 12, cape town street, off IBB way Wuse Zone 4, Abuja.

Or make your nomination online on our website on: www.ftanigeria.org, for more information - call: 08036205122, 08053217026 or send e: mail to info@ftanigeria.org

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Xtian Pilgrimage: FCT secures accommodation for 1,500

By Nasir Imam

IN order to make the 2010 Christian pilgrimage to the holy land hitch-free, the FCT Administration has made accommodation reservations for 1,500 intending pilgrims.

FCT Minister, Senator Bala Mohammed, stated this on Monday after the

monthly FCT operations briefing in Abuja.

The minister said the reservations was meant for 1,500 intending FCT pilgrims in Jerusalem, Tel-Avi, Nazareth, Tiberius, Elat, St, Katherine (Egypt), Rome (Italy) as well as Greece.

Senator Mohammed assured that payment for the accommodation will be

made next month so as to confirm the booking.

According to him, 12 tour agents were interviewed for handling FCT contingents out of which Immanuel Tours Limited and Tailor-Made Tours were recommended.

The minister disclosed that application forms for the 2010 Christian Pilgrimage is

still on sale and directed that mobilization of intending pilgrims from the FCT for the year 2010 should start as soon as possible.

He also directed that the screening of intending pilgrims be conducted early to check potential absconders and to fish-out undesirable ones; insisting that FCT will remain a shining example for other 36 states of the federation to emulate.

Musician accused of visa scam

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A 33-year-old musician yesterday appeared before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly converting N.3 million he collected from three persons to secure visas to his personal use.

Prince Pischar Samuel of Okumagba, Warri, was accused of conniving with one Jane Kelechi to commit the offence on November 19, 2009.

Police prosecutor Emmanuel Hosseini told the court that on March 3, one Chukka Orji Emmanuel, Nwokeka Orji and Bukky Iwuchukwu, all of Wuse, Abuja, reported to the police through a petition that on November 19, 2009, they entrusted N300,000 in care of the accused.

He said the money was given to the accused to help them procure a German visa and deliver it within two weeks, saying, instead, he converted the money to his personal use.

"Instead of procuring the visa, the accused converted it to his personal use and disappeared to an unknown destination, until May 21 when he was arrested by the police in a hotel room," the prosecutor said.

He stated further that the second accused, Kelechi Nwosu, is still at large, adding that the offences the accused committed are punishable under Sections 79, 312 and 309 of the Penal Code.

When the three-count charge was read to the accused, he denied the allegations, while the prosecutor asked the court for a hearing date.

Magistrate Idayat Akanni granted the accused bail in the sum of N150,000 with a reasonable surety in like sum, who must be a civil servant of not below Grade Level 08 and reside within the court's jurisdiction.

The case was adjourned to June 21 for hearing.



TRADERS moving to rescue their wares during a task force invasion at Panteka market, Nyanya, yesterday.

PIC: ZAINAB SHEHU

Bwari council boss vows to avoid corruption

By Hussein Yahaya

THE newly sworn-in Bwari Area Council Chairman, Mr. Peter Yohanna Ushafa, Friday stated that his administration will focus more on tangible infrastructural, human capacity and economic development projects in order to avoid unnecessary collision with the nation's anti-graft agencies.

The chairman, who was

responding to questions from journalists at the council's chamber, said he is going to avoid white elephant projects that will have no immediate impact on residents of the council. "If people don't see you implementing physical projects that will have direct bearing on them, they will criticise or write petitions against you and as for me I don't want to visit either EFFC or ICPC," he disclosed.

Earlier, the chairman had received the mantle of leadership from his predecessor, Isah Dara Bwari and promised to reach out to all stakeholders, irrespective of their political and social affiliations.

"I will work tirelessly to heal the wound of past wrongs through forgiveness, provision of succour and nurturing a sense of belonging among all people in Bwari Area Council," he vowed.

The outgoing chairman, Isah Dara Bwari, thanked the people of the council area for the support given to him during his two term tenure and urged the incoming government to make probity, transparency, prudence and accountability their watch words.

The council secretariat was filled to its capacity by many residents who came to have glimpse of their new council executives.

...As Kuje chairman inaugurates legislative council

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

THE Chairman of Kuje Area Council, Mr. Danladi Etsu Zhin, Monday presided over the swearing-in of 10 newly elected councillors from the council's ward.

Among the new councillors were Musa Kaka, representing Gaube ward; Nuhu Usman, Chibiri ward; Mohammed Tanko, Kuje Central ward; Maji Yakubu, Kabi ward.

Others were Tanko Dada, Kwaku

ward; Yakubu Sabo, Rubochi ward; Shehu Bako Yepwi, Gudun-Karya ward; Danjuma Dogo, Kujekwa ward; while Gideon Andrew and Saidu Umar Labaran represented Yenche as well as Gwargwada wards respectively.

Speaking at the inauguration, the council chairman advised the councillors to form a formidable team in order to deliver to the electorates their electioneering promises.

He urged them to take seri-

ously their roles as bridge builders between the council and their host communities, in order for them to know their pressing needs with a view to solving them.

Responding on behalf of the councillors, Tanko Dauda, assured the council chairman that they will double up their efforts to ensure they embark on radical transformation of the council.

Meanwhile, the councillors after their inauguration nomi-

nated Yakubu Maji Joko of Kabi ward, as speaker of the council, while Sabo Yakubu, was named is deputy speaker.

Tanko Mohammed emerged as majority leader, while Tanko Dauda and Saidu Umar Labara were elected as chief whip and minority leader of the house respectively. In his acceptance, the new Speaker, Yakubu Maji thanked his colleagues for electing him and assured he will discharged his duties as conferred on him.

Bwari restructures traditional institutions

By Hussein Yahaya

A bill establishing and separating the offices of village heads and that of district heads in Bwari Area Council has been passed into law by the immediate past legislative council in the area.

The bill which was sponsored by the outgoing speaker and seven other councillors is meant to restructure traditional institution in the area into conformity with other area councils in the territory.

Speaking at a public hearing before the passage of the bill, the outgoing speaker, Musa Makada, said the bill will avoid duplication of duties at the grass root traditional structure.

He explained that the bill has separated the functions of the village heads, who are actually the traditional chiefs in their respective villages from that of the district heads, who are to serve as administrative heads and to be appointed by the government.

Also speaking, the outgoing majority leader, Dikko Makama, spoke on the importance of traditional rulers especially in the area of maintaining peace at the grass root.

Truck driver charged with reckless driving

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A 35-year-old truck driver yesterday in court denied driving recklessly and causing an accident involving two vehicles along Airport road, Abuja.

Abdullahi Mohammed of Hotoro NNPC Depot, Kano, was accused of driving his Renault tanker truck with registration number XA 613 NSR recklessly on April 1.

Police prosecutor Jeremiah Elijah told the court that the accused drove his truck in such a way that it obstructed a Mercedes Benz trailer driven by one Manmir Aliyu of Dnatata and Sawoe Construction Company, Abuja and caused the two trailers to collide with each other, thereby causing damages to both vehicles," the prosecutor said.

He further stated that the offence the accused committed is punishable under Section 28 (1) CAP 548 of the Road Traffic Act (RTA)," the prosecutor said.

When the charge was read to the accused, he denied it and requested for bail, which was not objected to by the prosecutor.

Chief Magistrate Hadiza Dodo granted the accused bail in the sum of N100,000 with a reasonable surety in like sum, who must reside within the court's jurisdiction and swear to an affidavit to produce the accused in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to June 8 for hearing.

Woman accused of turning apartment to brothel

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

THE police yesterday arraigned a woman before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly turning her apartment into a brothel.

Joy Ekeemezie of Rendezvous Hotel, Wuse Zone 6, Abuja, was accused of inviting four of her friends to live in the room and for using it as a brothel.

Police prosecutor Abdul Alhassan told

the court that on May 24, one James Inyang, manager of Rendezvous Hotel reported to the police that he gave a room to the accuse on rent sometimes ago but she used it to accommodate Rose Ike, Patience Okafor, Chioma Chindera and Chioma Chidera.

The prosecutor alleged that the four women turned the room to a brothel without the consent of the manager, thereby committing offences punishable under Sec-

tions 79 and 343 of the Penal Code.

When the one-charge was read to the accused, she denied it and requested for bail.

Magistrate Njideka Duru granted the accused bail in the sum of N10,000 with a reliable surety in like sum, who must be a civil servant of not below grade level 07 and reside within the court's jurisdiction.

The case was adjourned to June 3 for hearing.



PIC: KENNEDY EGBONONDJE

FCTA to organise children's beauty pageant

By Nasir Imam

THE Social Development Secretariat of the FCT Administration will in the next three months organize a children's beauty pageant for school children in the territory.

Secretary of the secretariat, Mrs. Blessing Onuh, who disclosed this during a fashion show and exhibition by children as part of the 2010 Children's Day activities in Abuja, said winners in the competition will be given desktop computers as prizes.

She expressed delight at the display of fashion and arts, noting that the display depicting Nigeria's rich culture portrays the much needed patriotism needed to uplift the country to greater heights.

Mrs. Onuh said the secretariat is keenly interested in the promotion and support of any venture that will help bring out the best in children.

Among the schools that performed at the fashion show were Model Science Primary School, Pacesetters College, LEA Primary School, Nyanya, All Saints School, and LEA Wuse 2, Zone 3 Abuja.

Applicant charged with cheating

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

THE police yesterday arraigned a 37-year-old applicant before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly converting N.5 million belonging to one Zainab A. Audu of National Hospital, Abuja, to his personal use.

Nasir Isah Ohiani of Kubwa, Abuja was accused of collecting the money from the complainant under the pretence of helping her to invest it in her company sometimes between 2008 and 2009.

Police prosecutor Abu Okpanachi informed the court that on March 15, Zainab A. Audu reported to the police that on May 21, 2008, the accused, who claimed to be working with MACLARE Trust and Security Company collected N250,000 from her to buy Japau shares for her but failed.

He said in 2009, the accused also claimed to be a marketer with Christian Information Technology and fraudulently collected N320,000 from

the complainant with a promise of helping her to invest the money.

