

# DAILY TRUST

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TRUST IS A BURDEN

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Three killed in  
fresh Jos violence



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Ex-minister Fatima  
killed in car crash



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## Ladan replaces Barkindo as NNPC boss

By Mohammed S. Shehu &  
Hamisu Muhammad

ALHAJI Shehu Ladan, a former group executive director at the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation, has been appointed the Group Managing Director of the NNPC, replacing Mohammed Sanusi Barkindo.

Acting President Goodluck Jonathan yesterday

“Ladan retired exactly a year ago as Group Executive Director, Commercial and Investment, of the NNPC

sacked Barkindo, who has been at the helm for just over a year.

Ladan retired exactly a year ago as Group Executive Director, Commercial and Investment, of the NNPC.

A statement yesterday in Abuja by Jonathan's spokesman Ima Niboro said: “The Acting President, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, has appointed Alhaji Shehu Ladan as the new Group Managing Director of the Nigeria National Petroleum  
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## As new Cabinet emerges...

# Jonathan heads power ministry

## The highlights

- Sheikh Abdullah - Agric
- Allison-Madueke - Petroleum
- Bala Mohammed - FCT
- Segun Aganga - Finance
- Ruqayyatu Rufai - Education
- Adetokunbo Kayode - Defence

(Full list on Page 5)



NEW female ministers: Dora Akunyili (Information), Fidelia Njeze (Aviation), Diezani Allison-Madueke (Petroleum), Josephine Anenih (Women Affairs) and Josephine Tappun (State for Commerce).

By Habeeb I. Pindiga & Mohammed S. Shehu

A new federal cabinet was sworn in yesterday, with acting President Goodluck Jonathan taking charge of the power ministry and six

returnee ministers retaining their former portfolios.

A minister of state has been appointed for the Ministry of Power, and Jonathan's spokesman Ima Niboro said the acting president would hold the

substantive power portfolio for now.

“The purpose is to achieve the set targets in the power sector by the administration,” Niboro said yesterday, shortly after 38 new ministers took oath  
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Intrigue stalls  
PDP NEC meeting

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## Business

CBN Governor Sanusi Lamido Sanusi says the 2010 budget is likely to fail **25**

## Digest

The secret of losing weight could be down to a person's rather than strict diet **35**

## World

British PM Gordon Brown yesterday called for general election for May 6 **20**

Inside Today's Daily Trust

# Seven-point agenda alive – Jonathan

By Mohammed S. Shehu

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan yesterday promised to continue implementing policy framework of the administration as started by President Umaru Musa Yar'adua.

Jonathan, who stated this yesterday at the swearing-in of new ministers, contradicted media

reports that he has pruned down the seven-point agenda of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua to three namely electoral reform, power and Niger Delta.

He said "The executive council we are inaugurating today will continue to work for a rigorous implementation of the policy framework of this administration, which came into office on the

29th of May 2007. While we continue to pray for the speedy recovery of the President, permit me to emphasize the policy continuum of governance and to insist on the imperative of this team to roll up its sleeve, and to redouble effort so as to meet the expectation of our people who are yearning for good governance.

"Our efforts in governance

must be manifested in the revamp of decaying infrastructure including steady power supply and good roads; provision of sound and quality education; the good health of our people; provision of jobs for our unemployed youths, security of life and property, commitment to free and fair elections and the very strict adherence to the rule of law."



FROM left: Former President Olusegun Obasanjo, wife of Imo State Governor Mrs. Chioma Obakim, wife of Acting President Mrs. Patience Jonathan and wife of Senate President Mrs. Helen David Mark, during the N3 billion Cathedral launching at Okigwe, Imo State, yesterday.

## Minister: Police force will get better

By Misbahu Bashir

MINISTER of Police Affairs Adamu Maina Waziri said government will provide the necessary political and administrative support to enable the police improve on their performance.

The minister made the remarks

yesterday after taking over the affairs of the Ministry from the Permanent Secretary Bukar Goni Aji.

He said there will be massive transformation of the Nigeria Police Force as the government will pursue its police reform programme with more vigour with

a view to improving the nation's security situation.

Waziri said even though the time is short, much could be achieved in the reform programme with the commitment and cooperation of all stakeholders and promised to ensure full implementation of the Ministry's 2010 budget.

Inspector-General of Police Ogbonna Onovo said police are hindered in the performance of their duties by a myriad of problems which include inadequate training, lack of modern policing equipment, poor accommodation and welfare and, lack of political will to improve the force.

## New minister to re-merge FCTA, FCDA

By Nasir Imam

MINISTER of FCT Senator Bala Muhammad has promised "to collapse the activities of the FCDA and the FCTA into one single body."

Muhammad becomes the 15th Minister of the Federal Capital Territory.

The minister, who took-over from the FCT Permanent Secretary Dr. Goke Adegoroye in a brief ceremony at the FCT minister's office, said "FCDA has suffered from a lot of prejudice."

The FCDA was created in 1976 to oversee the development of the new Federal Capital City, later in 1979; it was given the status of a Ministry - the Ministry of the Federal Capital Territory (MFCT). The Ministry (now defunct) was then created via an official Gazette Extraordinary No.55, volume 66 of October 26, 1979.

Speaking earlier, the FCT Permanent Secretary Dr. Goke Adegoroye revealed that the FCT Administration's workforce is dedicated professionals who are ready to give in their best in the service of their father land.

## Ajumogobia assumes duty

CHIEF Odien Ajumogobia, the new Minister of Foreign Affairs, assumed duty yesterday shortly after he was sworn in.

Ajumogobia was accompanied to the ministry by the Permanent Secretary, Dr Martins Uhomobhi, who had earlier witnessed the swearing in ceremony.

Some employees of the ministry who spoke on condition of anonymity, expressed the hope that the minister would reposition the ministry to enable it to project the nation's foreign policy thrust positively.

A source said Ajumogobia was expected to address the management staff of the ministry within the week.

He was before last month's dissolution of the Federal Executive Council, the Minister of State for Petroleum. (NAN)

## Sada, Kayode, Murtala take up new jobs

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

THE new ministers inaugurated by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan yesterday resumed work at their various ministries.

The new Minister of Mines

and Steel Development Arc. Musa Mohammad Sada said while taking over from the ministry's permanent secretary, Sheck Goni, that he was optimistic the mines and steel sector will contribute significantly to the socio-economic growth of the nation.

Sada, who was Commissioner of Work in Katsina State before his appointment, promised to work as a team with the staff of the ministry and its parastatals to move the sector forward.

He said he would come up

with a "strategic workable programme" that would stand the test of time for the development of the sector.

Sada's biggest challenge could be the future of both Ajaokuta Steel Company and the National Iron Ore Manufacturing Com-

pany (NIOMCO) as the workers of the two companies live in uncertainty with little hope.

Minister of Defence Adetokumbo Kayode and Minister of State for Defence Murtala Yar'adua have also resumed work yesterday.

# Akunyili back to information

## ■ No ministers for Health, Water Resources

By Mohammed S. Shehu

PROF. Dora Akunyili yesterday retained her earlier position as minister of information and communications, while Mrs Deziani Alison-Madueke was allocated the lucrative ministerial portfolio of Petroleum Resources.

Diezani, who was the immediate past Minister of Mines and Steel Development, became the first woman to head petroleum ministry in Nigeria. Many had earlier thought that Prof Akunyili will be assigned the Health portfolio but were proved wrong by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan.

The inauguration of the ministers saw Olusegun Olutoyin Aganga becoming the minister of finance, while Mohammed Bello Adoke (SAN) was made the new Justice Minister and Attorney General of the Federation.

The immediate former Justice Minister and Attorney General of the Federation Adetokunbo Kayode (SAN) was redeployed to the Defence Ministry. Henry Odein Ajumogobia, who was former minister of state for petroleum, became the minister of foreign affairs.

Sen. Bala Mohammed, the link man of the National Interest Group in the Senate that championed the empowerment of

Jonathan as Acting President, was rewarded with FCT minister portfolio.

Apart from Akunyili, Dr. Shamsudeen Usman retained his National Planning Commission, Mr. John Ogar Odey, Environment; and Arc: Nuhu Somo Wya continued as Minister of State for Power.

Others are Aderemi Babalola who retained his position as State Minister of Finance and Sen Akinlabi Oluksunkani as Youth Development Minister.

President Yar'adua's nephew, Murtala Shehu Yar'adua was sent to the Defence ministry as state minister. Ministry of Niger Delta is now manned by Elder Peter Godsdoy Orubebe as minister while Aviation Ministry went to Mrs. Fidelia Njeze.

Others are Mr. Chukwuemeka Ngozichineke Wogu (Labour & Productivity); Arc. Musa Mohammed Sada, Mines & Steel Development; Hon. Samuel Ode (state minister Niger Delta Affairs); Adamu Waziri (Police Affairs) Prof. Muhammed K. Abubakar (Science and Technology), Navy Capt. Earnest Olubolade (Special Duties), Yusuf Sulaiman (Transport), Iyom Josephine Anenih (Women Affairs), Hon. Ibrahim Isa Bio (National Sports Commission), Sen. Sanusi M. Dagash (Works) Engr. Chris Ogiemwinyi (State, Works), Hon. Nduse

Essien (Lands, Housing & Urban Development)

Prof. Sheikh Ahmed Abdullah (Agriculture), Mr. Awodele Najeem Adewale (State, Agric), Sen. Jibril Martins Kuye (Commerce & Industry), and Ms. Josephine Tapgun (State, Commerce and Industry).

Abubakar Sadiq A. Mohammed (Culture & Tourism), Prof. (Mrs) Ruqayyatu A. Rufai (Education), Mr. Aderemi W Babalola (State, Finance), Dr. Aliyu Idi Hong (State I, Foreign Affairs.) Mr. Labaran Maku (State, Information and Communication), Capt. Emmanuel Iheanacho (Interior), Mr. Humphrey Enemakwu Abah (State Interior), Alh. Suleiman Bello (State, Health) and Prof Muhammaed K. Abubakar (Science and Technology).

Meanwhile, no substantive ministers were named for Health and Water Resources ministries, while the ministries of Education, FCT and Petroleum Resources were yet to have state ministers. The list also indicated that Foreign Affairs is also yet to have state minister II.

Two new ministries were also created. The ministries of Land, Housing and Urban Development was carved out of the Ministry of Works while Water Resources was separated from Agriculture Ministry.

## Carnival, as supporters throng Villa for cabinet inauguration

Mohammed S. Shehu

SECURITY officials attached to the Presidential Villa, Abuja yesterday had hectic time controlling hundreds of friends and well-wishers of the newly sworn-in ministers who came to the villa to witness the inauguration of the Federal Executive Council by the Acting President Goodluck Jonathan.

It was a carnival of sorts as associates of the ministers, clad in colourful tradition attires and accompanied by musicians kept the State House alive as they waited at the Pilot Gate, the last entry point to the Villa, for the celebrants who had gone into Villa for the inauguration.

While some supporters were kept entertained by musicians, others were either charting in groups or making telephone calls

all through the two hours the event lasted.

*Daily Trust* observed that visitors started trooping to the State House as early as 9 am, three hours ahead of the inauguration scheduled for 12 noon. Even though the celebrants had been told to limit the number of those that would accompany them to event to two, the supporters made their ways into the Aso Rock but couldn't get entrance into inner site of the Presidential Villa.



MINISTER of Special Duties, retired Navy Capt. Caleb Olubolade (left), being congratulated by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan after his swearing-in at the State House, Abuja, yesterday.



INFORMATION Minister Prof. Dora Akunyili, Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development Nduse Essien, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr. Aliyu Idi Hong and Labour Minister Chukwuemeka Wogu taking the oath of office in Abuja, yesterday.



FCT Minister Senator Bala Mohammed (right) and the FCT Permanent Secretary Dr. Goke Adegoke during the minister's resumption of office, in Abuja, yesterday.



MINISTER of Information Professor Dora Akunyili (left), being congratulated by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan after her swearing-in at the State House, Abuja, yesterday.

# Rimi died before arriving clinic—Doctor

From Ruqayyah Yusuf Aliyu, Kano

DOCTORS at the Classic Clinic and Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital (AKTH) where the late Alhaji Abubakar Rimi was taken before he was confirmed dead last Sunday night said that he died before reaching the hospital.

Speaking to Daily Trust yesterday Rimi's family doctor, Dr. Abdulgafar Shittu, who owns Classic clinic said when the late Rimi was brought to the clinic, his system had already stopped functioning and could have only

be saved if he had been brought into the hospital at least 20 minutes earlier.

"He was already dead by the time he was brought here, his pupils were dilated. Medically, for one's pupils to be dilated, it means he is dead. When we asked the people that brought him, they said he collapsed about 20 minutes to the time they brought him here. We tried to resuscitate him, but he was already forming through the nose and mouth and the lay man (driver) thought he was breathing" said Dr Shittu.

On why the doctor made a referral to AKTH instead of confirming him dead, he said, "the reason why we took him to AKTH was to put him on a dissimulator, it is an equipment that gives the heart electric shock and make it function again. We actually don't have that facility here, it is mostly found in big hospitals like the teaching hospital".

Dr Shittu further explained that even at the time of the referral, the possibility of Rimi surviving that situation was very low, but as professionals, he said they

had to ensure they did all that was humanly and medically possible to rescue him.

"There wasn't a possibility of him surviving, but as a medical doctor, one has to try. By the time they arrived the clinic, he was already 20 minutes late. If only they came in earlier, the heart would have been reversed and with the electric shock and with some oxygen, he might have survived it. What happened was that his heart failed as a result of the shock from the armed robbers attack despite the fact that he was

not physically tortured," Dr Shittu said.

On whether late Rimi had history of heart problem, Dr Shittu said, "he never had history of heart problem. I have been his family doctor for over 30 years now. All I know about his health is that he battled diabetes for over 20 years and that led to a neurological problem.

He developed high blood pressure which was not serious, he also had an intestinal problem which made his stomach irritable to several kinds of foods and drugs, but to my knowledge, he never had any heart problem and he has been a very good patient by way of complying to doctor's advice and prescriptions. If anyone could have saved Rimi from dying, that person would have been me because he was more than just a patient, we were very close family friends. I just pray that Allah reward him for his good deeds with Jannatul Firdaus".

PIC: NAN



ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan with new ministers after their swearing-in at the State House, Abuja, yesterday.

## Lamido, Lar relocate to Kano

From Jaafar Jaafar, Lawan Danjuma Adamu, Kano & Yushau Adamu, Jigawa

JIGAWA State Governor Sule Lamido and the Second Republic Governor of Plateau State Chief Solomon Lar seem to have relocated to the late Alhaji Abubakar Rimi's residence. Our correspondent observed that while other sympathisers leave after condoling the family, the duo are stationed at the residence receiving condolences.

Governor Lamido and Solomon Lar were close allies of the deceased and they shared the same political ideology. Speaking with our correspondent, Chief Lar said he had known the late Rimi for over 50 years and that he was a kind of person who could not easily be described.

"He was a wonderful man, a politician to the core, an icon, a bridge builder," he said.

Lar said he met with the late Rimi about three days ago, and

that he (Lar) told him that they would be in Kano to visit the Kano State governor and the emir of Kano very soon.

Lar said politics in Nigeria without Rimi would never be the same.

"In politics, Rimi could reach everywhere even where it seemed impossible. Rimi did everything to restore democracy in Nigeria. He organised what we called G18 alongside some northern politicians to ask General Abacha to

quit power," he said.

Chief Lar said Rimi was the first to suggest the formation of the ruling Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) while they were at the Kiri-kiri prison during the regime of late General Sani Abacha.

In a related development, the Vice Chancellor of the Ado Bayero University Kano Professor Muhammadu Attahiru Jega has said that the late Rimi contributed immensely to the progress of education in Nigeria.

## ...AKTH denies neglect

RESPONDING to the allegation that Rimi lost his life as a result of negligence on the part of AKTH staff, Dr Hadiza Galadanchi of the teaching hospital said she was one of the doctors that tried to rescue him. She said the deceased gave up before reaching the hospital. She said, she was alerted by Rimi's daughter, Asma'u that he was sick and being referred to AKTH and therefore rushed to help.

According to Galadanchi, "I was at a wedding ceremony when Asma'u called me that her father was sick and needed prompt attention. I immediately spoke with Dr Shittu who told me the condition that his pupils were already dilated. I asked them to drive down to AKTH, I also immediately joined them and I personally wheeled him into the accident and emergency unit of the hospital. I immediately called on a specialist in resuscitation, Dr Habeeb Musa Mohammed and he came in immediately and commenced the resuscitation. He did all he could to revive the deceased, but he was already gone," he said.

## My last words with Rimi -Widow

From Ruqayyah Yusuf Aliyu, Kano

LATE Alhaji Abubakar Rimi's widow Hajiya Hadiza Rimi said her last words with her husband were at 8.08 pm the day he died. She said their last discussion was

when he called to tell her that he was taking off from Dass, where he went for the coronation of the new Emir of Dass Alhaji Usman Bilyaminu Othman.

Hadiza recalled cautioning him against travelling at night, but

that he insisted he would embark on the journey and hoped to arrive at 10 or 10.30 pm. She said he asked her to prepare food for him. "When he told me they were taking off for Kano that night, I felt it was not safe and therefore

advised that they postpone the journey to the following day, but he insisted that they were coming over. She said it was destined for him to die that night and that was why he insisted on travelling even after she advised him against it.

She said he was a loving and caring husband who cared very much for his family.

"He was down to earth and really supportive. He was always there for his family and ensured that we lacked nothing."

# Ladan replaces Barkindo as NNPC boss

Continued from page 1

Corporation (NNPC). He replaces Alhaji Mohammed Sanusi Barkindo." Jonathan thanked Barkindo for his stewardship and wished him well in his future endeavours.

The announcement of the sack came few hours after Barkindo had left the Presidential Villa, Abuja, where he attended the inauguration of the Federal Executive Council yesterday.

Ladan, who hails from Kaduna State, is a lawyer, philanthropist and oil and gas management strategist.

He was Deputy Managing Director of Nigeria LNG, and Executive Director of National Engineering and Technical Company Limited (NETCO) as well as Nigerian Petroleum Development Company (NPDC), both subsidiaries of NNPC.

He had his early education at N. A. Primary School Tudun Wada before proceeding to Sheikh Sabah College (now Sardauna Memorial College) in Kaduna for senior secondary school certificate.

He has a bachelor's and a master's degree in law at the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. He is also an alumnus of the Harvard Business School and the University of Dundee.

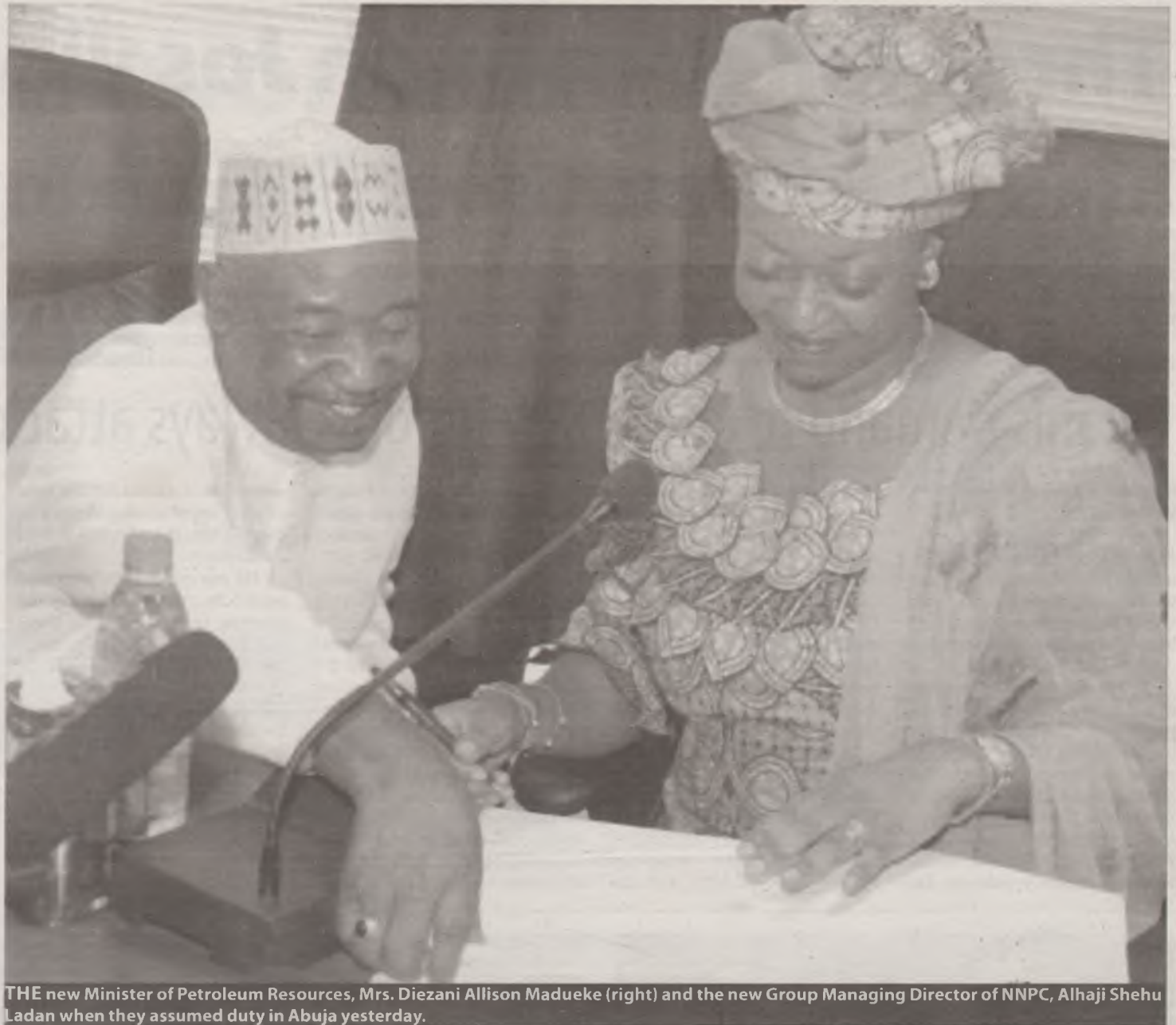
Ladan served as staff solicitor of the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria, and later Company Secretary/Legal Adviser of the Kaduna State Rural Electrification Board (REB) and Assistant Director, Federal Legal Aid Council of Nigeria, Jos.

He was appointed Kaduna state commissioner of education in 1987. In 1989, he became the state's attorney general and commissioner of justice.

Ladan moved to the oil and gas industry in 1990. He held various positions at the NNPC, rising to be the Group General Manager of Human Resources in 2004. In 2006, he was appointed the deputy Managing Director/CEO of Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG) Ltd, a joint venture company that has NNPC, Shell, Total and Agip as shareholders. In October 2007, he was appointed Group Executive Director Commercial and Investment of NNPC.

He holds the traditional title of Cigarin (The Conqueror of) Zazzau.

**“Ladan, who hails from Kaduna State, is a lawyer, philanthropist and oil and gas management strategist**



THE new Minister of Petroleum Resources, Mrs. Diezani Allison Madueke (right) and the new Group Managing Director of NNPC, Alhaji Shehu Ladan when they assumed duty in Abuja yesterday.

# Jonathan heads power ministry

Continued from page 1

of office and were assigned portfolios in 29 ministries.

The acting president is to work closely with an electricity power consultant and Chairman of Independent Power Producers Association of Nigeria, Professor Barth Nnaji, who heads a government committee on power.

“Acting President, Dr Goodluck Jonathan, is to take charge of the Power Ministry for now. A new power team is being put in place to work in conjunction with the Professor Barth Nnaji led Power Sub-Committee of the presidential advisory council. This new body is to take charge

of a new power initiative to be unveiled in a matter of days,” Niboro said in a statement.

“The Acting President shall chair this body, with the minister of state, power, as deputy chair. The body is to be made up of experts in the different areas of power, from generation to transmission, distribution and finance.”

Mr. Nuhu Somo Wya has been reappointed as Minister of State for Power, and the ministry would now be supervised directly from the office of the acting president.

Others who returned to their previous portfolios are Akinlabi Olasukanmi (Youth Development), Shamsuddeen Usman

(National Planning), Dora AKunyili (Information), John Odey (Environment) and Aderemi Babalola (State for Finance).

Inaugurating the cabinet at the State House, Jonathan had told the new ministers that they would have to sign performance agreement on ministerial goals and target. He said the oath of office and oath of allegiance the ministers took constituted a sacred commitment to serve the country without fear or favour.

He warned against divisive tendencies, saying “No longer must we tolerate the triumph of centrifugal forces whose main agenda is to distract and defeat the march of our people to the

summit of economic self-sufficiency and political maturity.”

He said from now on, he would be requesting a briefing fortnightly on the state of economy from the economic team, which he said would be constituted very shortly and under the chairmanship of the Minister of Finance.

Jonathan three weeks ago sacked the cabinet, which was appointed by ailing President Umaru Yar'adua.

At least two substantive ministerial portfolios have yet to be filled. The acting president has sent names of nominees who would take up the vacant slots to the Senate for confirmation.

## List of ministers and their portfolios

- |                                     |                               |                                 |                             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Prof. Sheikh Ahmed Abdullah      | Agriculture                   | 20. Mr. Chukwuemeka N. Wogu     | Labour & Productivity       |
| 2. Mr. Awodele Najeem Adewale       | Agriculture                   | 21. Arc. Musa Mohd Sada         | Mines & Steel Devt          |
| 3. Mohammed Bello Adoke(SAN)        | Justice                       | 22. Elder Peter Gosday Orubebe  | Niger Delta                 |
| 4. Mrs. Fidelia Njeze               | Aviation                      | 23. Mr. Samuel Ode              | Niger Delta (State)         |
| 5. Sen. Jubril Martins Kuye         | Commerce & Industry           | 24. Mrs. Deziani Alison Madueke | Petroleum Resources         |
| 6. Ms. Josephine Tapgun             | Commerce & industry (State)   | 25. Chief Adetokunbo Kayode     | Defence                     |
| 7. Abubakar Sadiq A. Mohammed       | Culture & Tourism             | 26. Alh. Murtala Shehu Yar'adua | Defence (State)             |
| 8. Prof. Ruqayya Rufa'I             | Education                     | 27. Arc. Nuhu Somo Wya          | Power                       |
| 9. Sen. Bala Muhammed               | FCT                           | 28. Alh. Adamu Waziri           | Police Affairs              |
| 10. Mr. John Ogar Odey              | Environment                   | 29. Pro. Muhammed K Abubakar    | Science & Technology        |
| 11. Mr. Olusegun Olutoyin Aganga    | Finance                       | 30. Ernest Olubolade (rtd)      | Special Duties              |
| 12. Mr. Aderemi Babalola            | Finance (State)               | 31. Alh. Yusuf Sulaiman         | Transport                   |
| 13. Mr. Henry Odein Ajumogobia(SAN) | Foreign Affairs               | 32. Sen. Akinlabi Olusunkanmi   | Youth Development           |
| 14. Dr. Aliyu Idi Hong              | Foreign Affairs (State)       | 33. Mrs. Josephine Iyom Anenih  | Women Affairs               |
| 15. Alh. Suleiman Bello             | Health (State)                | 34. Dr. Shamsudeen Usman        | National Planning           |
| 16. Prof. Dora Akunyili             | Info & Communications         | 35. Alh. Ibrahim Isa Bio        | National Sports Commission  |
| 17. Mr. Labaran Maku                | Info & Communications (State) | 36. Sen. Sanus M. Dagash        | Works                       |
| 18. Capt. Emmanuel Iheanacho        | Interior                      | 37. Engr. Chris Ogiemwinyi      | Works (State)               |
| 19. Mr. Humphrey Enemakwu Abah      | Interior (State)              | 38. Hon. Nduese Essien          | Lands, Housing & Urban Devt |

# Three killed in fresh Jos violence

From Ahmed Mohammed & Mahmud Lalo, Jos

AT least three people were killed and several others injured in clashes between Christians and Muslims in the Nasarawa Gwom area of Jos on Monday evening, a military spokesman said yesterday.

A rally by Christians celebrating the Easter briefly turned vio-

lent when members of the group fought with a Muslim mob. Police said the situation was now under control and no further violence was reported yesterday.

In a statement, spokesman for the special task force Brigadier General Donald Oji said, "Three persons lost their lives and some were injured. The injured were attended to by medical personnel

of the STF while the bodies of the dead were removed by members of the STF and deposited appropriately for further action."

He added: "What could have passed as a peaceful inter-denominational Easter prayer at Rwang Pam Stadium was hijacked by hoodlums who took to the streets thereby causing serious breach of peace. The prayer was duly signed

and approved by the STF on the condition that there would be no procession and that it would be confined to the stadium. This condition was duly attested to by the organisers of the programme.

"However, the hoodlums took advantage of the large number of participants, who had concluded their programme and were dispersing to cause a breach of peace.

Insinuation and rumours that these three were killed by STF is not correct. The STF only carried out its duties of dispersing the crowd."

But the Plateau State Police Command said only one person died in the incident and has since started an investigation into the death of the victim, who was identified as Mr Osita Ikechukwu.

## Fulanis demand to know why Beroms always attack them

From Andrew Agbese & Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

FULANIS in Plateau State yesterday demanded to know from the Gbong Gwom Jos, Da Jacob Gyang Buba why they are attacked by the Beroms anytime there is a crisis in Jos.

The Fulani asked the question at a meeting with other Berom traditional rulers presided over by the Gbong Gwom Jos. Others at the meeting include: the Acting Commissioner of Police Ikechukwu Adoba, a representative of the Sultan, Alhaji Umar Abubakar representative of the National Security Adviser, Dr.

Aminu Tilde, representative of the Plateau State government, Commissioner for Special Duties, Alhaji Saleh, sector commander of the joint task force and others.

The meeting was held behind closed doors, but sources at the meeting said the Gbong Gwom harped on the need for peace to return to Plateau State and that the meeting was to hear from both sides how that could be achieved.

After the opening comments by the Gbong Gwom, the Ardo of Gashish, Ardo Idris Gidado, who was mandated to speak for the Fulanis said they had noticed that whenever the natives of Plateau had a problem with the

Hausa people in Jos, the Fulanis residing in the other Berom dominated local government areas of the state would be attacked.

The Ardo told the Gbong Gwom that it happened during the 2001 crisis and that it repeated itself during the January crisis and demanded to know what the Fulanis had done to the Beroms. The source said the Ardo who spoke for less than five minutes said that was the only question his people told him to ask.

The Gbong Gwom on his part was said to have asked the Berom traditional rulers to respond to the question. The Da Gwon Rwei of Barkin Ladi, according to the

source said this was not the time to start apportioning blames or digging into the past, but to find a solution.

He was said to have been supported by other speakers at the meeting from the Berom communities. At the end of the meeting which lasted more than four hours, it was decided that a committee of Beroms and Fulani be set up at various districts of Berom dominated local government areas to find ways of achieving peace in the state.

They also agreed that another meeting be held after three weeks to examine the situation. One of the Fulani leaders, Saleh Bayeri,

who was at the meeting confirmed what the source told our correspondent. But one of the Berom elders who hails from Barkin Ladi told our correspondent that they only agreed for committees to be set up at the district levels.

Meanwhile, Plateau State Police Commissioner Mr Ikechukwu Ayo Aduba has warned that hence forth, ward heads, community leaders and parents will be held responsible for corpses found in their area.

Mr Aduba said this yesterday while speaking at a reconciliatory meeting between leaders of Fulani communities, Miyetti Allah association and the Gbong Gwom Jos.



RETIRED Colonel Mike Davies, consultant, Commodore Phyllis Amechina, Director of Education, Defence Headquarters, Rear Admiral Udoli Ekwere, representative of Chief of Defence Staff and Maj.-Gen. Lawrence Ngubane, GOC, 2 Div. at the opening of a skill acquisition training for dependants of Armed Forces personnel in Ibadan yesterday.

## Rimi's third day prayers hold today

From Halima Musa, Kano

THE third day prayer for the late Alhaji Abubakar Rimi holds today at his residence in Durbin Katsina, Kano. Personalities from all over the country are expected to attend the prayer.

Among these personalities are the Acting Governor of Kano State Engr Abdullahi Tijjani Gwarzo, the Emir of Kano Alhaji Ado Bayero, other governors from across the country, his friends and associates.

## Ex-minister Fatima Ibrahim killed in car crash

From Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna

FORMER Minister of State for Power Hajiya Fatima Balaraba Ibrahim died in a road accident close to Makarfi on Kano-Zaria road around 2.30pm yesterday. She was 63 years old.

The ex-minister was said to be returning from a wedding in Kano. The cause of the accident was not known.

Abdullahi Mahuta, who witnessed the accident, said the driver and two children as well as another lady who were in the car sustained mild injuries and had to be rushed to a hospital at Makarfi.

He said the deceased was trapped

under the car, which somersaulted, and the vehicle had to be lifted in order to remove her.

The former minister was taken to her Jabi road residence in Kaduna where the funeral prayer was offered after the Magrib prayer at 6.55pm. She has since been buried according to Islamic rites.