"During police investigations, it was discovered that you, Nasir Isah Ohian fraudulently collected a total sum of N570,000 from the complainant under false pretence and converted it to your personal use," the prosecutor said.

He said that the accused promised the complainant 40 percent returns on the money she gave to him, adding that the offences the accused committed are punishable under Sections 311, 309 and 322 of the Penal Code.

When the charges were read to the accused, he denied them and requested for bail, which was not objected to by the prosecutor.

In her ruling, Magistrate Idayat Akanni granted the accused bail in the sum of N200,000 with a reliable surety in like sum, who must be a civil servant of not below grade level 09 and reside within the court's jurisdiction.

The case was adjourned to June 8 for hearing.

Abuja Lutheran Church to hold jubilee

By Ogechi Ohalee

THE Lutheran Church of Nigeria, Abuja District, Saturday held its ninth annual convention at Jabi, Abuja.

At the occasion, National President and Archbishop of the church, Most Rev. Christian Ekong said the convention is preparing members for the forthcoming Diamond Jubilee in September, 2011 and the impending take-off of the Abuja Zonal Superintendence, comprising the districts of Abuja and Jos.

Archbishop Ekong strongly condemned the crisis in Jos and called on the federal government to

ensure that adequate support is given to the Plateau State Government to ensure sustainable peace.

He said the first bishop of Abuja Zone will be consecrated alongside 13 others across the country in January 2011, during the National Annual Convention at the church's headquarters in Obot Idim Ibesikpo, Akwa Ibom State.

Rev. Ekong said the Lutheran Church of Nigeria, which was established in 1936 by the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LGMS), through late Rev. Dr. Udo Ekong has survived 74 years as an evangelical church in holistic ministry of spiritual.

Accused begs court to send him to prison

By Bunmi Omolehin

A 20-year old man, Babangida Sani, yesterday begged an Upper Area Court judge to send him to jail as he was guilty of stealing a tyre belonging to one Benjamin Enekebe.

Prosecutor Mohammed Garba informed the court that Benjamin told the police that the accused trespassed into his compound and stole a vehicle tyre, adding that the accused has been entering his compound to steal items.

He said the two-count charge are punishable under Section 342 and 288 of the Penal Code

and the accused has confessed to the crime.

When the charges were read to the accused, he pleaded guilty and begged the court for leniency.

"I don't have a job and stole the tyre to get money," the accused confessed. He told the judge to send him to prison because he does not have N10,000 to pay for the stolen tyre.

The prosecutor urged the court to try the accused summarily under Section 157 of the Criminal Procedure Code and Judge Umar Yusuf Kagarko, sentenced him to four months imprisonment or to pay a fine of N10,000 in the alternative.

Convicts blame devil for stealing

By Usman A. Bello

AN Abuja magistrate court Tuesday sentenced a 27-year-old labourer and a 25-year-old driver to four months imprisonment for stealing bags of rice.

Solomon Ayegba of Chika village and Usman Garba of Jabi village, who were accused of stealing seven bags of rice pleaded guilty before Magistrate Fatima Murktar.

Prosecutor Francis Tanko had

earlier told the court that one Eze Agomo reported to the police that the accused persons broke into his shop at A.U. A Plaza and stole bags of rice valued at N56,000.

He said the accused persons were caught by a security guard attached to the plaza while loading the rice inside the boot of a Toyota Carina E car with registration number XQ 236 ABJ.

When the charges were read to the accused persons, they

pleaded guilty and begged for leniency.

"We have never stolen as it was the handiwork of the devil and it will not happen again," one of the accused persons said.

The Prosecutor urged the court to try the accused persons summarily under Section 157 of the Criminal Procedure Code and Magistrate Fatima Murktar sentenced them to four months imprisonment each or an option of N2,000 fines each.



PIC: KENNEDY EGBONODJE

A wheel barrow pusher answering nature's call at Jabi recently.

Abuja residents lament over road bumps

By Ogechi Ohalee

MOTORISTS plying Abuja roads yesterday decried the slow manner at which road bumps are being removed from roads in the city centre.

They said after the minister's comment to remove the bumps, they expected the bumps to be removed within two weeks as they spoil vehicles.

Mr. Nelson a driver at Wuse market said leaving the bumps affects vehicles and appealed to the minister to issue directives on their quick removal.

Malam Yusuf, a motorist, described the road bumps as dangerous and said they are destructive to vehicle shock absorbers as well as tyres.

Mirian however stated that he drives slowly to avoid damaging his car but is afraid of being hit by a hasty motorist.

"When you apply the brake at such bumps and there is a truck blasting its horn behind you on speed, you stand the risk of being crushed," he lamented.

NGO takes health campaign to rural area

By Ruby Leo

WORRIED over the continuous death of women and children during childbirth and from other preventable tropical disease, a non-governmental organization has embarked on capacity building for women in rural area in the FCT to educate them on better family planning techniques.

The non-governmental organization, Centre for the Right to Health, (CRH), said the choice of the rural community is simply because rural areas lack accessible to health facilities.

The head, clinical intervention, of the NGO, Dr Godwin Emmanuel said the project is aimed at building the capacity of community health workers who resides in the rural areas, who in turn will help strengthen the workforce in the health facilities.

According to him, there is a dearth of reproductive health services in the rural areas which he stressed is responsible for the incessant death of women and children.

He explained that the project which is expected to run for six months, will train community health workers, provide them health commodities based on their competences, sensitize the communities on the need to visit the primary health centres and encourage them to make ample use of the services provided so as to save the lives of families.

The training, evaluation and monitoring officer from the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC), Mr Elijah Zakwoyi revealed that most of the villagers do not patronize the health facilities until they are completely out of option to save the life of the person involved.

He added that this project would at least educate the community health workers on the best method to handle the situation until when better services can be provided in cases of complications.

Earlier the acting commissioner of the Australian high commission, Joanna Adamson, sponsors of the project, said she believed that the campaign will impact positively on the lives of the indigenes who she acknowledged are in dire need of such facilities and services.

The program officer of CHC, Bridget Okeke said Kabusa and Ketti was chosen for the training due to the population explosion among the villagers.

According to her, the two sites are notorious for teenage pregnancy and girls indulging in unsafe abortions which in most cases lead to the death of both mother and babies.

Woman begs to pay back stolen money

By Bunmi Omolehin

A 28-year-old woman yesterday begged an Upper Area Court for time to pay back N505,525 that she stole from the office of Highlight Guest Inn managing director.

Tungmwakat Toma an employee of the guest house admitted collecting the money from the drawer of her boss and said fraudsters collected the money from her.

Prosecutor Mohammed Garba told the court that on May 17, one Andrew Didacus reported at Garki Police Station that the accused entered his managing director's

office, stole money from his drawer and threw the money through the window before going out to pick it.

"During investigations the accused confessed to have stolen the money and said fraudsters collected it from her," the prosecutor added.

When the charges were read to the accused, she pleaded guilty and begged to the court for time to pay back the money.

Judge Umar Yusuf Kagarko sentenced the accused to two months imprisonment or to pay N6,000 as fine.

The judge also ordered the accused to refund the stolen money to the complainant.



NATIONAL PRIMARY HEALTH CARE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY



Plot 681/682 Gimbiya Street, Off Port Harcourt Crescent, Area 11, Garki Abuja.

PUBLIC NOTICE

INTRODUCTION:

The National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) wishes to draw the attention of Bidders and the general public to the following information in respect of the Tender Advert earlier published on 4th May, 2010 in This Day, Guardian, Daily Trust, Leadership and People's Daily.

1. ADDITIONAL SPECIFICATION FOR SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC REFRIGERATOR/FREEZER UNITS

a. REFRIGERATION/FREEZER UNIT.

- The units must be **WHO** approved brand.
- The units must be a combined Refrigerator and Freezer.
- The Refrigerator compartment must not be less than **50 litres** capacity Net volume.

b. SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC ACCESSORIES.

S/n	Description of Items	Quantity
1	Solar Array (Minimum of 240Watts)	1 per unit
2	Solar Battery, 12V (150 - 210AH) or Solar battery of 5days autonomy (Dry cell)	1 per unit
3	Solar Charge Controller (Appropriate type)	1 per unit
4	Module support frame (Module rack)	1 per unit
5	Grounding Rod (Earth Rod)	1 per unit
6	Battery casing	1 per unit
7	Array -Batt-Load disconnect, 30A, 3-poles	
8	Array -Batt-Load Disc, fuse, set of 2	
9	Array output Cable, 8-2(10mm ²) 10m H07RN-F	
10	Refrigerator power cable, 8-2 (10mm ²) 4m	
11	Operations and Maintenance Manual	

c. INSTALLATION KITS.

S/n	Contents of One Standard Tool kit;
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cables • 10mm combination spanner • 13mm combination spanner • 17mm combination spanner • 8 inches adjacent spanner • 7 inches combination spanner • No. 1 Pozi drive screw driver • 5mm parallel screw driver • Installation tape • Disposable Knife • Canvas tool roll

Suppliers will be required to install the units at the various locations and provide such servicing & maintenance as needed to keep the units operating satisfactorily, with reasonable usage for a period of Two (2) years.

1. CLARIFICATION OF TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION ON WALK-IN COLD ROOM/FREEZER UNITS

- The units must be **WHO** approved brand for Vaccine storage.
- LOT/2010/1 - Supply of Six (6) Units of Walk-in Cold Room (**ALL REFRIGERATOR UNITS**) for the NPHCDA Northern zonal Cold store.
- LOT/2010/2 - Supply of Six (6) Units of Walk-in Cold Room (**ALL REFRIGERATOR UNITS**) for the NPHCDA Southern zonal Cold store.
- LOT/2010/3 - Supply of Three (3) Units of Walk-in Cold Room (Dual Compartment i.e **REFRIGERATOR & FREEZER UNITS**) each for the FCT, Taraba state and Kaduna state.

Note:

Suppliers will be required to install the units at the various locations and provide such servicing & maintenance as needed to keep the units operating satisfactorily, with reasonable usage for a period of Two (2) years.