Born on April 16, 1947, in Birnin Kebbi, Hajiya Fatima attended Nasarawa Primary School and Government Girls College, Dala, Kano from 1951 to 65, before proceeding to Advanced Teachers College, Zaria (1966-69).

She was also at the University of Dakar from 1969-70. She also attended Ahmadu

Bello University between 1970 and 73 and was among the first set of National Youth Service Corps members. She served in Lagos.

Hajiya Balaraba taught in Rimi College Kaduna from 1974-76. She was also at Government College Kaduna between 1979 and 1980, before transferring to Kaduna Polytechnic where she worked between 1980 and 83. From 1983 to 84, she was at the University of Sokoto and became the first woman commissioner in the old Sokoto State in 1984.

She also worked with the Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation, where she rose to become an executive director.

The deceased was appointed minister of state for power in 2007.

Hajiya Balaraba is survived by her husband, Alhaji Muhammad Ibrahim, former Director General of NTA and district head of Kanya Babba in Jigawa State, her aged mother and children.

Among the dignitaries that attended the funeral prayer were General Muhammadu Buhari, Ambassador Aminu Wali, General Salihu Ibrahim, former Chief of Army Staff as well as former governors of Kaduna state retired Cols Lgwaj Jafaru Isa, Hameed Ali and Abubakar Dangiwa Umar who is the deceased's younger brother.

# Council workers locked out for lateness

From John Kennedy Uzoma, Owerri

SOME workers of Ahiazu Mbaise Local Government Council in Imo State were yesterday locked out of their offices for lateness to work.

Many of them spent hours outside the gate begging to be

allowed in, but to no avail.

The Sole Administrator of the council Chief Leo Okeahialam, who ordered that the gate be locked told our correspondent that, he was surprised that only a few workers were in their offices at the official resumption time.

He said many offices were not opened because the workers were not available.

Okeahialam said henceforth, queries would be issued to those who leave before the official closing time.

He cautioned the workers against truancy and absenteeism.

# Rimi's attackers still on the run – Police

From Jaafar Jaafar & Lawan Danjuma Adamu

THE Kano State Police Command yesterday said the robbers, who attacked the late first civilian Governor of Kano State Alhaji Abubakar Rimi at Darki village last Sunday were yet to be found.

The state Police Commissioner Mohammed J. Gana said this through the command's spokesman SP Baba Mohammed Azare, who paid a condolence visit to the residence of the deceased yesterday. He however said the police were still hunting for the assailants.

He prayed for the repose of the soul of the deceased and for the fam-

ily to have the fortitude to bear the loss.

“He however said the police were still hunting for the assailants”

PIC: NAN



FROM left: Senator Mohammed Mana, Deputy Governor of Adamawa State, Mr. Bala Ngilari, Emir of Mubi, Alhaji Abubakar Isa and Speaker Adamawa State House of Assembly, Mr James Barka at the turbaning ceremony of some illustrious sons of Mubi Emirate at the Emir's palace in Mubi town, Adamawa State at the weekend.

# Akwa Ibom accuses teachers of sabotage

AKWA Ibom Government has accused teachers and school heads of sabotaging its free education programme, two years after the declaration of free tuition in the state.

Etubom Jerry Emah, the Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Education, made the accusation in Uyo yesterday in an interview with the newsmen. He alleged that teachers and school heads were sending pupils away from school on grounds of lack of textbooks and uniforms.

Emah also alleged that some teachers collect money for brooms, toilet papers, timetable cards, medical certificates, barges and belts in public schools. He assured stakeholders that his office would work hard to restore confidence in public schools and evolve programmes that would move education policy from free tuition to free education.

He described the free tuition experiment in the state as a prelude to free education, explaining that “free education is not equal to the situation where a child does not pay tuition fee”.

Emah, who is also the state Chairman of Parent-Teacher Association, said “the teachers’ attitude is inimical to the policy.”

He also decried the situation where inspectors of schools send advance notice to school heads to inform them of their impending visit.

“Inspection of schools used to be impromptu, this helped to put the teachers on their toes daily in the past,” the governor’s aide said.

He promised that his style of monitoring would be remarkably different from that of school inspectors.

Emah noted that the free tuition policy had led to increased population in schools and as such, facilities were being overstretched.

(NAN)

# Lagos traders threaten indefinite strike

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

TRADERS at the Mile 12 market under the Amalgamated Foodstuffs and Cattle Dealers Association of Nigeria will embark on strike later this month if the Lagos State government fails to call its revenue collecting agents to order by refraining them from extorting money from traders, who take foodstuffs to Lagos from the northern part of the country.

Our correspondent learnt that the traders would have embarked on a strike already, but they have been waiting for the state governor to receive the report of the fact finding committee set up by Governor Babatunde Fashola.

Speaking to *Daily Trust* yesterday in Lagos, the Secretary of the association, Kabir Al-Hassan, said despite the intervention of the governor which led to the suspension of the warning strike

embarked on earlier, officials of LASTMA still extort money from traders on the highway.

Al-Hassan said the Mile 12 traders had decided to give Governor Fashola a week’s ultimatum to receive the report of the committee and act on it by correcting the anomalies or they would embark on an indefinite strike. He said the traders representatives met concerned state government officials on Monday to make

their decision known, adding that the traders had also met with the security agents in Lagos and informed them of the activities.

The state Commissioner for Transportation Prof Bamidele Badejo had earlier declined any involvement of LASTMA in the operations of the food items dealers, saying LASTMA is only involved in traffic management and not collection of levies or fines from motorists.

# Delta govt approves N200m for compensation

THE Delta State government has set aside N200 million for the payment of compensation to individuals, whose property are affected by government’s development projects. Mr Ravmos Guanah, Delta Commissioner for Lands Survey and Urban Planning, told newsmen in Asaba that payment of compensa-

tion would start after proper documentation. Guanah, said the state government was not only concerned about developing the state through infrastructure, but was also concerned about the welfare of the people. He added that the state government’s concern was encapsulated in its three-point agenda of Human

Capital Development, Infrastructural Development, as well as Peace and Security. The commissioner explained that compensation would not be paid to persons, whose property were built without approval or those that were demolished.

“This is because those property were illegally erected and on demoli-

tion, the owners are expected to pay compensation to the government,” he said.

Guanah said more than 20 undeveloped plots had been discovered after the expiration of the deadline for property owners to develop their plots or risk revocation.

(NAN)

# Ribadu may return to Nigeria 'within weeks'

NIGERIA'S former anti-corruption chief Nuhu Ribadu said he is ready to return home after over a year in voluntary exile, and would be willing to serve under Acting President Goodluck Jonathan if asked.

Nigerian authorities dropped a legal case against Ribadu last week, potentially paving the way for his return to help Jonathan fight graft in one of the world's most tainted countries.

"Of course I would like to come back, but it was difficult because my life was threatened," Ribadu told *Reuters*. "The threat is now gone. I believe it is time for me to come back," he said in a telephone interview from Washington, D.C. on Monday.

Ribadu won international praise for his arrests of suspects and seizures of assets as the first chief of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

But he also made enemies for pursuing cases against powerful state governors and was fired in late 2007 soon after President Umaru Yar'adua took power. He fled Nigeria for Britain and the United States in January 2009, saying his life was in danger.

Ribadu said he has not spoken directly with Jonathan, who assumed executive powers from ailing President Yar'adua two months ago, and has not been offered a specific government position.

He said he would not return to the EFCC or the police as he believed he had been unfairly dismissed by both agencies. But he remained open to other job opportunities, especially those that would help to get Nigeria's anti-graft efforts back on track.

"Nothing took place in the last two years in the fight against corruption," Ribadu said. "The respect we gained with the rest of the world has been eroded. It will take time to rebuild it."

Local newspapers have reported that Jonathan was considering Ribadu as his special adviser on fighting corruption.

Ribadu said he could be back in Nigeria within weeks as his fellowship at the Centre for Global Development, a Washington-based think tank, was winding down.



FROM left: Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG) Chairman Mazi Sam Oluwabunwa, Chief Executive Officer Phillips Consulting, Mr. Foluso Phillips and the guest speaker of the occasion Prof. Wole Soyinka during NESG public lecture at the Civic Centre, Lagos, yesterday.

## Ribadu's claims are fraudulent, says EFCC

By Boco Edet

THE Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) yesterday described claims by its former chairman Nuhu Ribadu on the disposal of assets belonging to ex-governor of Bayelsa State DSP Alamiyeseigha, Emmanuel Nwude and ex-Inspector General of Police Tafa Balogun as "insincere and fraudulent."

EFCC's spokesman Femi Babafemi was reacting to comments by Ribadu's lawyer, Charles Musa, who was quoted on Tuesday as saying that the former anti-graft tsar only investigated and prosecuted Alamiyeseigha and Nwude's cases while their assets were sold by the current chairman Mrs. Farida Waziri.

EFCC said a committee was set up in 2009 to ascertain the entirety of assets recovered or seized by the commission from inception to date. The committee later submitted an interim report which raised observations on the sale of assets belonging to the mentioned convicted persons.

The anti-graft agency said the report indicated that Alamiyeseigha's property in Port Harcourt and Abuja were sold to the same person under the guise of two different legal nonentities in 2006. Also, six of the companies which bought over Balogun's assets were fake and the properties sold at very cheap prices.

Babafemi said, "The question then is, was Waziri the EFCC Chairman in 2006 when Alamiyeseigha and Nwude's assets were sold in breach of EFCC Establishment Act and extant Financial Regulations or was it Waziri that supervised how the proceeds were diverted then? Musa may still need to tell Nigerians and indeed the world why his statement failed to explain the sale of Tafa Balogun's property. Could it be because there was no reason to attribute that to Waziri or because he was scared of mentioning that out of nine companies that bought the property, six of them are fake companies?"

"He needs another statement to explain the individuals behind these ghost companies and why the bulk of the houses were sold to them at ridiculously cheap prices. Or could it also be because he was scared of letting the public know that the properties were sold at rates below the value of the land they were built on because the same person was the valuer, seller and cashier?"

## US-Nigeria create new 'strategic partnership'

THE United States on Monday announced the launch of a US-Nigerian Binational Commission to bolster bilateral ties on energy, regional security, good governance and a range of other issues.

The new "strategic partnership" makes Nigeria the first African nation to be afforded such a status under the Barack Obama administration.

It also provides a forum for talks on creating greater transparency and improving the Nigeria's accountability and fiscal responsibility, thereby helping the African country fulfill its potential as a regional leader, US officials said.

Along with South Africa, Nigeria is one of "two key, critical countries on the continent," said Johnnie Carson, assistant secretary

of state for African Affairs and a former US ambassador to several African nations, as he unveiled the accord, which goes into effect on Tuesday.

The announcement comes ahead of a planned visit to Washington next week by Nigeria's Acting President Goodluck Jonathan to attend an international nuclear security summit slated

for April 12-13, including a possible one-on-one with Obama.

Nigeria is the United States' largest trading partner in sub-Saharan Africa, thanks in large part to its petroleum industry, while the United States also is the largest foreign investor in Nigeria, including in the offshore oil and gas industries by Exxon-Mobil and Chevron.

## United States wants Iwu replaced

THE US government wants the head of Nigeria's election commission replaced ahead of new polls due in 2011.

Independent National Election Commission (INEC) chairman Maurice Iwu has been blamed for the flawed elections in 2007. US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Johnnie Carson said Mr Iwu was incapable of organising a credible election, the BBC reported yesterday.

Nigeria is the third largest supplier of oil to the US.

The 2007 poll overseen by Mr Iwu was widely criticised for irregularities such as ballot-stuffing and voter intimidation.

The election was won by Umaru Yar'Adua, although legal challenges to the result lasted for months afterwards.

Mr Iwu's current term as INEC chairman ends in June 2010 and the Obama administration is keen that his past record be taken into account when a new chairman is appointed.

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# Nyako denies attempts to influence commissioner's release

From Ibrahim Muhammad, Yola

ADAMAWA State Governor Murtala Nyako has denied reports that he is making attempts to influence the release of one of his commissioners, who was arrested and remanded in prison by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) over alleged fraud. Speaking to our correspondent yesterday in Yola, the governor through his Senior Special

Assistant on Media and Publicity, Alhaji Aminu Iyawa, said though the alleged offence was bail able, the state government had no plans to interfere. He maintained that the arrest would not tarnish the image of the present administration.

"We don't intend to interfere with EFCC's operations because we run a transparent government that abhors corruption. People should also understand that it is only an allegation until the court

finds them guilty," he said.

A High Court in Yola, the Adamawa State capital, had ordered that the state's Commissioner for Housing and Urban Development Alhaji Magaji Ibrahim and a former Director of Finance in Toungo Local Government Area of the state Ibrahim Gangyibenso, be remanded in prison custody. The first accused, Ibrahim, was the Chairman of Toungo Local Government Area before he was appointed commis-

sioner by the Nyako administration. They were arraigned by the EFCC before Justice I. K. Banu of High Court 3, Yola on a 20 count charge of criminal conspiracy, criminal breach of trust, falsification and forgery of documents, offences punishable under the Penal Code laws of Adamawa State.

The EFCC had on March 7, 2009, received petitions from some "Concerned Citizens of Toungo Local Government Area,

accusing the duo of siphoning and diverting the local government's funds meant for development projects in the area.

According to the petitioners, the accused persons, with approval from the state's Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs obtained a loan of N25 million from a bank for some projects in November 2006. They added that the loan was misappropriated. Hearing continues today.

## Obj tasks Ohakim on dividends of democracy

From John Kennedy Uzoma, Owerri

FORMER President Olusegun Obasanjo has called on Imo State Governor Ikedi Ohakim not to be distracted by the antics of the opposition, but to ensure that he delivers dividends of democracy to the people. Obasanjo made the call Monday at the N3 billion fund raising for the Cathedral of the Okigwe Catholic Diocese Imo State. The event was held alongside the thanksgiving ceremony of Prof. Maurice Iwu, Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

The former president said political adversaries to a large extent determine the success or failure of a public office holder.

"In Nigeria, if you are holding a public office and you have adversaries, then you are succeeding, but if you do not have adversar-

ies, then you are not succeeding," he said.

He enjoined Governor Ohakim to leave an enduring legacy through qualitative leadership, but warned that no matter what he does, some people would still criticize him. "After eight years as president, some people say I did nothing, so how about you that has spent only three years in office. You cannot please all your rivals, no matter how much you try. Just do what you can and stay close to your God," he said.

Wife of the Acting President, Dame Patience Jonathan was present at the event in company of Helen Mark, wife of the Senate President and Mrs Ike Ekweremadu, wife of the Deputy Senate President. Also in her entourage were Mrs S. Onovo, wife of the Inspector General of Police and two female ministers, Mrs Josephine Anenih and Mrs Josephine Tappun.

## Jos crises: Bauchi govt to employ displaced persons

From Muhammad Abubakar, Bauchi

BAUCHI State Governor Isa Yuguda, has said that those with requisite qualifications among the hundreds of displaced persons following crises in Plateau State will be employed in the state civil service.

The governor said this at Boto Camp of Tafawa Balewa Local Government Area of the state on Monday while distributing relief materials to them. He also assured them that befitting accommodation would be provided for them before the rainy season. Governor Yuguda while calling on eligible

people among them to submit their credentials to the State Emergency Management agency SEMA for possible employment in the state civil service, said the state government would also provide farms and grazing land to the displaced persons. He said already, the host local government had demarcated plots of land for the construction of houses for the displaced persons.

Responding on behalf of the displaced persons, Malam Haladu Adamu Mai bulawus, thanked the governor for the gesture and assured him that the people would remain law abiding.



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# Online Reactions

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



## Gaddafi's gaffe: The US has said worse things of Nigeria

THANK you very much Musa for this piece. I respect Gaddafi a lot because he has always dis-

tinguished himself. Why should we always dance with the US even when they insult us to our

face? When would we shake off this inferiority complex? The US has said and done worse things

to us and we did not recall our ambassador to that nation. Our 'unelected' leaders should hide

their face in shame.

Henry  
henry\_willy2003@yahoo.com



EX-PRESIDENT **Olusegun Obasanjo**

### Obasanjo avoids Danjuma in Lagos

I agree with lord Obasanjo that there is no need to compare Senegal with Nigeria because Senegal never had leaders with third term agendas.

**Tasiu Muhd Ringim**  
tmringim@gmail.com

If you look at the response of Danjuma to the journalist and the response of Obasanjo to Danjuma you cannot but conclude that these are indeed an arrogant pair.

**Abubakar Abbas**  
abt302000@yahoo.com

That is no news. Apparently both of them (Generals) want to have the strings of Ag. President between their fingers! What is so startling is that this became a news item at all.

The PDP has ruled Nigeria continuously for twelve years now with the two generals virtually in control; what do we have to show for it? For the most part what we have are tribal divisions, religious intolerance, absolute decay of critical infrastructure and the near collapse of security of life and property. Leave those old war horses to fight to the grave if need be and start looking for Nigerians who care about the nation and not their personal estates and oil blocks. Help the Acting President to find a middle course for the nation so that we can have reasonably free and fair elections in 2011.

**Muhammad NaIya**  
naiyamd@yahoo.com

## How Rimi died, by driver

MAY Allah SWT grant him eternal peace and make Jannatil Firdausi his everlasting abode. Rimi, a man of the people, is no more but his legacies and teachings will continue to linger in our memory. About 3 weeks ago we met in Dutse Jigawa state and he asked me where I have been and that had I stopped coming to his house. We cracked a joke, and I said 'okay, let's have an interview'. He rejected, saying in Hausa, "daganin sarkin fawa sai miya tayi zaki". 'If you want call me on phone and if we agree on a date, I promise to come for a full interview on the state of the nation,' he told me.

**Lamara Garba Azare**  
lamaragarba@yahoo.com

Well this came from God. But honestly our country's security system has totally collapsed. We must look for a lasting solution to this immoral act. Armed robbery is now very rampant on our roads and this is not good for a country like Nigeria where the roads are the most common means of transport by both the masses and the elites.

**Abubkr Badru Jkamshi**  
damurna@yahoo.com

A true progressive has gone. Abubakar Rimi's three and half year administration of the old Kano State was widely recognized as one of the best state governments in Nigeria in terms of spreading social amenities and introducing new progressive measures for the betterment of the people; inaccessible and neglected rural areas of Kano State were opened up with massive road projects, rural electrification and extensive rural water projects. His administration gave Kano State a great television station, the CTV, in 1981. He also set up the Triumph Publishing Company, home to four newspapers. His Adult Education programme agency was recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), based in Paris, in 1983, as one of the best adult education programmes on the African continent.

**Abba Adamu Fanda**  
fanyk@yahoo.com

Those entrusted to fix the roads and make it safe for ordinary travelers, day and night, killed Rimi. May his humble soul rest in peace.

**Akeju Olagbaju**



THE late **Abubakar Rimi**

olaakeju@mail.com

May his gentle soul rest in perfect peace. Indeed all of us are mortals. This is a big lesson for the Nigerian leaders. There is insecurity in the nation as a whole. Let the Military take charge of the nation's security since the politicians are not capable of assuring us of our security.

**Abdulkadir Idris Bos**  
albosuwe@yahoo.com

May Almighty Allah grant him eternal rest. But this incidence comes as a very significant alert and warning to the government that "the rich also cry". It's up to the government to do something about

the state of insecurity in the nation. Their inconsideration for the poor and the callous way of administering vital issues can turn on them someday. The state of insecurity in the nation is so disgusting. You can hardly see the perpetrators of a particular act brought to book in this country. Instead, only promises are made and that is not what we opted for! Death is inevitable, 'you' might be next. Therefore, the government should please - if not for anything else, at least for the sake of their lives - do something about security. May Almighty Allah grant his family and loved ones the fortitude to bear the loss and grant him aljanna fiddaus. Amin

**Hadiza S. Umar**  
hadizaus@yahoo.com

Inalilahi wa inʿ-ilaihi raju'un. May the soul of the late Abubakar Rimi rest in peace. I hope the government would do something about the current state of security in the country as this is just one Nigerian. How about the thousands who have been killed innocently in one way or the other?

**Abdulkadir Ali Bage**  
alizaki001@yahoo.com

## Yar'adua meets Christian leaders

GOOD development...but when will poor people like us see our president? He should bear in mind that every Nigerian has the right to see him. And most importantly the acting president Dr. Goodluck, should also be allowed to see him please, unless there exists animosity



PRESIDENT **Umaru Yar'adua**

between the two.

**Lamara Garba Azare**  
lamaragarba@yahoo.com

I wish him quick recovery but I wonder why the President is seeing people who are not the only people he is ruling. Why not the entire citizens who came out in large number to vote him? I think everybody has the right to know the situation of our own President.

**Abubkr Badru Jkamshi**  
damurna@yahoo.com

Nigeria is not operating a theocracy that our ailing president has become the exclusive reserve of the religious leaders. What is the import of all the visits by religious leaders

and what purpose will it serve? We, the more than 140 million Nigerians, want our president to either address us or stop these diversionary tactics.

**Ibrahim Tsadu Ibrahi**  
elkutigi@gmail.com

When will all these politicking with the health of my President stop? If Yar'adua has a mind of his own, and if he actually can receive visitors, let him receive Nigerians who voted him to power by making a televised broadcast from the Presidential Villa...even if it is for 2 minutes. Nigeria is too big to be fooled!

**Henry**  
henry.akwitti@yahoo.com

The visit of the clergy men has

vindicated the similar visit made by Islamic leaders. I observed that there was no condemnation of the clergy men on their visit to the president as was the case with the Islamic leaders' visit. If I may ask, why the double standard on the visits by the two groups?

**Aminu Abdullahi**  
aminu.abdullah@yahoo.com

This is a welcome development indeed. Before now, nobody could say anything about Mr. President but now people have visited him and prayed together with him. It is a welcome development and I pray for his quick recovery.

**Abubakar Chika Maru**  
abubakarsuleiman2009@yahoo.com

### Rimi: Jonathan orders investigation

NIGERIA my fatherland. It's in Nigeria that security would be made available after the occurrence of an incident. We said we want be among the G-20 of the world in the year 2020 but even investors would not find it feasible to come and invest in the country that cannot offer security to its citizenry, talk less of expatriates. When would security be guaranteed in Nigeria?

**Zanna Baruwa Gashua**  
bukar.zanna@yahoo.com

## Jonathan inaugurates executive council today

CONGRATS. I hope the new council members will join hands together with the Ag. President and bury all their differences in order to move our nation forward.

**Abubkr Badru Jkamshi**  
damurna@yahoo.com

There is no doubt that the compiled list to be inaugurated today cannot do much due to

the instability of the polity, but they can write their names in gold if they understand the kind of change that Nigerians want. Most Nigerians feel it is going to be 'business as usual' and not 'business differently'.

**Prof. M. Garba**  
magakatagum@yahoo.com

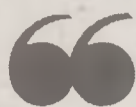
It is so unfortunate that we are wasting time, money and other

resources at this trying time of our nation swearing in new cabinet members and other state officials when the regime is ending next year. Well the deed has been done so let us pray, hope and keep a watchful eye on the new cabinet and see if they can live up to the expectations of the nation at large.

**Rabiu Muhammad**  
muhammadrabiu09@yahoo.com

I truly feel that the Ag. President should take along those that can deliver an action plan to ensure electricity, water, roads, shelter and the electoral reforms with swiftness of action and not these names that he intends to swear in... I'm so disappointed with the list... no Promised Land in sight.

**Kori Habeeb**  
kori\_habeeb@yahoo.com



By Tunde Asaju

## The importance of being governor

I have just finished reading a boring copy of a Lagos-based magazine lamenting the attitude of bespectacled Governor Ikedi Ohakim for allegedly flogging, but not killing a deviant citizen of his state. Well, all governors are popular, aren't they? You must be popular to steal the people's vote or wrestle it from them. And you must be popular to remain governor, otherwise, is the presence of a lame duck state assembly not supposed to be a deterrent? But even Assemblymen and women know that they need to respect their chief executive, and there it goes. A chief executive is someone answerable to no-one else and that says it all. I was angry at the editor, who happens to be my friend. Would he not wipe his five fingers on the face of any office assistant for questioning his authority to use that story as a cover? I just wonder!

At any rate, where was this editor when Governor, His Excellency Alfred Diette-Spiff scraped the head of Amakiri for writing an annoying story which coincided with the Governor's birthday? Where was he when the same His Excellency became the paramount ruler of his

**Where was this editor when Olunloyo decided to prostrate full-length in apology to the reporter in question the next day?**

kingdom? Where was this editor when Victor Omololu Olunloyo as governor of Oyo State tore a reporters' notebook for no other reason than the reporter in question was scribbling too much 'girama' while he, the governor was talking? Where was this editor when Olunloyo decided to prostrate full-length in apology to the reporter in question the next day?

Where was this editor when security men first denied a man who paid for a first class ticket and attempted to sit close to the great Otunba Gbenga Daniel on a flight between Abuja and Lagos? A common lawyer trying to sit beside His Excellency the governor is an aberration in Nigeria. I think some people are taking this 'servant leadership' thing too literally and must be taught a lesson and what a small lesson that a governor whipped his subject?

Let me tell you people in case you have forgotten. On the day a governor steals your votes; is sworn into office, he becomes a chief servant of the people. What does that mean? Well, a few things. On that day, he officially nullifies, annuls and withholds all your rights? Of course it is the suspension of all forms of opposition. A governor is a thief servant, and the thief security officer of the

state, which means that when he is driving (sorry) being driven on the road, he becomes the chief owner of the road. Any attempt to struggle for the use of that road can lead to several things from a couple of dirty slaps, kicks and jabs to a broken windscreen and headlamps - all legit. If I lie, I dare any editor with a mighty pen to try double-crossing His Excellency's car while His Excellency's siren is blaring. He would be responsible for his bills if he lives to nurse his skull when bashed in. A governor is a chief of *thiefs* and commander in chief of all *almajirai* in his domain.

Any chief that looks him in the face outside NTA camera is either banished or deposed. If I lie, ask the Emir of... For instance, all crown heads must report if and when their pit latrine is full. If they take liberty for granted and defecate elsewhere, that's would be the end of their ancestral stool.

I thought all mortals know these, but in case they don't it must be beaten into their heads in our day and age. Opponents who contested with reigning governors know how to go on self-exile and stay there. Only one governor swore in his deputy sharia style, and even he is praying to live to write his memoirs. The others were wiser.

His Excellency is the chief wooer of every beautiful lady in town. Every suitor must clear off if they are told that his Excellency as much as eyes a 13-year old girl. Any audacious suitor who does not know his place has two options, to take his teenage queen and move to another state or be prepared to play the tragic role of a Romeo in a modern day version of Shakespeare's magnum opus.

In Akwa Ibom, they know that Akpabio is in charge. One septuagenarian with an unpronounceable name who has constituted himself into a serial nuisance of every governor before Akpabio tried it and he is now regretting. If he doesn't come to his senses early, he may go from detention. Even the police realize that they must cooperate with His Reigning Excellency. Failure to do so, could lead to the reduction of their alawi. Governors have authority and they know how to use it. If you don't know, you can ask a man known as Mohammed Hassan who tried his luck with Danjuma Goje beyond its elastic limits, he landed in hot pepper soup and, if not for fire brigade, he could have been roasted alive.

Next time you leave Abuja where cub reporters insult Yar'adua and Jonathan, without permission to your home state, be careful to honour your governor. But if you fail to do so do not send me SMS from your hospital bed. You may not even be lucky to survive. I doff my hat to all governors - their unquestionable Excellencies.

(tundeasaju@yahoo.co.uk)



By Omoniyi Ologunbe

## Bankole and the Yoruba agenda

The Yoruba race has been relegated to the background in areas where it was a pioneer and excelled. That was Dimeji Bankole, the Speaker of House of Representatives and the highest ranking Yoruba political office holder at the inauguration of the Board of Trustees and the Governing Council of Yoruba Academy in Ibadan recently. As reported in several dailies, the federal legislator's lamentation of the seeming decline of Yoruba was against the background of a continuing retrogression that has only accelerated under the current democratic dispensation.

Bankole had noted that in education, the Yoruba were already attending Oxford and Cambridge Universities long before other African dreamt of such and decried the situation where in the last ten years, Yoruba's have lost critical grounds in areas where it once have a controlling influence like the banking, media and security sectors.

While welcoming the initiative of the *Afenifere* Group Renewal Group (ARG), in conceptualizing and inaugurating the Yoruba Academy, Bankole urged Yoruba intellectuals to work out an agenda to reposition the Yoruba race.

To say the least, Bankole is merely stating the obvious except for some Yoruba that would forever play politics with the issue of development and advancement

**In their struggle, resources of the race were frittered away in pursuit of personal aggrandizement**

of a race or selfishly struggle over the leadership of a race in the nadir of its progressiveness in recent times.

It is well known that in virtually all areas of national endeavour, be it economic, educational and professional callings, the Yoruba are pioneers and since Independence in 1960, dominated the commanding heights of the legal, banking, insurance and medical professions among other areas. This of course is usually attributed to Yoruba's early contact with Western education and the subsequent free education policy of the late sage Chief Obafemi Awolowo whose era is now a benchmark of what sustainable development could be in an African nation. Indeed from the relics and shadow of development and structures of that era that is still available, it is conceivable that the Southwest of Nigeria today should be comparable to any developed nations in terms of basic infrastructure and development indices were the old trajectory followed without military intervention.

But alas, that is not the case as Bankole observed and in contrast, we have had a degeneration most of which occurred in the last ten years of democratic rule. What we have is that most of the legacies of Awolowo, in terms of investment in *Odua* Investment conglomerate have been sold to private individuals. Banks

like Wema Bank, media establishment (*Sketch*) and many manufacturing and real estate business that even survived the long military interregnum were sold off by civilian democrats to cronies or allowed to collapse.

Even in the area of education, where the Yoruba excelled and which informs its dominance in national life have been left to the dogs with infrastructure decay and low standard common to other sections of the economy. As it is, the situation is not about to be changed soon as Bankole pointed out particularly with the loss of leadership of the print and electronic media by the Yoruba, an area that greatly influences how we think and perhaps act. This loss and its attendant effects is even more devastating to the young and upcoming generation of the Yoruba still forming a world view of things.

The causal factors for this sorry pass can be traced to military interregnum, control of Federal Government and other factors. But in the last ten years, Yoruba have no other persons to blame but its leaders as it held commanding height at the federal level while its governors at the state who controlled the local councils simply abandoned their responsibilities. Within the period the common denominator in Yoruba land was the inane struggle leadership of the race by those who never identified with the Yoruba cause or those whose idea of leadership of a race was for selfish reasons. In their struggle, resources of the race were frittered away in pursuit of personal aggrandizement.

The way forward is to have a concrete philosophical and the critical framework to analyze the history, culture and recent developments in the Yoruba race. From that pedestal, the present situation can be correctly understood and a way forward charted for Yoruba people to once again begin a march in its development that has been arrested by a visionless leadership of recent times.

One support Bankole's identification with the intellectual approach to solving a development problem of a people instead of unbridled struggle and positioning for Yoruba leadership. This approach in establishing a Yoruba Academy with the mission of being "the authoritative and public voice of the Yoruba in homeland and the Diaspora, providing well researched and evidenced based account about the Yoruba all over the world" and a commitment "to engaging in and encouraging and funding research and systematic reflection on the history, culture, position and future of the Yoruba" is certainly worth the support of all Yoruba in place of the needless, useless and unproductive often politically partisan rivalry over Yoruba leadership.

With the calibre of renowned Yoruba like Professors Wole Soyinka, Babs Fafunwa, Bolanle Awe, Wale Omole, Babalola Yai (Benin Republic) and Justice Bolarinwa Babalakin among others in its Board of trustees and Drs. Wale Adebani, Olakunle Lawal, Tunde Agboola, Adebayo Faleti and Tunde Kelani among others as governing council members, this is yet another non-partisan initiative to fashion out an agenda for Yoruba in the immediate future.

Omoniyi Ologunbe, 125, Oke Illewo Road, Ibara, Abeokuta.



## Your Letters

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

### Stop attacking EFCC officials

Attack on EFCC officers is the most callous thing to do or think of doing being that this anti-graft agency is trying its possible best in seeing that Nigeria is free from corruption and all economic crime related offences.

These select Nigerians actually lay their lives down for their dear country so as all Nigerians will enjoy their fatherland and the natural resources that God has endowed this country with. These are people who are just doing their

job, by serving the nation.

Why then must they be killed? Is it for being a patriotic Nigeria? Why should we fold our arms to see people that actually fight for our rights being attacked, harassed, and killed just for bringing the bad eggs to book?

Enough is enough! This act of barbarism must stop, we all must stand up and fight for our rights. There is no doubt that the corrupt ones are the ones who hire hoodlums and thugs to go after the innocent citizens who go about their duties without fear or favor, harass, molest and even kill, what is happening to our beloved country, why is this happening?

Those the EFCC official are

actually investigating are those that stole our country's common wealth just to enrich themselves and deprive us from enjoying the basic amenities which we as Nigerians are entitled to, why then must we watch them destroy our country, harass, intimidate and blackmail those trying to bring them to justice?

We all must join hands to stop such people, we have to use our voice to help the voiceless, and we all must put an end to this barbarism and oppression by such people. I strongly urge you criminals to leave EFCC to do their work.

Natasha Mohamed ([natashahananmohammed@yahoo.com](mailto:natashahananmohammed@yahoo.com))

## Text us on 08 131 8000 30

### Happy now?

I hope that the CAN members are now satisfied with the visit to Mr President. Let us be sincere to ourselves and love one another.

IBRAHIM Yahaya, Goron-Maje, Dambatta, Kano State, 08038050115.

### Practice what you preach

THE statement that Kaduna CAN leader made against President Umaru Yar'adua indeed shows he is a leader to them by example. Apparently he doesn't practice what he preaches. A religious leader should be synonymous with peace.

08033256358.

### But beware

CLERICS should be kept out

of the politics of the president's health. Otherwise, we'd be giving credence to Gaddafi's suggestion of dividing the country along ethnic and religious lines.

P C Ijai, 08065496198.

### Which way to go?

AS the acting president swore in he new cabinet members, he should have told us what his own agenda is, just as Yar'adua had. Nigerians want to know his focus, target and direction of the administration.

MANSUR Khalid Giwa, 08065807572.

### So Tiger is out of the Woods

I felt a surge of huge relief when I read in this paper that the No 1 Golfer is back; I think personal life

must be separated from sports.

SULAIMAN Aliyu, Lagos, 08061617077.

### What's Abubakar Tsav saying?

THE fact is that the present crops of police personnel were his products.

GG Onums, Makurdi, 08039144702.

### First task, FCT minister

PLEASE respect the resolutions passed by the two chambers of the National Assembly to immediately remove speed bumps erected within the city by the former minister.

DABO Ismaila, Haruna, 08030720850.



By Yima Sen

## EFCC: The crooks fight back

She embodies a harmless even charming mien, but if you thought that Farida Waziri, chairman of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) is a "dumb blonde" or just a female token in the security services in Nigeria; well, think again. If you are corrupt and she is on your trail, you will be sorry for yourself.

After she retired from the Nigerian Police as an Assistant Inspector General (AIG) she had no car. She had earlier on commanded a very wish anti-fraud unit of the Nigerian Police, probably a precursor to the EFCC. In a male-dominated world Farida Waziri is taken for granted, while her predecessor, former subordinate and trainee, Nuhu Ribadu is portrayed by probably mercenary promoter with sympathy.

The public affairs department of EFCC should furnish all the statistical data on the work of the EFCC since inception so that the public can get to appreciate what has been achieved and where it has failed, and why.

Fighting corruption is a difficult task in a country where the corrupt and criminals use their loot to subvert prosecution. And since the electoral process is corrupt and some people are protected by immunity it becomes a risky business to battle corruption genuinely and exhaustively. This problem can be addressed if the Anti-Corruption Revolution becomes a full-blown social programme involving the press, the clergy, traditional rulers, civil society groups, and other critical government agencies; the judiciary and "clean" politicians.

Recently, we have seen attacks targeted at the EFCC chairman, almost certainly directly or indirectly from suspects, crooks or criminals under investigation or prosecution. We have seen the war against Sanusi Lamido Sanusi, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Governor. We are told that in the case of CBN a total of three hundred million naira (N300 million) has been budgeted to discredit the new Governor in the press. In the case of Farida Waziri, we understand the figure is N150 million for the campaign of calumny.

There could hardly be a better candidate for the position of EFCC chairman in Nigeria today than Farida Waziri. She joined the Nigeria Police as a recruit rose through the ranks to retire as an AIG, with two masters' degrees in law and strategic studies respectively and her integrity intact. The question to all is what does a woman do to be appreciated in a male-dominated world? Or, what does a good citizen do in Nigeria to be appreciated? A country that; the international community sees as a haven of scammers, crooks and criminals? Nigeria seems to be headed in the direction of a society where the good become bad and the bad become good. This is what corruption is doing to us. This is why people keep saying we could fail.

My advice to Madam Farida Waziri is to step up action on the Anti Corruption Revolution and more aggressively where these crooks and criminals..... The presidency, the National Assembly and the Judiciary must openly and strongly support the EFCC otherwise; Nigerians and the international community would not be convinced that the battle against corruption is serious. We should not make Farida Waziri the scape-goat of a faulty anti-corruption crusade. And we should realize that if we do not destroy corruption, corruption will destroy Nigeria. As a parting shot, when the neo-liberal and rightwing duo of Nasir el-Rufai and Nuhu Ribadu seek refuge in conservative institutions in the West to fight against the new leadership in Nigeria, they are doing what we saw the likes of Mubutu Sese Seko and other agents of the West do during the Cold War period. We are very familiar with this Uncle Tom game. The international community should throw its weight behind the EFCC, currently ably led by Farida Waziri, if it is interested in Nigeria return to the mainstream of that community as a reputable state.

Dr Sen was a presidential aide in the administration of Olusegun Obasanjo.

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# DAILY TRUST

## EDITORIAL

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### Agenda for ministers

**M**embers of the reconstituted Federal Executive Council (FEC) were sworn in yesterday, and portfolios assigned to them. A number of the ministers are carry-overs from the council that Acting President Goodluck Jonathan dissolved last month; a handful are new members, while one or two had served in that capacity in President Umaru Musa Yar'adua's first cabinet that was formed in 2007. While we have some reservations regarding the competence of some of ministers in their portfolios, we advise all of them that time is not on their side; nor, for that matter, on the side of the present administration, with the approaching elections so close at hand. Therefore, it is essential that this cabinet hits the ground running. It is good that Dr Jonathan emphasised that goals of the government remained implementing the programmes the government enunciated at inception in 2007. This is the task expected of the ministers within the short period they have to make their mark. They cannot afford to slow down, and will have little time to relax with less than twelve calendar months to accomplish historically difficult tasks that are before them and the nation.

As a team, we expect them to be conscious of the time limit, but should not be limited by it. Indeed, history would not forgive them if they failed to deliver. Like the rest of the country, they must be conscious of the most important task facing the country, namely electoral reform. With the 2011 elections in the horizon, the new cabinet must deliver on the Justice Muhammadu Lawal Uwais report for the credibility of elections and the restoration of hope in our fledgling democracy. Although cabinet members are essentially products of political interests, because of the peculiar circumstances of their emergence, they should as much as possible must steer clear of partisan politics and personal political ambition that might derail them from their immediate duty to the nation. Nigeria is on the watch list of the entire world and must show that it can put its acts together using the resources at its disposal to conduct free, fair and credible elections reflecting the wishes, aspirations and the votes of the people. This is why no member of this cabinet must use his or her position to pursue clandestine political ambition or interfere with the evolving democratic process.

**N**ext is the practical execution of the needed reform in the power sector. Nigerians have hitherto waited and listened to long to debates on the implementation of the power sector reform. What is needed is the practical manifestation of those policy debates. This cabinet must work assiduously to ensure that the unbundling of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria, (PHCN) into its components for the effective generation, transmission and distribution of power for domestic and industrial use has meaning to the ordinary Nigerian, in accessing power easily and at affordable cost. It is a known fact that a country that cannot power its needs is sliding irretrievably into underdevelopment. We don't need promises that cannot be met; we want solutions to our numerous problems. Even if all the administration achieves is laying a proper framework for subsequent ones to build upon, the nation would have truly moved forward.

Nigeria's over-dependence on oil means that no meaningful economic progress can be made except and until the crisis in the Niger-Delta is practically addressed. This cabinet should at least attempt to make history where others only scratched the surface. It must tackle head-on, the problems in the Niger-Delta that make the area a haven for manner of unsavoury activities, including high crimes, and cost the nation substantial revenue that otherwise would have been channelled to development purposes. With an established blueprint in its hands, this cabinet must immediately get down to business, announce its priorities and keep Nigerians posted on successes. It would not be forgiven for trading blames or accepted for any excuses for failure.

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## Gaddafi: Matters arising

**Timawus Mathias**

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

**B**izarre were the calls by Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, twice now, that Nigeria should break up along its religious lines. But my surprise is that Nigerians are all of a sudden filled with patriotism and calling Gaddafi names in defence of our country whose leadership over time has continued to fail to respond to our aspirations.

Thus what do we expect other than scorn from Gaddafi when he looks at Nigeria with all its abundance of human and material resource, and yet unable to overcome the simplest problems of nationhood? Gaddafi had for long provided a solution to Libya's needs in power, health, and infrastructure. In Libya quite unlike Nigeria, you can not get away with corruption and crime, let alone kidnap anyone and hope to negotiate with authority! Law enforcement has instilled discipline in society thus nipping communal clashes in the bud. Muammar Gaddafi, inspired by the progress of Gammal Abd el Nasser in Egypt, toppled the Libyan monarchy and installed a unique form of Government where there is strict Islamic law, but a socialist form of participatory Governance. Libya with all its wealth can ill afford a wasteful legislature that gulps nearly N1.5 trillion in emoluments and peccadilloes. The Libyan peoples' assembly meets twice annually. Of course the Government has remained dictatorial and repressive, but accountable and responsive to the public need. I feel pained when I travel to the Emirates and other countries of the Middle East and see what their leadership is using their oil money to achieve for their people. Even if I love my country, I am angered by its monumental deficiency in virtually all good things due to corruption and indolence. Nigeria's "agbaya" (political Down syndrome) should earn it the foul tongue of contemporary leaders.

**G**addafi hit us Nigerians below the belt with his reckless call for the break up of the country along religious lines. Of course this is impracticable. Gaddafi just like the United States does not understand the full nature of conflict in Nigeria that is commonly branded as religious.

It is no surprise that he would make such comments about the country. Gaddafi has always wanted and plotted the break

up Nigeria for the simple reason that Nigeria was bold enough to declare his pet dream for a united stateless Africa, of course led by Muammar Gaddafi, just what it was, pipedream of a neo-Hitler.

**S**ince then, the Libyan strongman had never hidden his disdain for Nigeria, and one kind of sensed that Libyan agents have been in Nigeria, feeding Gaddafi position papers on the strength of the cohesion among the many ethnic "nations" that make up the country. One can not rule it out, there may have been Nigerian collaborators even operating under the guise of propa-

within three hours. This high level organized insurrection of society can be achieved only by foreign tactical training. I truly suspected that Gaddafi was undermining Nigeria through the sponsorship of fundamentalism in both Pentecostal Christianity and Islam and the clash of the twain is now. I have always suspected foreign instigation of religious riots that have persisted only in the North of Nigeria to date, and that the intention in 1984 was for the Maitatsine riots in Kano, Bulunkutu in Maiduguri, and Jimeta, in Yola to erupt all at once. It is a shame that our investigation was not concluded to the concrete establishment of this suspicion.

If my fears then were right, then one explanation for Gaddafi's preposterous suggestion on Nigeria's break up is that the Libyan strong man now in his

**I have always suspected foreign instigation of religious riots that have persisted only in the North of Nigeria to date**

gating a faith. The Libyan strong man looked at the possibility of having to occupy neighbouring African countries and expand territory till his pipe dream was realised. Alas, Nigeria, growing in economic and military power was a stumbling block. Gaddafi's worst fears of a Nigerian African hegemony were heightened when Murtala Muhammad became Head of State and initiated an Afro-centrist foreign policy, hand-carrying Angola to peace and independence. As a cub-reporter at FRCN Kaduna then, I had suggested that we looked for Gaddafi's hand in the coup that toppled Murtala, and his gruesome murder. Later, I found myself in Yola in 1984, sifting through the ashes and rubble of the leader of the Maitatsine sect in expectation that I find any foreign links and evidence of instigation by a one like Gaddafi or his Cameroonian counterpart. Anything near that however was that the sect had been well trained, organized and extremely prepared for the events that sparked off the riots. They responded spontaneously to the initial police attempt to sanction them and systematically sacked the city of Jimeta

senility is reliving the reports and recommendations that agents fed him and his brain is acting up like old Frankenstein laboratory equipment regurgitating old information out of sequence and meaning.

How could Gaddafi proffer such a ludicrous solution to Nigeria's problems as a Head of an African State and only recently Head of the African Union? Gaddafi, more than any one else should know that most nations in the world, including his own Libya, are made up of cohabiting nationalities with some dissident tribes and believers being forced to stay in the Union! He has enough of his own problems and has survived agitations and military coups purely by his ruthless iron hand rule of thumb.

**G**addafi has since stabilized as a friend and ally of western powers that he had hoped to strategically checkmate in the oil fields of the Atlantic, if he had secured his desired control of Nigeria, and by expansion, the rest of Africa. Acting favourably to Western and particularly American interests has all cleaned and sanctified the dictatorship that the Libyan Leader installed, to the extent that Nigeria in the eyes of America is more of a terrorism threat than Libya!

Gaddafi's counsel is unsolicited and his call, very much unappreciated. If our leaders continue with the present levels of corruption, profligacy and pillage, something worse than Gaddafi's proffered solution will befall Nigeria, in anarchy and dismemberment.

**Libya with all its wealth can ill afford a wasteful legislature that gulps nearly N1.5 trillion in emoluments and peccadilloes**



## BAUCHI STATE GOVERNMENT

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**Late Alhaji Abubakar Rimi**

**O**n behalf of myself, government and the good people of Bauchi State, I wish to condole the family of the late political giant, the entire people of Kano State and indeed all Nigerians over the death of Alhaji Abubakar Rimi, Second Republic Governor of Kano state, who died shortly after leaving Azare in Bauchi State on Sunday, April 4th, 2010.

His death is a great loss to us in Bauchi State, to the good people of Kano and to the entire Nigerian Citizens.

Alhaji Abubakar Rimi has served his state selflessly and contributed in no small measure to the progress of this nation. He has no doubt left a golden footprint on the sands of our time. He will therefore be greatly missed by us in Bauchi State, and by the entire nation.

May Allah (SWT) grant him peaceful rest and make Aljannah Firdauss his last abode, Amin.



Signed:  
MAL. (DR.) ISA YUGUDA  
(Matawallen Bauchi)  
Executive Governor of Bauchi state

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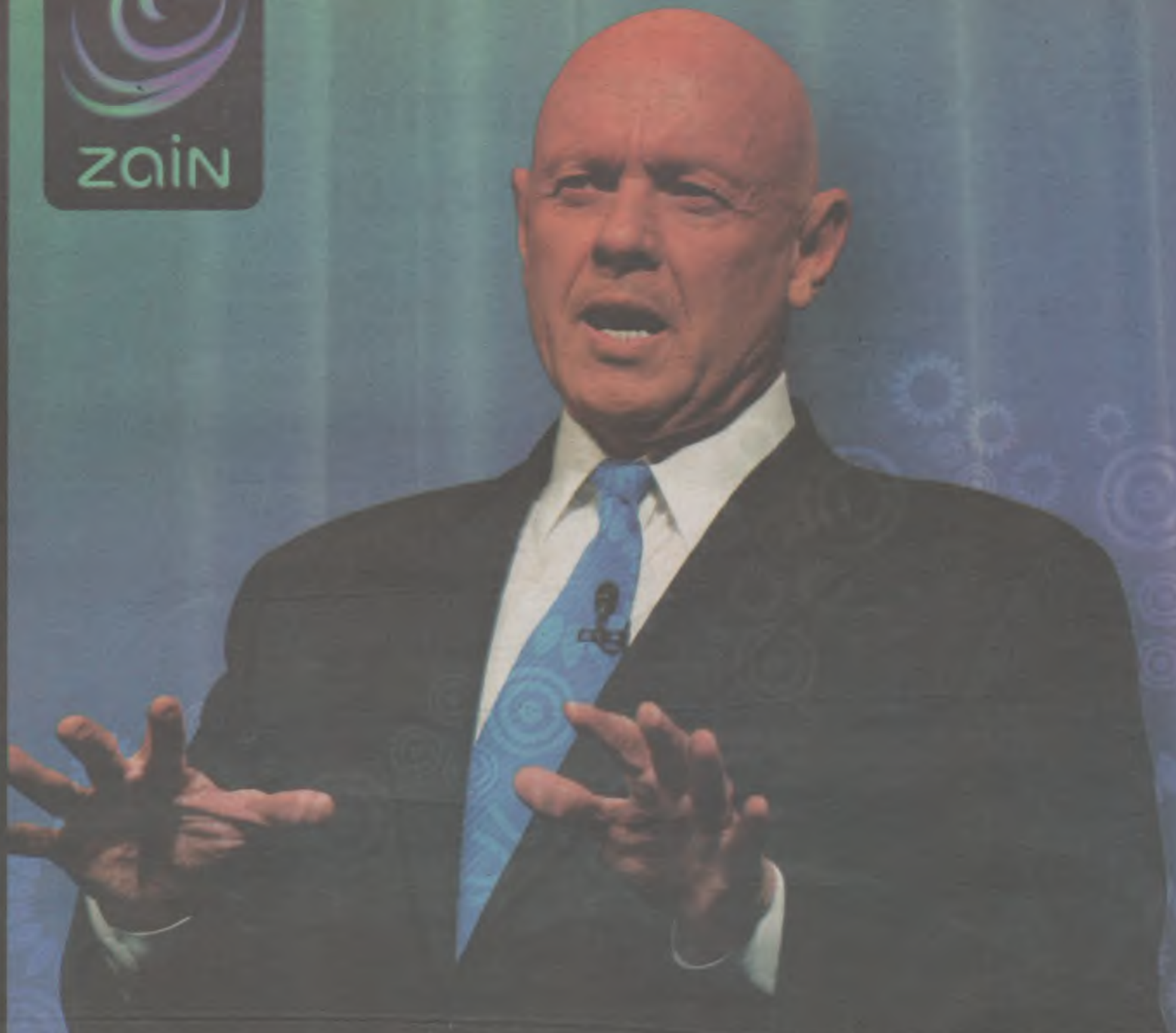
I wish to join your numerous other friends, brothers, sisters and associates in expressing my heartfelt congratulations on the conferment of the traditional title of **Sarkin Sudan Na Gombe** on you by His Royal Highness, the Emir of Gombe, **Alhaji Shehu Usman Abubakar.**

This, certainly, is in recognition of your tremendous contributions to the development of Gombe Emirate, Gombe State and the Federal Republic of Nigeria through philanthropy and wealth creation through your business acumen.

**ALHAJI AUWAL LAWAL**  
*Sarkin Sudan Na Gombe*

*May Allah continue to guide you and give you the strength to make more contributions to the development of the emirate, Gombe State and Nigeria as a whole.*

**Signed**  
**Alhaji Ibrahim Da'u Durbunde and Family**



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# INTERNATIONAL

## Madonna lays first brick of her Malawi school

US pop star Madonna yesterday laid the first brick at the \$15 million (11 million euro) girls' academy that she is building in Malawi, promising to bring quality education to young girls. The singer and actress laid a stone with an inscription "Raising Malawi Academy for Girls" and the motto, Dare to Dream.

"It has always been my dream to train women leaders who can help develop the country," Madonna said during the event. The colourful ceremony in Chinkhota village, some 15km (nine miles) from the capital Lilongwe, was attended by education officials and curious villagers.

"I grew up as a poor girl with my mother, I had no chance for good education," Madonna said. "It is my aim to see Malawian girls get the right education," she added.

The pop star was accompanied by her biological daughter Lourdes and her two other children, whom she adopted in Malawi.

Madonna, who funds several initiatives in the southern African country, broke ground and planted a tree in October last year for the school, which will admit 500 girls from poor backgrounds. The school is modelled on a similar academy in South Africa, which was built by US talk show host Oprah Winfrey.

The iconic singer, who is known for her dramatic music performances and occasional films, arrived in the impoverished southern African country on Monday, telling reporters: "It's good to be back in my adopted country". Education Minister George Chaponda lauded Madonna's education project.

"There is continued cooperation between the government and Madonna's charity, which is involved in several initiatives to help end poverty," said Chaponda.

Construction of the academy was delayed over a dispute between her charity and some 200 villagers who claimed they were not adequately compensated for the land used to build the school. The government forcibly removed the villagers, who were paid \$500,000 in compensation by Madonna's charity Raising Malawi.

She has already built a multi-purpose community centre at Mphandula village, 50km (30 miles) from Lilongwe, which looks after more than 8,000 orphans from scores of villages in the area. In 2006, the chart-topping musician adopted a baby boy, David Banda, who is now four years old.

In April 2009, she came back into the country to file for the adoption of Mercy James, who was placed at an orphanage following the death of her mother. The controversial adoption of Mercy was initially denied but later allowed following an appeal.

A man claiming to be the girl's father threatened to block the adoption, claiming that he was not consulted by the singer. The case also raised the ire of child activists who accused Madonna of flouting the country's adoption laws. Malawi is one of the world's poorest nations, with more than half of the population of 13 million living on less than \$1 a day.



US pop star Madonna, with her adopted daughter Mercy James during a visit to Gumulira Millennium villages in Mchinji, west of Lilongwe.

## Gunmen kill journalist in DR Congo

UNIDENTIFIED gunmen shot dead a journalist, Patient Chebeya Bankome, outside his home at Beni in northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo, a Congolese press organisation announced yesterday.

Bankome, 35, a reporter and cameraman better known as Montigomo, was "killed by gunshots Monday at 10:30 pm (2030 GMT) at his residence in the Mulekera district by three men in military uniforms," Journalistes en Danger (JED) said in a statement sent to AFP.

"Montigomo was coming back from his recording studio (...) when he was surrounded at the door to his home by assailants who had clearly been waiting for his arrival,"

the non-governmental organisation said. "He was robbed of his bag holding video cassettes, his mobile telephone and an unknown sum of money before being taken into the middle of the yard, where he was gunned down at point blank range with six bullets in his body." Two suspects were arrested two hours after the murder in a place about five kilometres (three miles) away, JED said.

Montigomo is the sixth journalist to have been killed in the strife-torn east of the DR Congo since 2005. Several armed groups have been active in the region for more than a decade.

"Before him, Pascal Kabungulu, Serge Maheshe, Patrick Kikuku, Didace Namujimbo and Bruno

Koko Chirambiza met with death in circumstances that have not been cleared up to date," JED said. Three suspects are currently on trial before the military tribunal at Bukavu, the chief town in Sud-Kivu province, accused of the murder of Namujimbo, who had worked for UN-sponsored Radio Okapi.

The town of Beni is situated in the Ituri region almost 300 kilometres (185 miles) north of Goma, the capital of Nord-Kivu province, and lies less than 50 kilometres from the border with Uganda.

Patient Chebeya Bankome "was a prominent journalist-cameraman which covered all the armed conflicts that have taken place in the east of the DR Congo, particularly in Ituri," JED said.

## Red Cross triples Mali and Niger aid

THE international Red Cross said yesterday it was nearly tripling its aid effort in Niger and Mali, where several million people are suffering from serious food shortages triggered by drought.

The bolstered aid targets 100,000 people in hard hit areas of northern Mali and northwestern Niger, where food shortages are aggravated by sporadic communal violence, International Committee of the Red Cross spokesman Marcal Izard said.

The ICRC cited government estimates of more than a quarter of a million people suffering food shortages in northern Mali with about eight million people in Niger -- half the population -- hit by moderate to severe food insecurity. "We can speak of a food crisis that is happening in Mali and parts of Niger that's affecting millions of people," Izard told journalists.

The UN's World Food Programme said last month that it was preparing to more than double food aid to Niger amid fears of a looming famine.

"Rainfall in 2009 was irregular and approximately 70 percent below the annual average," said Nicolai Panke, head of ICRC operations in Mali and Niger.

## International



BRITISH Prime Minister Gordon Brown

## British PM calls general election for May 6

BRITISH Prime Minister Gordon Brown fired the starting gun yesterday on a month-long election race, setting May 6 as the date for voting in what could be the closest poll for a generation. Announcing the widely-anticipated date after asking Queen Elizabeth II to dissolve parliament, a stern-faced Brown said Britain's fragile economic recovery was at risk if the opposition Conservatives took power.

"Britain is on the road to recovery and nothing we do should put that recovery at risk," he told reporters. "Our economy is now moving forward, but to withdraw millions of pounds from the economy would put recovery at risk."

Brown's confirmation of a date triggers a month of campaigning in which his centre-left Labour will battle to claw back ground from David Cameron's centre-right Conservatives, who are ahead in opinion polls. A Labour victory

would secure the party's fourth consecutive term in office and would be a first under Brown, who took over as leader from Tony Blair in 2007.

The Tories are vying for their first win since a surprise 1992 victory. In a contest likely to be dominated by the economy, Brown, 59, is contrasting his role in steering Britain to safety after the global financial crisis with what he says is 43-year-old Cameron's inexperience.

Cameron, who has extensively modernised the party of Margaret Thatcher since becoming leader in 2005, called it "the most important general election for a generation". "It is about the future of our economy, it's about the future of our society, it's about the future of our country," he said. "It comes down to this. You don't have to put up with another five years of Gordon Brown."



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## Timor police declare war on mysterious 'ninjas'

EAST Timor police have declared war on a group of mysterious "ninjas" accused of murder and subversion in a new twist to the young country's struggle to establish security.

The latest whispers of ninjas to transfix the nation emerged after the murders of a 15-year-old girl in the western district of Bobonaro on December 22 and a baby boy in Covalima, also in the west, on January 19.

Police chief Longuinhos Monteiro donned full military gear to lead the operation, telling reporters that "any ninjas who want to take us on, your final stop will be Santa Cruz cemetery".

But many observers dismiss the ninja threat as a political game and suggest the authorities are using techniques of social control learned from the Indonesian army's brutal 24-year occupation.

"It's a method used by the Indonesian military to limit the movement of the citizens," said Rogerio Viegas Vicente, programme manager for leading Timorese human rights group HAK Association.

Kidnappings and disappearances were commonplace during the 1975-99 occupation, in which more than 100,000 people died, and the East Timorese remain edgy when it comes to rumours of shadowy assassins.

Indonesian death squads referred to as 'ninjas' terrorised villagers, and reports of masked ninjas committing crimes have persisted since formal independence in 2002.

## International

# 7 blasts rip through Baghdad, killing 49

AT least seven bombs ripped through apartment buildings across Baghdad yesterday and another struck a market, killing 49 people and wounding more than 160, authorities said.

The explosions were the latest in a five-day spree of attacks in and around the capital that have killed at least 119 people. The violence, which has largely targeted families and homes, is reminiscent of the sectarian bloodshed that tore Iraq apart from 2005 to 2007 and prompted the United States to send tens of thousands more troops to the front lines.

But even since that time, sectarian violence and attacks on civilians have flared in cycles, especially surrounding important events such as the election. Iraqi and US officials both blamed the latest spike in attacks on al-Qaida insurgents seizing on gaping security lapses created by the political deadlock that has gripped the country since its March 7 parliamentary election failed to produce a clear winner.

"This is blamed on the power vacuum of course, and on how democracy is being raped in Iraq," former prime minister Ayad Allawi told The Associated Press



RESCUERS search for survivors at the scene of a bomb attack in central Baghdad, Iraq, yesterday.

in an interview. His political coalition, Iraqiya, came out ahead in last month's vote, narrowly edging Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's

bloc by just two seats.

"Because people are sensing there are powers who want to obstruct the path of democracy,

terrorists and al-Qaida are on the go," Allawi said. "I think their operations will increase in Iraq." He also raised the prospect that

the country's political impasse could last for months as both sides try to cobble together the majority needed to govern.

## Conjoined Gaza twins arrive in Saudi for surgery

THE first known pair of Palestinian conjoined twins arrived in Saudi Arabia yesterday for separation surgery 10 days after their birth, overcoming a particularly Gazan string of obstacles including a blockade, squabbling governments and even holidays.

In the end, yesterday, Egyptian authorities authorized a rare opening of the country's Rafah crossing with Egypt so the girls, their parents and a medical team could cross.

From northern Sinai, a special Saudi medical plane whisked them off to Saudi Arabia, where Saudi King Abdullah will foot the bill for their operation. Khaled

al-Marghalani of the Saudi Health Ministry confirmed the twins had arrived and were on their way to the National Guard Hospital in the capital Riyadh.

The two girls, Rital and Ritaj, were born in the southern Gaza town of Khan Younis on March 27, joined at the chest and sharing small intestines.

Each girl has her own heart, lungs and other organs, increasing chances they'll be able to survive separately, said doctor Ayman Abu Amouna, who oversaw their care in Gaza. TV footage of the twins in the Gaza hospital shows them sleeping face to face, each in her own diaper, one with an arm around the other's body.

## Maoist rebels kill 75 troops in eastern India

MAOIST rebels launched a series of devastating attacks yesterday on government forces patrolling the forests of eastern India, killing at least 75 troops in the deadliest strike against the state in the 43-year insurgency. The attack, which came amid a major Indian offensive aimed at crushing the Maoists, also known as Naxalites, fueled concerns the government is sending poorly trained forces to the front lines to battle the raging insurgency.

Indian Home Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram, the nation's top law enforcement official, said the troops were part of a joint operation involving state forces and paramilitary fighters. "But something has gone very wrong.

They seemed to have walked into a trap set by the Naxalites. Casualties are

quite high and I am deeply shocked," he said. At least 82 troops were in the patrol that had spent three or four days scouring forests in the rebel stronghold of Dantewada, in Chhattisgarh state, said R. K. Vij, the inspector general of state police.

Early yesterday, rebels ambushed some of the troops, killing at least three of them, he said. Another 17 soldiers who went to recover the bodies were killed when their vehicle was blown up by a land mine, Vij said — although it was designed to withstand such explosives.

Rebel fighters occupying positions on nearby hilltops then began firing barrages of bullets down on the remaining troops, he said. The bodies of 75 paramilitary troops were recovered by Tuesday afternoon in the remote and heavily forested area, he said.



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The management of Dan Oil and Petrochemicals Limited hereby invites applications from suitably qualified candidates into the following positions:

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The candidate must hold a Higher National Diploma (HND) in Accounting with a minimum of five years working experience in the petroleum (downstream) industry. He/she must be highly computer literate. However, membership of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) is an added advantage.

In addition, the candidate should be between 30–35 years old.

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The suitable candidate must have seven years working experience with any of the multi-nationals in the oil industry. Besides, he must be able to read and write or possess a school certificate.

Also, the position is with bias for an energetic and painstaking professional, driven by the passion to attain results. As a matter of fact, he should not be older than 40 years.

All applications should be forwarded to The Company Secretary, Dan Oil AND Petrochemicals Limited, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Suite A9, Bensima House, Behind National Boundary Commission Headquarters, Opposite Maitama District Hospital, Maitama-Abuja before or two weeks from this date of publication.



## NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORT TECHNOLOGY (NITT), ZARIA



### INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

#### VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR GENERAL/CHIEF EXECUTIVE, NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORT TECHNOLOGY (NITT), ZARIA

The Governing Council of the Nigerian Institute of Transport Technology (NITT) hereby announces that the position of the Director General/Chief Executive is vacant and wishes to initiate the process of filling the vacancy.

The Nigerian Institute of Transport Technology (NITT) was established by Act, (CAP), 116 of 2004 (Decree No.6 of 1986). The Institute has the mandate for the following:

Provide Leadership and Management Training for personnel employed in all modes of Transport.

Serve as a Transport Intelligence Centre for monitoring Transport and Logistics Systems.

Provide facilities for the encouragement, promotion and conduct of applied research in Transport and Logistics.

#### **JOB SUMMARY**

The Director General/Chief Executive shall be the Chief Executive of the Institute and shall be responsible to the Council for the day-to-day Management of the affairs of the Institute.

#### **QUALIFICATIONS**

The candidate for the post of the Director General/Chief Executive of the Institute must possess a good University education preferably Doctorate Degree or a minimum of Masters Degree in the following relevant areas:

**Transport/Highway Engineering  
Transport Planning and Management  
Must be a member of the relevant  
professional body (for instance CILT)**

#### **OTHER QUALITIES**

The right candidate for the post must demonstrate ability for academic, professional leadership, and proven management capacity.

He must be a person with initiative and vision to sustain the current momentum of development

and push the institute forward.

#### **EXPERIENCE**

It is expected that those aspiring for this post should have a minimum of 18 years post qualification experience either in the industry or academics and should currently not be below the rank of a Director or its equivalent in Public Service.

#### **CONDITIONS OF SERVICE**

The remuneration and Conditions of Service are as applicable to the post of Director General/Chief Executive in the Tertiary or Research Institute in Nigeria and as may be determined from time to time by the Federal Government.

#### **METHOD OF APPLICATION**

All candidates who meet the above conditions should forward 15 copies of their applications together with their detailed curriculum vitae and relevant credentials.

Each application must include the names of 3 referees none of which must be a political office holder or traditional ruler who will not be able to express reservations. Each referee is to forward his confidential report direct to the Registrar.

All applications should be submitted and addressed to:

**The Registrar and Secretary to the Council,  
Nigerian Institute of Transport Technology  
(NITT),  
P.M.B. 1148, Zaria,  
Kaduna State.**

All applications must reach the Registrar not later than six (6) weeks from the date of this publication.