2. CONSOLIDATION OF PROCUREMENT OF CSM VACCINES. LOTS 56-61 (CSM (ACYW-135) HAJJ VACCINES.

- In an effort to achieve economies of scale, the Agency has resolved to consolidate LOTS 56-61 into one LOT. Therefore all Contractor/Bidder for LOT 56 to 61 (Supply of CSM (ACYW-135) Hajj Vaccines should consolidate their bid by presenting a single bid for all the LOTS (56-61) on CSM procurement. This means that instead of the initial bid for one (1) Lot respectively, submission should be made to cover all the LOTS (56 - 61) advertised. (i.e one single bid for **100,000 Doses of CSM (ACYW-135) Hajj Vaccines** to be delivered to National Cold Chain Store Abuja).

3. EXTENSION OF CLOSING DATE AND OPENING OF TENDER.

In view of the responses to the invitation to Tender and consequent requests from Bidders for further clarification on the specifications for some advertised items, the Agency is compelled to extend the closing date for submission of bid documents to **12:00 Noon on Thursday, 3rd June 2010** after which all bids submitted will be opened at exactly **1:00pm on Thursday, 3rd June 2010.**

SIGNED:

NPHCDA MANAGEMENT.

Inside Politics

PDP caucus should hasten to resolve zoning issue – Barr Jalo

IN this interview, Barrister Abdullahi Ibrahim Jalo, chieftain of the PDP in Gombe State addresses issues affecting the party as well as his political ambition in 2011: Excerpts:

By Suleiman Bisalla

HOW do you look at emerging crisis in the PDP over the zoning of the presidency?

Zoning is an issue of consensus, where you sit down and look at what will be helpful to all and sustain balance in the polity. One of the merits of zoning is to allow each part of the country to participate in the leadership.

But again it has its demerits because it is neither democratic nor is it backed by the laws of our land.

Being a legal practitioner, I am aware that where an existing arrangement is not backed by law, there is tendency to run into issues like what we are experiencing now.

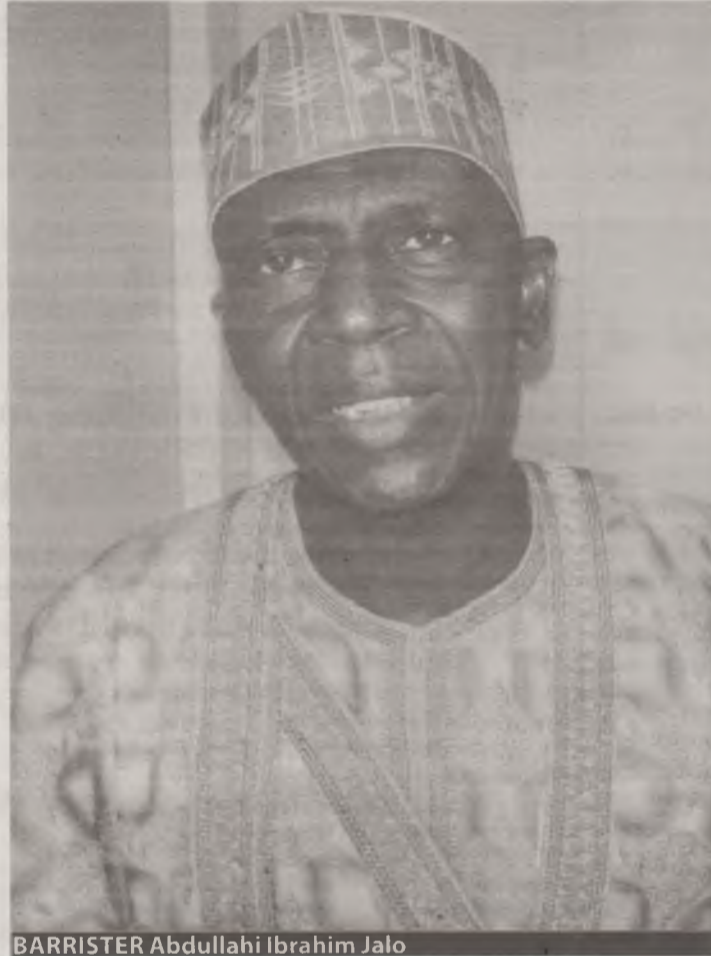
If Yar'adua were to be alive the zoning issue wouldn't have come up. Now that he is dead and Jonathan has taken over, you cannot be certain that the zoning arrangement will not be tempered with.

The person in power now is Goodluck Jonathan who is human, and you know that human beings are ambitious. You should know that he has his political calculations too.

But as far as I'm concerned, since there was a consensus on zoning, it is left for the party caucus to sit down immediately and sort out the issues, whether for good or bad, instead of making noise on the pages of newspapers. They may either decide to maintain the status-quo or forget about it.

This is just one of the problems of the PDP. Don't you think this and other problems that are emerging will constitute serious threat to the party ahead of the 2011 election?

Not quite. A party could only be threatened when there is sharp



BARRISTER Abdullahi Ibrahim Jalo

division.

But there is sharp division in the PDP...

There isn't as far as I'm concerned. Where somebody's interest is not protected, he has to raise alarm. That is the kind of thing that brought about the PDP Reform Forum that is led by Ken Nnamani and Aminu Masari. These men are not out to destroy the party but they are saying let the right thing be done in the party. But somebody who is not a politician may assume that the party is going to crash because of their activities. In fact none of the people agitating for reformation is ready to defect to another party.

Every person is working from his perspective to better the party and in the end, when we sit down, we will reach an understanding and it will be better for all of us.

Gombe is a hotbed of political activities that are aided by the thugs called Yankalare. In view of the threat of this group, how do you look at the 2011 polls there?

Since 1999 there has been a relationship among the trio of Governor Danjuma Goje, former Chief of Staff Lamido Chikaire and former Youth Leader Habu Mu'azu. These men were very close to the governor but because

of one reason or the other, they fall apart. The question, therefore, is what made them to part ways? The right person to answer this question is either the governor or any of the two people. And this will answer the Yankalare question. To me, as somebody who is close to all of them, I cannot correctly say what came between them.

But the Kalare thing has down to a certain level, though it hasn't completely been wiped off. There is a little sanity in the system now.

So are we expecting a level play ground in the contest of the various positions in Gombe in 2011?

Presently, there are a lot of changes in the PDP. We are talking about the PDP reform and whatever happens at the national level may go down to the state. Also the president, Goodluck Jonathan, is capable of making positive changes because of his knowledge and experience. He [President Jonathan] has been saying that he will conduct credible elections in 2011. This promise is not something to play about. He means his words. We are only waiting for action and I'm sure he will not disappoint Nigerians.

Many aspirants have been indicating their interests for various positions; will you also be part of the contests for 2011?

Right from the onset I have been consistent in my politics. I believe that only God gives power to whoever he wants. I made effort in the past to come to House of Representatives about four times on the platform of PDP but God has not made it possible for me. I also contested for the Senate but I was not successful. I remember I was leading and the former PDP National Chairman Ahmadu Ali gave my name to my governor but unfortunately I was not lucky as the name of our late senator,

Peto was forwarded as a senator from my zone. I was equally chosen to be the coordinator of Yar'adua/Goodluck campaign in the North-east by the former PDP national chairman but my governor made our former youth leader Habu Mu'azu to be. My name was forwarded for ministerial position but Aishatu Dikko was finally selected. I was given an opportunity to be the National Publicity Secretary of the PDP but God didn't make it possible. But my belief as a Muslim is that even where a system fails you, still put your best effort. If the system fails you don't fail the system and I'm not ready to fail the system. I try as much as possible to remain loyal to the national secretariat and, particularly the leader of the PDP in my state, that is the governor. Therefore I will tell you that I am still interested in the Senate as I was before, and I am counting on the support of my people and the will of God. In fact if my people are not with me I would not have shown interest. I know you cannot impose yourself to people.

It appears the governor had blocked your chances in the past as you have said and he is still there. Do you think he will not repeat that now?

Blocking my chance is not an issue now. As a Muslim, if someone wants to marry my daughter and I resist. If God says my daughter is that person's wife, I will die and he will marry her. So it is God that did not give me the chance not the governor. He might have been instrumental but when God gives that chance, it will be.

What is your relationship with governor now?

My relationship with governor is cordial. He is my closest friend. We are together today and so we shall be up to the time he will leave the throne, Insha Allah.

Katsina PDP chieftain wants power shift to Daura Emirate

By Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

CHIEFTAIN of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Daura emirate of Katsina State, Alhaji Kabir Musa Royal has advocated for a shift of power to allow Daura emirate to produce the next governor of the state.

Royal, who was speaking exclusively to *Daily Trust* in

Daura, urged Governor Ibrahim Shema to see to the emergence of the next governor from the Daura Emirate.

He said an assurance from the state governor to handover to the emirate in 2015 will earn him more support for his 2011 re-election bid by the people of Daura.

He noted that Katsina emirate has produced all the governors of

Katsina since the advent of the present democratic dispensation.

The chieftain said there are highly qualified members of the PDP from Daura Emirate whose loyalty to the party is unquestionable and could make good state administrators. He said shifting the governorship away from Katsina Central will ensure justice and fair play.

2011: Northern youth advised to unite for IBB

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

THE Arewa Youth Forum, North central zone, has called on northern youths and their counterparts from other regions to unite for IBB presidency come 2011.

The call was contained in a communiqué issued recently following an expanded meeting of the group in Abuja in regards to preparation for 2011 general elections and other national issues.

The communiqué which was signed by Comrade Ibrahim Alih, steering committee Chairman for IBB 2011, said the present state of the nation demands a credible leader, intellectual and political will to tackle the problems of the country. The group said IBB possesses such qualities.

Inside Politics

Katsina PDP in fresh crisis

From Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina
A fresh crisis has emerged in the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Katsina State following the opening of a campaign office by a parallel group of the party under the name "PDP Change 2011".

Few days after the office was opened, thugs allegedly loyal to the state government attacked the office complex destroying flags and defacing every structure within the premises.

The attack on the office followed a petition written to the security agencies alleging that those behind the parallel party office had breached the party's constitution because they did it without the authorization and consent of the state leadership of the PDP.