## **NIGERIA DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION**

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**Signed:  
Management**

## NATIONAL ISLAMIC CENTRE, ZARIA KADUNA 1431/2010 CONVENTION

BEING THE TEXT OF A COMMUNIQUÉ ISSUED AT THE END OF THE ANNUAL UMMAH CONVENTION HELD BETWEEN 17TH AND 19TH, RABI'UTH-THANI, 1431 (2<sup>ND</sup> - 4<sup>TH</sup>, APRIL, 2010) AT THE, AHMAD MUHAMMAD MAKARFI QUR'ANIC RECITATION COMPETITION CENTRE, KINKINAU, KADUNA, KADUNA STATE

### Preamble

The National Islamic Centre (NIC), the Ummah, with headquarters in Zaria, Kaduna State, held its Annual Ummah Convention between 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, Rabi'uth-thani, 1431 (2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup>, April, 2010), at the Ahmad Muhammad Makarfi Qur'anic Recitation Competition Centre, Kinkinau, Kaduna. The Opening Ceremony was chaired by Group Captain Usman Jibrin (Rtd). Other distinguished personalities at the occasion included the Executive Governor of Kano State His Excellency Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau (Sardaunan Kano) represented by the Honourable Commissioner of Planning and Budget Alhaji Nour Sani Hanga. The Emir of Birnin Gwari Alhaji Zubair Jibril Maigwari (II) who represented His Eminence the Sultan of Sokoto Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar (III) and the Emir of Kuru Alhaji Ja'afar Abubakar, A good number of renowned Muslim scholars and academicians were in attendance. The Convention was declared opened by His Excellency Arc. Muhammad Namadi Sambo, the Executive Governor of Kaduna State who was the Chief Host, represented by the Kaduna State Head of Service, Alhaji Habibu Balarabe Yakubu. Participants and scholars were drawn from all the Nineteen Northern States including the Federal Capital Territory, as well as from some Southern States.

The theme of this year's Convention was: "The Widening Socio-economic Imbalance in Nigeria: Causes, Effects and Solutions". The Lead Paper was presented by Dr. Abubakar Siddique Mohammed of the Department of Political Science, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

### Observations

After intensive discussions on the theme, the following observations were made:

- i. That the Muslim Ummah both nationally and internationally is presently under humiliating and distressful condition due to the prevailing socio-economic imbalance
- ii. That it is evident that leaders of the Muslim Ummah have not made the necessary efforts to justly and effectively utilize the wealth Allah has endowed their countries with to reduce poverty among the majority of their people
- iii. That Islamic value are systemically disappearing from both our public and private lives which result in the deepening deprivation of the poor and the widening gap between them and the wealthy
- iv. That the Nigerian Muslim Ummah is lacking in visionary and selfless leadership to steer it away from the horrendous disaster facing it from spiritual, moral and temporal directions
- v. That despite all the talks only a few Northern State Governments have taken steps towards solving the embarrassing and endemic problem of Almajiranci
- vi. That the absence of critical Islamic social and economic institutions such as *Zakat* and *Awqaf* (endowments) has contributed to our collective chronic poverty and economic backwardness
- vii. That in spite of the unequivocal stand of Islam on knowledge and Government's permission for the establishment of private universities the Muslims in the northern states have failed to avail themselves of the opportunity. This has resulted in widening the educational imbalance between the Ummah and others
- viii. That the recurring ethno-religious conflict in Plateau State is a clear dereliction of duty on the part of the governments responsible and a manifestation of bias in the handling of the suspects.
- ix. That the way the police hurriedly extra-judicially executed the leader of the *Boko Haram* group and other innocent people, when they were evidently handicapped and handcuffed, says a lot about the culture of impunity in the face of the oft-repeated claim of the rule of law

### Resolutions

Taking into consideration the above observations, they resolved that:

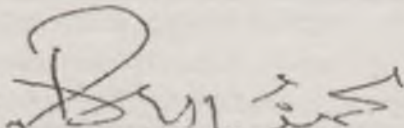
1. The Nigerian Muslim Ummah must, as matter of urgency. Seize all opportunities to drastically boost its full participation in the political, economic and social spheres of Nigerian life, to regain its assigned position as the "best and model community for mankind"
2. The Muslim Ummah must as a matter of survival immediately establish Islamic social and economic institutions such as *Zakat* and *Awqaf* (endowments), and strengthen them where available, as a step towards restoring economic balance within the community and between the Ummah and other Communities
3. The Muslim Ummah needs to nurture a new crop of incorruptible, visionary, selfless and dedicated leaders to enable it lift itself out of the present position of weakness and dishonour
4. An impartial judicial commission of enquiry must be Set up to unravel the history and pattern of human settlements in Jos and its environs, the genesis and perpetrators of all the recent civil unrests and massacres in Plateau State
5. The hasty arraignment of a handful of Fulani herdsmen arrested far from the scene of the recent Dogo Na-Hauwa incident should be suspended pending that of the perpetrators of the earlier four massacres such as Kuru Karama and Jos.
6. Each member of the Ummah must try to master certain skills/profession as a necessary step towards realizing self-reliance in all his needs
7. Muslims should put their trust in Allah and wholeheartedly submit themselves and surrender their purposes to Him as a necessary condition for getting Divine intervention in salvaging the Ummah


### Recommendations

The convention recommends that:

- a) The wealthy from amongst the Nigerian Muslim Ummah must start establishing endowments (*awqaf*) for its educational and socio-economic growth,
- b) The collection and utilization of *Zakat* funds must be given the prime place it deserves as a social security system for the welfare of the poor and weak members of the society
- c) The Muslim leaders must as a matter of urgency, come up with appropriate policies towards the economic empowerment of the members of the community
- d) The Muslim Ummah must emphasise integrity and Visionary qualities in the choice of their political leaders
- e) The Muslim leaders must put in place societal reorientation programmes that will inculcate moral values, hardwork, and discipline in order to achieve the best in this world and the hereafter
- f) The Federal Government Committee on the Reform of the *Madrasah* Education should undertake very wide consultations in order to come out with well informed and far-reaching recommendations that will positively impact on the system.

The National Islamic Centre and the participants thank the Kaduna State Government for the support it has provided towards the successful hosting of the convention, the dignitaries who graced the opening ceremony and the local organising committee for all the hospitality.

  
Ahmad Bello  
Chairman

  
Muhammad Auwal Ahmad  
Secretary

# BUSINESS

0805 1000 536

## 2010 budget not realistic - Sanusi

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

THE Central Bank Governor (CBN), Sanusi Lamido Sanusi has said that the year 2010 budget recently passed by the National Assembly is likely to fail as a result of its predication on 2.88 million barrel per day and \$60 per barrel per day.

Lamido who disclosed this during a television programme monitored in Lagos said the Niger Delta crisis coupled with the United States recent decision to eliminate some oil and gas industry preferences and tax loopholes may make it impossible to achieve the budget.

"Now that Obama has allowed the oil companies to drop in the source of the United States, you are not going to get increases in the oil price for a very long time. So we have already defined a budget that is likely not to succeed. The one way to protect yourself and guarantee monthly monetary stability is to use edged. If you put \$57 per barrel, also use edge. Mexico has done it. So that whatever how much the price of oil is, you are going to get that. I think the excess crude account was very well federated by the CBN because what it did was to reduce the fluctuation in the price of crude at that time", he said

He said: "One of the strengths of

the CBN was monetary stability, price stability and exchange rate stability, until we had that crash with global crisis. We checked inflation at single digit. Between 2005 and 2007, we had single digit inflation, we have stable exchange rate until when the global crisis erupted and that was when the inflation rate edged to 16 per cent, stock exchange rate went as much as 130 per cent and when we came in we tried to restore and deal with financial stability issues

"There is need to have price stability. Government needs to provide price incentives to investors to bring in capital. We need investment in infrastructure, human capital development fiscal discipline. All of these are critical to poverty alleviation. If you have single digit inflation and short in money supply and all these are not in place you will never alleviate poverty."

He said though he got the support of the former minister of finance in all he did as a CBN governor but there are still challenges.

"In the last few months I have been governor of the CBN. I have received 100 per cent support from the former minister of finance and I hope I will continue to enjoy that



SANUSI Lamido Sanusi

support from whoever will be the new finance minister. But let me give you some of the challenges," he said.

On banks reluctance to grant loans, the CBN governor said a

large corporation that has a good credit rating does not need to go to the banks to borrow, it can issue bond in the capital market, borrow money for 10 years at lower rates and tenor.

## 'Nigeria's crude oil sold at premium not discount'

By Hamisu Muhammad

NIGERIA'S crude oil is ranked among the best and therefore is attracting premium of up to \$1 per barrel in various markets compared to crude oil from other nations, an official has said.

The Executive Director, Commercial and Investment of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation Mr. Aminu Baba Kusa who is also in charge of the crude oil marketing department confirmed to *Daily Trust* that in most cases Nigeria's crude oil attracts premi-

ums ranging from 5 cent to \$1 p/b. "Most of Nigeria's crude attract positive premium, sometime 5 cents, 10 cents up to a dollar on top or even more and sometimes much lower than that because as I said it's a seasonal demand".

Mr. Kusa who was reacting to the clarification sought by our reporter on the selling of Nigerian crude at a discount rate to Vitol SA said the NNPC group is forced to allocate all the excess crude oil meant for the refineries to the Calson (Bermuda) Nigeria Limited a subsidiary of the NNPC.

Baba Kusa said there is no records whatsoever that the Nigerian crude was sold at a discount to any company be it within or outside the country.

"There is no way they (Calson) can sell their crude at discount because NNPC does not sale its crude at discount also Calson when they lift it they cannot sell at discount because they have to pay NNPC the actual money".

*Daily Trust* learnt that most of the Nigerian companies that lift crude oil don't have the capac-

ity to engage in trading at the international market therefore they sell it at to other international oil companies at little discount.

He explained even though Calson is owned by the NNPC but the its managerial decisions are independent.

He said there is no room for any misconduct in the selling of the crude oil because of the strict surveillances in the system.

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE

#### Arik Air

PH-Abuja: 08.45, 12.12.50, 17.00 (Mon-Fri), 08.45, 17.30 (Sat), 14.40, 17.30 (Sun);

Abuja-PH: 07.15, 11.20, 15.30(Mon-Fri), 07.15, 16.00 (Sat) 14.40, 17.30 (Sun);

Lagos-Kano: 12.20pm (Mon-Fri/Sun);Kano-Lagos: 02.35pm (Mon-Fri/Sun);

Abuja-Kano: 03:35pm (Mon-Fri/Sun);Kano-Abuja: 05:20pm (Mon-Fri/Sun);

Abuja-Gombe: 11:10am (Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun);Gombe-Abuja: 12.30pm (Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun); Lagos-Yola:

Lag-Abj 04:50pm, via Abj-Yola 06:45pm (Mon-Fri/ Sun); Yola-Lagos:

Yola-Abj 08:40am, Abj-Lagos 10:20am (Mon-Fri/Sat);

Lagos-Maid: Lag-Abj 03:50pm, via Abj-Maid 06:00pm (Mon-Fri/Sun); Maid-Lagos: Maid-Abj 07:30am, via Abj-Lag 09:15am (Mon/Fri/Sat); Abuja-Sokoto: 11:10am (Mon-Fri); Sokoto-Abuja: 12:50pm (Mon-Fri)

Abuja-Akure 02:10pm (Mon, Wed and Fri); Akure-Abuja: 08:50am (Mon, Wed and Fri); Lagos-Kwara: 07:30am, (Mon-Fri) 07.30, 03:50pm Sat 08:00am, 11:45am Sun; Kwara-Lagos: 4:10pm (Mon-Fri), 01:10pm, 05:30pm Sat 09:45am, 05:00pm Sun

Abuja-Kwara: 03:25pm (Mon-Fri); Kwara-Abuja 01.30pm (Mon-Fri); Lagos-Jos: 09:05am (Mon-Fri/Sat/ Sun); Jos-Lagos: 11.00am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)

ABV-QOW 02:30pm (Mon-Fri), 11:30am Sat 03:20pm Sun; Lagos-Kaduna: 10:20am, 04:10pm (Mon-Fri), 10.20 (Sat/Sun); Kaduna-Lagos: 12:10pm, 06:00pm (Mon-Fri), 12.10 (Sat/Sun); Lagos-Warr: 07:30am (Mon/Fri) 07:30am, 03:50pm (Sat), 08:00am, and 11:45am (Sun)

#### Aero Contractors

Lagos-Kad: 08.00am (MonFri/Sat/Sun)

Kad-Lagos: 09.40am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)

Lagos-Jos: 11.15am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)

Jos-Lagos: 13.15pm (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)

Lagos-Abj: 06.50; 13.30; 16.30; 19.45(Mon-Fri/Sat/ Sun); 12.30 (Sun) 16.45 (Sat). Abj-Lagos: 07.30; 13.30; 19.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat); 10.30, 14.30; 19.30 (Sun) 18.30(Sat) ; Lagos-Ben: 07:45; 11:00; 15.30; (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun) 12.30; (Sun); 15.30 (Sat).

### Trust Index

Inflation —————> 12.3%

GDP —————> 6.90%

Budget —————> N3.1tr

External Reserves Acct —> \$41bn

Excess Crude Acct —> \$3.2bn

Poverty Ratio —————> 54.4%

Monetary Policy Rate —> 6%

Banks —————> 24

Oil Price —————> 85 a barrel

Power Supply —> 2, 500MW

Oil output per day —> 2.6mbd

Broad Money Supply —>N10,796,734.5m

Credit to Private Sector —> N10,018,035.3m

Inter-Bank Rate —————> 1.1600%

Treasury Bills —————> 2.02%

Deposit Rate —————> 12.28%

Prime Lending Rate —> 18.38%

CBN EXCHANGE RATES				BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES	
	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)	BUYING	
CFA	0.2842	0.2942	0.3042	DOLLAR.....	N150
DANISH KRONER	26.6742	26.7647	26.8552	EURO.....	N203
EURO	198.6635	199.3379	200.0122	POUNDS.....	N231
POUNDS STERLING	223.351	224.1092	224.8673		
RIYAL	39.28	39.4134	39.5467	SELLING	
SDR	223.6309	224.39	225.1491	DOLLAR.....	N151
SWISS FRANC	139.0541	139.5261	139.9981	EURO.....	N205
US DOLLAR	147.3	147.8	148.3	POUNDS.....	N234
WAUA	223.3905	224.1488	224.9071		
YEN	1.5762	1.5816	1.5869		

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

## Northern Business

## Neem: Northern economic tree

The 2009 Global Hunger index released by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) ranked Nigeria 46th with 18.4 percent. At present, the economic hardship is undoubtedly excruciating. The neem tree which is medicinal with economic value has been left unexplored as this report shows.



NEEM tree

From Sharafa Dauda, Maiduguri

NEEM is ubiquitous in Northern Nigeria. The Neem tree popularly referred to in Hausa language as *Dogon Yaro* is a tree in the mahogany family with broad dark brown stem and widely spread branches. It grows above 15-20m and produces evergreen leaves with white fragrant flowers and fruits. It is also drought resistant.

Historically, it is native to tropical and semi-tropical regions with origin in Europe and later domesticated in Asia. It is one of the legacies of late Sardauna of Sokoto, Sir Ahmadu Bello. He is believed to have brought some seedlings as trials from India during one of his visits and experts have attributed its success to the similarity in climate between Nigeria and India. It originated from Europe.

Curiously, the tree is everywhere in the northern part of the country – on streets, around houses and in the forests. It serves as shelter belts, wind breakers, build-up oxygen levels and absorbs carbon-dioxide as by-products of human respiratory system like every green-leaved tree. *Dogon Yaro* does not require any special cultivation techniques or efforts because it grows wildly, sprouting up everywhere at the slightest chance. This single quality makes it an easy cultivation capable of multiplying unobstructed.

The Neem tree has both enormous scientific and traditional uses. Almost every part of it is useful - the seed, leaves, bark and trunk. These parts are used in the manufacture of organic fertilizer, pesticides, pharmaceutical products, cosmetics, traditional herbal medicines and animal feed.

In countries of its adoption like India, it is used for the manufacture of pharmaceutical products to fight parasitic, fungal, bacterial and viral infections. It has also proved successful in the manufacture of drugs for diabetes cure, infertility and skin diseases.

Dr. Yusuf Lawan Idrisa of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension Services from the University of Maiduguri is an expert in Technology Adoption and Impact Studies.

He said his studies show, "it can also be used to control field pests on farms. It only involves perhaps drying the leaves and then grinding it into powder and mixing with water," adding that "neem-based pesticides can be used to reduce the incidences of systemic diseases like cancer, kidney and liver diseases that arise as a consequence of using chemical-based (non-decomposing) pesticides that leave behind harmful but unnoticed residues."

Naturally, the Neem-leaf based pesticides are degradable (able to rot or decompose), and have no harmful effects on humans except the bitter taste, which can be washed away with water. Valid research evidences show that for the security of stored produce, once it is made into powdered form and mixed with whatever is to be preserved, the bitter part of it is enough to scare all storage pests.

However, of major importance is the seed from which oil and organic fertilizer can be extracted. The oil can be used in manu-

facture of pesticides, pharmaceutical products and traditional herbal medicines.

Researchers have also shown that the unique feature of Neem products is that they do not directly kill the pests. They only alter the life-processing behaviour and make it impossible for the insect to feed, breed or undergo any activity to ensure the sustenance of their specie.

It is common to see young men idling away under neem trees (because of its abundance) all day without engaging in any productive venture. The neem tree could be a means of economic emancipation for many if only energies are properly channelled towards that end. It is all over the place in Northern Nigeria as the climate supports its growth.

For instance, Abdullahi who operates a local dry cleaning and laundry outfit, and earns just enough to feed his family of five emphasizes that the Neem tree's known valuable use is that it shades him from the hot sun and makes his business less tedious. "In the case of malaria infection, parts of the leaves and its bark can be boiled along with mango, guava and paw-paw leaves for malaria treatment", he added.

Like Abdullahi, Ibrahim Abba Konto, a chemistry student at the University of Maiduguri, the Neem tree is only useful in the prevention of Malaria infection. According to him, "If the Neem tree is planted in a place, mosquito infestation is less rampant."

At present, the plant seems to exist like a child of no one. The only time it may appear to belong to somebody is when one is cut down. Then, an assumed owner emerges to claim ownership of the tree, which is supposedly on his or her land. Otherwise, in terms of the seeds that drop and rot or germinate the following year, it appears they have no owners.

Productively, cut crop and ecological experts have professed that an individual is capable of picking not less than one 100kg bag of the seeds on a daily basis. Let us assume that it would take an individual one week to pick three bags. As at last week, the speculated naira equivalent for each unprocessed bag of Neem seed is N5,000 on the average. This would translate into N15,000 every week and N60,000 a month. This is a very humble analysis that could be tripled or quadrupled, depending on the commitment. If maximally utilized, especially during harmattan season (from December to April) when the seeds become mature, ripe, fall and dry, this is no doubt a 'Money Spinner'.

The question of ready market for export (for the meantime) comes to mind.

Markets are available in Asia, Europe and South America. The fortune can be further guaranteed through enquiries from the Nigeria Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC) or the Nigeria Export Promotion Council with assistance from state ministries of Commerce, Industry and Tourism.

In commercial terms, assuming any purchaser looks out for quality and grading, experts said that all that is required is to wash it clean. So, if half a bag is picked daily, it could be washed, separated from the bad ones and sun dried. Meanwhile, there are also potentials when the leaves are processed. Efforts could even be made towards using a commercialized dryer to ensure quality processing.

As noted by Dr. Idrisa, "the Neem seeds are just like sand in the river. If at all any input is required, the most difficult aspect would be proper grading to separate the good ones from the bad. So, the Neem tree has the capacity to give employment to teeming jobless youth."

Undoubtedly, cultivating and processing raw Neem, its extracts and processing it into finished products has enormous potential for a huge income generating industry. Presently, the United Nations has commissioned researches to see how Neem extracts could be used to produce bio-fuel. With global increase in energy demands surpassing supply, we cannot afford to ignore its industrial and economic potentials.

The discovery of oil and over-dependence on it with little or no diversification for earning foreign exchange has no doubt brought about neglect of agriculture. With the need to survive the economic downturn, and at a time when inability to properly harness human and natural resources for positive improvement in the living standards of the people, this may be one of the ways out of the economic quagmire.

The government needs to design and implement a framework that could lead to the profitable use of the economic potential of the neem tree in Northern Nigeria.

This would naturally lead to the establishment of small and medium scale industries (at first) and later processing industries to create jobs that would reduce poverty levels, as well as increase foreign exchange. This is no doubt a feasible avenue for instituting partnership and participatory development, at individual, community and government levels.



RIPE and semi ripe neem fruits.

## Business/Energy



# PIB delay: Nigeria loses \$1 bn in three months

By Hamisu Muhammad

THE long delay witnessed in passing into law the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) currently before the National Assembly has caused Nigerian government to lose more than \$1 billion (N148 billion) from January to date, *Daily Trust* has learnt.

An investigation made by *Daily Trust* revealed that every day Nigeria is losing about \$10 million that is \$300 million a months and \$1 billion in 100 days.

With the increased in crude oil production to about 2.6 million par day, the revenue may likely

exceed \$10 million par day, our reporter says.

The long awaited petroleum sector reform bill was expected to be passed into law before the end of last year and commence operation beginning of this year.

But the bill of reforms is still hanging in the National Assembly.

Some analysts blamed the political turmoil going on in the executive arm and owing to the illness of President Umaru Musa Yar'adu's, others are pointing fingers at the International Oil Companies who opposed the bill since inception.

Deputy Senate President, Ike

Ekweremadu, was quoted last year at a retreat in Uyo, Akwa Ibom state that members of the Senate have resolved to pass the oil reform bill before the end of last year.

"On this note, the Senate had suspended plenary for a whole week and is on retreat on the PIB in Uyo, the Akwa Ibom State capital," he said.

The PIB when passed into law will set out a new legal, regulatory and fiscal framework for the organization and operation of the entire oil and gas industry in Nigeria.

The Bill is based on the report

of the Oil and Gas Sector Reform Implementation Committee (OGIC), set up by the Federal Government in the year 2000 to carry out a comprehensive reform of the oil and gas industry.

Some of the issues suggested by the Bill include: The creation of Incorporated Joint Venture Companies with the direct participation of NNPC in all aspects of Joint Venture operations and the consolidation and enhanced clarity of Nigeria's fiscal provisions and minimize differences in interpretation which the international oil companies are not happy with.

**“The PIB when passed into law will set out a new legal, regulatory and fiscal framework for the organization and operation of the entire oil and gas industry in Nigeria.”**

## Oil steadies at 86 dollars as dollar rallied

OIL traded at 86.41 dollars a barrel yesterday, down from Monday's 18-month high as the dollar rallied, following strong U.S economic data.

U.S crude for May delivery CLc1 fell 21 cents, off Monday's peak of \$86.90 a barrel, the highest intraday figure struck since October 2008. ICE Brent LCOc1 declined 22 cents to 85.66 dollars Tuesday in London.

Oil prices rose more than eight per cent in the five sessions to Monday, their sharpest five-day winning streak this year.

There was no trading on the

New York Mercantile Exchange on April 2 because of Good Friday.

"Oil made a very crucial break above 82 dollars a barrel last week, but if there are any slight falls (Tuesday) it could be ascribed to the dollar.

A stronger dollar should mean weaker oil prices," said broker Christopher Bellew at Bache Commodities.

The dollar gained nearly 0.4 per cent against a basket of currencies.

A stronger dollar makes purchases of dollar-denominated commodities more expensive for non-U.S buyers.

Also buoying the dollar was data on Monday showing U.S. services sector grew at its swiftest in nearly four years in March and an unexpected rise in future home sales in February, which bolstered hopes for a sustainable economic recovery and job growth.

Attention in the oil market was set to shift to U.S inventory statistics due later on Tuesday and on Wednesday.

Crude inventories in the United States, the world's largest energy consumer, probably gained for a 10th consecutive seven-day period of measurement

in the U.S last week, a Reuters survey showed.

Crude stockpiles were forecast to have risen 1.7 million barrels, according to a Reuters poll, while a 1.4 million drawdown was expected in both gasoline supplies and distillate stocks, comprising

heating oil and diesel.

The American Petroleum Institute releases its industry report on Tuesday, followed by government figures from the U.S. Energy Information Administration on Wednesday. (Reuters/NAN).

**“Oil made a very crucial break above 82 dollars a barrel last week, but if there are any slight falls (Tuesday) it could be ascribed to the dollar”**

## Nigerians mine only 3 per cent of oil - Ajumogobia

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

ONLY 3 per cent of Nigeria's oil and gas are mined and produced by Nigerians, the immediate past Minister of State for Petroleum, Mr. Odein Ajumogobia (SAN) has

**“According to him, “The current reforms in the Petroleum sector will meet the vision of the founding fathers of the Nigerian Mining and Geosciences Society (NMGS)”**

said.

He disclosed this in his opening remark during the presentation of the Journal, at the just concluded 46th International Annual Conference of the Nigerian Mining and Geosciences Society (NMGS),

in Calabar. Ajumogobia however decried the development, saying that it did not reflect the vision of pioneering members of the NMGS who were being celebrated.

According to him, “The current reforms in the Petroleum sector will meet the vision of the founding fathers of the Nigerian Mining and Geosciences Society (NMGS)”

In his remarks, the chief host and Governor of Cross Rivers State, Senator Liyel Imoke, represented by his deputy Mr. Efiok Cobham commended the contributions of

the Society to the development of the country and said attention must be paid to the environment and the effect of oil exploration and production.

At the conference, the Managing Director and Chief Executive of Total Upstream companies in Nigeria, Mr. Guy Maurice, represented by the Executive Director, External Affairs Mr. John Addeh disclosed the company's intention to establish a database of all the recipients of the NMGS/Total prize.

He reaffirmed the company's

commitment to the Distinguished Lectureship Programme (DLP) explaining that Total had not sponsored the programme in the last years because the calibre of lecturers it sponsors had been unwilling to deliver their papers outside Lagos and Abuja.

He however, expressed optimism that with the improved security situation around the country, the company would be able to get the right calibre of lecturers who are ready and willing to go to any location around the country.

## Star Feature

# Dwindling sales: A local media challenge

In the 80s one Nigerian newspaper sold 500,000 copies on a daily basis. Today, these figures, in a general sense, have fallen considerably. Our reporter investigates what went wrong.

By Tosin Omoniyi

FOR most newspaper proprietors, no topic creates more concern than the rate at which sales of their products is dropping on a daily basis. Adequate circulation for virtually all print media companies appears to be transiting into a major source of worry for those concerned.

Kola Martins, circulation officer for the Nigerian News-world magazine, an Abuja based tabloid, believes that any media organization which handles the issue of circulation with levity, is bound to go under much sooner than envisaged, going by the central position circulation business holds in the media. He enthuses: 'nowadays the in thing appears to be advert placements by organizations and government establishments. Most newspapers simply solicit for these adverts to sustain their operations, but the reality on ground is that if there is a strong circulation policy on ground, and this is enhanced by real public oriented relationship by the management of media organizations, then the reliance on adverts will be greatly reduced. The point I am making is not actually to discountenance the primary role of adverts in media business, but simply to assert the fact that good circulation can actually work side by side with advert placements for fluent revenue drive for media operators.'

The centrality of adverts for the sustenance of media opera-

tions is no doubt a given decimal but to many pundits, the less emphasis some of the media outfits appear to have given to circulation of their products seems not to be a good omen for the industry. Presently the stockpile of unsold copies of newspapers and magazines in the circulation departments of most print media organizations is a vivid sign of this challenge. In the golden era of the print media, leading publications such as the Daily Times sold as much as 500,000 copies per day. Obviously these days are gone! Recently figures in an audit conducted by the Advertisers Association of Nigeria (ADVAN) showed that all the current newspapers put together cannot boast of a daily publishing of newspaper copies that reach that of the Daily Times in its heydays. The cumulative national sales figure from the industry was put at a little over 300,000 copies on a daily basis. A peep into the report reveals that even the major print outfits have not been finding it easy to survive on sales given ADVAN 2009 Report on newspaper sales, which puts daily circulation figures in this order: Punch 34,264; Sun newspapers, 25,632; Vanguard 25,241; Guardian 25,222; Thisday 21,703 and Tribune, the oldest surviving newspaper in Nigeria, managing to sell 8,314 copies per day. The report also shows that other newspapers including Compass, Daily Independent, Leadership, National Life, New Nigeria, Mirror and



THE more you read the more you write. People don't have the time or stamina anymore. They prefer to look at pictures.

could barely make 1,600 copies in daily sales. Many believe that the sales plummeting is as a result of more people getting access to free news reports from the Internet. Also the newspaper market is already saturated leading to some unsteady publications dropping out, after only a few years of hitting the news stands.

ADVAN's research ostensibly came as a result of the refusal of the NPAN (Newspapers Proprietors Association of Nigeria) to sign on to the establishment of an Audit Bureau of Circulation. An independent survey of the circulation figures of the top ten Nigerian Newspapers was conducted.

The research results which commenced on the 22nd of July 2009, at a stake holder's forum; identified the total daily cir-

ulation figures of Nigerian Newspapers on a state by state analysis. It also includes the top ten Newspapers in circulation and a comprehensive analysis on newspaper circulation trends since 1999. The study, which serves as the first phase of continuous quarterly research, is meant to assist advertisers on clear basis for the future advertising spent on print media.

Strong debate has expectedly followed the release of the research results, as News-

paper houses claim that the figures are less than accurate, but ADVAN has challenged any Newspaper publisher to open their books and prove the research results inaccurate. The associations media spokesman, Mr. Demola Adedoyin had described the project as "... part of measures to encourage transparency, accountability and prudence in the communications sector, key players in the industry have revealed new circulation figures for newspapers operating in key media centers of the nation. Interestingly most of the media outfits involved in the study have rejected the results saying they are not a true reflection of their sales capabilities. However findings reveal that it is indeed a fact that sales for most media outfits is challenge.

“For one, many people are not brought up from appreciate the reading of newspapers. It is not them. So as adults they do not even read books newspapers.”

# ooming

financial pedestal. 'A good product will no doubt attract advertisers who will contribute to the financial growth of the medium. Advertisers will always flock around a newspaper outfit which produces quality materials that attract readers to patronize. Sales from circulation can never sustain a new outfit. Maybe for the first 6 months or so it may serve to pay the bills of the news medium but after this unless the medium attracts patronage in form of adverts and advertorials the medium will die off automatically. Today circulation should not be depended upon by news outfits if they want to survive in the already saturated market,' he notes.

Another veteran journalist, Femi Kusa who was crucial to the growth of the Comet newspapers, says that a multiplicity of factors was the reason behind the unsavory trend. He states inter alia, 'many factors are contributory. For one, many people are not brought up from childhood to appreciate the reading of newspapers. It is not just a part of them. So as adults they do not even read books, not to talk of newspapers. The activities of vendors are not also helping matters. Many of them encourage this free readers syndrome, where you can read as many newspapers as possible, for a token which goes into the vendors pocket. These vendors at the end of the day return the excess as unsold copies. Why would you want to buy a paper when you can read as many as possible for as low as N20? That is what these vendors encourage subtly. Also most editors do not connect to the reading public through their publications which in most cases lacks depth and quality content. That needs to be looked into. The managers of most news outfits also need to be proactive in the way they handle the concerns of the company, they need to do more in reaching out to the public, as well known outfits like Coca Cola and Toyota do.' He adds also: 'editors need to know that we are indeed in the information age as the industrial age

has given way so newspaper content has to be fashioned in a way that it would meet with the challenges of the present age. With collapsing oligarchies, launch of satellites into space and global trends erupting more and more information is getting into the possession of the readers outside the newspapers. In the information age it is the reader and not the editor that hold sovereignty over news. Equally, distribution channels for most newspaper houses are still archaic, and need to be reworked to meet the challenges of modernity. Also it is a known fact that some unscrupulous printers steal or mismanage about 25 percent of the publications in order to resell to vendors at reduced rates. Reporters are also implicated as they convert advert materials to infomercial news, so as to get stipends from some people who would have been a source of adverts for their medium. You are also aware that newsprints is getting more expensive by the day, so it is actually a few newspaper houses that can meet up...'

Jim Pressman, consulting editor for the True National also agrees but adds: 'given the average economic conditions of most Nigerians, it is ideal to give every Nigerian a free copy to read, Nigerians like free things. That is why you have the free readers club blossoming. You simply buy one and you can read 4 other papers. There are some who do not even buy. That is why circulation is a problem. That is why newspapers should know that they can never survive on what they sell. That is why emphasis should be made on advert, advertorials and special feature drives that will yield money. Once you get enough of these then you can actually jettison reliance on sales. Now papers are sold for N150. How many Nigerians can afford that given their economic state? But for me the end justifies the means, as the aim of newspaper owners is that the papers should get to as much people as possible. Once this is achieved and monies from adverts are rolling in, I do not see this as a problem. The content, of course, has to be improved upon. We have good columnists in papers like the Guardian, the Nation, Daily Trust, Compass, People's Daily but they can still be improved upon. These always attract rejoinders and rich opinions which will make the paper a must read. And then

there is this dwindling fortune of reading and writing. People don't read. Like Eugenia Abu will tell you, if you want to write well then you must equally read well. The more you read the more you write. People don't have the time or stamina anymore. They prefer to look at pictures. It's all complex, a vicious circle' Tim Elerewe, chairman, Correspondents chapel of the Nigerian Union of Journalists, Abuja chapter, also believes that consumers are getting wiser by the day, so the owners of newspapers need to be more creative in the crafting of their headlines and lead stories. 'For me if you want to make headway in this industry you must find a way to stand out from the pack. For instance, you find out that nowadays most newspapers always carry the same headlines with little or no modifications. If not that we know better, one would say that all the editors always decide on which news to make lead on a daily basis. Creativity is lacking. Why would I decide to buy a particular newspaper when others are carrying the similar headline? That is why creativity is lacking. The era of exclusive leads appear to have died,' he opines.

Osedebamen Isibor, head, Northern operations for the National Mirror, while toeing the line of his colleagues however opines, 'there was a time when newspapers like the old Daily Times, Punch, Newswatch during Dele Giwa time and Tell magazine, survived basically on circulation strength, so why the sudden slump? The facts are clear: the reading culture in Nigeria has dropped. People don't read again. Everybody is in a mad rush to make ends meet on a daily basis, and the value of take home pay has dropped significantly. The purchasing power has really reduced and not many persons can afford to buy the basic necessities like information. Even in our schools there is no deliberate attempt to encourage our students to imbibe the culture of reading newspapers. The advent of online news dissemination, has also taken over from the conventional mode. Even those that read are reducing by the day because they do not get quality news items from most newspapers.

Most papers in present day Nigeria have taken sides with sections of those they should be reporting objectively. When

you look at certain lead stories, then you will not be left in doubt that such leads have been planted, to achieve certain ends for certain people. Professionalism has dropped in the media. You don't need to tell a blind man that the market has closed. Some papers have already taken sides in sensitive national issues. The moment you take sides, you may not know it, but you lose a significant section of your readership. There is certainly an encroachment of politics into media matters, and this is not helping issues.' In the midst of it all vendors who are central to sales recently enumerated some of the reasons for low sales. They say that sales and readership of newspapers and magazines have dropped by 50 per cent for quite a while. The vendors told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) that the development was as a result of the circulation of the publications online and poverty among the people and other reasons. The Grand Patron of Newspaper Distributors Association, Chief Elisha Akanle, said the publishing of newspapers on the Internet had contributed to the low patronage, even among the elite. He also noted that the absence of attractive stories in newspapers contributed to the low patronage. Akanle stated that most newspaper stories were political developments, and said news stories should go beyond public officers inaugurating projects and governors' wives promoting their pet projects. 'I tell you, very few people buy newspapers and magazines for record purposes.

Nowadays, our customers are usually bank executives and some well-to-do in the society,' he said. The patron said vendors recorded good sales only when there were news breaks or scandals involving prominent people in the society.

Dr Emman Shehu, Director, International Institute of Journalism, IJJ believes that not all newspapers need to be national newspapers. He says the urge to be national in nature by all dailies, account for why there is a rush to become the best selling medium by all outfits. He notes: 'every paper cannot be national. Under this impression they get adverts, but they are really not providing the requisite service, because if you produce 30 000 copies in a country of almost 140 million people does that make you national? How many people actually get to see a copy of the paper? My proffered solution is that publishers should get together and arrange some kind of distribution system that would be effective. We all don't have to be national newspapers even though we are competing. We must provide an enabling distribution network that would be public friendly. If the public purchases your product that enhances your continued stay in the market. I think publishers should get together and find a common and effective way of distributing their products, even if it means working as a team or employing the services of a service provider, who takes on the responsibility of distribution of papers whether regional or national while the media outfits focus on production. Distribution and circulation are critical factors in the media terrain. The government should also ensure that there is an enabling environment so that the cost of publishing goes down, so that more copies can be increased. Of course there is also the problem of the reduced purchasing power of most Nigerians. It is okay to hike the cover price but how many people can actually afford to buy them? But like I always say there is always a solution for these problems if we look inward...'



Veterans in the industry appear to be concerned about the trend and have been identifying the causes of the instant slump in sales. Interestingly there seems to be a consensus about the causes and possible solutions going by the contributions of these professionals many of which have been a stint one time or the other in most of the national newspapers.

Ogbuagu Anikwe, consulting editor of Dawn newspapers, Force Headquarters, Abuja, says that the days when dependence solely on sales are gone forever. According to him, the emphasis today is on quality product, that will attract prominent adverts and would place the medium on a sound

in childhood to  
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## Business



THE file photo shows Professor Muhammad Yunus being conferred the highest civilian honour of USA by President Obama in a marked ceremony held at White House on 12th August 2009.

## Sanusi says too early for rate increases

NIGERIA'S central bank Governor Lamido Sanusi said it's premature to raise interest rates and that he expects inflation to stay in "lower double-digits" for some time.

The country's inflation rate was 12.3 percent in February, unchanged from the previous month. Sanusi, speaking in an interview today in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, said Nigeria has an expansionary budget and "supply bottlenecks" of gasoline have helped keep prices high.

Nigeria's economy

probably will grow about 7 percent this year, the same pace as last year, Sanusi said. He said oil output has increased to 2 million barrels a day, from a low of less than 1 million barrels last year.

Agriculture, which makes up 40 percent of economic output, has benefited from good weather and "there's also been significant growth in services, especially telecommunications," Sanusi said. He said Nigeria must now achieve manufacturing growth that will require addressing "the hard infra-

structure issues" including reforming the power industry and attracting investment to it.

Sanusi also said that parliament will approve legislation next month to buy bad debts from the country's banks.

He said that there has been "progress" in efforts to sell 10 banks seized by the central bank, and that the bank is on course to complete most deals in the second quarter and finalize approvals in the third quarter, without giving more details. (Bloomberg)

## New finance minister assumes duty

By Idris Ahmed

THE new Minister of Finance Olusegun Aganga resumed duty yesterday after the Permanent Secretary in the ministry Achi Achinuvu handed over to him at about N3.30pm at the headquarters of the federal ministry of finance, Abuja.

He resumed duty with his Minister of State for Finance Remi Babalola who has been in that position since 2007.

After the handing over, the ministers and the permanent secretary went into a close door meeting. The outcome of the meeting was not made public.

But a source said that the meeting was centred on modalities to effectively implement the budget and how to improve the entire economy.

Since 2007 when President Umaru Musa Yar'adua came into power, the

national budget was poorly implemented. Acting President Jonathan Goodluck now governs the country.

Government said that only 48 percent of the 2008 budget was implemented while only about 51 percent of the 2009 budget got implemented.

Experts said that Nigerians should not expect something spectacular from Aganga because he is an agent of capitalist.

"He is used to capitalist economy and he is there to do their bindings and this will not be in the interest of the masses", Dr. Bashir Kurfi, a lecturer in the Department of Business Administration, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria said.

He said the new minister should look at the entire economy in concrete terms and address the issue of interest rate. He also urged him to overhaul the Customs Service to control the amount of smuggled goods

into the country.

Aganga told the Senate during the ministerial screening that Nigeria's widening deficit budget is not bad for the economy as long as the Federal Government focuses on the quality of its spending and concentrates on projects that would yield "strong social and economic returns."

Olusegun Aganga was a Managing Director of Goldman and Sachs in London before his recent appointment.

Acting President Jonathan Goodluck will reconstitute the National Economic Management Team to be chaired by Aganga, Daily Trust learnt.

The new NEMT meets every two weeks. NEMT was headed by former minister of finance Mansur Muhtar.

The acting President will assess the performance of each minister every week.

## Africa's banking laws shut out the poor - Prof Yunus

THE lack of micro credit laws in many African countries is denying millions of the continent's poor access to loans, a Nobel Prize winner Muhammad Yunus, said on Tuesday.

Yunus, who won a Nobel Prize in 2006 for championing tiny loans to the poor in Bangladesh, is now pioneering an idea he calls "social business" as a way to fight poverty around the world -- business not for profit but to solve social problems.

"To create a new kind of bank, which works with the poor people, we need new legislation.

"In most of the countries in Africa that legislation has not taken place, we have left micro-credit scenario to the NGOs," Yunus told Reuters in an interview.

Nicknamed the "banker to the poor," Yunus started his movement 30 years ago with a 27 dollars loan to women in Chittagong, Bangladesh. It has mushroomed and delivered millions of tiny loans to poor people who do not have access to mainstream banking.

"People are ready in Africa, there is no problem with the people; it's a question of institutional and conceptual arrangement and microcredit could be wonderful social business," he said.

Yunus is attending an annual microcredit summit in Kenya, where Africa's microfinance institutions hope to emulate the success and growth of the industry in Asia, which hosts more than 80 per cent of the world's 150 million microfinance beneficiaries.

"African women are very active compared to women anywhere in the world and micro credits have the best chance of succeeding in Africa particularly with women, but the financing is never brought to them," he said.

Most African governments are still heavily dependent on donor aid from the West and some microfinance institutions are run by NGOs.

Yunus warned against continued channeling of donor aid through governments.

"Since you focus aid through the government, it encourages bureaucracy, it encourages corruption, it encourages inefficiency and we still have the African and Asian development banks doing the same repetitive thing," said Yunus.

Since winning the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 jointly with Grameen Bank, the micro-credit organisation he founded, he has committed his portion of the \$1 million prize money to developing social businesses and is trying to change the way the world views helping the poor.

He said the global financial crisis that hit western economies hardest, showed that the world needed to embrace social business as well.

"Let's make it two models, profit maximising business and also social business, business to change the world. If we don't redesign the global economy, we risk to fall in that trap again," he said. (Reuters/NAN).

(This advert appears as a matter of record only)

**ZENITH**  
Trustees Limited

On behalf of



**NIGER STATE GOVERNMENT  
OF NIGERIA**

**₦6,000,000.00 14% FIXED RATE REDEEMABLE INFRASTRUCTURAL  
DEVELOPMENT BOND 2009/2014**

### FIRST COUPON PAYMENT NOTICE

This is to inform all bond holders whose names appear on the Register of Bondholders maintained by MERISTEM Registrars Limited (Registrar to the Offer) that the coupon payment date has been slated for Thursday April 15, 2010.

Bondholders should kindly forward their Bank details to the Registrar, Meristem Registrars Limited 213, Herbert Macaulay Way, Yaba or contact Lekan Akanji on 01-8920492 & 8920491

**MERISTEM**  
REGISTRARS LIMITED

213, Herbert Macaulay Way, Yaba Lagos

Business

# Poverty alleviation: NAPEP donates 100 goats to women

NAPEP in Katsina State in collaboration with an NGO, Service to Humanity Foundation, has donated 100 goats to 50 women in Bindawa Local Government Area of the state.

The goats were donated under the second phase of NAPEP's Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) programme which covers seven local government areas in the state.

Speaking while launch-

ing the programme on Tuesday in Bindawa, wife of the state governor, Hajiya Fatima Shema, said the animals were given out to women, including widows, in addition to cash given to them under the NAPEP CCT programme.

She noted that the cash being given to the beneficiaries monthly was meant to assist them in educating their children, especially the orphans.

She disclosed that apart from the cash and animals been given freely to the beneficiaries, economic trees would also be given to them as part of efforts to improve their socio-economic well being.

Fatima urged the beneficiaries to make best use of the gesture to enhance their livelihood and warned them against engaging their children in hawking.

In his address, the

Bindawa Local Government Chairman, Alhaji Abdu Umaru, commended NAPEP and the NGO for the gesture.

He said the council had also 2,000 exercise books to pupils and 500 text books to teachers in the area to enhance learning in schools.

Earlier, the state NAPEP Coordinator, Alhaji Gambo Rimi, said the first phase of CCT programme was being implemented in nine local government areas, while the second phase covered Bindawa, Safana, Kurfi, Charanchi, Faskari, Mashi and Malumfashi local government areas of the state.

Each of the 50 women in Bindawa got two goats and a cash donation of between N3,000 to N5,000. (NAN).



MAGNUS Kpakol



GOATS

## Borno's finance ministry to buy N150m generators

From Isa Umar Gusau, Maiduguri

THE Borno State government has begun to spend one hundred and fifty million naira budgeted for the procurement of generators to supply electricity in the state's ministry of finance, a breakdown of the 2010 budget has shown.

A booklet with 'explanatory details' on the state's 2010 budget, produced by the budget office of the same ministry of finance which was obtained by our correspondent showed the expenditure captured as plan allocation under

sub-head 10719 for capital expenditures in commerce, finance, co-ops and tourism sub sector. The one hundred and fifty million which the state has started spending is to last from 2003 when Governor Ali Modu Sheriff came in his first tenure, to 2011 when he will be completing his second term.

Of the amount, thirty million naira was budgeted in 2009 for the ministry's generators while another thirty million naira was budgeted for "purchase of bigger generators" in 2010, the booklet showed.

Also in that sub-sector, sixty million naira has been

budgeted as plan allocation for the procurements of safes and construction of strong rooms for the keeping of cash in the state secretariat. Fifteen million naira was allocated in 2009 and another fifteen million has been allocated in 2010.

The one hundred and fifty million which the state has started spending is to last from 2003 when Governor Ali Modu Sheriff came in his first tenure, to 2011 when he will be completing his second term

## VACANCIES

The following vacancies exist for self-motivated, result-oriented individuals in an already existing Micro-Finance Bank located in Kaduna State and operating at two (2) branches but intend to establish its presence in some other locations within the State.

S/N	POSITION	REQUIREMENTS/QUALIFICATIONS
1.	Managing Director	A minimum of a first degree in relevant discipline (Business Admin., and Banking and Finance) and/or professional qualification from a recognized institution with a minimum of ten (10) years experience and must be computer literate. Possession of a 2 <sup>nd</sup> degree will be an added advantage.
2.	Head: (a) Operations, (b) Risk Management (c) Credit, Marketing & Bus. Dev. (d) Internal Audit/Control	A minimum of a first degree in Business Admin., Accounting, Banking and Finance and/or professional qualification from a recognized institution with a minimum of seven (7) years experience and must be computer literate.
3.	Head, Information Communication Technology.	A minimum of a first degree/Higher National Diploma in Computer Science and/or professional qualifications from a recognized institution with a minimum of five (5) years experience. Knowledge of and experience in Computer Programming, Analytical and Information Technology skills will be added advantages.
4.	Banking Office: (i) Banking Operations (ii) Loans Management	A minimum of OND/HND in Marketing, Business Studies, Co-Operative Studies and/or professional qualification from a recognized institution with a minimum of three (3) years experience, and must be computer literate.
5.	Cashiers/Tellers	A minimum of OND in Accounting & Finance from a recognized institution with a minimum of three (3) years experience in cashiers' activities preferably in a Bank. Must also be computer literate.

**Method of application**

All interested applicants that satisfy the above requirements and possess the required qualifications should direct their hand-written applications, curriculum Vitae and photocopies of relevant certificates to:

The Advertiser,  
P.O. Box 8850,  
Kaduna,  
Kaduna State.

All applications should reach the Advertiser within two (2) weeks from the date of this publication. Applicants should include their contact phone numbers and e-mail addresses to ease communication.

Signed:  
Management

## Business/International

## SIGN OF POVERTY



RATS for sale in Malawi.

## Tanzanian employers oppose nationwide strike

THE Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE) has threatened to take legal action against the Trade Union Congress of Tanzania (TUCTA) if workers across the country heed its call for an indefinite nationwide strike.

Claiming that public and private employers were dilly-dallying on workers demands for better wages, including pensions and improved standard of living for retirees, TUCTA has set May 5, 2010 for commencement of the strike that the government fears would paralyse every sector.

Arguing that the workers' demands were largely unrealistic, ATE chairman Cornelius Kariwa said that employers whose workers would take part in the strike must take legal action against strikers.

"The planned strike is

illegal and the demands are not reasonable," Kariwa told journalists, adding however that government had already moved to solve some of the workers' grievances.

He blamed TUCTA for failing to specify the duration of the pending strike for which many affiliated trade unions had expressed support.

He also warned that trade unions would be made to compensate employers for any damages incurred as a result of the strike.

Kariwa, however, called on TUCTA leadership to engage the government in a dialogue that would avert the strike and lead to amicable solutions and understanding between employers and workers.

Meanwhile, ATE Executive Secretary Aggrey Mlimuka, said ATE and TUCTA were

due to hold a consultation on Tuesday with Attorney-General Fredrick Werema and the Commission for mediation and arbitration over the issue.

"Labour disputes are a normal occurrence all over the world but the best way to solve them is through dialogue," Mlimuka said.

Also, TUCTA Secretary-General Nicholas Mgaya lambasted ATE officials for describing the congress' call for a strike as "illegal".

"Only a court of law has the mandate to call it illegal," he said, adding that TUCTA wanted discussion that would reach a conclusive agreement.

President Jakaya Kikwete, in a nationwide address, had asked trade union leaders and the workers in general to call off the planned strike. (PANA/NAN).

## Mauritius' inflation rate eases to 1.9 pct

MAURITIUS' annual average inflation eased to 1.9 percent in March from 2.1 percent in February, official data showed yesterday.

The central statistics office said in a statement that decreases in the price of furnishing and household equipment in March cushioned the rising costs of food, non-alcoholic beverages and recreation

and culture.

"The headline inflation rate for the twelve months ending March 2010 works out to 1.9 percent," it said.

Month-on-month, the prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages climbed by 0.5 percent, while clothing and footwear costs were up 0.3 percent.

Health costs rose by 0.2

percent compared with February while furnishing and household equipment costs declined by 0.2 percent.

Overall, the Consumer Price Index increased to 118.8 in March from 118.6 a month earlier, the statistics office said.

The Bank of Mauritius forecasts headline annual inflation will accelerate to 3 percent by June 2010. (Reuters)

## S/Africa's vehicle sales jump by 20 per cent

SOUTH Africa's total industry new vehicle sales increased by 20.07 per cent year-on-year to 43,591 units in March.

The National Association of Automobile Manufacturers (NAAMSA) said this on Tuesday.

It stated that when stripping out sales from Associ-

ated Motor Holdings and Amalgamated Automobile Distributors, which reported separately, sales rose by 14.99 per cent to 38,293 units compared with March 2009, NAAMSA said.

Vehicles sales recorded the first annual increase in nearly three years in January, marking a turnaround



PRESIDENT Jacob Zuma of South Africa

in a sector hit by depressed demand. (Reuters/NAN).

## Orascom Tel appeals against Algeria tax claims

EGYPT'S Orascom Telecom said on Monday it had appealed to Algeria's administrative court to cancel a claim it owes Algeria back taxes for 2004-2007.

It said its Algeria unit Djezzy had paid the remaining \$254 million in taxes

owed against the Algeria tax claim pending a settlement.

The firm, the Arab world's largest mobile operator by subscribers, asked the court to suspend another \$175m in penalties until a final judgment is reached, it said in an emailed statement. (Reuters).



ALGERIA President Abdelaziz Bouteflika

## South Korea tanker hijacked by Somali pirates

A South Korea-operated, Singapore-owned oil tanker has been hijacked by Somali pirates in the Indian Ocean.

The 300,000-tonne Samho Dream - loaded with crude oil - was on its way from Iraq to the United States with 24 crew when it was seized on Sunday.

South Korea has sent a destroyer already in the area to intercept the tanker before it reaches any port.

Pirates targeting ships off the coast of Somalia made

tens of millions of dollars in ransom payments last year.

The Cheong-hae destroyer was on patrol in the Gulf of Aden, where pirates have often staged attacks.

It has been diverted some 1,500 km (930 miles) to the south-east to the area where the hijacking took place. In recent months, pirates have been attacking ships further out to sea - in some cases closer to the Indian coast than Somalia.

"The government has dispatched our Cheong-hae naval unit to the waters of the Indian Ocean, where the ship hijacked by Somali pirates is assumed to be," the South Korean foreign ministry said in a statement.

"The ship is presumed to have been hijacked by Somali pirates," the ministry said.

It also expressed concern for the safety of the crew - five South Koreans and 19 Filipinos. (BBC)



Pirates leave the merchant vessel MV Faina for the Somali shore.

# Business/Finance



Nigerian Stock Exchange  
(Source: APT Securities)  
Tuesday, April 7, 2010

STOCK Name	Prev Day Close	Open	High	Low	Price	Change	Deals	Volume Traded	Value
7UP	33.73	33.73	0.00	0.00	33.73	0.00	4	19,905	704,836.06
ACCESS	11.14	11.15	11.15	10.70	11.10	-0.04	212	6,362,353	69,683,136.00
AFRIBANK	2.56	2.68	2.68	2.55	2.60	0.04	77	8,608,973	22,669,656.00
AFRINSURE	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	9	10,000,000	5,000,000.00
AIRSERVICE	2.73	2.76	2.78	2.76	2.78	0.05	12	201,000	557,080.00
AP	40.98	38.94	38.94	38.94	38.94	-2.04	18	78,192	3,044,796.50
ASHAKAGEM	21.50	21.61	22.57	21.61	22.57	1.07	81	2,492,152	55,878,876.00
ASOSAVINGS	0.65	0.64	0.65	0.62	0.62	-0.03	40	6,759,477	4,210,180.00
BAGCO	3.85	3.75	4.00	3.75	3.91	0.08	1250	18,550,644	71,566,840.00
BCC	61.00	62.00	62.00	61.11	61.11	0.11	54	1,015,017	62,493,916.00
BECOPETRO	1.98	1.93	1.93	1.89	1.89	-0.09	20	623,120	1,185,003.75
BERGER	5.67	5.95	5.95	5.95	5.95	0.28	13	196,092	1,166,747.38
CAPOIL	0.53	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.02	11	603,400	331,878.00
CONOIL	44.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	44.00	0.00	25	72,854	3,158,146.25
CONTINSURE	0.94	0.92	0.92	0.90	0.90	-0.04	21	2,857,908	2,577,804.50
CORNERST	0.59	0.58	0.61	0.58	0.61	0.02	13	837,570	495,691.31
COURTVILLE	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	1	20,000	10,000.00
CUSTODYINS	3.95	3.76	3.76	3.76	3.76	-0.19	13	221,250	833,595.00
CUTIX	3.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.26	0.00	5	37,420	121,889.28
DANGFLOUR	19.00	19.40	19.93	19.12	19.50	0.50	227	5,601,558	109,612,248.00
DANGSUGAR	19.00	19.00	19.60	19.00	19.40	0.40	122	3,287,818	63,172,988.00
DIAMONDBNK	9.55	9.57	9.58	9.35	9.55	0.00	123	15,910,101	151,551,280.00
ECOBANK	6.90	6.92	7.23	6.92	7.23	0.33	78	1,137,954	8,024,178.50
ETERNAOIL	9.06	9.00	9.00	8.66	8.66	-0.40	38	346,444	3,047,738.00
FCMB	9.10	9.15	9.55	9.15	9.42	0.32	135	18,588,603	188,883,240.00
FIDELITYBK	3.49	3.49	3.54	3.32	3.46	-0.03	265	71,631,394	244,470,128.00
FIRSTALUM	0.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.53	0.00	1	2,000	1,100.00
FIRSTBANK	16.70	16.75	17.52	16.75	17.24	0.54	690	17,744,021	306,300,896.00
FIRSTININD	0.64	0.62	0.66	0.61	0.66	0.02	28	5,459,044	3,419,330.75
FLOURMILL	64.00	64.20	67.20	61.60	67.20	3.20	126	6,079,392	389,043,360.00
FINCOCOA	1.07	1.07	1.11	1.03	1.11	0.04	45	5,917,484	6,510,447.50
GLAXOSMITH	27.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	27.56	0.00	12	19,794	561,845.44
GNI	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	4	248,000	124,000.00
GOLDINSURE	0.82	0.80	0.86	0.80	0.86	0.04	53	20,752,715	17,518,550.00
GTASSURE	3.40	3.36	3.45	3.27	3.27	-0.13	58	11,898,959	39,685,520.00
GUARANTY	21.60	22.00	22.68	22.00	22.68	1.08	441	19,117,675	432,435,200.00
GUINEAINS	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	4	288,000	100,800.00
HMARKINS	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	2	210,000	105,000.00
HONYFLOUR	9.00	9.00	9.00	8.80	8.80	-0.20	38	688,295	6,046,809.00
IBTC	11.11	11.15	11.66	11.15	11.45	0.34	55	3,663,010	42,462,836.00
IHS	4.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.23	0.00	1	50	211.00
INTENEGINS	0.57	0.58	0.59	0.57	0.59	0.02	56	6,561,410	3,849,373.75
JAPAUOIL	1.62	1.60	1.70	1.60	1.65	0.03	409	18,958,488	76,136,742.00
JBERGER	36.44	38.00	38.00	38.00	38.00	1.56	26	228,245	8,693,914.00
MAYBAKER	5.83	6.10	6.12	6.10	6.12	0.29	17	1,206,875	7,364,193.00
MBENEFIT	0.60	0.63	0.63	0.57	0.57	-0.03	107	19,291,520	11,433,401.00
MOBIL	107.64	113.02	113.02	113.02	113.02	5.38	71	266,343	28,279,218.00
NAHCO	11.03	11.50	11.56	11.22	11.56	0.53	101	1,046,654	12,011,946.00
NASCON	8.80	9.21	9.24	9.21	9.24	0.44	50	1,668,441	15,321,011.00
NB	62.95	65.00	66.09	65.00	66.09	3.14	113	1,724,563	112,459,560.00
NBC	32.60	33.99	33.99	33.99	33.99	1.39	15	89,331	2,997,430.25
NEIMETH	1.85	1.94	1.94	1.94	1.94	0.09	24	1,115,790	2,164,632.50
NEM	0.61	0.64	0.64	0.62	0.62	0.01	59	6,331,979	4,031,598.50
NESTLE	270.00	283.50	283.50	283.50	283.50	13.50	42	540,822	153,273,888.00
NIGERINS	0.81	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	-0.03	8	167,141	134,645.84
NIWCABLE	0.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.56	0.00	2	1,340	740.40
NNFM	32.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	32.32	0.00	2	5,450	184,918.50
OANDO	85.00	87.03	89.25	87.03	89.25	4.25	75	460,055	40,842,428.00
OCEANIC	1.95	2.00	2.02	1.97	1.97	0.02	189	13,920,072	27,733,544.00
OMATEK	0.58	0.56	0.59	0.56	0.59	0.01	22	1,423,875	805,119.75
PLATINUM	1.61	1.64	1.69	1.61	1.68	0.07	98	5,909,969	9,874,977.00
PRESKO	6.50	6.25	6.82	6.20	6.82	0.32	22	754,231	4,852,591.50
PRESTIGE	3.42	3.43	3.59	3.28	3.59	0.17	19	349,944	1,188,229.25
PZ	30.42	30.71	31.94	30.00	30.00	-0.42	68	1,897,022	57,371,328.00
REDSTAREX	3.22	3.10	3.38	3.38	3.38	0.16	9	228,720	768,272.00
RESORTSAL	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	2	103,000	51,500.00
ROYALEX	0.58	0.60	0.60	0.56	0.58	0.00	11	557,368	321,880.81
RTBRISCOE	7.12	7.12	7.20	7.10	7.10	-0.02	36	667,524	4,763,462.50
SKYEBANK	8.20	8.20	8.20	7.96	7.99	-0.21	232	17,911,363	148,338,871.00
SOVRENINS	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	1	200,000	100,000.00
SPRINGBANK	1.03	1.05	1.05	1.05	1.05	0.02	21	238,876	251,023.16
STACO	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	30	5,651,990	2,825,995.00
STARCOMMS	2.65	2.78	2.78	2.78	2.78	0.13	28	678,929	1,887,422.62
STDINSURE	0.50	0.50	0.52	0.50	0.50	0.00	64	7,960,369	3,982,149.50
STERLNBANK	2.80	2.80	2.90	2.75	2.89	0.09	94	7,010,794	19,786,612.00
TOTAL	149.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	149.62	0.00	6	39,756	6,245,667.50
TRANSCORP	0.52	0.50	0.54	0.50	0.54	0.02	39	2,489,007	1,332,816.75
TRIPPLEG	4.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.37	0.00	2	10,000	41,600.00
UAC-PROP	23.80	23.80	24.99	23.00	24.99	1.19	30	2,738,868	68,474,684.00
UACN	50.50	50.52	53.02	48.40	53.02	2.52	113	5,778,050	294,194,208.00
UBA	14.80	14.98	15.39	14.98	15.20	0.40	331	12,268,865	186,780,160.00
UBN	5.97	5.97	6.00	5.91	5.91	-0.06	155	5,004,221	29,893,514.00
UNHOMES	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.85	0.88	-0.02	46	3,130,600	2,733,952.50
UNIC	0.78	0.76	0.81	0.76	0.81	0.03	14	743,880	582,874.94
UNILEVER	30.22	30.22	30.22	30.22	30.22	0.00	85	8,590,380	160,000,000.00
UNIONDAC	0.76	0.77	0.79	0.75	0.79	0.03	43	2,509,319	1,961,994.88
UNITYBANK	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	21	2,227,788	2,225,714.25
UNIVINSURE	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	2	105,000	52,500.00
UPI	7.32	7.32	7.50	7.32	7.50	0.18	20	803,138	5,993,881.50
UTC	0.75	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.03	11	254,645	198,161.09
VITAFOAM	5.87	5.98	5.98	5.58	5.88	-0.29	18	301,637	1,712,471.00
WAPCO	35.50	36.00	36.50	35.99	36.50	1.00	87	1,676,078	60,417,596.00
WAPIC	0.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.93	0.00	12	98,880	98,598.00
WEMABANK	1.00	1.02	1.05	1.02	1.05	0.05	36	710,123	737,323.94
ZENITHBANK	19.30	19.50	19.55	19.00	19.00	-0.30	453	20,706,213	397,005,020.00



## F.C.T. UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION BOARD, ABUJA

### RE: RECRUITMENT OF TEACHING STAFF.

Please refer to our earlier advertisement on "Recruitment of teachers", in *Daily Trust* and *punch* newspapers of Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2010.

The closing date for the collection of applications has been extended by four (4) weeks to elapse on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2010, in compliance with the Federal Character Commission's guidelines.

The qualifications of applicants, conditions of service and method of application still remains as earlier advertised.

In view of this development, the time table for the aptitude test has being rescheduled as follows:

DATE	VENUE	SUBJECTS
11/5/2010	GSS TUDUN WADA WUSE ZONE 4	BASIC SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE
11/5/2010	GSS AREA 10 GARKI	COMPUTER SC., BASIC TECH., AND BUSINESS EDU.
11/5/2010	FESTIVAL ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL AREA 10 GARKI.	HOME ECONOMICS, CREATIVE/FINE ARTS AND SPECIAL EDUCATION.
12/5/2010	GSS TUDUN WADA WUSE ZONE 4	PHE, AGRIC. SC., AND FRENCH LANGUAGE
12/5/2010	GSS AREA 10 GARKI.	ARABIC LANGUAGE, IRK AND CRK.
12/5/2010	FESTIVAL ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL AREA 10 GARKI	HAUSA, IGBO AND YORUBA.

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MANAGEMENT**

## Techgrade Consulting

CMD accredited trainer & COREN Registered

Presents A 3-Day Course on

### EFFECTIVE PROJECT MANAGEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS

#### ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

What are the problems being faced by construction contractors in Nigeria which are frequently causing late project delivery, loss of profit, dispute, hanging claims, bank issues, and other unfavourable climates? The wrong impression is that Nigerian contractors are not performing satisfactorily, but going in-depth, many of the problems are due to the faults of others: the client, consultants, policies, etc. But how can the contractors help themselves to turn things round? Just attend this workshop and drastically improve your company's standing!

#### WORKSHOP TOPICS

1. Preparing Work Programs that are Realistic
2. Identifying the Risks in Construction Contracts before Submitting Tenders
3. Responsibilities of Contractor's Project Managers
4. How to identify Claims Entitlement and Pursue the Claims Successfully
5. How to Minimise Wastes on Construction Projects and Boost Profit
6. Measures to Improve Human and Equipment Productivities on Site
7. What is Quality Assurance and how is it Used to Improve Performance?
8. Best practices in Hiring and Managing Subcontractors
9. Practical Interpretation of Problematic Clauses in Construction contracts

#### WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

This workshop is for all contractors who desire better awareness and intends to increase earnings. While no contractor can afford to miss this event, clients and consultants will also have much to gain by attending.

**DATE:** Tue 13th - Thur 15th April, 2010

**VENUE:** Rockview Hotel (Classic), Abuja

**FEE:** N48,000 for NSE, NIA, NIOB, NIQS, etc members, N53,000 others

For registration, please contact: 08033469413, 08054890243, 08034885989 or e-mail: techgradecon@yahoo.com



## KADUNA STATE DEVELOPMENT AND PROPERTY COMPANY LTD.

RC. 173339

HEAD OFFICE: No. 5, Lafia Road, G.R.A., P.M.B. 2183, Kaduna-Nigeria.  
Tel: 062-244378, 247451.