But in a statement



GOV. Ibrahim Shema

signed by the former SSG, Dr Mustapha Inuwa, and made available to news-

men, the group said it doesn't require the consent of the state leader-

ship to open an office preparatory to the 2011 elections. The sponsors said in the statement that they are responsible party men who held various positions in the country.

The group said it would open offices in all the 34 local governments. They however, alleged that the state government has given a directive to frustrate their effort and urged security agencies to investigate the destruction of their office. The group said the weekend attack was an act of terrorism.

The latest round of crisis is seen as the continuation of the power play between forces loyal to Governor Ibrahim Shema and the Abuja group, now seemingly spearheaded by the former speaker of the House of Representatives, Aminu Bello Masari.

Col Shuaib joins Kano guber race

From Auwalu Umar, Kano

FORMER military administrator of Niger State, retired Col Habib Idris Shuaibu, has formally declared that he would contest the governorship election in Kano State. Shuaibu presented a letter of intent to the state secretariat of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) at the weekend and subsequently unveiled his campaign office.

His declaration brings to two the number of governorship aspirants under the PDP platform in Kano so far.

He was warmly received at the party's secretariat on

Court Road Gyadi-gyadi at the weekend, by state executives led by the chairman Alhaji Farouk Iya. He was later received by hundreds of supporters at the venue of the launching.

Presenting his letter of intent, Shuaibu, who was also a military administrator of Plateau State, said his decision to join the race was informed by the desire to offer 'qualitative leadership driven by vision, trust and experience'.

In his address, the party chairman said Idris's letter of intent signalled the beginning of the political battle for 2011 polls in the state.

Gombe guber aspirant hails Goje

By Muideen Olaniyi

WASSA Williams, a Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) governorship aspirant in Gombe State and a former intelligence officer, yesterday lauded Governor Danjuma Goje for his feat in the area of infrastructural development.

Speaking to Daily Trust in Abuja, Williams expressed confidence that he is the best candidate for the Gombe

State governorship seat, adding that he has every opportunity to achieve this since the power is shifting to the South.

He said: "First of all, let me commend the incumbent Governor Danjuma Goje because in terms of infrastructures, good road networks and provision of potable water, he has impacted positively on the lives of the people."

Why I remained in ANPP - Senator Lawan

From Hamza Idris, Damaturu

CHAIRMAN Senate Committee on Public Accounts Senator Ahmed Lawan yesterday in Damaturu said he refused to leave the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) for the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) because Governor Ibrahim Gaidam has extended hands of friendship to him.

Lawan was one of the close associates of Senator Usman Albishir, who lodged litigation at various courts with the active support of Senator Lawan and others challenging his substitution as the gubernatorial flag-bearer of the ANPP in 2007.

When the case terminated unfavourably at the Supreme Court, Sena-

tor Albishir left the ANPP alongside many of his supporters, but Senator Lawan resisted, insisting that he won't leave the ANPP, on which platform he went to the House of Representatives twice and then the Senate.

The Senator who paid a solidarity visit on Governor Gaidam at the government house in Damaturu said his position on the protracted Yobe gubernatorial tussle was a matter of principle.

"Now that the whole case is over, it is time for all of us to embrace peace for the development of our dear state because the essence of government is to provide services to the people," Senator Lawan said.

He thanked the ANPP for setting

up reconciliation committee which was charged with the responsibility of pacifying aggrieved members of the party who were saddened by the Supreme Court judgment.

"This is a great home coming and I feel relieved that this great house has given me the opportunity to contribute my quarter to the development of the state," Senator Lawan added.

In his response, Governor Gaidam described Senator Lawan's visit as very significant.

"Though we have family disagreement because of the gubernatorial ticket, we are now a united family and this exemplifies a spirit of loyalty, understanding and love for development," the governor said.

2011: Posters of 7 aspirants flood Bauchi

CAMPAIGN posters of no fewer than seven aspirants have so far flooded Bauchi State for the 2011 governorship election.

Investigation showed that though campaign for the 2011 elections had not officially taken off, streets and public buildings have been adorned with the posters. The PDP and the Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) have two aspirants each while the ANPP has one aspirant.

Two other aspirants, Alhaji

Ibrahim Jarma, a former Comptroller-General of Prisons and Alhaji Nuhu Gidado, a businessman, were yet to identify with any of the political parties.

While the incumbent, Governor Isa Yuguda, is seeking a second term on the platform of the PDP, Alhaji Kassim Gidado, a London-based businessman and a 2007 gubernatorial aspirant, has also renewed his interest to contest on the ticket of PDP. (NAN)

Igbeke takes seat in Senate

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

THE Senate yesterday administered oath of office and allegiance on Mr. Alphonsus Igbeke of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) to represent Anambra North senatorial district.

The swearing-in of Igbeke followed three-year legal tussle with former Senator Joy Emodi of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) who was sacked by the Enugu Court of Appeal. Speaking after the event,

Igbeke said his swearing-in after long delay by the leadership of the Senate was victory for democracy, the judiciary and the Nigerian masses.

According to him, "I thank all Nigerians for their support which was of great help during the difficult times. This experience of mine has further chal-

lenged and imbued me for the cause of the oppressed and under privileged in the society."

Igbeke pledged to make use of the one year left before dissolution of the National Assembly to improve the living standards of his immediate constituency and the country at large.

"I thank all Nigerians for their support which was of great help during the difficult times"

SANYO
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Proudly Associates in Katsina with:

Alh Nura Electronics	08036182971
Nakowa Electronics Co. Ltd.	08035589269



FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY (FCT)

RE: FCT MINISTER, THE DANGERS AHEAD

Our attention has been drawn to a malicious advertisement targeted at the Hon. Minister of FCT, Distinguished Senator Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed. The grossly distorted and incoherent advertorial which was replete with naked lies, innuendoes and malice was published in the Leadership (page 41) and the Daily Trust (page 49) Newspapers editions of Monday 24 May, 2010. It was purportedly authored by one unknown 'Comrade' Ahmed Suleiman Bala who styled himself, Coordinator, PDP Jama'a Forum FCT, Abuja.

In the said advertisement, it was falsely and mischievously claimed that among others that "all the recently appointed Secretaries of FCT Mandate Secretariats, except one, were from the Hon. Minister's home state, Bauchi, and that they were all members of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP)". We wish to state clearly that nothing can be further from the truth.

The wild claims of 'Comrade' Ahmed Suleiman Bala are as unfounded as they are laughable. One can expose his follies by subjecting his claims on the composition of the mandate secretaries to empirical test. Anyone who goes through the list of the newly sworn secretaries by the FCT Minister will discover that NONE of them is from his home State, Bauchi. Yet the so-called 'Comrade' Ahmed Suleiman Bala shamelessly claimed that the new secretaries were from Bauchi State. At this juncture, a cross check of the list of the eight secretaries/coordinator and their states of origin will suffice. The secretaries, their states of origin and portfolios as well as their geo-political zones are as follows:

- 1) Mr. Olusegun Awolowo, Secretary, Area Councils - Ogun (South-West);
- 2) Alhaji Hussaini Halilu Pai, Secretary of Education - FCT (North-Central);
- 3) Dr. Precious Gbeneol, Secretary of Health - Bayelsa (South-South);
- 4) Engr. Ivoke Jonathan Achara, Secretary of Transport - Enugu (South-East);
- 5) Mrs. Blessing Onyeché Onuh, Secretary of Social Development - Benue North-Central);
- 6) Alhaji Hamza Adamu Buwai, Secretary of Agriculture - Sokoto (North-West);
- 7) Mr. Mohammed Ma'aji Alkali, Secretary, Legal Services - Yobe (North-East); and
- 8) Arc. Fatima Bintu Shettima, Coordinator of Abuja Municipal Management Council - Borno (North-East).

Based on the foregoing, the general public and all concerned can bear witness that none of the new secretaries is from the Hon. Minister's home State, Bauchi.

Since his assumption of duties as the FCT Minister early last month, Senator Bala Mohammed has been running an

administration that is broad-based, pragmatic, result-oriented and focused. In reconstituting the FCT Executive Committee, adequate care was taken by him to ensure that square pegs were put in square holes and that no geo-political zone of the country was left out. At the same time, the Hon. Minister ensured that only people with relevant qualifications, experience and know-how are deployed to take charge at mandate secretariats. Contrary to the dubious claims of 'Comrade' Ahmed Suleiman Bala, there was no sentiment whatever either along sectional, primordial or partisan lines in the appointment of the new secretaries.

There was no pecuniary consideration whatsoever on the part of the Hon. Minister in reconstituting the Executive Committee as clearly shown by the fact that none of the eight new appointees hails from his State of origin, Bauchi.

Again, the allegation by the 'Comrade' Ahmed Suleiman Bala that the Hon. Minister "was busy sponsoring ANPP rally in Bauchi" despite exigencies in the FCT was totally false as he only paid a day visit home to receive blessings and advice from traditional rulers and leaders of thought as well as canvass support for the Federal Government.

This statement cannot be concluded without pointing out that investigations have revealed that recent malicious publications and advertisements in some newspapers including the one under review were handiworks of disgruntled elements who are based outside the shores of the FCT and who are apprehensive over recent political realignments as they concern the Minister. They are scared stiff of Senator Bala Mohammed's rising political profile. They are equally concerned about their failed gambit and shrinking political fortunes. But they should have themselves to blame as they are only stewing in their own juice.

We therefore wish to use this medium to appeal to all those who wrongly perceive the Hon. Minister as their imaginary opponent or hindrance to have a rethink by discontinuing their fabricated slur campaign and think more edifying things to do. Senator Bala Mohammed has an important national task at hand as the FCT Minister and does not deserve this kind of distraction. Nobody, either from his home state or elsewhere, should strive to derail him from the onerous national assignment at hand which is making life better for all Nigerians and non-Nigerians in the Federal Capital Territory. There is no danger ahead except in the evil imagination of 'Comrade' Ahmed Suleiman Bala. A word is enough for the wise.

Signed:
Nosike Ogbuanyi
 Special Assistant (Media) to the FCT Minister

TRUST CLASSIFIED

LOSS OF DOCUMENT



ISSAM MELHEM

This is to inform the general public that the original copy of the *International Passport Lebanese Government No. RL 0261717* for Issam Melhem of Triacta Nig. Ltd. is missing all efforts made to trace the missing document proved abortive. If found please return to the nearest Police Station.

A reward of N50,000 awaits anyone with useful information about the missing passport. Please call: 08035619793

AL-MANAR WOMEN ASSOCIATION

This is to inform the general public that the above named Association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matter Acts No. 1 of 1990.

The Trustees are:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Dr. Suleiman Usman | 6. Rabiatu Umar Abdullahi |
| 2. Alh. Nafihu Baba Ahmed | 7. Nafisatu Suleiman |
| 3. Alh. Abba Dasuki | 8. Khadija M. Balarabe |
| 4. Col. Abdulhameed Ali | 9. Hajarat A. Magaji |
| 5. Sheikh Muhammad T. Abdullahi | 10. Alh. Abdullahi Mukhtar |

Aims and Objectives:

- To empower women nationally through education and vocational training.
- To build a morally sound economically stable society.
- To provide health support programmes to the needs.
- To organise sensitization programme that borders on moral and ethic

Any objection(s) to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, plot 420, Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
Secretary

OGONI WELFARE ASSOCIATION, ABUJA

This is to inform the general public that the above named Association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

- Chief Timothy Barivule Sapira
- Chief Joseph Barbor Kpina, JP
- Mr. Dan Wari Nwazim
- Chief Henry Klabele
- Chief (Barr.) Brighton Saagwe, JP
- Mrs. Charity Giobari Nwate
- Mrs. Deola Roseline Ebute

Aims and objectives:

- To promote understanding, love, peace and unity among the members of the association.
- To protect, promote and maintain the culture and good image of Ogoni people in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and its environs.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed:
Secretary

PEACE BUILDING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

This is to inform the general public that the above named Initiative has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the companies and allied matters act no. 1 of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Dr. (Mrs.) Veronica Undelikwo | - Chairman |
| 2. Dr. Michael Ihwo | - Secretary |
| 3. Dr. Stella-Maris Okey | - Member |
| 4. Rev. Fr. Paul Amoke | - Member |
| 5. Mr. Ikenna Ornyekwelu | - Member |

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To create a platform for youth empowerment and development at community level.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

SIGNED:
Barr. Marcellinus U. Akamabe

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to notify the general public of the loss of RECEIPT No. 51984 of 27th April 2007 issued by AD-HOC Committee on Sale of FGN Houses for N 5,249,600 was lost on 12th December 2009.

On Ali Akilu Road Kaduna. Any one who comes across it should please call this telephone No. 08089172657.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of Original title documents in respect of Plot No. J 234, situated at Tudun Fulani Layout, Mpape, Bwari Area Council, FCT, Abuja, belonging to MR. TONY TANTO. All efforts to trace same have proved abortive. If found, kindly contact the nearest police station or the undersigned.

Signed
TONY TANTO

CALABAR CITY CHURCH

This is to inform the general public that the above named Church has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the companies and allied matters act no. 1 of 1990

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

- Elder (Mrs) Ekanem Asuquo Esuabana
- Barr. Francis Esu
- Mrs. Temi Adegona
- Mr. Effiong Anam
- Dr. (Mrs) Emem Omokaro

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To engage in measures that will promote the propagation of the word of God.
- To banish hopelessness and restore joy in people through the teaching of God's word.
- To teach the scriptures in all purity power and fullness of Christ to many people in every nation of the world.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

SIGNED:
Barr. Obasi O. Nnanna
08037240641

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of the following original documents

- Offer of terms of grant/conveyance of approval for Plot No 310, file No. MFCT/LA/BO. 583 kaura district, bearing the name Muhammed Bulama
- Conveyance of provisional approval in respect of Plot No. a89 along Gado Nasko road Kubwa, bearing the name Alhaji Mohammed Bulama; and
- Conveyance of provisional approval in respect of Plot No. R211, Nyanya Phase IV bearing the name Usman Ali. All efforts made to trace the missing documents proved abortive. Please if found, return to 08033207285 or the nearest police station

INITIATIVE FOR MASS PARTICIPATION FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY DELIVERY

The general public is by this publication given notice 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 2004.

TRUSTEES:

- ENGR. PHILIP NGARARAWATHLIZA
- GRACE OKECHUKWU
- INDAGIJU PAMELA PHILIP
- IJAPARI PHILIP

AIMS AND OBJECTIVE:

- To enlighten the masses on the advantages and importance of protecting and sustaining power/ energy equipment in the country.
- To create an enabling environment for the promotion and production of energy in Nigeria.

SIGNED
P. C. ASHUIKEKA & CO.

EKKLISIYAR UBANGIJI MAI RAI

The general public is hereby notified that above named Church has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act No. 1 of 1990.

The Trustees are:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Hon. Justice Audu Lagre | - Chairman |
| 2. Elder Dauda Yaro | - Member |
| 3. Elder Matta Deuda | - Member |
| 4. * Dogara Yusuf | - Member |
| 5. * Afodja Johnson | - Member |
| 6. * Amina Lagre | - Member |
| 7. * Richard B. Mohammed | - Secretary |

Aims and Objectives:

- To preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to the World.
- To contact marriages between the faithfuls and or marriage blessings.
- To establish Educational Institutions for the training of both spiritual and circular virtues.
- To baptize and dedicate members of the faithful and their families.
- To establish and maintain chapters or branches in and outside Nigeria including mission fields.

Any objection to the registration of the Church should be forwarded to the Registrar - General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 585, Ndola Square, Wuse, zone 5, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed: B.A NYALAS ESQ.
Legal Practitioner.

CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly called ESTHER ASIBELI ANUTCHI now wish to be called MRS ESTHER GABRIEL IGBE. All documents remained valid. Ramat Polytechnic Maiduguri and the general public to note

I formerly called LAMI GARBA BAWA now wish to be called MRS LAMI MOHAMMED ALI DAMATURU. NYSC and the general public to note.

I formerly LINDE JOHN, Now wish to be called as FLORENCE JOHNSON. All former documents remain valid general public should take note.

Former MISS MUDI JOAN MUBO now wants to be addressed as MRS. ADESINA JOAN JONANSON. Former documents remain valid. Unijos and general public should take note

I formerly MISS NDIDIAMAKA CHARITY CHIKELUE, now wish to be known and called MRS. NDIDIAMAKA CHIKELUE ANOSIKE. All former documents remain valid. Uni - Jos and General Public take note.

I MISS. RAMATU YUSUF YARI, now wish to be addressed as MRS. RAMATU YUSUF YARI. All former documents remain valid NYSC and general public take note.

I formerly called YAGANA USMAN. Now to be known as FATIMA A. KUNTU. All former documents remain valid school of health technology maiduguri and public note.

I formerly FATIMA UMAR now FATIMA SABO IBRAHIM RINGIM. All former documents remain valid BUK and general public to note.

I, formerly known and called MISS FATIMA TENNY SHEHU, now wish to be called and addressed as MRS. FATIMA JIBRIN SHEHU. All other documents remain valid. NIGER STATE SCHOOL OF AGRIC, MOKWA-NIGER and NYSC to take note.

I, formerly Miss USOR OKOI OJE now wish to be known as MRS FAVOUR USOR NYIAM. All documents remain valid. General public to note.

I, formerly known as MISS HELEN JIBRIN, now wish to be called MRS. HELEN SUNDAY BENJAMIN. All former documents remain valid. State House and general public to take note please.

I, formerly called ABU SULE, now wish to be known as ABUBAKAR SULEIMAN. All former documents remain valid. L.E AGwagwalada and general public to note please.

I, formerly known as MISS TEMITOPE AKINTOLA, now wish to be addressed as MRS TEMITOPE LUKMAN. All former documents remain valid. The general public should please take note.

I, formerly known as MISS OGECHUKWU CHINYERE EZEKWE, now wish to be addressed as MRS OGECHUKWU CHINYERE ODUMODU. All former documents remain valid. Equitorial Trust Bank Ltd and the general public take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as MISS YETUNDE OLANIPEKUN, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS YETUNDE BUNMI IBIDOKUN. All former documents remain valid. Unity Bank Plc and general public take note.

I, formerly MISS VIVIAN JEOMA CHETACHI UGWU wish to be known as MRS VIVIAN JUDE ANI. All former documents remain the same. U.N.N, NYSC and general public take note.

I, formerly MISS RAKIYA MUSA now MRS RAKIYA UMAR MUSA. Former documents remain valid. FUT MINNA, NYSC and the general public to note.

I, formerly MISS MAIMUNA HAJIYA SHEHU henceforth wish to be called MRS MAISHERA MAIMUNA SHEHU. Former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as KANAYOCHUKWU KADURUMBA now wish to be known as KANAYOCHUKWU BIO. All former documents remain valid. PHCN PLC and general public should take note.

I, formerly MISS KUJERO ESTHER OLUBUSAYO now MRS FATOKUN ESTHER OLUBUSAYO. All former documents remain valid. General public should take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as MISS IFEANYICHUKWU OGECHUKWU NWOSU now want to be known and addressed as MRS IFEANYICHUKWU OGECHUKWU OWUALAH. All former documents remain valid. UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS AKOKA and the general public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS ISIAKA ELIZABETH SALAMATU now wish to be known as MRS MOSES ELIZABETH SALAMATU. All former documents remain valid. UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION BOARD and the general public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS SHADE MARY IDOWU awe wish to be known and addressed as MRS SHOAL-AREO SHADE MARY IDOWU. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

TRUST CLASSIFIED

LIFE RELIEF INITIATIVE

The public is hereby informed that the above named organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part "C" of the Company and Allied Matters Act 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Enock Anzaku
2. Akolo Agu Anzaku
3. John Yohanna Alu

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To promote technical support to disadvantaged people
 2. To create and develop communities in rural and urban areas where there are disadvantaged people
 3. To identify and train the disadvantaged people.
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420 Tignis Crescent of Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
David Garba

EMILY BIBILARI CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

The general public is hereby notified that the above organization has applied for registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission Abuja under Part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

The Trustees are:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Engr. Adeyinka Biblari | Chairman |
| 2. Engr. Babatunde Otaleke | Member |
| 3. Olufunke Biblari | * |
| 4. Olubaniji Biblari | * |
| 5. Iyabo Opeyokun | * |
| 6. Obaleye Olabanjo | * |
| 7. Mrs. Tolulope Osho | Secretary |

The aims and objectives are:

1. As a non-profit making Organization, to provide scholarships to indigent students.
 2. To provide educational, social and developmental assistance.
 3. To promote the pursuit of excellence in achievement and moral virtues.
 4. To establish institutions to cater for less - privileged children.
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General of the Corporate Affairs Commission within 28 days of the publication.