### INVITATION TO TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSES UNDER KADUNA STATE MASS HOUSING SCHEME

The Kaduna State Development and Property Company Limited (KSDPC) invites the following pre-qualified building contractors to tender for the construction of houses under Kaduna Mass Housing Scheme, they are:-

1. Tamaidukka Investment Company Limited (TMDK)
2. Amasmaj Nigeria Limited
3. Datum Construction Nigeria Limited
4. Westwood Engineering Nigeria Limited
5. Salim Investment Company Limited
6. Combined Building Services (CBS)
7. Cingular Technical Investment Limited
8. Al-Asheer Investment Limited
9. Avante International Limited
10. Rockbridge Construction Limited
11. Independent Service Investment Limited
12. Seamless Limited
13. Global General Engineering Limited
14. Sujass Ventures Limited
15. Precious International Company
16. Sintax Limited
17. Sammy Development Resources Limited
18. Hannia Systems Nigeria Limited
19. Fenix Construction Limited
20. Kwalli Nigeria Limited
21. DT Ham Nigeria Limited
22. Environmental Engineering & Construction Limited
23. Lodigiani Nigeria Limited
24. JP Sigma Nigeria Limited
25. A.U Abdullahi & Sons Nigeria Limited
26. Raz Construction & Technical Limited
27. Interaf Construction Limited
28. Tsimgbo Nigeria Limited
29. Motafco Investment Limited
30. Equinox Limited
31. Multi-Purpose General Constructors Limited
32. San-Trade Nigeria Limited
33. Dinam Engineering Limited
34. Terraina Construction Nigeria Limited
35. H & S International Nigeria Limited
36. Ishacos Ventures Limited

#### A. LOCATIONS

11. Kaduna Eastern Sector (Millennium City)
12. Zaria Bye-pass
13. Zikpak, Kafanchan

#### B. COLLECTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS

Tender documents are available for collection upon the payment of a non-refundable fee of N100, 000.00 per set with effect from **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2010** in the office of the Assistant General manager (Physical Planning & Development) KSDPC, Head office, No.5 Lafia Road, Kaduna.

#### C. SUBMISSION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS

All completed tender documents must be submitted in sealed envelopes marked "Kaduna STATE Mass Housing Scheme" on the top left corner of the envelopes addressed to.

The Managing Director/CEO  
KSDPC,  
No. 5 Lafia Road,  
PMB 2183,  
Kaduna.

#### D. TENDER CLOSING DATE

The closing date for the submission of all tenders been fixed for **Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2010** at 4:00pm.

#### E. TENDER OPENING

All completed tender documents received will be opened on **Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2010** 10:00am in the KSDPC conference room.

#### NOTE

- A. Late submission will not be entertained.
- B. KSDPC Ltd is not bound to accept the lowest tender.
- C. KSDPC Ltd is neither committed nor obliged to undertake work described in the advertisement.

Signed:  
MANAGEMENT

# DIGEST

## Hayley had a privileged upbringing, but her life was made a misery every time she spoke

WHEN Hayley Ronson was a young girl and her stammering was at its worst, it could take her a full five minutes to say a short sentence.

'Every sentence would consist of several stammers and each one could last at least a minute,' she explains. 'Sometimes I couldn't even get any sound out.'

'When my family went to restaurants, my sister Nicole would order first and I would say "the same" even if I didn't like her choice, because it was easier than saying all the words of a dish.'

I would also stand next to her so she could introduce me socially, so I didn't have to struggle to say my name.

'Stammering is always with me,' she continues. 'It affected the schools I went to, my choice to become a special needs teacher and even my children's names.'

'I gave Jack, nine, and Brooke, six, names of a single syllable so they are easier for me to say.'

The youngest of four daughters, Hayley grew up in a high-achieving family: her father, multi-millionaire Gerald Ronson, is chief executive of Heron International, while her mother Gail was made a Dame in 2004 for her charitable services.

'My sisters are all vivacious and clever,' says Hayley. 'Lisa, the eldest, works for my father [it's thought she may take over the Ronson empire].'

'Amanda lives in Israel, and Nicole, who is nearest to me in age, is involved in lighting production.'

'As the youngest, it was hard to find my place and stammering made me even more reserved.'

Hayley, 36, is talking about her stammering for the first time to help launch an appeal to set up a much-needed centre for stammering in the north of England.

It's estimated that more than

500,000 Britons stammer (the cause is not known), but many children are missing out on therapy due to a chronic shortage of specialists.

Prince Charles, whose grandfather King George VI stammered, is patron of the appeal.

Michael Palin, the comedian and travel documentary maker, is also involved. His father stammered and he played a man with the condition in *A Fish Called Wanda*.

Dame Gail is the chair. Hayley is also fundraising - driven by a determination that children should not have to suffer because of their fluency problems.

Hayley began to stammer before she was three. 'I saw a speech therapist regularly, but I barely improved, and when I was seven I was told there was nothing more she could do.'

She dreaded school. 'The teachers didn't know how to handle a stammering child. Some pitied me, which I hated. Others became impatient as they waited for me to get a word out.'

'I never felt I fitted in or had a best friend because friendship is about communication, which is something I couldn't do.'

She was also bullied. One incident when she was 12 sticks in her mind. 'One child said to me "Can't you talk?" and then pushed me hard into a bush. Also, most of the class laughed when I tried to read something aloud.'

'About every six months I would have a huge crying session and think: "Why me?" Like most children who stammer, I didn't join in with discussions or ask teachers to explain something I didn't understand.'

'I was always bottom of the class and my parents got me a remedial teacher,' Hayley says.

'Being a stammerer is the tip



STRUGGLE: Hayley Ronson, who began to stammer before she was three (left), with her mother Dame Gail

of the iceberg. Underneath are all the emotional issues that come with it.

'You don't express yourself. Your self-esteem is low.'

'Nobody knows what you are feeling. Just my mother knew, because she could tell I was sad by looking at my eyes.'

We are sitting at the Ronson family home, a luxurious detached house in North-West London. Dame Gail, who is with us, draws in her breath and a look of anguish crosses her face.

'I still battle with self-esteem,' Hayley continues, 'but because I have my parents' genes I want to

make the best of my life.'

Hayley's life changed dramatically when she was 11 and her remedial teacher suggested she tried an 'amazing' speech therapist, called Lena Ruston.

She worked for Islington Health Authority and refused to take private patients. Fortunately, the family lived in her catchment area and she saw Hayley four days a week after school.

'One key difference from other speech therapists is that Lena involved my parents. And instead of just concentrating on forming words, she taught me techniques that help, like slow-

ing my speech down.'

'We also practised situations such as making phone calls and speaking in class, building my confidence.'

Hayley saw Lena for three years until she reached the stage she's at now: 'Although I can still repeat a sound several times and stammer on syllables, I often hear the words that might make me stammer in advance and change them.'

'As I slowly gained confidence and my speech became more fluent, I made friends - I have wonderful friends now - and joined in school activities.'

## Secret to dieting is in the genes, research finds

THE secret to losing weight could be down to a person's genes rather than how strictly they adhere to a diet, research indicates.

Some women are genetically programmed to have more success in shedding pounds through certain weight-loss schemes than others, a study has found.

The findings could explain why some people swear by the fat-rich Atkins diet to slim down, while others do better by stocking up on carbohydrates.

Researchers from Stanford University,

in the US, made the discovery after taking mouth swabs from more than 100 overweight women who had tried various diets.

They then analysed the women's DNA for five genes linked to how the body uses fat and carbohydrate.

The team found that women following diets that matched their genotype, or genetic make-up, shed nearly a stone on average over a year - almost three times more than the other women.

These women also saw their waist-

lines reduced by 2.6 inches on average, compared with 1.2 inches, the American Heart Association's annual conference heard.

Dr Christopher Gardner, of Stanford University, who led the study, said: 'The differentiation in weight loss for individuals who followed a diet matched to their genotype versus one that was not matched to their genotype is highly significant and represents an approach to weight loss that has not previously

been reported in literature.'

He added that using genetic information would "be important in helping to solve the pervasive problem of excessive weight in our society".

The study found there was roughly a 50:50 split between those best suited to low-fat and low-carbohydrate diets respectively.

Culled from telegraph.co.uk

Sign Language



Unite (sic) we stand  
Photo location: Malaysia  
,by Paul Greenwood  
Culled from telegraph.  
co.uk

EASY CROSSWORDS  
26

**ACROSS**

1. Merle's given  
2. Fool's right  
3. Fawn  
4. Deteriorate  
5. Santa's helpers  
6. Frosty glow  
7. Stand by for  
8. Indicated  
9. Noted  
10. 118-Across  
resident  
2 wds.  
11. Green of TV  
12. Rice space  
13. Make tame  
14. Piquancy  
15. Is next to  
2 wds.  
16. High plateau  
17. State bird of  
118-Across  
18. Hip hop legend  
19. Old King Cole  
reunited  
20. A Fitzgerald  
21. Theater bus

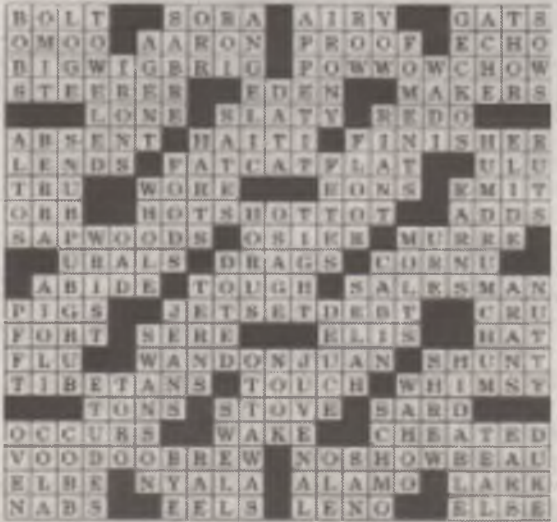
63. Small fish  
64. Football player  
65. Fanny  
66. Taka in  
67. Sushu  
68. 118-Across  
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71. 118-Across  
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126. 118-Across  
127. 118-Across

**DOWN**

1. Empty talk  
2. Monogamy  
3. Overwork  
4. Chalked up  
5. Band crew  
6. Display  
7. Classroom  
8. Hawaii  
9. 118-Across  
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127. 118-Across

Solution to Easy Crosswords

25



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.

122

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

Solution to Sudoku 121

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

## News Extra

# We ate sawdust and bark to survive, says saved Chinese miner

**M**ore than 100 miners have been rescued from a flooded pit in China, surviving for more than a week by eating sawdust and tree bark.

Many had also strapped themselves to the mineshaft walls with their belts to avoid drowning in their sleep.

'A miracle has finally happened,' spokesman Liu Dezheng said Monday, after the first nine miners were brought to the surface.

'We believe that more miracles will happen.'

By Monday night 115 out of 153 miners had been rescued at the Wangjialing pit in Shanxi province. Another 38 are still missing.

Teams had pumped water out of the flooded mine since last

Friday. Some miners provided humans enough sustenance to survive for eight days - as long it came from the right species of tree, an expert in nutritional medicine said yesterday.

Dr Sarah Brewer, a Cambridge educated former hospital doctor, said sap from the bark of certain trees could provide nutrients, sugar, water and minerals.

Dr Brewer said sawdust had less nutritional value but would have helped stave off hunger by providing bulk.

'They must have been very lucky to have had the right sort of tree bark down there,' she added.

**L**iu Qiang, the medical officer at the mine, said the survivors were suffering from hypothermia, dehydration and skin infections.

Some were also in shock and had low blood pressure.

'This is probably one of the most amazing rescues in the history of mining anywhere,' said David Feickert, a coal mine safety adviser to the Chinese government.

Preliminary investigations revealed mine officials ignored water leaks prior to the accident.

China, which relies heavily on coal to fuel its booming economy, has some of the most dangerous mines in the world.

**T**he government has made efforts to improve safety by enforcing regulations and closing unregulated mines.

According to Beijing's official figures, 2,631 coal miners died in 1,616 mine accidents in China in 2009, down 18 per cent from the previous year.

“Some miners had hung from shaft walls by their belts to avoid falling into the water when asleep. They later climbed into a wooden cart that floated by

Sunday, when workers digging a tunnel broke into an old flooded shaft. The first signs of life came when tapping could be heard on pipes.

As the water level dropped rescuers with rubber rafts squeezed through the narrow, low-ceilinged passages late on Sunday.

Some miners had hung from shaft walls by their belts to avoid falling into the water when asleep. They later climbed into a wooden cart that floated by.

And one miner described eating sawdust and tree bark from pit props.

Bark and sawdust could pro-



A miner is brought to the surface Monday from the flooded Wangjialing coal mine



RESCUED miners are loaded onto a train for treatment

## News Extra



DALAI Lama

## Chinese hackers steal Dalai Lama's emails

Chinese hackers have stolen almost a year's worth of the Dalai Lama's personal emails, as well as movements of NATO staff in Afghanistan and details of Indian missile systems, according to a new report.

For eight months, researchers based at the Munk Centre for International Studies at the University of Toronto worked with independent computer analysts in the United States to monitor the activities of a gang of Chinese hackers based in the central city of Chengdu.

The Munk Centre was responsible for the discovery of Ghost-Net last year, an enormous Chinese hacking network that had penetrated 103 countries and almost 1,300 computers. One-third of the targets were highly sensitive, including foreign ministries, embassies and even a computer at NATO headquarters.

The new report builds on the previous research, and reveals for the first time the sort of information that Chinese hackers are searching for. "After the [Ghost-Net] report was published, several of the command and control servers listed went offline. However, targeted cyber attacks against Tibetan interests and various governments did not suddenly cease," the researchers revealed.

With the help of the Tibetan government in exile, the researchers were able to start monitoring the hackers and managed to retrieve some of the stolen documents. "The recovered documents include 1,500 letters sent from the Dalai Lama's office between January and November 2009," said the new report, entitled *Shadows in the Cloud*.

In addition, "dozens of high-level government networks,

embassies, international organisations and others have been penetrated and confidential, sensitive, and private documents stolen."

The hackers allegedly stole classified reports about the security in several Indian states, and about several Indian missile systems, including the new Shakti artillery system and the Iron Dome mobile missile defence sys-

A spokesman for the university, who would only give his name as Mr Xu, said he was unaware of the report and declined to comment if the university had disciplined any hackers in the past

tem. The hackers also stole documents about the movements of Nato workers in Afghanistan.

The report said the aim of the attacks appeared to be increasingly political, but stopped short of accusing the Chinese government of orchestrating the cyber-crime. It added that the evolution of social networking had opened up new ways for hackers to exploit

loopholes and spread viruses.

Concerns about Chinese cyber-attacks have deepened in the past year, after Google partly blamed a series of hacker attacks for its withdrawal from the Chinese mainland. Two attacks on foreign journalists in China have occurred in the last two weeks, with several Yahoo! accounts being breached and a malicious virus sent to reporters in Shanghai masquerading as an official government email. The website of the Foreign Correspondents' Club in Beijing was also shut after persistent attacks.

The researchers said the hackers appeared to be based in Chengdu and that one member of the gang could be affiliated with the city's prestigious University of Electronic Science and Technology. A spokesman for the university, who would only give his name as Mr Xu, said he was unaware of the report and declined to comment if the university had disciplined any hackers in the past.

A spokesman for the Chinese Foreign ministry said the country condemned hacking, but that there was no official government response.

He added: "My personal view is that this is an attempt by the foreign media to spin the issue of hacking for political purposes, especially since this report is related to Tibet. The report appears groundless and comes from an institute that is not credible."

Culled from telegraph.co.uk

## Two women 'caught trying to smuggle dead relative on to passenger jet at Liverpool airport'

Two women have been arrested after they allegedly tried to smuggle their dead relative on to a passenger plane.

The corpse was pushed in on a wheelchair - complete with sunglasses - to try to fool staff at the check in desk at Liverpool John Lennon Airport, it is claimed.

The man's body had been driven to the airport in a taxi after the women told the driver he was asleep.

But as his two companions attempted to check the dead man in for a flight to Berlin on Saturday, staff became suspicious and alerted the authorities.

The two women were arrested at the scene.

It is understood the 91-year-old German national had died a day earlier, and an attempt was being made to smuggle his body back to his homeland.

A source said: "The airport staff at the check in were not happy with the situation.

The women, aged 44 and 66, are currently being questioned on suspicion of failing to give notification of a death."

The body was brought to the airport from a house in Oldham.

An airport source said: "They tried to get him in by a wheelchair. He was wearing sunglasses.

"He was dead before they got

him in the taxi and he had been dead for a day."

The cab driver is said to have been left 'upset and devastated' after being informed.

It is believed the two women attempted to smuggle the body back to avoid repatriation fees, which can be as much as £3,000.

Merseyside Police confirmed the man was dead on arrival at the airport.

A spokesman said: "We are investigating the circumstances surrounding the death of a 91-year-old German male passenger at JLA, due to fly out to Berlin on Saturday.

"Two people are helping police with their enquiries.

"We are still investigating the exact circumstances of the death, but don't believe it is murder or manslaughter at this stage."

Greater Manchester Police (GMP) became involved because the family are from Oldham.

A GMP spokesperson said: "At 11am on April 3, police at JLA alerted us to the death of a 91-year-old male in the airport building.

"Two women, aged 41 and 66, are helping police with enquiries on suspicion of failing to give notification of a death."

The airport remained open throughout the incident and a JLA spokesperson said: "We are co-operating with police in their investigation."



ARRESTS: Two women were questioned over an alleged attempt to smuggle a corpse through Liverpool John Lennon Airport (file picture)

## News Extra

# Down and out in Nairobi: Somali pirates in retirement



THESE eight pirates are being held in a jail in Mombasa, Kenya. They were captured by the British Navy.

The pirate is sitting in the backseat of my car. We are parked in the basement lot of a Nairobi mall; the Muzak version of Celine Dion's "My Heart Will Go On" echoes across the concrete. The man, who calls himself Ahmad, tells me he helped hijack six ships off Somalia before he quit the trade in November because his wife left him for another pirate. He starts to cry and hides his face with his hands. "I felt that I could murder that man," Ahmad says. "My town was dominated by him. I thought the best thing was to run away from that place before I killed someone."

I met Ahmad a couple of weeks ago at a restaurant in Eastleigh, a Nairobi neighborhood dominated by Somalis. He came with another ex-pirate, named Bashir, who bared his black, rotted teeth every time he smiled. Bashir and Ahmad sipped strawberry milkshakes through long straws. Soon after the shakes arrived, a group of well-dressed Kenyans sat down in an adjacent booth and began shooting them cold stares. Ahmad thought they might be police or intelligence officers, so we paid the bill and retreated to the safest place we knew, another car, and parked it down an empty road.

Bashir was once a fisherman. The pirates wanted to hire him

because he knew how to swim, a valuable skill he could teach other recruits. Bashir claims he was among the pirates who hijacked the MV Faina, a ship carrying 33 Soviet-era battle tanks to Kenya, on Sept. 25, 2008. He fled Somalia after that job, he says, because he fell out with the pirate leaders

over pay. He earned \$6,000, but his bosses deducted two-thirds of that to pay for the food he ate during the operation. "We are the ones out on the water taking all the risks and suffering," Bashir says. "That was how our differences began. I feared that because I disagreed with the boss

about money, they would assassinate me."

When Somali piracy really hit the headlines in 2008, the first crop of stories told of young pirates who had struck it rich. They bought expensive cars and houses and married the prettiest girls. Then, everyone said, the

pirates started looking for places to invest their money safely and fueled a building boom in Nairobi. Bashir and Ahmad headed to Nairobi for a different reason: asylum. Willing to risk police harassment, hunger and poor prospects, they arrived with a few hundred — maybe even a few thousand — dollars, but nothing like the riches they dreamed of when they joined the business.

Good information on the inner workings of the piracy trade is hard to come by, but evidence from out of Somalia indicates that criminal syndicates with financiers and investors based in Dubai and London and Mombasa, Kenya, have taken over piracy in Somalia, which got its start in the early 1990s as a way to mete out retribution on ships that fished illegally or dumped toxic waste in Somali waters. Now the warlords at the top take almost all the money and pay the men at the bottom next to nothing. The pirates caught on camera bobbing in their skiffs are the high-sea equivalent of the Cosa Nostra's lowliest associates. "The people being arrested are actually foot soldiers. They are not the real pirates," says Dickson Oruku Nyawinda, a lawyer who represents accused Somali pirates in Kenya's jails. "We are dealing with people who have no idea where the ransoms are going."

*Culled from time.com*



THE pirates holding the Ukrainian merchant ship, Faina, display the crew to US Navy which had insisted on verifying that the men were alive and well.

## COALITION OF TRUE DEMOCRATS

Yola-Jimeta Road, Yola, Adamawa State  
Nigerians Say No to Militocrats!

### Welcome Back, Atiku, a True Democrat!



Our Dear Turaki,

The news of your imminent return to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), the Party you helped form and nurture to maturity, is like a soothing balm on our bruised flesh. We need you more than ever before. The times are uncertain, and full of foreboding and omens pregnant with hidden meaning. We appear lost and even frightened, but we know that you will help find the way.

As true democrats we accepted the elevation of the Vice-President, Dr Goodluck Jonathan to the position of Acting President with reservation as we know that the "doctrine of necessity" adopted has set a dangerous precedent in our political process and is not in the constitution and only ever used in the law courts. What if another leader like Abacha surfaces in the polity or indeed if former President Obasanjo had been privy to the option of "doctrine of necessity" during the third term project? What if a judge had pronounced the senate resolution illegal in the same way Justice Akinsanya did the Shonekan led interim government in 1998?

Despite these fears, we had hoped that Jonathan would consolidate our democracy and rule of law. We had hoped that he would surround himself with true democrats who understand the meaning of building consensus, reaching across to everybody and healing the wounds of troubled times.

We are not sure any more. We are rather alarmed at the strange and unpredictable term of events. Acting President Jonathan has gone ahead to procure the services of retired career coupists, low level pedestrian conspirators and those whose only path to power is through surreptitious means, as his closest allies and advisers. He has distanced himself from the rank of the governors, the party leadership, and the leadership of the House of Representatives headed by a true democrat, the Speaker Honourable Dimeji Bankole. He seems very comfortable with the Senate (even visiting its President at the wee hours of the night) perhaps because it is led by another retired coupist.

Turaki, we are deeply worried that Acting President Jonathan's new found buddies like Generals Obasanjo, Danjuma, Babangida and Gusau have, between them organized, participated in or benefitted from the coup d'état of July, 1975; the counter coup of February, 1975; the coup

of December, 1983; the coup of 1985; and the coup of 1993. We don't know whether their presence in and around Dr. Jonathan is to take over power surreptitiously from the party leadership, the PDP governors and all true democrats. We are agitated that they want to decapitate the current National Working Committee (NWC) of our great party and populate it with military collaborators. We have also heard that they want to put our governors in their place, using the *Economic and Financial Crimes Commission* (EFCC). Already, they have directed the EFCC to unleash an unending war against the gallant governor of Bayelsa State and his whole government. Have you now seen, Turaki, why your return to the PDP is eagerly awaited, even with bated breath? You have fought these retired career coupists before. We know that you can challenge them again. You can count on our support and the support of all true democrats in this new struggle. Our only regret is that you did not rise up to the challenge in 2002 when most PDP governors beckoned on you to challenge one of the retired career coupists. Politically, you paid dearly for it.

But you fought well, and for this we are proud of you. Your legal battles have already settled many constitutional issues in the land. You extended the frontiers of our laws. Your courage inspired many of us as you towered high in the battle against another coup in the making—the perfidious, vain glorious and megalomaniac Third Term Agenda. You rallied the nation behind you and we all won. Our democracy won and the retired career coupists were put to shame.

Turaki, another political battle is looming on the horizon, more deadly than the one you fought before. It is the battle for the soul of our party, and the soul of the nation. It is a battle between true democrats and retired career coupists like Gusau, Danjuma and Obasanjo. With you on our side we shall overcome.

Do not turn your back on us, rather hearken to our anguished call, and in so doing spare a thought and a prayer for President Yar'adua another true democrat who is being hounded by these retired career coupists.

Your courage is desperately needed as we shall support you and dislodge the small group of retired coupists who have held the nation to ransom and who between them have always and deliberately laid a weak foundation for our democratic process to ensure they are permanent fixtures in our political history.

# PROPERTY

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## Council boss promises to complete projects

BWARI Area Council Chairman, Mr Isa Dara, on Tuesday promised that his administration would complete all projects it started, before the end of its tenure.

Dara said that "only few of the many projects we started are as yet uncompleted and will soon be completed."

He listed some of the projects to include three comprehen-

sive clinics, a Women Centre, a Stadium, office extension and legislative chambers.

According to him, funds have been set aside for every of such projects. "So any contractor, who completes his job, is sure to get paid straight away," he said.

He challenged residents of areas where the projects are

cited to make the best use of all the amenities to better their lot and make life more comfortable.

He also called on the people to protect all installations as much money had been sunk into them.

Area Council elections in the six Area Council in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) will hold on April 10.

### WEP urges caution on Africa land lease plans

SELLING or leasing African land to foreigners for farming could lead to conflict in the future if the process is not properly managed, a senior official of the World Food Programme (WFP) said on Tuesday.

Some African countries, including Congo, Zambia and Libya, plan to lease areas of their arable land to farmers in nations such as South Africa for growing export crops like maize.

Sheila Sisulu, WFP Deputy Executive Director for Hunger Solutions, told Reuters in an interview that leasing land to foreign farmers could become a source of conflict in Africa.

"Land is an emotive issue. Who does the land belong to and who has a right to lease or sell it?"

"Right now people can afford to see land (being) farmed by foreigners and food being exported ... and they don't question it. But there is only so much arable land.

"The climate change is so uncertain. What happens when things change? This could be another source of conflict between countries," she said.

Sisulu, however, said the deals could work properly if they included improving farming in host countries through irrigation.

"There needs to be a principle, a code of conduct and transparency, it needs to be out in the open and not done through secret deals," she said.



THE building division of construction company RCC Nig Ltd, Utako district, Abuja

## Abuja multi-level car park project stalled

By Nasir Imam

THE Federal Capital Territory Administration has asked the contractor handling the multi-level car park project located at the UTC Shopping Centre, Area 10, Garki, Abuja, to perform or risk revocation.

Director of the Abuja Investment Company Limited, Dr. Abdul Mukhtar, while expressing concern over the delay by the project contractor, D&B Limited, said it is a very important project but that the contractor

has failed to meet its own side of the contract as stipulated in the terms of agreement.

Residents and owners of businesses in and around the Lozumba Complex, have expressed worry over the long delay in completing the multi-level car park project in the area, which they said is causing them inconveniences.

The multi-level car park, on a Build, operate and Transfer (BOT) arrangement with the Abuja Investment Limited, was to be completed in December, 2005.

An Estate Surveyor, Mr. Ndubuisi Ifediora, who spoke on behalf of other concerned residents, said abandoning the project by the contractor has brought untold hardship and misery to the people living and doing business around the area.

He said the problem has been compounded following a barricade which the contractors mounted around the project site, which allows only pedestrians to pass through, leaving cars owners stranded and frustrated.

## Nasarawa's poor infrastructural devt

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

THE first quarter of 2010 has elapsed without work on the ongoing capital projects initiated by the Nasarawa State government in the past one year and more.

Governor Aliyu Akwe Doma had said late last year he was determined to complete all projects including rural roads before the end of the first half of 2010. He reiterated this during the presentation of the 2010 Appropriation Bill which he called "Budget of Reality," as he promised the "completion of all projects initiated by this administra-

tion; commencement of new projects that are necessary for the socio-economic development of the state," and "completion of inherited abandoned projects considered essential for socio-economic development of the State."

The budget has the capital expenditure of N40,646,265,383, representing 60 percent of the entire budget with Works and Transport taking the largest share of N11.7billion, Water Resources put at N3.7billion, Housing, Environment and Urban Development at N3.4billion, and Lands, Survey and Town Planning at N3.1billion.

However, apart from Water Resources sub sector which is recording work at snail speed in Lafia metropolis, other sectors including urban and rural roads have recorded nothing in the first quarter of the year.

The Urban Renewal Programme of the administration which was the first project to be awarded for execution is yet to rise above the foundation level. CCECC, the contractor handling the provision of urban roads and drainages in Lafia, an aspect of the programmed, last worked on the job in October 2009. The contractor also poured chippings

of the Doma Road Junction Roundabout recently, but left immediately. The solar street lights aspect of the programme was executed to completion in early life of the administration, but the lights have refused to work.

Works and Transport commissioner, Dr. Joseph Ogbere refused to speak on why contractors are not on sites, but the Director of Media and Publicity, Ibrahim Adda told Daily Trust on phone that "my governor is a gentleman to the core who has the people at heart. If he says he is going to do something, he is going to do it."

## Property



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## EYE ON ABUJA

WITH Umar Shuaibu  
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## Abuja metro – The vision and challenges

THE ever increasing vehicular traffic congestion in the streets of Abuja has its roots from the misconception in the master plan that rail connection of the FCT to the national rail system is not economically feasible. To say that the city is paying dearly for the utter relegation of the importance of the metro service, which is a very important component of a modern urban transportation system anywhere in the world, is an understatement. These are among the short comings of the master plan. Nevertheless, a suitable corridor for the location of rail alignment and the maintenance of the availability of this corridor in the event that rail service to the FCT is found to be feasible in the future has been proposed. Human imperfections aside, the system as planned is very adequate to alleviate the occurrence of chaotic urban transportation problems presently being experienced in the city. Because transportation is a dominant structural element of the capital city plan, all the relevant categories of transportation services are proposed in the transportation plan to ensure viable and efficient national capital for Nigeria. Presently what bothers Abuja residents and workers is the ever increasing traffic congestion which is sending the wrong signals, that what was avoided in Lagos cannot after all be prevented in Abuja.

The actual construction of the Abuja metro commenced only recently during the defunct Senator Aliero's administration, but the adoption of the Metropolitan Public Transport Concept which is the plan now being implemented was made much earlier. As observed the present metropolitan rail development alignment maintains the transit way alignment in the city land use plan and is extended to the origins of traffic generation within the FCT like Kubwa, Bwari, Kuje, Gwagwalada and Nyanya, and those outside the FCT like Suleja. The

project is to be developed in phases, with the priority on the line linking various phases of the city development, from phase I to IV, the developed and those not yet developed.

Our observation of the priority areas in this project is its relegation of the actual traffic generation points to later phases. This is because with the exception of Phase I and some parts of the Phase II most of the areas to be serviced by the metro in the first phase are not yet developed, even if developed the houses shall continue to be vacant so long as they are not affordable. Providing the first phase of the metro around these areas in utter neglect of those areas of pressing need is tantamount to misplacement of priority.

While making proposal for the imperatives of establishing Joint Planning Districts between the FCT and the surrounding states in the master plan, it was observed that, the dynamics of spontaneous urban growth respond to transportation and economics, such that future developments could occur in ways not likely specified in the plan. As has variously been established, majority of the people that earn their livelihood from the city live outside the city not within, they commute to work daily from the surrounding satellite towns both within and outside the FCT. These are the population that does the menial jobs which majority of the rich residents are too big to engage in, and are the population that keep Abuja moving. It is also a known fact that any that can afford to live within the city is above the economic status of the ordinary Nigerian.

In our submission of 7th October 2009 titled "Where Goes the FCT Population Deficit?" we presented the 2006 census result of 1.4 million for the whole territory in comparison to the anticipated population in the whole territory for the corresponding period according to the projection in the master plan, and arrived at 3.3 million pop-

ulation deficit almost 236% more than the counted figure within the FCT. If this population is not within the FCT and certainly not, otherwise it would have been captured in the census figure, then it must be within the settlements in the neighbouring states where it is possible to commute and work in the city during the day and retire home after working hours. This argument is further reinforced by the recent statement by MD FHA Arc Tever Gemade who quoted what we have been complaining in this column for long, that due to their exorbitant costs, the houses in Abuja are vacant despite very high demand. This concurs with what we have earlier written on the 21st February 2007 under the topic "Abuja Houses Vacant, Unaffordable". The emerging trend of avoiding the city due to economic considerations must be addressed, and measures to alleviate the transportation problems of those who cannot afford to reside within the city must be reinforced and accommodated in any future plan for the city. Since the trend is that of the absorption of the FCC working population outside the FCT the metro corridor should be extended to these popular traffic generation origins in the first phase, with the view to reducing the heavy volume of the vehicular traffic along the routes. At the moment, whatever metro service is going to be operational in the FCT come 2012 as hinted by the former minister Senator Aliero is not going to cover any of these satellite towns.

Thus the commuter rail (CR) in the plan that links Abuja Central Area to Kubwa, Bwari, Suleja, Kuje and Gwagwalada, and the MTS to Nyanya which should have been the priority of the moment. Ways in which they are to be accommodated in the first phase must be looked into. If not for anything for the reduction of the frequent road carnages that has always been the trait of these routes.

## Katsina govt builds 2,000 houses

The Katsina State Government has built about 2,000 houses in the past two years to ameliorate the acute accommodation problem in the state.

Gov. Ibrahim Shema, who made this known at the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) Forum in Abuja, said the houses comprised two and three bed-room flats.

He said that the government embarked on the project because shelter was critical to human survival.

"You know, housing is a fundamental need of human beings; shelter is critical to human survival, and we do not underestimate the import of building houses for civil servants, for other members of the public.

"So, when we came into office, we found the need to develop the housing sector; and just about a year and half ago, I put in place a machinery, a committee under my Commissioner for Works," he said.

The governor explained that his administration designed a programme to build the first batch of 500 units in the state capital.

He said the 250 units in the second batch were allocated to civil servants and other members of the public.