Signed

GLORIA JOSHUA-AKOR (MRS)
Rainbow Solicitors, Suite BS 302 Banex Plaza,
750 Aminu Kano Crescent, Wuse 11, Abuja.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as MISS AMINATU OGEDENGBE now wish to be known as MRS ELIZABETH ALOFUN. All former documents remain valid. FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION KANO and the general public please take note.

I, formerly MISS ONAH MARY NGOZI now MRS GREG MARY NGOZI. All former documents remain valid. FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION EHA-AMUFU and general public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS OKENGWU UCHECHI OLUCHI now wish to be called MRS INNOCENT UCHECHI OLUCHI. All former documents remain valid. The general public to take note please.

I, formerly known as MISS DEBORAH IEMBERABUUL now wish to be addressed as MRS DEBORAH AWENEGIEME. All former documents remain valid. NYSC, NASARAWA STATE UNIVERSITY KEFFI and general public to note.

I, formerly known as MISS OBAJE GRACE ELEJO now wish to be called MRS AMANA GRACE ELEJO. All former documents remain valid. LEA AMAC and the general public take note.

I, formerly MISS HARRIET CHIGERE now wish to be known as MRS HARRIET OKEREKE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as MR OLORODE TEMITOPE SOLOMON now wish to be called MR OBAYEMI TEMITOPE SOLOMON. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and the general public take note.

I, formerly MISS ENYI ELIZABETH ENEGENYI to be known and addressed as MRS ATTAH ELIZABETH EZEKIEL. All former documents remain valid. NIGERIAN PRISONS SERVICES and the general public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS MERCY OWAIYE now wish to be called MRS MERCY AKHUEMONKHAN ORIAFOH. All former documents remain valid. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY and the general public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS ROSE EKOJONWA SHAIKU now wish to be called MRS ROSE EKOJONWA ADEJOH. All former documents remain valid. ABU ZARIA and the general public take note.

I, formerly MISS FRANCISCA HEMBADOON VIHISHIMA now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. FRANCISCA UTE. Former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS VIVIAN PRECIOUS YONGO now wish to be addressed as MRS. VIVIAN TERNGU ASHAMI. Former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as AKINDURO MOSUNMOLA now wish to be addressed as ODION MOSUNMOLA. All former documents remain valid. The Nigeria Police Force should take note.

I, formerly SALAMATU USMAN ABUBAKAR now MRS. SALAMATU UMAR FAROUK. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public to note.

I formerly MISS RADHIYA YUSUF DIKKO now wish to be called MRS RADHIYA YUSUF DIKKO. All former documents remain valid. NYSC take note.

I MISS IFEOMA JOVITA IFEMENAN, now wish to be addressed as MRS IFEOMA JOVITA FEMI MOMODU. All former documents remain valid. NYSC, ESUT, General Public take note.

I formerly called BASHAR .A. ABDULLAHI now wish to be addressed as BASHIR ABDULLAHI MAGAMI. All former documents remain valid. Kaduna Polytechnic (ZACAREP) and general public should take note.

AGBARHO UNITED CLUB

The above named organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration in accordance with the provisions of the Companies and Allied Matters Act No. 1 of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:-

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1. MR. JOSEPH EYUEN | PRESIDENT |
| 2. MR. MOSES OKAGBARE | VICE - PRESIDENT |
| 3. MRS. JOSEPHINE OKOLOBE | SECRETARY |
| 4. CHIEF NEWTON ANIGBORO | TREASURER |
| 5. CHIEF WILLIAMS OVAKPORAGE OKEREN (J.P) | MEMBER |
| 6. HIACIANTH GBEJEWOR | MEMBER |
| 7. CHIEF JULIUS ASANORE | MEMBER |
| 8. CHIEF MRS. OYIKOJEMERI | MEMBER |
| 9. MR. OPABIA OBUWERDROSE | MEMBER |
| 10. MRS. BETTY OKIWA | MEMBER |

THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES ARE:-

1. To foster unity and the progress of the clan
 2. To give a sense of direction and purpose to all members.
 3. To Philanthropic in nature whenever the Club deems it fit.
 4. To embark on viable financial ventures for the upliftment of the Club and the Clan as a whole.
- Any objection thereto should be addressed to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 565, Ndola Square, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja, within 28 days of this publication.

SIGNED:

MRS. BENEDECTA OVOKE SADARE
125, Fagba Crescent, Off Acme Road, Ikaja.

CENTRE FOR HEALTH ENVIRONMENT AND GOVERNANCE

The general public is hereby notified that the above named organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission Abuja for registration under part 'C' Of companies and allied matters act of 1990.

The Trustees are:-

1. Mr. Adamu Mansa Musa (chairman)
2. Mr. Bala Bello Wanaah
3. Mr. Jonah Lah
4. Mr. Ezra Jatau
5. Barrister Joel Adamu Jagata (secretary)
6. Mr. Sayo Kachalla
7. Mr. Saleh Damji

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To increase the knowledge of and facilitate action of stakeholders.
2. To contribute to the reduction of the impact of climate change on the environment.
3. To facilitate and support the development of good governance and democratic practice in Nigeria

Signed
MRS. ADAMU MANSA MUSA

HOPE RISING FOUNDATION (NGO)

This is to inform the general public that the above named foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

The Trustees are:

1. Hon. Ahmed Sardauna Eyibo
2. Hon. Fatima Osana
3. Barrister Dorathy Aloko

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Assisting the less privileged
2. Promoting Education (Girl Child Education)
3. Creation of Awareness on HIV/AIDS

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja, within 28 days of this publication.

SIGNED

Hajiya Aisha Ooja Eyibo

CITIZENS WIDOWS OUTREACH FOUNDATION

This is to inform the general public that the above named foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters act NO 1 of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. REV. (MRS) LETICIA CHMERE OGUUGO
2. MRS. VICTORIA MAKPA
3. REV. (DR) BONIFACE AKANINWO
4. REV. JOSEPH KALU
5. BRO. GODSTIME LINUS
6. MR. MONDAY INOBU

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. To create an avenue for widows to express their opinions and experiences.
 2. To provide a forum for proper care, training and development of widows, socially and economically.
 3. To build up confidence, integrity and godly widows in the society.
- Any objective to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Maitama Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

C.N. UDEKWE (ESQ)
SUITE 2002 ANBEEZ PLAZA
OPP OLD CAC, WUSE ZONE 5

FUTURE PROWESS ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Foundation has applied for registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission Abuja under Part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

TRUSTEES ARE:

1. BARRISTER ZANNAH MUSTAPHA (CHAIRMAN)
2. FATIMA MOHAMMED DIKWA
3. DR. MARYAM ABBA GONI
4. HONALHAJI GONIALI
5. SHUAIBU DAUDA (SECRETARY)

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

To offer an enabling environment for the attainment of universal basic education to orphans and vulnerable children. Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General of the Corporate Affairs Commission within 28 days of the publication.

SIGNED
ZANNAH MUSTAPHA

PLOT OF LAND FOR SALE

DESCRIPTION: 22.94 HECTARES (EQUIVALENT TO 23 FOOTBALL FIELDS) LOCATED AT GIDAN ZAKARA TOWN KARU L.G.A NASSARAWA STATE (40 MINUTES DRIVE FROM ABUJA-FCT).

PURPOSE: MULTIPURPOSE (SCHOOLS, ESTATES, SHOPPING MALLS, FARMS ETC)

TITLE: CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY

PRICE: #250,000.000.00 (NEGOTIABLE)

CONTACT: ABBA GLOBAL LEGAL SERVICES (ESTATE DEPARTMENT)

ADDRESS: BLOCK B, SUITES 70 & 79 AREA 11 SHOPPING MALL GARKI-ABUJA.

PHONE NUMBER: 08070412560

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of right of occupancy (offer) allocation paper belonging to ISIAKA LUKMAN of 9A 45 road Gwarinpa, Abuja in respect of PLOT NO. BD341 of about 1000sqm located at BD Dutse Alhaji signed by A. SULEIMAN is missing. All efforts made to trace the missing allocation paper proved abortive. If found, please kindly return to the above named or the nearest police station.

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

This is to inform the general public of the loss of original R of O of Plot No. 2310 of file No. KD 60585 at A05 Maitama district Abuja, belonging to MARYAM IKRA is reported missing and all effort to trace the said document proved abortive. If found please contact any nearest police station. AGIS, FCDA please note.

SPORT

French Open:
Safina loses
in first
round
Page 56



Sluggish Eagles hold Saudis

By Ismaila Lere

THE Super Eagles yesterday played a lack-luster goalless draw against Saudi Arabia in an international friendly match in Wattens, Austria.

For the entire 90 minutes the Eagles looked sluggish and uninspiring as the youthful Saudis dictated the pace of the game.

Yesterday's World Cup warm-up was Eagles first match under coach Lars Lagerback.

The Swede tactician gave Lobi Stars right fullback Terna Suswan his first full international cap as he started him alongside another youngster, Elderson Echiejile, who played at left back.

Skipper Nwankwo Kanu partnered Almeria star Kalu Uche upfront in a 4-4-2 formation as Lagerback kept faith with the usual central defence pairing of Joseph Yobo and Danny Shittu.

Also Austin Ejide was in goal from the start after Israel-based goalkeeper Dele Aiyenugba only arrived Austria yesterday afternoon.

The midfield had Ukraine-based Yusuf Ayila, Monaco youngster Lukman Haruna, Chinedu Obasi and Everton striker Victor Anichebe.

Jon Obi Mikel and Onyekachi Apam were both missing for Nigeria due to injury.