Shema said he also encouraged each of the 34 local governments in the state to build 30 units each to address the shortage of accommodation in their respective councils.

The governor said the two-bed room and three-bed room flats in the state capital were sold to members of the public for a little over N2 million and N3 million respectively.

He said that to make the houses affordable, each allottee was required to make a deposit of five per cent of the total cost of each house with a discount of 35 per cent.

Shema explained that after the initial deposit of five per cent, the beneficiaries had a 15-year period to complete payment for their respective houses.

He added that the state government also encouraged access to mortgage facilities from institutions such as the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria and other lending agencies to enable many more people to buy the houses.

According to him, infrastructure and facilities such as access roads, electricity, schools, markets and clinics are provided in the estates. (NAN)

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# Crisis tears NIQS apart

By Mustapha Suleiman

A seeming irreconcilable crisis has torn the Nigerian Institute of Quantity Surveyors (NIQS) apart, leaving in its wake, a divided house and series of petitions and court cases.

The crisis, Daily Trust gathered has left the Institute comatose with accusations of financial misconducts taking its own toll, making it practically impossible for the present Exco from accessing finance to carry on with the institute activities. The activities of the Institute has also be down as members battles each others in what could be described as battle for survival and relevance.

All the factions have remained aggressively adamant in giving up on the interest they represent and this has not augured well for the incumbent Administration led by Chief Felix Onyeri.

A source told Daily Trust that members are more involved in the ongoing in-fighting which has regrettably reduced the Institute to a mere crawling baby while all external challenges and issues that could lead to the advancement of NIQS have been abandoned. No thanks to a house that is divided against itself.

The genesis of the NIQS crisis could be traced to the biennial elections of 8th November, 2008 which were to produce the officers of the council held in Kaduna where some members alleged irregularities and disenfranchise-

ment of some members.

The Immediate past President of the institute Mr. Francis C. Adetola was alleged not to have handed over the mantle of leadership to his then Deputy and the incumbent President Chief Felix Okereke Onyeri as demanded by the institute's constitution prior and during the conduct of the elections of November 2008 election, that was after he was to end his 2 years tenure of the 2006-2008 National Executive Council.

In an account of his stewardship titled, "challenges facing the institute" written and submitted to EXCO by the incumbent NIQS President, Chief Felix Okereke Onyeri said that for the first time in the history of the institute, the conduct and outcome of a biennial general and also its consequent elections into the National Executive Council (NEC) is being vehemently challenged in the law courts.

He added that "as at today, there are 5 suits in the court: three being direct consequences of the Kaduna election, while 2 are bye products of the Kaduna election."

Investigations revealed that some aggrieved members of the Institute in suit No KDK/KAD/534/2008 at the High Court of Justice in Kaduna the plaintiffs seek the declaration that the purported Elections into the offices of the Deputy President, Secretary -General and Secretary International Affairs of the National Executive Council of the Institute held on 8th November, 2008 is ultra vires and the constitu-



CHIEF Felix Okereke Onyeri, NIQS President

tion of the Institute, null and void.

The group also asked the court to issue the order nullifying the Election into the offices of Deputy President, Secretary -General and Secretary International Affairs of the National Executive Council of the Institute on account of apparent gross irregularities committed which were in breach of the Constitution of the Nigerian Institute of Quantity Surveyors.

Also, they seek for the probe of immediate past administration led by Mr. Francis C. Adetola on how the Institute's account/ finances were maintained, operated and managed during his tenure as President. The suit finally asked for an order mandating the 1st and 8th respondent being the immediate past president and the incumbent who was his deputy then to produce an Auditor's Report of the Institute's account duly signed by a Certified / Qualified Auditors.

In suit a second suit jointly filed by Mallam A.Y.A Alhassan and Mr.

Tsema Tite at the Kaduna High Court seeking the a declaration that the Biennial General Meeting of NIQS held in Kaduna at Hamdala Hotel on the 8th of November was irregular and for non compliance with the constitution of the NIQS and is therefore null and void.

Others are: "An order directing the President of the NIQS, Mr. Felix Okereke -Onyeri to organise a fresh Biennial General Meeting within ninety days, a declaration that NIQS Election of 2008 was characterized by massive irregularities, rigging and manipulation; an order nullifying the election of officers into NEC, an order directing the incumbent President of NIQS to organise a fresh election to elect members of the NEC of NIQS within ninety days and for plaintiffs claim the sum of Two million naira for general damage against the defendants jointly and severally."

In suit 3 filed by Mr. Godson Moneke at the Lagos High Court he claim the following relief: "A declaration that the election of the Institute conducted in 2008 is null and void, an order that a fresh election be conducted to elect new officers into the 2008-2010 National Executive Council and a claim for 10 million naira being libel published of and concerning the claimant."

In this series of suits filed coupled with deep internal crisis, Felix onyeri said that he was served with a motion on notice, seeking an order interlocutory injunction, restraining him as the first defend-

ant and 2nd as the case may be, being President of the Institute from swearing-in and inaugurating the claimants (who are mostly those purported to have won the election of 8th November) as members of the National Executive Council.

In a memo dated 4th August 2009, the incumbent president said that after consulting widely with past presidents of the institute and seeking legal advice set up an interim Council in accordance with the Institute's constitutions to avoid a vacuum from being created, adding that he invited the National Policy Committee (NPC).

According to him, the NPC set up an Ad-hoc Committee of all past Presidents to mediate and resolve the disputes.

"the committee met and all the disputants including chapter representatives and other interested parties submitted written memoranda and most, also gave oral testimonies in addition." He added that the decision of the committee led to the proposal for Expanded Executive Council, which according to him was "overwhelmingly accepted by the National Policy Committee (NPC) and subsequently accepted by the General meeting held on the 18/6/09 at Abuja."

Onyeri who said that though his election was not being disputed, but added that he was made a defendant in all the court cases by virtue of his positions as President of the Institute.

## Kaduna demolishes illegal structures at new city layout

THE Kaduna State Government on Tuesday began the demolition of illegal structures at the New Millennium City.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the demolition followed the expiration of the three years notice given to the illegal occupants at the new layout, designed to decongest the present capital city.

The state government has already provided basic infrastructure in the new city.

The General Manager of the Kaduna State Urban Planning and Development Authority (KASUPDA), Alhaji Hussieni Ibrahim, told NAN in Kaduna that the govern-

ment had planned the new city to tackle the problem of congestion plaguing the old city.

Ibrahim said owners of most illegal structures in the new layout had been compensated, necessitating the demolition of such property.

The affected owners protested the demolition of their property, but security men deployed in the area kept them in check.

The KASUPDA chief blamed the owners of such structures for breaching an agreement reached with them, noting that some of them had continued to erect new structures without permission.

"They have been served

with notices to vacate the area but instead new buildings keep springing up everyday," he said.

Ibrahim advised owners of structures for which compensation had been paid to stop erecting new ones to avoid further demolition.

"No unplanned structures will be spared in developing areas across the metropolis," he warned.

The general manager said seven areas had been marked for demolition, listing them as the Kaduna Refinery area, Ungwar Mua'zu, Kudenden, Barka Lahu, Mando New Layout and Kamazo, all in the metropolis. (NAN)

**"No unplanned structures will be spared in developing areas across the metropolis," he warned.**

## Katsina builds 700 boreholes, 350 classrooms

GOV. Ibrahim Shema of Katsina says the state government has sunk 700 boreholes and built 350 classrooms since its inception in 2007.

Fielding questions at the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) Forum in Abuja, Shema said the government had also introduced a rural ambulance service scheme covering inaccessible areas and those that lacked medical facilities.

The governor said that on assumption of office, he established Community Development Committees (CDC) in the 34 local government councils in the state.

He said the committees comprised traditional rulers, clerics, civil servants, representatives of wards, the legislature, the business community, the youth, women and three elders.

Shema said the committees were asked to draw up a programme detailing their needs in terms of water

supply, infrastructure, education, health and environment.

However, he said the chairmen of the councils identified the 25 projects that formed the foundation for the development of the state.

"For every sector that government activities cover, I asked the committee to let me have requests from them directly and they wrote their demands for water supply, electricity and what have you.

"We put it local government by local government and created a document that will work sector by sector," Shema said.

He said that if he needed to know how many communities in Katsina required water, all he would do was to pick up a single document covering demands for water.

He said the state's budget since 2008 had revolved around the requests made by the people.

Shema said the government was dealing directly with the people's demands instead of giving them things which did not accord with their priorities.

The governor said that with the requests from the committee, the state government had been able to meet the people's demands and encouraged the councils to do same.

"So, through this process alone, we have been able to cover a lot of areas. We have dug 700 boreholes in the state from the request of the CDC; we are able to build 350 classrooms from the report of the CDC.

"We are able to provide rural ambulance service scheme that covers areas that are hard to reach, that have no medical facility.

"And so there is an ambulance that goes round from village to village to provide medical care from the requests of the CDC," he said. (NAN)

## CITY NEWS



HOTLINES: 0803-3493-462 & 0703-8927-513  
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# Mother, daughter die in Abaji auto crash

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

A mother and her nine-year-old daughter last Friday afternoon lost their lives in a ghastly motor accident that occurred near ConOil Filling Station at Abaji, along Abuja-Lokoja road.

An eyewitness said the accident happened when a Toyota Jeep with registration number XB604AA overtook and collided

with a luxury bus with registration number XB522EKY, killing a mother and her child on the spot.

Our reporter learnt that the mother and her child left Abuja and were travelling to the East inside the Jeep, when the incident happened.

Reacting, Abaji unit Commander of Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) Mr. Joseph Ojerinde, blamed the Jeep driver

for dangerous driving and speed violation, adding that the corpses have been deposited at the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital's Morgue.

He said the injured jeep driver was taken to Abaji General Hospital by FRSC rescue officials.

At the hospital, a nurse said the injured jeep driver sustained serious fractures and has been referred to the intensive care of

the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital, Gwagwalada.

Similarly, one person died, while three others sustained serious injuries yesterday night in another accident that occurred at Piri village, near Kwali.

City news gathered that the accident happened at about 2.15 am, when a J5 Peugeot bus with registration number XA672KYW had a burst tyre

and veered off the road, before crashing into a ditch, killing one person.

Yangoji FRSC unit Commander, Abdullahi Umar, while confirming the accident attributed the cause to a burst tyre, saying the corpse has been taken to the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital's Morgue, while the three injured are receiving treatment at Kwali General Hospital.

PIC: ABUBAKAR YAKUBU



A local nail cutter attending to a customer at Gwarinpa village, Abuja yesterday.

## Two accused of extorting from policeman

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

TWO men were yesterday arraigned before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly extorting money from one Corporal Luka Ayuba and stabbing him in the nose.

The men, Sunny D.O. and Yahaya Monsir, both of Mabushi village, Abuja, were accused of conniving with two other men now at large, to commit the crime on March 31.

Prosecutor Christopher Roko told the court that on March 31, Corporal Luka Ayuba attached to Garki Police Division reported to the police that while at the VIO headquarters, the accused persons jointly induced him.

The prosecutor said after inducing the policeman, he gave N15,000 and a cell phone valued at N5,000 to the accused persons after they threatened his life.

"As a result, the accused persons injured the policeman on his nose with a knife and thereby committed offences punishable under Sections 79 and 292 of the Penal Code Law," the prosecutor added.

When the charges were read to the accused persons, they denied them and asked for bail.

Magistrate Idayat Akanni granted each of them bail in the sum of N20,000 with reliable sureties in like sums.

The magistrate also ruled that each of the sureties must reside within the court's jurisdiction and swear to affidavits to produce the accused persons in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to April 26 for hearing.

## Man professes love to divorced wife

By Romoke W. Ahmad

A father of three children recently told an Abuja Upper Area Court that he is still very much in love with his ex-wife and has begged her to drop the divorce petition she submitted in court.

The man, Ayuba Iya, told the court that he has tried on several

occasions to settle the differences he has with his wife but all his efforts proved abortive as his wife, Jummai Daudu, snubbed him.

"I love her and cannot stop her from doing her wish as she has made up her mind to leave me," he added.

Earlier, the petitioner, Jummai Daudu, told the court that she

wants her 10-year-old marriage dissolved because she is no longer interested in Ayuba.

"I don't love my husband again because my heart is no longer with him and I want the court to divorce us legally," she added.

Having listened to both parties, Judge Issa Alhaji Yahaya asked the man if he has anything to claim

from his ex-wife since she wants the divorce. Ayuba replied that he has nothing to claim because God blessed him with three children, adding that for the children's sake, he leaves everything to her.

The judge granted the divorce and ordered that the man takes custody of the children, since they were staying with him.

## ...As woman seeks divorce over starvation

By Romoke W. Ahmad

A woman, Mary Shaibu, recently filed a divorce petition against her husband for abandoning and starving their child as well as herself.

The petitioner told the Upper Area Court sitting at Karu that Abdul Yusuf abandoned her and her child to suffer without food.

"If I can manage without food, my child cannot and since he did

not show up, I want to divorce him so that I can continue with my life," she said.

The husband after receiving court summons, told the court clerk to tell the court to go ahead and grant his wife's wish.

He wrote at the back of the court summons that he has nothing against his wife and will abide by her decision.

Judge Issa Alhaji Yahaya granted the divorce and issued a divorce certificate to the woman.

# DPP women protest at Kuje

By Abbas Jimoh

WOMEN members of the Democratic Peoples Party (DPP) at Kuje in the FCT yesterday protested the continued detention of their Vice-Chairmanship aspirant in the council, Mr. Emmanuel Darka Micah.

Spokesperson of the protesters, Hajia Fatima Haruna, said last Saturday, Mr. Micah was picked from his residence by the police without a warrant.

She said the police also arrested the party's councillorship candidate in Kujekwa ward,

the Gudun-karya ward chairman, the Kujekwa ward treasurer, the chieftain of the party at Garka, party officials and members in different wards of the area council.

The protesters carried placards and marched to their traditional

head's palace, council secretariat, State Security Service office and the Kuje Police Station, where the Divisional Police Officer threatened to arrest them for failing to obtain permission before their protest.

DPO Danjuma Yahaya, a super-

intendent, said those detained were arrested for breaching public peace at Rubochi.

"We have orders to arrest and detain the chairmanship candidate, Alhaji Abdullahi Suleiman Sabo and some other persons for criminal offences," he said.

## Rotary donates mosquito nets at Gwarinpa, Kado

By Abubakar Yakubu

THE Rotary Club of Gwarinpa yesterday donated 200 mosquito nets to indigenes of Gwarinpa and Kado Bimko villages.

President of the club, Mrs Ama Umoren, said the club is at the forefront of eliminating polio and malaria, so that people can have healthy lives.

She explained that the club, which is celebrating its 105 years of existence, puts service to humanity before selves and decided to give the nets to fight malaria in order to make Gwarinpa malaria free.

Mrs Umoren enjoined the royal fathers of both communities to educate their

subjects, especially pregnant and nursing mothers on the importance of using mosquito nets, adding that Rotary Gwarinpa members will come to the community from time to time to monitor the progress of the mosquito nets usage.

In their response, the traditional Head of Gwarinpa village, Chief Salihu Barde and his counterpart at Kado Bimko, Chief Haruna Dawodu thanked the club for the gesture and assured that the nets will be properly distributed and used.

Both rulers said they will educate their subjects about the importance of using nets and called on government as well as other establishments to emulate the club's gesture.



The President of Rotary Club Gwarinpa giving samples of the mosquito nets to the traditional Head of Gwarinpa village, Chief Salihu Barde, yesterday in Abuja.

## Muslims urged to be righteous

By Abbas Jimoh

MUSLIMS were on Sunday advised to purify themselves by performing righteous deeds in order to contribute meaningfully to the overall development of society.

The advice was given by the Coordinator of the Muslim Congress (TMC) Abuja Branch, Engr. Daud Adelakin, during the closing ceremony of the association's Islamic Training Programme (ITP).

He called on Muslims to bring up their children properly, adding that Muslims must help contribute to peace as well as progress in societies.

AMAC's Coordinator of TMC, Ustaz Mbashir Soaga, said this is the first time that the training programme would be decentralised and held in all the area councils simultaneously in order to ensure more participation.

The Ameerah of Abuja Zone of TMC, Hajija Risqiyah Abubakar, disclosed that the annual event of the organisation is aimed at knowing and understanding the teachings of Islam as well as inculcating its practice to gain the pleasure of Allah.

"The foundation of an ideal and happy society is rooted at home and if the home is reformed, the entire society would be reformed," she stated.

## Guards in court over criminal assault

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

TWO guards working with Rym Security Company yesterday in court denied ever assaulting one Godwin Inyang of No 442 Crescent, Citec villa, Gwarimpa, Abuja.

The guards, Francis Livinus, 24, and Monday Adiku, 31, were accused of jointly assaulting the complainant on March 3.

Prosecutor Mustapha Mohammed told the court that Godwin Inyang reported to the police that the accused persons jointly assaulted him without any provocation.

He said the accused persons criminally used their hands to inflict injury on the forehead of the complainant, adding that in the process, the complainant lost some items and money.

"As a result of the accused per-

sons action, the complainant lost a Nokia handset, a digital camera valued at N35,000 and N25,000 respectively," the prosecutor added.

He informed the court that the complainant spent N8,000 to treat his injured forehead at a hospital, adding that the offences the accused persons committed are punishable under Sections 263 and 264 of the Penal Code Law.

The accused persons denied the charges and requested for bail.

Magistrate Omolola Oladipo granted each of the accused persons bail in the sum of N100,000 with two reputable sureties in like sums, who must reside within the court's jurisdiction and swear to affidavits to produce the accused persons in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to April 29 for hearing.

## Driver charged with reckless driving

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

THE police yesterday arraigned a 25-year-old commercial bus driver before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly ramming his bus into another vehicle.

Uche Mmazi was accused of driving his Mazda bus with registration number XJ 248 ABJ along Airport road, Abuja, without giving considerations to other road users.

Prosecutor Paul Anigbo told the court that on March 24, the driver rammed his bus into a Nissan Sunny car with registration number FM 545 ABJ.

"The accused caused severe damage to the Nissan Sunny car driven by one Ekong Godwin and committed offences punishable under Section 29(1) CAP 548 of the Road Traffic Act," the prosecutor said.

When the charge was read to the accused, he denied it and requested for bail.

Magistrate Ann Akobi granted him bail in the sum of N30,000 with a reliable surety in like sum, who must swear to an affidavit to produce the accused in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to April 19 for hearing.

## AMAC lists achievements in five communities

By Usman A. Bello

THE authority of Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) yesterday disclosed that infrastructures were provided in five communities in the council.

AMAC's Councillor for Special Duties, Felix Akiitjoye, stated this

while briefing newsmen on the activities of the council in the first quarter of this year.

He said the council renovated the Women Development Centre at Kuchigoro, Iddo, Sarki and Gwagwa.

"Also culverts, drainages and road network were constructed at

Apo mechanic village and we have also purchased waste compacting trucks to enhance quick removal of waste in the council," he said.

Felix added further that the council distributed 10,000 exercise books to Gui ward Primary School pupils and also organized science quiz competitions in FCT

schools to enhance and encourage students to science subjects

The councillor said the council also carried out child immunization against polio and other child killer diseases exercises as well as provided hospitals with consumable items in the entire 31 health centres in the council.



PIC: ABUBAKAR YAKUBU

A yam seller at Kofu Bini village in Abuja yesterday.

# Council poll: No voter card, no voting - INEC

By Ben Atonko &amp; Ogechi Ohalee

AS residents of Kwaita in Kwali Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) look forward to casting their votes in this Saturday's FCT council elections, the FCT Inde-

pendent National Electoral Commission's (INEC) representative, Mrs Idowu Olayemi has warned those that have lost their voter's cards to stay away from polling booths on that day.

Speaking during a ques-

tion and answer interac-

ive session organized by the National Orientation Agency (NOA) in Kwaita to educate the residents on the April 10 council polls, the electoral officer said INEC is poised to be transparent in the elections and will therefore, not accept anything that will run contrary.

According to her, no ad-hoc staff will be involved in the electoral process apart from youths on national assignment (the National Youth Service Corps), adding that food will be served to all the staff by INEC.

She also warned that any voter who comes to a voting centre a minute after 3 pm will not be allowed to vote.

Speaking earlier, FCT NOA Director, Mr Richard Torhee, charged the youths to shun violence during electioneering.

He called on parents and elders to restrain their children and wards from

violent acts stressing that those who attempt to do them will be arrested.

The director charged traditional and religious leaders to be impartial.

"If you go to the church or mosque and ask the people to vote for a particular candidate, it will not be nice because what we should stress is good leadership," Torhee maintained saying "a good leader has no tribe or religion but carries everybody along!"

The district head, Chief Isiaku Babayebu assured that elections in Kwaita will be peaceful.

ASP Zakari Mohammed, who represented the Divisional Police Officer in Kwali, advised the electorates to do what is right on the voting day.

The event attracted numerous youths, political party leaders, elders and women in the community.



## ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTANTS OF NIGERIA

Founded in 1979 and Chartered by Decree No. 76 of 1993 (now CAP A26 LFN)

### NOTICE OF 28TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**NOTICE** is hereby given that the 28th Annual General Meeting of the Association will hold on Friday 30th of April, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at THE SHERATON HOTEL & TOWERS, ABUJA.

#### AGENDA

1. To adopt the minutes of 27th AGM.
2. To receive the Report of Council and the Financial Statements for year ended 31st December, 2009.
3. To be informed of the Council Members for the year 2010.
4. To authorize the Council to appoint Auditors and to fix their remuneration.
5. Other General Business.

**By Order of Council**

**CHIEF TERKAA IYORHYER GEMADE, BSc.(Hons), MBA, FCNA**

Registrar/Chief Executive

250, Herbert Macaulay Street, Yaba, Lagos.

Email: info@anan.org.ng

Website: www.anan.org.ng

22nd March, 2010.

## ...As AC petitions police over rigging

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

THE Abaji chapter of Action Congress (AC) at the weekend petitioned the FCT Police Commissioner, Mr. John Haruna, over plans by the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to rig Saturday's area council elections.

The petition letter, which was signed by the council's AC Chairman, Alhaji Muhammad Angulu Bello, was also copied to the Ona of Abaji, Alhaji Adamu Baba Yunusa and Director of State Security Services (SSS) at Abaji.

Angulu alleged that the PDP is co-opting people from neighbouring villages (Niger and Kogi States) to vote in Saturday's council election.

According to the petition, the recently concluded review of voters' card for the area council was done at Gwau Babangida, in Niger State instead Gawu ward of Abaji council.

The AC chairman in his petition further alleged that the PDP connived with some persons from Niger and Kogi States, to cast votes in favour of the PDP at Abaji.

"It is a planned design by the PDP Abaji chapter, that people from neighbouring villages would cast their votes at Agyana, Alu-Mamagi, and Ebagi wards of Abaji council," he stated.

The AC chairman tasked the police, SSS and Ona of

Abaji to rise up to the occasion by preventing the rigging plans.

Meanwhile, the Ona of Abaji, Alhaji Adamu Baba Yunusa, Monday warned that anybody found in possession of dangerous weapons during the election will be sanctioned.

The Ona, who gave the warning when he summoned political leaders, elders and heads of communities in the council to his palace, said there are plans by unidentified group of persons to cause anarchy in the council.

He decried the manner at which youths loyal to political parties attack each other with knives, cutlasses and daggers, adding that he will never fold his hands and watch desperate politicians cause havoc in his domain.

He further called on village heads from neighbouring Niger and Kogi States to advise their subjects to stay away from Abaji council polls, warning that any body caught impersonating will face the wrath of the law.

"There have been rumours that some political parties are making plans to invite people from neighbouring Niger and Kogi states on the eve of the election to cast illegal votes," the monarch said.

The monarch announced that he will go round wards, alongside the chief Imam and palace aides to monitor Saturday's election.



To Our  
Esteemed Readers,  
Advertisers and  
Contributors

**POLICY ON PUBLICATION OF  
ADVERTORIALS, PETITIONS AND  
RELATED MATERIALS**

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



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

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

**The new policy is depicted hereunder**

1. The writer(s) of such advertorials must not be anonymous but people who can stand by what they say, with their full names and address.
2. If there is any accusation against any person or organization, such writer(s) must substantiate the claims with evidence which can stand before a Court of Law. For example, if they claim that a contract was inflated, they must show Media Trust, relevant documents to back this up.
3. The placement must be fully paid for, before it is carried.
4. The author(s) should be prepared to accept corrections or alterations made by us but the corrected version would be shown to the author(s), before publishing.
5. The publishers have the right to reject any piece considered to be libelous, containing assertions without supporting facts and figures to prove the authenticity of such claims.
6. In the alternative, we are prepared to enter into an indemnity agreement with those who place such advertorial which will put the onus of proof squarely on them.
7. Media Trust employees that collect such materials have been instructed to contact the Advert Manager, who will also consult further with the relevant superior officers to analyze the piece before placement is made.
8. If the publishers of Daily Trust, Weekly Trust, Sunday Trust and Aminiya newspapers reject any material regarded as unprintable based on the above consideration, they will not enter into any correspondence with the author(s).

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

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

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

Signed:  
MANAGEMENT



STANDARDS ORGANISATION OF NIGERIA **SON**

**WORKSHOP ON ESTABLISHING GLOBAL  
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE (GAP) STANDARDS**

Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON) in partnership with Best Produce International, United Kingdom is organizing a 2- day Planning Workshop on Establishing Global Agricultural Produce (GAP) Standards for Certification of Nigeria Agricultural Produce for export (Nigeria GAP).

The Workshop is designed to address current critical issues facing the export of Nigerian Agricultural Produce to the United States of America, United Kingdom and other European Union countries and to provide needed tools towards building capacity for relevant stakeholders in Agro-Business and Agro- Industries in Nigeria.

**WHO TO ATTEND:**

- Regulatory Agencies involved in inspection of Agricultural Produce for Export
- NAFDAC
- Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC)
- Federal and States Ministries of Agriculture
- State Agricultural Development Programs
- Nigerian Plant Quarantine Service
- Agriculture Research Institutes
- Farmers Associations &
- Other relevant Organisations & Individuals involved in Agricultural Produce

**VENUE:**

Vines Hotel, Plot 1104, Mohammed N. Umar Lane (Living Faith Church Road) Durumi District – Abuja.

**DATE:**

WEDNESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> - THURSDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> APRIL, 2010.

**COURSE FEE:**

Workshop fee of **N100, 000.00** (One Hundred Thousand Naira Only) per participant is payable to **Standards Organization of Nigeria**, Account No. 6012007989, with sort Code No. 057150136, ZENITH BANK Plc. The fee covers workshop bags, tea breaks and lunch.

For further enquiries, contact **Mr. George Musa** – 08057346449; E-mail – bob\_king\_george@yahoo.com or **Mr. Bola Fasina** – 08023191644; E-mail- rilwanfash1@yahoo.com



**SON...taking the Nation to Higher Standards**

**OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL, ZAMFARA STATE****RE: ACTIVITIES OF FORMER CHAIRMAN GUMMI LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL, ZAMFARA STATE**

This statement is issued in response to the deliberate misinformation being dished out through the media pertaining to the former Chairman of the Gummi Local Government Council in Zamfara State. In particular the half page advertisement published in the Daily Trust on [redacted] sought to disparage the Zamfara State Government and its Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Alhaji Ilyas Armiya'u Bukkuyum, with a view to attracting unjustified public sympathy for the former LG Chairman. Although the untainted facts of the matter have been adequately publicised in the past, it is considered necessary to once again enlighten the public on this issue in order to debunk the propaganda by the former LG Chairman and his cohorts.

It is important to state clearly that the said former LG Chairman was removed from office following the dissolution of the Gummi Local Government Council in 2004 by the Yarima Administration. His problem therefore predates the present administration of His Excellency, Alhaji Mahmud Aliyu Shinkafi. Not satisfied with the action of the Yarima Administration, the former LG Chairman contested the dissolution before the Gummi High Court which nullified the dissolution. The Zamfara State Government then appealed against the decision of the Gummi High Court at the Court of Appeal, Kaduna. The appeal was dismissed for lack of diligent prosecution without considering the merit of the appeal. The state government sought the re-listing of the matter before the Court of Appeal but this was refused. As a result, the state government thereafter appealed to the Supreme Court where the matter is currently pending.

The former LG Chairman in apparent disregard of the judicial processes taking place applied to the Gummi High Court for execution of its 2004 order nullifying the dissolution of the Gummi Local Government Council, which is now the subject of an appeal pending before the Supreme Court. Without recourse to the relevant provisions of the Sheriff and Civil Process Act 2004 Laws of the Federation, the former LG Chairman, accompanied by armed policemen, forcefully took possession of the Gummi Local Government Secretariat. These unlawful activities took place without the knowledge of the Chief Executive and Chief Security Officer of the state, His Excellency, Alhaji Mahmud Aliyu Shinkafi or the Chief Law Officer and Attorney-General of the state. Investigations have confirmed that the former LG Chairman trespassed into the Gummi Local Government Secretariat with the collusion of local policemen in the area and in the process vandalised property.

The state Attorney-General filed a direct complaint before the Higher Shari'a Court in Gummi against the former chairman and five others who are now at large under Section 211 of the 1999 Constitution and Section 141 of the Shari'a Criminal Procedure Code Laws of Zamfara State 2002, accusing them of breaking into the Gummi Local Government Secretariat, vandalizing property worth millions of naira and stealing three million naira. The court issued a warrant of arrest against them but only the former LG chairman was arrested, arraigned before the court and subsequently remanded in prison custody.

From the foregoing it is clear that there was no arbitrariness or victimization whatsoever in the actions taken by the Attorney-General of Zamfara State in connection with this matter. In fact the Zamfara State Government remained focussed on pursuing its cause through the judicial processes outlined here, leading to the pending appeal before the Supreme Court. On the other hand, it cannot be expected to condone the flagrant recourse to unlawful and unilateral activities embarked upon by the former chairman which occasioned trespass, damage to public property and huge financial losses. Even then it sought legal redress to check the excesses of the former chairman and protect public property in its constitutional responsibility to ensure peace and security in Zamfara State at all times.

The general public is therefore advised to disregard the spate of unfounded allegations being sponsored by the former LG Chairman in various media. The Zamfara State Government will continue to uphold the principle of rule of law and due process without fear or favour.

**ILYAS ARMIYAU BUKKUYUM,  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND COMMISSIONER FOR JUSTICE,  
ZAMFARA STATE**

**ADVERTORIAL****CHIEF HON. ABU KING SHULUWA****OPEN LETTER TO THE ACTING PRESIDENT AND  
COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF  
NIGERIA, DR. GOODLUCK JONATHAN (GCON)***Your Excellency,*

I write on my personal capacity as a renowned elder statesman, frontline politician and leader of opinion, to draw your attention to very serious issues of National interest and development.

I am known as Chief Abu King Shuluwa (Sema wan u Tiv), a retired civil servant, former state and federal commissioner and a renowned Nigeria politician who has made active and invaluable contributions to our enduring struggles.

Your Excellency, your elevation to the exalted position of Acting President and Commander-in-Chief is a special privilege and an unprecedented favour from the Almighty God. This remarkable opportunity places you in a position to address issues of national integration and sustainability in consolidating our valued democracy.

Remember, your present position of service is the highest level of trust and responsibility bestowed on you by God himself, because power is an instrument of authority that is given by God for the purpose of transforming lives.

Your Excellency, I wish to acknowledge the steady course of your government through your avowed contribution towards expanding infrastructural drive in the area of security, Niger-Delta, education, energy and agriculture. You are encouraged to pursue vigorously these areas that will remain a permanent feature of development and will guarantee mass employment opportunities for our teeming youths.

Your Excellency, I am compelled by the unfolding events of your administration to write and forward my views on some policy decisions so far taken by your government. To state the obvious, there are strong indications that your government is held hostage by a cabal of ruling elite, who are bent prosecuting their personal and selfish interest above national interest and purpose. This negative influence of self-seeking elite has manifested the glaring in-balances in the sharing formula of the constellation of government.

For an illustration, political appointments of your government are so lopsided and disproportionate when compared with the interest of communal representation in a ratio that is consistent with the principle of fair sharing and justice. To drive home my point of illustration, Mr. President, we the Tiv people of North Central Nigeria are completely obliterated on the current political map of Nigeria, whereas we are the fourth single largest tribe in terms of common ethnicity and population, but we have been shortchanged in the patronage for political appointment at the instance of a dominant conspiracy group; needless to reiterate our contributions to the political success of the Ruling Party (PDP).

It is unimaginable that out of the so far released political appointments, comprising of 26 presidential advisory council members, a host of special committees like project monitoring, NDDC, and 42 ministers as members of the Federal Executive Council, the Tivs are completely not included!

Your Excellency, this example undermines the nature and character of federalism pursued on the altar of our new found liberties under our democracy. Tiv people have always remained a strong factor in the national question, providing the always required strength for national stability and excellence.

In view of the above stated reasons, I humbly request your Excellency through my passionate prayer that you should use your present position to address these imbalances and further accommodate all Nigerians irrespective of tribe, region, religion and political persuasions.

This appeal is my modest effort at counseling you on state matters so as to afford you an opportunity to take popular decisions that can stabilize the polity and eventually provide a sound legacy of your leadership.