Before the game, Lagerback had charged his wards to play at a high tempo, but it was the more composed Saudis who sprung off the block quicker, and they had the better opportunities, with a good chance after just six minutes.

Yobo had to be alert to shield a dangerous cutback and Shittu was on hand to mop up. A few minutes later, the positions were reversed. Abdiradyah broke through, and almost fashions a chance for himself, but Shittu comes across to make the chal-

lenge and Yobo was on hand to clean up.

Nigeria's first opportunity did not come until after 15 minutes, and it was a lofted ball from Lukman that just evaded Kanu's head.

It was not until the half hour mark that the Eagles got a foothold in the game.

Anichebe was causing problems with his pace and drive down the left hand side, while Obasi was hustling in defence and attack down the right, but the Eagles appeared to be struggling to adapt to the change to 4-4-2 after playing 4-3-3 for over two years.

The second half saw an improvement, although it was the Saudis who still had the better opportunities. Anichebe continued to threaten, but when he played worked his way inside from the left channel, Kalu uche completely missed his low ball across the face of goal.

And the Saudis, who were the better of the two sides, could have won it on two occasions late on. Saeed found himself played in between Yobo and Shittu, but managed to squeeze the ball wide with Ejide at his mercy, 20 minutes before the end.

And Ejide had to come up with a big save two minutes from time with a fingertip to a cracking volley to deny the same player.

Lagerback gradually introduced some fresh legs into the fray, and the Super Eagles began to get a grip on the game late on, but penetration was hard to find.

The Eagles will play Colombia in Luton, England on Sunday, a day before Lagerback announces his 23-man squad for the World Cup.

Nigeria is drawn in Group B with Argentina, Greece and South Korea. Saudi Arabia failed to qualify for the tournament in South Africa.



SUPER Eagles midfielder Lukman Haruna, left, and Saudi Arabia's Abdullatif Al Ghannam challenge for the ball during a friendly match between Nigeria and Saudi Arabia in Wattens, Austria yesterday. The match ended goalless.

Flying Eagles maul Kenya 7-0

THE national U-20 men's team, Flying Eagles continued their impressive run at the Four-Nation Invitational Tournament in Egypt Tuesday night with a 7-0 spanking of their Kenyan counterparts.

Most Valuable Player of the FIFA U-17 World Cup hosted by Nigeria last year, Sani Emmanuel weighed in with two goals, same as forward Omoh Ojabu. Midfielders George White Aguwocha

and Eddy Onazi, as well as Stephen Adah completed the rout of the Kenyans.

In their first match of the tournament, the Nigerians pipped Togo 1-0, and they will play their last match against hosts Egypt on Friday.

The round-robin competition has a winner's prize of \$20,000, with the second-placed team to earn \$10,000 and the third-placed

\$5,000.

The result meant Coach Sam John Obuh kept his impressive run of results since starting with the U-17 squad that finished as runners-up at the FIFA U-17 World Cup last year.

Following promotion to the U-20 level, the team that has been kept together ever since won a Four-Nation Invitational (Cape Town Premier's Cup) in Cape

Town, South Africa in April. Other countries that attended that competition were Brazil and Ghana, with host South Africa completing the line-up.

Meanwhile, the Nigeria Football Federation has fully endorsed the action of Coach Obuh in sending home midfielder Abdul Jelil Ajagun from the tournament after the player broke camp disciplinary code.

"He did very well in that respect and we commend his action. Discipline is important in every facet of human endeavour", said NFF 1st Vice President Amanze Uche-gbulam.

The NFF has also promptly suspended the player, meaning he cannot play for his Club for now, and he will be have to face the Federation's Disciplinary Committee in a few days.

Qatar to form women's football league

QATAR will start a women's football league this year as part of an effort to build support for its bid to host the 2022 World Cup, officials has said.

The Qatar Football Association will oversee the league, which will include an undisclosed number of teams and start by the end of 2010.

A league is a requirement for the Qatar women's team to participate in Asian Football Confederation tournaments.

"There is already huge interest in football among Qatari women and the decision to create a women's football league is a significant step forward that will help underpin many of our plans," Ahlam Al Mana, president of the Qatar Women's Sports Committee, said.

"The more girls and women we can encourage to play football, the greater the long-term benefits for Qatari society as a whole, be it in terms of health, youth development, or promotion of equality and inclusion."

The announcement is aimed at building momentum ahead of the country's formal World Cup bid, which is due this week. There are nine bidders for the 2022 tournament. Six of those - including England and the United States - are also bidding for the 2018 event, while Qatar is only vying for 2022.

Qatar bolstered its bid last month by unveiling a \$4 billion plan to build nine stadiums and renovate three others - all with a high-tech cooling system which will aim to keep temperatures on the pitch at 80.6 degrees Fahrenheit (27 degrees Celsius.) The plans also include a new metro system that will link the stadiums.

Sheik Hamad bin Khalifa bin Ahmad Al Thani, president of the Qatar Football Association, said in a statement the country's support for women's football is part of a larger campaign to build awareness should it end up hosting one of the world's most prestigious sporting events.

"It is a hugely exciting time for women's football in Qatar and we know we have to put in place the right structures and support mechanisms to move the women's game forward," Sheik Hamad said.

"Football at every level in Qatar is developing rapidly and with our bid to host the 2022 World Cup gaining momentum, there has never been a more exciting time for football in Qatar and the wider region."



GRITTY... From left to right is Adamu Atta, Amuchastegui Justo, Tajudeen Dantata, Juan Roman and Augustin Von Wermich in the tick of the action during last year's Emir of Katsina Charity Shield Polo Tournament in Kaduna. This year's edition is set to commence on May 28.

Emir of Katsina polo tourney gallops off May 28

By Ismaila Lere

POLO enthusiasts are gearing up for the continent's premium polo extravaganza as the annual Access Bank Emir of Katsina Charity Shield Polo Tournament holds from May 28 to June 6 at Fifth Chukker Resort in Kaduna.

The two week-long tournament sponsored by Access Bank Plc, is in its 3rd year running.

The polo fiesta which has been the biggest sporting attraction in Kaduna and indeed Nigeria for the past

six years promises to be the most competitive and most exciting since inception as a record number of eight teams loaded with international stars from around the world are expected to vie for honours.

The event which would expect to gulp over N20million to host offers a handsome \$20,000 as prize money for the overall champion and lots of consolation prizes for runners-up.

The proceeds from sales of memorabilia at this year's tournament, in addition to

N6million donation from Access Bank Plc would be used to support UNICEF in its campaign against HIV/AIDS.

Some of the high goal teams listed to contest for top honours and the prize money include Access Bank/Fifth Chukker who narrowly lost last year's championship to four times winners MRS on goals difference in a nerve-wrecking final.

Also geared for the tournament are Barbedos and Deebee Farms, who have fortified their teams with

international professionals. These four teams would battle for the high stakes Charity Shield that has been raised to an all time high of 21 goals this year.

Kangiwa, Maraba Pottery, Kangimi Resorts and Talban Minna, mounted by the Governor of Niger State, Dr Mua'zu Babangida Aliyu are eyeing the Muhammadu Kabiru Usman Cup which is a medium goal competition set to keep the crowd permanently on their feet from start to finish.

Another coveted event

which would be decided over the two weekends is the UNICEF Cup that would pitch teams from Argentina, United States and Nigeria.

There is also the MRS Grand Prix featuring the highest handicapped match to be played in Nigeria this year. This high goal extravaganza will draw the curtain to the 2010 tournament on June 6.

The Emir of Katsina Charity Shield was inaugurated in honour of and by then Emir of Katsina Alh. Muhammadu Kabir Usman.

World's biggest ball arrives Kano amidst fanfare

MTN, preferred by many Nigerians, recorded another impressive feat in its determination to cater for people in the country. The company turned the commercial city of Kano agog last weekend following the arrival of the world's biggest ball in the ancient city.

The ball presented by MTN holds the Guinness World Record as the biggest football in the world.

Residents of the city turned out in large numbers to behold the sight of the rare football while they were given the opportunity to

enjoy football games and win various gifts items. They also danced to the music of Tuface and many other artistes and were adorned with MTN tattoos as part of the event.

The event was declared open by Governor Ibrahim Shekarau, who was represented on the occasion by his Special Adviser on Sports. The turnout of people for the event was impressive, which is a clear demonstration of the love for MTN by residents of the city.

People took the opportunity of the ambience created by MTN in the city to take photo-

graphs with great football stars' portraits on the occasion. The photographs were taken in postcard formats to keep the event in their memories.

The coordinator of the event, Mr. Biodun Oshinibosi, said the turnout of Kano residents for the event is a demonstration of the love of Nigerians for MTN and its activities.

He said the event, which will soon hit Abuja, Enugu and Lagos in succession is the best so far in the country as it is offering bouquets of activities, which makes it unique and the first of its kind in the country.



WORLD'S largest ball unveiled.



FOCUS ON: GREECE



Can Rehhagel re-enact Euro 2004 feat?

By Ibraheem A. Fatai

GREECE spent most of their football history in relative obscurity, having participated only twice in the final tournaments of the FIFA World Cup and the UEFA European Championship, in 1994 and 1980 respectively.

Then the unexpected happened: Otto Rehhagel took over as the team's coach, first completely transforming its style, attitude and mentality and then leading it to the most sensational achievement in football's history. Greece won the Euro 2004 by defeating the host, Portugal, in the final.

In 2008, he added a third Euro appearance under Greece's belt and now the team faces a second World Cup challenge after a disastrous tournament sixteen years ago. Back then Greece exited the tournament with two 4-0 defeats and a less harsh 2-0 setback in the hands of Argentina, Bulgaria and Nigeria respectively.

But it was in the UEFA Euro 2004, when Greece were crowned European champions in only their second participation in the tournament, in one of international football's greatest surprises.

The Greeks, dismissed as rank outsiders before the tournament with bookmakers giving odds of between 80-1 to 150-1 for them to win, defeated some of the favourites in the competition, including defending champions France and hosts Portugal; the latter succumbed twice to Greece, the first time coming in the inaugural game of the tournament and the second in the final.

Since then, Greece have received several distinctions for their triumph and have reached a higher status in international football. They have also been proven more competitive than they used to be and often reach high places in the FIFA World Rankings.

SQUAD

Greece have been accused as being one of the most boring and anti-football teams ever, but their biggest strength lies in its solid defence. With two centre-backs and a libero, Otto Rehhagel revived in 2004 the old-fashioned but always effective catenaccio style.

But, when it comes to creative football, Greece suffers greatly. The only attacking plan is to wait for a set piece so that someone can jump to the ball and send it home.

The team's success in qualifying for the 1994 FIFA World Cup in the USA marked the first time they had made it to the FIFA World Cup finals. Greece finished first and undefeated in their qualifying group, surpassing Russia in the final game.

It is worth mentioning that all players of the squad included the 3 goalkeepers took part in those 3 games, something very rare. In their first game against Argentina, Greece lost 4-0.

Four days later Greece suffered another 4-0 blow from Bulgaria and in their final game lost to Nigeria 2-0. In the end, Greece were eliminated in the first round by losing all three games, scoring no goals and conceding 10, thus making one of the worst records in World Cup history. So, Greece remained in the World Cup wilderness for 16 years, failing to qualify for the 1998, 2002 and 2006 games.

However, Greece's failure to qualify for the FIFA World Cup 2006, in Germany, made them only the third European champions that failed to qualify for the World Cup finals after the 1976 champions, Czechoslovakia, missed out on a place in Argentina and 1992, champions Denmark did not reach USA'94 also.

A decade after the USA 1994's debacle, Otto Rehhagel revived the fortune of Greek national team, took a largely home-based team to Euro 2004 and, against all expectations, returned home with the coveted trophy.

The champions qualified for Euro 2008, in Switzerland and Austria, by accumulating the greatest number of points of any team in their qualifying matches. However, they finished last in Group D of the finals and were eliminated from further play.

The 2004 golden era seems to be more relevant to historians than the present day football, most players that belonged to the era are either in the twilight of their careers have bided good bye to international matches. Greece qualified for the South Africa 2010 only after a playoff victory against Ukraine (0-0 in Athens, 1-0 in Donetsk).

Memories of a bitter 1994 FIFA World Cup experience are still fresh in the minds of many, where Greece lost all three group stage matches, conceding ten goals and scoring none. So, playing against Argentina, South Korea and Nigeria in Group B of the World Cup, Greece will have a lot to prove to the world that their Euro 2004 triumph is not a fluke.

ROAD TO SOUTH AFRICA

By way of the November 2007 FIFA World Rankings, Greece was seeded in Pot A for the European zone group stage draw for 2010 FIFA World Cup qualifying. They were drawn into Group 2 with Israel, Switzerland, Moldova, Latvia and Luxembourg.

Greece's group stage campaign began and ended with matches



Otto Rehhagel transformed the Greek style, attitude and mentality

against Luxembourg on September 6, 2008 and 14 October 2009. While earning only three clean sheets in ten qualifying games, Greece relied heavily upon the scoring prowess of Theofanis Gekas, who led all Europeans in scoring with 10 goals.

Two losses to Switzerland placed the Greeks one point behind the Swiss group winners, leaving Greece's 2010 World Cup hopes to be decided in a play-off with Group 6 runner-up Ukraine. Despite being drawn in a rather easy group, Greece had to fight hard their way to South Africa.

The Greeks finished second in Group B of the UEFA zone, behind Switzerland (to which Greece suffered defeats both home and away) and earned a World Cup spot by beating Ukraine in a two-legged play-off. Greece slumped to a scoreless draw in Athen in the first leg before Dimitris Salpingidis' goal in Donetsk sent Greece to South Africa.

KEY PLAYERS

The highlight of Giorgos Karagounis' international career was undoubtedly winning the European championship for Greece in Euro 2004. He was a key player for Greece and famously scored the first goal of the tournament against Portugal, a stunning long range shot that shocked the hosts and gave Greece the confidence they needed to win the game and progress in the tournament.

After winning Euro 2004, Karagounis continued to play on a regular basis for Greece in the 2006 World Cup qualifying campaign, the 2005 FIFA Confederations Cup and the Euro 2008 finals. On March 25, 2008, Karagounis participated in a Greece-Portugal friendly match in Düsseldorf, Germany. This proved to be somewhat



GIORGOS Karagounis... the Greece captain is leading by example

of a highlight of his international career as he scored two almost identical well-placed free-kicks to give Greece a 2-1 victory.

Giorgos Karagounis as Captain of Greece contributed to the qualification for the 2010 FIFA

World Cup. A natural leader of the team and a stubborn midfielder, who knows how to keep the ball and be the perfect playmaker in the big games, without him, Greece's midfield will most likely have no real strength.

GUEST COLUMNIST

By Usman Gambo Alih
gamboteidi@yahoo.com

Avoiding pitfalls of the 2007 elections

It is undeniable that Nigerians are clamouring for the full implementation of Uwais Electoral Reform Committee Report, over which the Federal Government and National Assembly have been dragging their feet. This yearning from Nigerians is anchored on the need to have free, fair and credible election in Nigeria comes 2011.

Professor Iwu, the former chairman of Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has repeatedly maintained that the proliferation of political parties and intra-party manipulations of politicians in 2007 as one of the fundamental reasons for the failure of INEC. Therefore, the need to avoid a repeat of 2007 election failure becomes paramount.

Political parties are means of structuring conflict in an electoral system that is based on competition for power between or among political organisations. Some democracies like United States of America in days of George Washington started with a Non-Partisan system in which individuals are elected into or given power on their individual merit.

Other democracies such as Canada started with multiple parties and developed over time into two or three party systems with substantial electoral significance. India started with multi parties system through formation of coalition government.

At independence, there were four major political parties in the country: Action Group (AG), the National Council of Nigerian Citizens (NCNC), Northern People's Congress (NPC) and Northern Elements Progressive Union (NEPU). At the end of the 1959 election, no party could form a government by itself, NCNC and NPC formed a coalition. In 1964, election was competed on two alliances: the Nigerian National Alliance (NNA) and United Progressive Grand Alliance (UPGA).

In 1978, five parties emerged: the National Party of Nigeria (NPN) the Nigerian People's Party (NPP) the Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN), Great Nigeria People's Party (GNPP), and People's Redemption Party (PRP). At the end of 1979 election, again, NPN and NPP formed a coalition.

In 1990s, the military government of General Ibrahim Babangida streamlined the process of accessing political organisations by formally limiting the number of political parties to two: National Republican Convention (NRC) and Social Democratic Party (SDP). Indeed, this is the election considered overwhelmingly as the most free, fair and credible election in Nigeria political history.

Regardless of other problems brought on the polity by Babangida, he used the introduction of two-party system to inculcate some sanity to the struggle for power by political parties and to turn into a polity what had been the actual

culture of one group of parties in power and another group in opposition.

Although, the major lacuna associated with Babangida two-party system was its inability to enshrine in the electoral regulations the possibility of independent candidates who might be unable to subscribe to the limited choices offered in a two-party milieu.

Following the death of General Abacha in 1998 and the emergence of General Abdulsalami, three parties, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) All Peoples Party (APP) and Alliance for Democracy (AD) emerged. At the presidential level, the political battle was between PDP and APP; AD had sympathy for, and later supported APP. But Between

2002 and now we have experienced a massive increase of political parties (57) which has created an unfavourable political scenario.

Based on this, the National Assembly in their ongoing reviewing of Electoral Acts is faced with two options i.e. Two Party with an independent candidate and 3-5 party in the 2011 election. From the available information, the first option is waxing stronger and makes more meaning than the second option.

The Uwais electoral reform committee's recommendation is designed to bring some modicum of discipline to what appears to be a chaotic space for proliferation of political parties that have more nuisance than electoral value.

The recommendation of the committee is another attempt to go back to a system that reduces the chaos of electoral competition and at the same time

respects the rights of individuals to hold political views and seek power on the basis of such views.

Without doubt, the recommendations of the Uwais Committee must have been influenced by the experiences of 2003 and 2007 elections and INEC's registration of 37 political parties a few months before 2007 election.

While those making a religious definition of freedom of association deserve to be heard on ground of our diversities, it is not out of place to warn citizens about the role of the proverbial Nigerian factor in the culture of partisanship that pervades the practice of politics in the country.

Nevertheless, Nigerians are disillusioned and dissatisfied with confusion surrounding the array of political choices during 2007, which facilitated the manipulation of its election results. Nigerians must be ready to die for what they believe in just as the Americans did to liberate themselves from clutches and shackle of colonialism in 1861. All hands must be on deck as Nigerians will not receive anything short of free, fair and credible elections in 2011.

“The military government of General Ibrahim Babangida streamlined the process of accessing political organisations by formally limiting the number of political parties to two: National Republican Convention (NRC) and Social Democratic Party (SDP).”

SPORTS REPORT



ANDY Roddick

French Open: Roddick rallies for 5-set win

Andy Roddick rallied to beat Jarkko Nieminen of Finland 6-2, 4-6, 4-6, 7-6, 6-3 yesterday in the first round of the French Open.

The match was Roddick's first on clay since he lost in the fourth round at Roland Garros last year. He hadn't played since winning a tournament in Key Biscayne, Florida, in early April. He withdrew

from the Madrid Masters two weeks ago due to illness.

The sixth-seeded Roddick barely avoided losing his opening match at the French Open for the fifth time. Several clutch forehands helped him win the tie-breaker to extend the match, and he improved to 13-15 lifetime in five-setters.

Roddick hit 19 aces and lost serve only twice.



DINARA Safina reacts after losing to Date Krumm in the French Open

Safina loses in 1st round

Two-time French Open runner-up Dinara Safina of Russia lost in the first round at Roland Garros yesterday, falling to Kimiko Date Krumm of Japan 3-6, 6-4, 7-5.

The 39-year-old Date Krumm, who came out of a 12-year retirement in 2008, became the second oldest woman to win a match at Roland Garros in the Open era after Virginia Wade in 1985.

"I'm really happy. I tried my best," Date Krumm said after the French crowd gave her a standing ovation.

Date Krumm is playing at the clay-court Grand Slam tournament for the first time since 1996. Date Krumm made her Grand Slam debut at the French Open in 1989, when Safina was 3 years old.