Once again, congratulations and remain blessed.

Accept my highest regards, Your Excellency,

Chief Hon. Abu King Shuluwa  
Tiv, Nigeria

## Inside Politics

# Intrigues stall PDP NEC meeting

By Muideen Olaniyi

FOR the second time in three weeks, the People's Democratic Party (PDP) yesterday postponed its National Executive Council (NEC) meeting earlier scheduled for tomorrow.

The earlier postponement had triggered speculations that

it was done to save PDP National Chairman Vincent Ogbulafor from criticism he might receive from party leaders over the way he has been leading the party.

Though the party's National Publicity Secretary Professor Rufai Ahmed Alkali did not give any reason for the latest postponement, a reliable source

within the party said it was put on hold because the National Assembly members were on recess.

Another reason a source gave was that there was a planned visit of the PDP leadership to ailing President Umaru Yar'adua, where they may discuss if the president would be able to

attend the NEC meeting.

Thirty-six members of both chambers of the National Assembly including Senate President David Mark and Speaker of the House of Representatives Dimeji Bankole are members of NEC.

In a statement in Abuja yesterday, Alkali regretted the

inconveniences caused by the latest postponement, adding that a new date would be communicated to all members.

"The meeting of the NEC of the PDP earlier scheduled for Thursday, 8th of April, 2010 has been postponed. A new date shall be communicated to all members in due course," he said.

## Atiku disowns 'Coalition of True Democrats'

By Abbas Jimoh

FORMER Vice President Atiku Abubakar said yesterday he has no links with an advertised public statement by Coalition for True Democrats, supposedly welcoming his plan to return to the People's Democratic Party (PDP).

He said the advertisers were mere pretenders and fifth columnists.

A statement from his media office said the groups were fake and did not have his backing to launch personal attacks against Generals Theophilus Danjuma, Ibrahim Babangida and Aliyu Gusau, among other people.

"The fallacy and illogic of the so-called 'True Democrats' manifested clearly where they asked for the denial of fellow citizens their constitutionally guaranteed rights to engage themselves in public affairs for the simple reason that they had served in the military.

"As a true democrat, Atiku will never lend himself to any such illegalities. Similarly, the broadsides they fired against the Acting President Goodluck Jonathan are desperate acts of reverse propaganda by fifth-columnists, devised in order to drive a wedge between him, the acting president and key authority figures in the country," the statement said.



ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan (left) with National Chairman of PDP Chief Vincent Ogbulafor during the swearing-in of new ministers at the State House, Abuja yesterday.

## 'Iwu's removal would threaten 2011 polls'

By Abbas Jimoh

THE North Patriotic Front (NPF) and the Alliance for Defense of Democracy (ADD) yesterday said the 2011 elections would be threatened if the chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Prof. Maurice Iwu is removed.

Chairman of NPF Alhaji Ali Abacha said removing Iwu from

the office when the elections were around the corner is capable of dealing a blow to the successful conduct of the 2011 general elections.

He also berated the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) over the rally they organised against the INEC chairman, saying the congress was being partisan contrary to the tenets of labour unionism.

"2011 election is too crucial and too close for a novice to conduct.

Iwu knows the terrain. He is the most experienced. In a matter like this, experience counts. Let Iwu be," he said. "He saved us in 2007 by conducting an election that made it possible for us to transit from one civilian regime to another. He will do better in 2011."

In separate chat with journalists, national coordinator of ADD, Mr. Ikenga Ugochinyere, accused NLC of "executing the agenda of a

masked group".

He said, "The vested interest of certain individuals in who mans the nation's electoral commission come June when Iwu's tenure expires has become not only inimical and highly insensitive, but also most unpatriotic. What we see playing out is the usage of these groups as pressure groups by interested parties who drum the beats from behind."

## 769,719 voters eligible for FCT council poll

THE FCT office of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) yesterday said 769,719 voters are eligible to vote in the April 10 area council election.

INEC's Public Affairs Officer Mr. Okezie Nwankwo gave the breakdown of the voters as follows: Abuja Metropolitan Area Council (AMAC)

has 459,926 voters, Bwari 109,593, Gwagwalada 80,364, Kwali 52,124, Kuje 40,366 and Abaji 27,346.

He said the commission has deployed 4,966 staff, of which 2,566 are INEC's permanent staff while 2,400 are corps members serving with the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), as part of the commission's effort to stop working with

ad hoc staff.

He said there would be voting at 649 polling units across the six area councils.

Nwankwo said out of 513 candidates vying for the post of chairmanship and councillorship positions on the platform of 16 political parties, 51 are for chairmen with 50 deputies, while 412 are for councillorship slots.

## PDP chieftain urges FG to safeguard amnesty

THE Delta State Vice Chairman of PDP, Chief Terry Noah, has called on the Federal Government to safeguard the amnesty programme, by not abandoning projects planned under it.

Noah told NAN in Warri, Delta State, that government needed to fast-track the execution of all the projects put in place under the programme.

He advised government to live up to the expecta-

tion of the people by commencing the post-amnesty projects as the militants had long met their own obligation of disarmament.

He warned that abandoning the post-amnesty programme by government would be very dangerous for the country.

"I want to commend our youths and men who were in the jungle and swamp and decided to give the benefit of doubt to the gov-

ernment.

"Whatever be the case, they have made a point. They listened to wise counsel of government. The effort of the youth is quite commendable," he said.

Noah, however, described as unfortunate, the current political happenings in the country saying the developments were threatening the execution of the post-amnesty projects.



## THE PRESIDENCY BUREAU OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT (BPP)

### CALLING ON MINISTRIES, DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES (MDAs)

The Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP) hereby announces the 2010 stakeholders' sectoral capacity building workshop on Public Procurement Act, 2007. The objective of the workshop is to review the provisions of the Public Procurement Act as it affects the preparation of tender documents and prequalification of bidders for Goods, Works and Services and to discuss the implementation challenges of contractor **PRE-QUALIFICATION**. At the workshop, critical issues relating to pre-qualification of contractors, consultants, procurement efficiency and corruption prevention in respective Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) will be discussed. The workshop schedule is as follows:

- \* **April 8th** : Federal Ministry of Aviation-Departments and Agencies
- \* **April 12th**: The Presidency-State House Departments Commissions, and Agencies
- \* **April 13th**: Federal Capital Territory (FCT)- Departments and Agencies
- \* **April 15th**: Ministry of Petroleum Resources- Departments and Agencies
- \* **April 19th**: Federal Ministry of Health-Departments and Agencies
- \* **April 20th**: Federal Ministry of Education-Departments and Agencies
- \* **April 22nd**: Federal Ministry of Environment-Departments and Agencies
- \* **April 26th**: Federal Ministry of Police Affairs-Departments and Agencies. Ministry of Internal Affairs-Departments and Agencies.

Venue of all workshops is at: **NEW STATE HOUSE AUDITORIUM, IBRAHIM TAIWO STREET, STATE HOUSE, ABUJA**. Time is: **9.00AM** daily.

All enquiries to: [info@bpp.gov.ng](mailto:info@bpp.gov.ng), or send a text to: 08138377013

SIGNED

Dr. Abiodun Adeniyi,  
Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP).

# TRUST CLASSIFIED

## PRACTICAL GRACE OF GOD'S MISSION

The general public is hereby informed that the above named Church has applied for registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

### The Trustees are:

1. Apostle Bendream Umukoro
2. Pastor (Mrs.) Omua Umukoro
3. Elder Jeff Okhuebor
4. Elder Kingsley Okoro
5. Honourable Kelly Panawon
6. Apostle (Dr.) David Jebba

### Aims and Objectives:

1. To reach out in Evangelism to all mankind
  2. To help Christians discover, develop and maximize their God given potentials.
  3. To establish and maintain Churches and Missions in Nigeria and abroad.
  4. To train, ordain and license candidates for the work of the Gospel.
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, P.M.B. 198, Garki, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed  
Jude Eziagu  
Diegbe, Diegbe & Associates  
Suite 38, Mangal Plaza, Area 11  
Garki, Abuja

## ARK OF GRACE INTERNATIONAL GOSPEL CENTRE

The general public is hereby informed that the above named Organisation has applied for registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

### Trustees

1. Jonathan Braima Amadu
2. Nkasi Dickson N
3. Masor Festus Udoka
4. Oke Godwin A

### Aims and objectives

1. To establish citizens of kingdom citizens relevant to the times
  2. To establish citizens of the kingdom faith
  3. To make kingdom citizens relevant to the times
  4. To equip kingdom citizens unto impacting the world for christ
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, P.M.B. 198, Garki, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed  
Nkasi Dickson N

## Distributors & Salesmen of BOOST ENERGY DRINKS produced in UK wanted!

A sub-distributor of BOOST ENERGY DRINK, UK requires well-equipped and result-oriented distributors and Sales Representatives in the following states; namely;  
Ondo, Ekiti, Osun, Edo, Delta, Bayelsa, Kogi, Niger, FCT.

Interested distributors and sales representatives should forward application (indicating storage facilities and vehicles for distributors) within one week to:

### CETABAK NIG LTD

32, Igbalaye Street,  
P.O. Box 1830, Akure,  
Ondo State

EMAIL: cetabaknig@yahoo.com

TELEPHONE: 08037021716, 08052388392

## SONS OF DAVID FOUNDATION INT'L

The general public is hereby notified that the above named foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

### THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Engr. (Evang) Chude David Agbakoba - President General
2. Deaconess (Mrs) Christiana Nonye Agbakoba - Vice President
3. Mrs. Irene Ngozi Labiyi - General Secretary
4. Mr. Anthony Onyekwelu Agbakoba
5. Mrs. Andrea Nkoli Osy-Iweanya
6. Mrs. Agnes Ekemwaine Igwe
7. Pastor Catherine Egonou Amachi
8. Pastor Osita Dimma Nwanosike
9. Mr. Augustine Azubuikwe Agbakoba

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. To help the poor and the needy in the society.
2. To propagate the resurrection life of Jesus Christ.
3. To organize crusades and print Christian literatures.

Any objectives to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Irons Street, P.M.B. 198, Maitama, Abuja within Twenty-Eight (28) days from the date of this publication.

Signed:  
Secretary

**THIS SPACE IS  
FOR SALE**

## CHANGE OF FILLING STATION NAME

Formerly **SPORTS OIL LTD** Filling Station, which is located at Km 5, Aba/Ikot Ekpena Road, Aba, Abia State, now bears **MADONNA GLOBAL ENERGY LTD** at same address. All former documents remain valid. General public, NNPC and DPR in particular, take note.

Signed.  
Ugo Nnabulife (Director)

## AGU AND ANMO ANZAKU LIFE RELIEF FOUNDATION

The general public is hereby notified that the above named foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

### THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. John Yohanna Alu
2. Ayuba Alu Kigbu
3. Alanana Bitrus Emma

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. Community development and poverty alleviation.
- Any objectives to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General Corporate Affairs Commission, plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Irons Street, P.M.B. 198, Maitama, Abuja within Twenty-Eight (28) days from the date of this publication.

Secretary  
Barr. N.T. Okwejie  
08023571633

## CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as **MRS HARRIET ONYEKUOZURU AMADI**, now wish to be addressed as **HARRIET ONYEKUOZURU NNEOMA OKENWA**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **MRS HARRIET ONYEKUOZURU AMADI**, now wish to be addressed as **HARRIET ONYEKUOZURU NNEOMA OKENWA**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS IROGBU GIFT OBY**, now wish to be addressed as **MRS AMAECHI GIFT OBY**. All former documents remain valid. FRSC and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS OLUSOLA DORCAS OGUNDORO**, now wish to be addressed as **MRS OLUSOLA DORCAS BABADE**. All former documents remain valid. Nigeria Prisons Service and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS IDORENYIN JACK UDOH**, now wish to be addressed as **MRS FAVOUR UBOK OBONG FRIDAY**. All former documents remain valid. general public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS IDOWU EREOLA OMOTOLA**, now wish to be addressed as **MRS ABIODUN STELLA OMOTOLA**. All former documents remain valid, NUT EKITI Chapter general public take note.

## LOSS OF INTERNATIONAL PASSPORT

This is to inform the general public of loss of a brief case containing International Passport of Republic of Lebanon with Reg. No. 1196795 belonging to **MR. ELIAS BOUGI** of Plot 693 Gwanpa Abuja. All efforts to trace the missing item proved abortive, if found please contact the nearest police station or the owner on Tel: 08065707002

## CHANGE OF NAME

Formerly **MISS HADIZA UMAR KABIR**. Now wish to be addressed as **MISS GRACE EMMANUEL**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, **ADEPOJU AJOKI JULIAN** now to be called **MRS ADESINA AJOKI JULIAN**. Former documents remain valid. Voice of Nigeria and general public take note.

I, **AYUBA SHAKIRAT** now to be called **MRS BALOGUN SHAKIRAT OMOLOLA**. Former documents remain valid. Voice of Nigeria and general public take note.

I formerly **MISS ZAINAB MOHAMMED SHEHU** wish to be addressed as **MRS. ZAINAB DALHAT SADIQ**. All former documents remain valid. Department of Petroleum Resource and General Public please take note.

I, formerly known as **LAWAL SUMAILA**, now wish to be known as **LAWAL ISMAILA**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I formerly known as **MISS AMOO OYEYEMI ABOSEDE** now wish to be called and addressed as **MRS OLORUNTUYI OYEYEMI ABOSEDE**. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public should take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS JUWARETU SHEIDU ANDAH**, now wish to be known as **MRS. JUWARETU ABDUL-KERIM AJANAH**. All former documents remain valid. University of Jos, Federal Polytechnic Nasarawa and general public take notice.

I, formerly known as **TAIWO OLAJIDE AWOTIPE**, now wish to be known as **TAIWO OLAJIDE ADEBOWALE**. All former documents remain the same. The National Hospital and general public take note.

I, formerly **NNABUOGOR PAUL ONYEABOR**, now wish to be known as **UKAH PAUL**. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS FATIMA GARBA NURU**, now wish to be known as **MRS FATIMA AMINU ADAMU AMBI**. All former documents remain valid. A.B.U, N.Y.S.C and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **EJIOFOR CHRISTOPHA NDUBUISI**, now wish to be known and called **MICHAEL CHRISTOPHA NDUBUISI**. The general public should please take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS ABDULLAHI HAFSAT AHMED**, now wish to be addressed as **MRS. ABDULLAHI HAFSAT AHMED**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## Atiku Dissociates Self From “Coalition of True Democrats”

**T**he former Vice President, Atiku Abubakar, has distanced himself from an advertised public statement entitled: **“Welcome Back, Atiku, a True Democrat”** published in a number of newspapers by a shadowy group calling itself the **“Coalition of True Democrats”**. **He says they are mere pretenders and fifth columnists.**

Atiku believes that this group is fake and it does not have his mandate to launch personal attacks against respected individuals such as Generals Theophilus .Y Danjuma, President Ibrahim Babangida, General Aliyu Gusau and generally, the crop of retired officers in politics. The former Vice President says he has nothing but respect and admiration for these officer-gentlemen who have given their best, and continue to do so to their fatherland.

The fallacy and illogic of the so-called **“True Democrats”** manifested clearly where they ask for the denial of fellow citizens their constitutionally guaranteed rights to engage themselves in public affairs for the simple reason that they had served in the military.

As a true democrat, Atiku will never

lend himself to any such illegalities. Similarly, the broadsides they fired against the Acting President, Goodluck Jonathan are desperate acts of reverse propaganda by **fifth-columnists** ,**devised in order to drive a wedge between him , the acting president and key authority figures in the country.**

On issues affecting individuals and the nation, Atiku says he had never been shy of speaking his mind with forthrightness and candor. He never needed shadowy groups to vocalize his views even under the harshest of political climates. He says he does not need this type of support.

Against this background, the former Vice president is calling on the general public to ignore **these negative propagandists, fifth columnists and their antics.** He is also appealing to the law-enforcement agencies to fish out those behind these forged advertorials and have them charged to court so as to deter others from this line of false advocacy.

Signed:  
**Atiku Media Office,**  
61, Ebitu Ukiwe,  
Jabi, Abuja

## SPORT

*Odiah sent off  
as Inter beats  
CSKA*

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## AJC: Nigeria's medals hope dashed

By Ismaila Lere & Orkula Shaagee

NIGERIA'S hope of clinching a medal at the ongoing 33rd Africa Junior Championship (AJC) has continued to fade every day, as the country's sole survival in the singles event, Samuel Omoile yesterday crashed out to the superior power work of South Africa's Pieters Hernus 6-2, 6-3 in the quarter final.

Omoile became the only Nigerian to reach the last eight in the championship's singles event after beating Auf Mohammed of Egypt in the second round 7-6, 3-6, 6-4.

Dejected and looking sad and worried, Omoile after the said it is difficult to explain how it is to lose such a match.

"I feel bad. It was not much of a difficult match but I can't just explain how I feel flat. I was not tensed or afraid of my opponent before the match, but I really don't know what happened."

Team Nigeria coach, Ubale Mohammed said he is satisfied with the player's performance.

"Samuel Omoile has done well. Winning up to this point in a tournament of this magnitude is not bad at all. In fact to win a match in a major championship like this improves a player's rating. To win a match like this you garner 20 points.

"The good thing is that our play-

ers are winning some and gathering points to improve their ranking. Getting this far means he is improving. In other smaller tourneys you get such points only when you win up to the semi-final. Winning and losing is part of the game."

Similarly, the Nigerian duo of Omoile and Nonso Madueke also crashed out of the U-18 boys doubles quarterfinals yesterday losing 7-6, 6-7, 10-8 to Egypt's Mohammed Auf and Seifel-Din Sherbini.

On the other hand, South Africa with nine places in their kitty out of the available 24 in the three categories of the singles event at the ongoing 33rd Africa Junior Championship holding in Abuja, the country has dominated in the semi final of the two week tennis fiesta.

Tunisia and Egypt are joint second, having secured four slots each in the semi finals ahead of Morocco, Burundi and Madagascar who have two slots each, while Mauritius have one semi final qualifier.

South Africa have two places in the boys main draw, one in the girls main draw, two in the boys 16 and under, one in the girls 16 and under, one in the boys 14 and under and two in the girls 14 and under.

## Bio is new Sports Minister

By David Ngobua & Ibraheem A. Fatai

AFTER days of speculations as to who would be appointed to head the ministry of sports and National Sports Commission, former minister of Transport in the immediate past cabinet, Hon. Ibrahim Isa Bio was yesterday deployed to the Sports Ministry as minister.

Bio replaces Engineer Sani Mohammed Ndanusa who was until the recent cabinet shake up, the minister of sports and Chair-

man of the NSC.

The newly appointed minister of sports who hails from Kwara State apart from being former minister of Transport was speaker of the Kwara State House of Assembly from where he was appointed minister of Transport in 2008.

Bio was born on April 24, 1957 and holds a Pharmacy degree from ABU, Zaria and an MBA from Ogun State University.

Bio was Kwara State Commissioner for Health between 1990 and 1992 and a member of the House of Representatives, representing Edu/

Pategi/Moro Federal Constituency between 1999 and 2003.

He became Speaker, Kwara State House of Assembly in 2003, a position he held till November 2008, when he was appointed Minister of Transportation by the Yar'adua-led government. The post he held till March 2010 when the cabinet was dissolved by Acting President Jonathan Goodluck.

He is a member and Fellow of the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria (PSN) as well as Commonwealth Parliamentary Association of Nigeria.

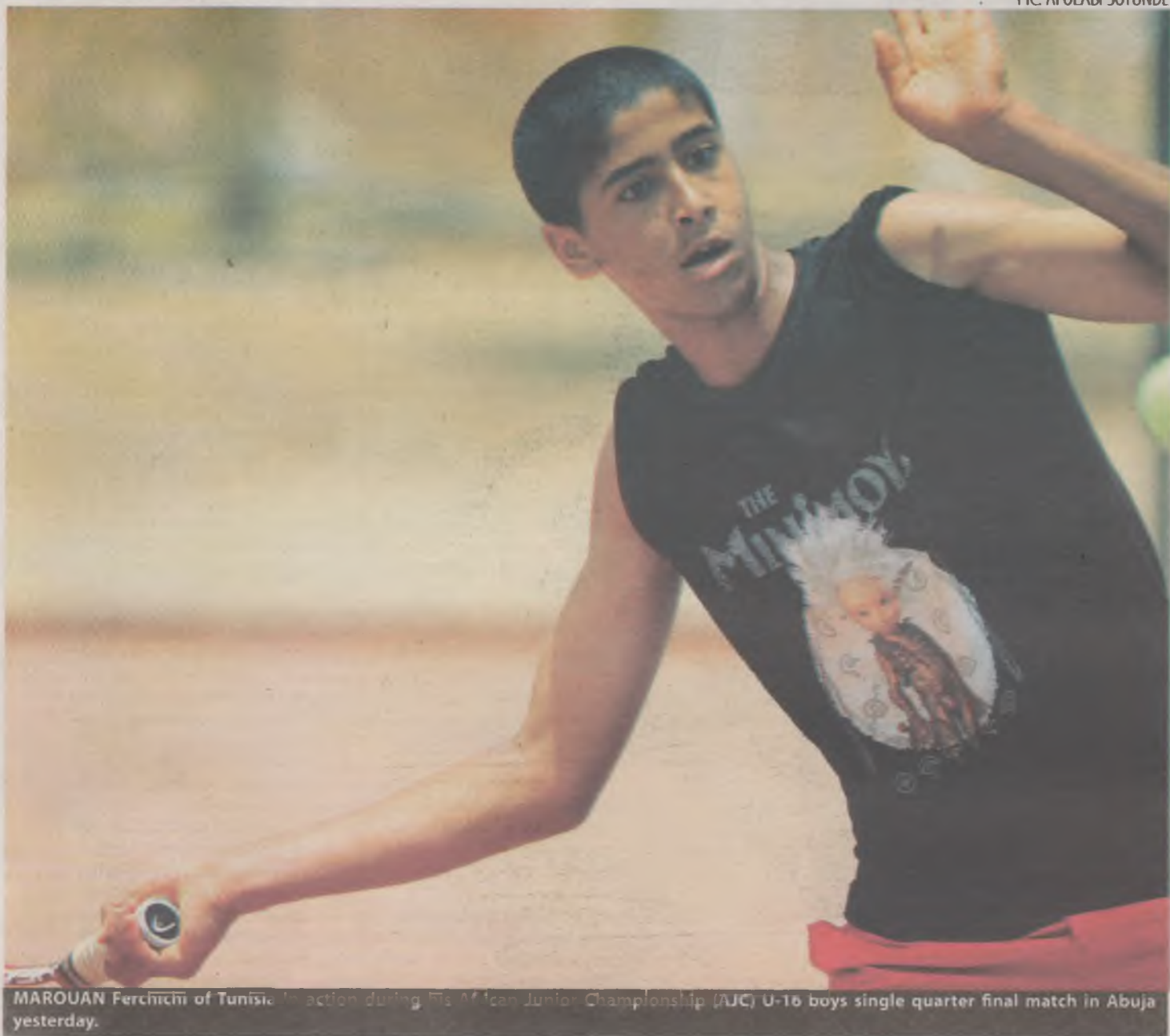
At least eight different ministers have headed the ministry of sports between 1999 to date. On the return to democracy in 1999, the then President, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo appointed Mr. Damishi Sango as his first minister of sports before he was eventually replaced by late Engineer Ishaya Mark Aku.

The sports ministry was then headed by other ministers like Late Steven Akiga, Ismaila Sambawa, Engineer Bala Kajoje, Col. Musa Mohammed, Barrister Abdulrahman Gimba and Engineer Sani Ndanusa.



BIO, Sports Minister

PIC: AFOLABI SOTUNDE



MAROUAN Ferchichi of Tunisia in action during the African Junior Championship (AJC) U-16 boys single quarter final match in Abuja yesterday.

## AJC: Coach blames Nigeria's ouster on inexperience

NATIONAL Junior Tennis Coach Ubale Mohammed yesterday in Abuja blamed Nigeria's losses in the singles events of the 33rd African Junior Tennis Championships (AJC) on inexperience.

Samuel Omoile, the lone survivor in the 18-player entries by Nigeria in the singles categories of the championships' main events, crashed out yesterday in the quarter-finals.

He lost 3-6, 0-6 to South Africa's Hernus Pieters in the

boys' singles main draw played at the tennis court of the Abuja National Stadium.

Ubale, in an interview with NAN after Omoile's loss, attributed the situation to the players' inexperience.

"Omoile's match was a great game. Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose. In this same tournament, we were in the semi-finals of some categories in the warm-up events last week.

"Now, the players have lost in almost every round, but it is

okay if you look at the level of the tournament. It is really not a bad start," he said.

Ubale recalled that during the warm-up events in the first week, the players made a good impact and "we got some reasonable points.

"But in the second week of the championships, our players lost in some areas and, for me, the losses were as a result of inexperience.

"All they need is a little experience to put them through, and

this is what we will now have to work upon."

According to Ubale, this will be done with the help of the available facilities as well as the programme already drawn up by the Nigeria Tennis Federation.

"With the facilities we have and the programme we have also drawn up for them (the players), we will go a long way in improving their skills in the game," he said.

The AJC edition, which began on March 28, will end on April 12.

## NFF bans Nnaji

THE Disciplinary Committee of the Nigeria Football Federation rose from its meeting held on Tuesday, 6th April at the NFF Secretariat, Abuja banning Barrister Ray Nnaji, a former Board Member of the Nigeria Premier League, from all football-related activities within the Nigeria sovereignty.

In taking the decision, the Committee expressed utter disappointment with the way and manner Nnaji, a legal practitioner, handled his grievance against the NPL by going to ordinary court of law, which is a clear violation of Article 36 of the NPL Statutes, Article 13 (1) (f) of the NFF Statutes and Article 64 (par. 2) of the FIFA Statutes.

The Committee also warned that any individual or organization that transacts anything with Nnaji on football matters, including holding of meetings or consultations, will be considered to be an accomplice and treated as such.

On the case of Mr. Amaju Pinnick, Chairman of the Delta State Football Association, the Disciplinary Committee decided to summon him to appear before it in Abeokuta, Ogun State capital on Thursday, 15th April, 2010 by 1pm.

Nnaji had last Wednesday been suspended from all football activities by the NFF after a Federal High Court in Enugu threw out his case challenging his disqualification from taking part in the NPL elections.

## 128 teams jostle for BOSKA Cup

From Adeolu Johnson, Lagos

THE 4th edition of the BOSKA/LDFA Champions Cup will kick off in three centres in Lagos on April 12.

The centres are National Stadium, Lagos, Police College Ground, Ikeja and Ifako-Ijaye playing ground.

According to the Coordinator of the championship, Mr. Dotun Coker, who is the Chairman of Lagos Divisional Football Association (LDFA), the tournament will be heralded by an exhibition match between the defending champion, Jah Football Club and Buruj Football Club.

He explained that the championship is organized to discover talents for the junior national teams and to also turn the attention of the youths away from crime.

According to him the winner will smile home with the sum of N300,000, the first runner up N200,000 while the third place winner will get N100,000.

The Best behaved team will also get a sum of N100,000.

He said the entries had to be pruned down from 166 to 128 after considering the structures of some teams.

## Toro tasks Bio on World Cup, NFF election

By Orkula Shaagee

FORMER Commissioner of Sports in Bauchi State, Alhaji Ahmed Sani Toro yesterday cautioned the new Minister of Sports and Chairman National Sports Commission, Ibrahim Bio not to rush into taking decisions, but to study the situation in the nation's sports sector before coming out with decisions.

Toro, who gave the advice

in a telephone interview with *Trustsports*, said this has become necessary because of the critical stage at which the minister has found himself in the Nigerian sports.

He said though he has confidence in the ability of the new minister to do a good job, he would require he cooperation and support of the professional staff of the National Sports Commission to succeed.

"He (Bio) was a minister in the transport ministry, a big parastatal like the National Sports Commission, he is also a lawyer and a dynamic young man, so let us hope the professionals in the Commission will support him to succeed.

"He is coming at a critical stage in the life of sports in this country; we have the preparations for the World Cup and there are also the coming elec-

tions of the NFF and NPL; and all these are the challenges that he will face.

"So, my advise to him is to him is to study the situations and do his best for the country. Also, the professionals in the National Sports Commission should not be selfish by giving him good advises to move Nigerian sports forward. In all, I think he will do a good job, Toro stated."



# Odiah sent off!

## Inter see off CSKA

CSKA Moscow's Nigerian defender Chidi Odiah was yesterday sent off for two yellow cards in the 49th minute of the Champions League quarter-final second leg match against Inter Milan in Moscow.

The Italian side prevailed 1-0 to book their passage into the semi-final after Wesley Sneijder's early free-kick.

The Super Eagles full back, who came on for injured on for Vasily Berezutsky in the 14th minute, flew into a tackle on Eto'o near the touchline and the referee has no hesitation in showing him a second yellow card.

Odiah was earlier booked in the 38th minute when he caught Sneijder with an overzealous tackle after the Dutchman cleared the ball.

CSKA manager Leonid Slutsky admitted that Sneijder's early goal had taken the wind out of his side's sails.

"We came into the match looking for a win. But the early goal, along with Vasily Berezutsky's injury made our task a great deal tougher," he said.

"The exclusion of Chidi Odiah virtually dashed our hopes completely. But I can't hold anything against my men today. They did all they could."



NIGERIAN defender Chidi Odiah in anguish during his Russian club CSKA Moscow's UEFA Champions League match against Inter Milan in Moscow yesterday. Odiah was sent off during the game.

## Lyon hold edge against Bordeaux

PEDIGREE, recent form and a two-goal advantage from the first leg suggest Olympique Lyon will knock out Girondins Bordeaux tonight to advance to the last four of the Champions League.

Lyon, who won 3-1 at home last week after an exciting first leg of the all-French quarter-final clash, have greater experience of European battles and boosted their morale by winning 2-1 at Stade Rennes on Saturday to go top in Ligue 1.

Bordeaux, by contrast, have just lost three matches in three different competitions, the latest a 2-1 home league defeat by Nancy at the weekend to drop to fourth in Ligue 1, albeit just one point off top spot.

A few months ago, when the French champions looked the most solid side in the country by a long way, many would have predicted they could overcome a 3-1 first-leg deficit to bounce back before their fans.

The picture has changed, however, Bordeaux having fallen 3-1 to Olympique Marseille in the French League Cup final before losing at Lyon by the same score in Europe and then stumbling against Nancy in domestic action.

Once their main strength, their defence has looked shaky and porous in all those outings and there is a clear question mark over

# Merciless Messi destroys Arsenal

LIONEL Messi netted a brilliant first-half hat-trick and added a late fourth to fire holders Barcelona past Arsenal into the last four of the Champions League yesterday.

If it was Barca's team play that ripped the Londoners to shreds in the first hour of last week's first leg, it was the sublime talent of the Argentina international that propelled Pep Guardiola's side to a 6-3 aggregate victory and set up a last-four clash with Inter Milan.

Arsenal grabbed a shock lead through Nicklas Bendtner in the

18th minute but from then on it was all about Messi, the 22-year-old scoring goals of sheer class in the 21st, 37th and 42nd minutes to all but kill off the visitors' hopes.

With two minutes of normal time remaining, Messi completed his virtuoso display with a fourth after pouncing on a rebound to drill home low.

The fourth took his tally in the competition to eight, putting him top of the scoring chart and added to the FIFA World Player of the Year's 26 La Liga goals this season.



FOUR goal hero... Messi celebrates his fourth goal.

It's in difficult periods like this one that you see what individuals and teams are made of

their ability to handle the pressure of big matches.

"Our defence, which is what makes the difference at the highest level, is mediocre at the moment and that affects the whole team's confidence," Girondins Bordeaux coach Laurent Blanc told reporters.

"It's in difficult periods like this one that you see what individuals and teams are made of," Blanc added. "If we have character, we will show it on the pitch, starting from tonight's Champions League match, but I don't feel too many positive signals before that game."

The mood is very different in the Lyon camp, where morale is high after a convincing win at Rennes despite the fact that coach Claude Puel had rested a handful of first-choice players.

"We don't have a team, we have a group," Puel, who will miss Argentine striker Lisandro Lopez and fellow forward Sidney Govou through suspension to face Bordeaux, told reporters. "We're in the last straight, with every game a final, and we need more than 11 players for that."

## Man U seek to restore order against Bayern

SINCE the second minute in the Allianz Arena last week when Wayne Rooney stabbed the ball high into the roof of the Bayern Munich net, the wheels have come loose on the Manchester United bandwagon.

Consecutive 2-1 defeats have left their Champions League hopes and a fourth consecutive Premier League title in the balance and order must be restored quickly at home to Bayern yesterday if United's season is not to suffer a terminal crash.

Everything was running

smoothly for United when Rooney put them ahead in the first leg of their Champions League quarter-

final but the England striker deflected a 77th minute Franck Ribery shot past his goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar, twisted his ankle in stoppage time and was prone on the turf when Ivica Olic snatched a last-gasp winner for Bayern.

Rooney missed Saturday's home league defeat by Chelsea which

wrenched pole position from Alex Ferguson's men in the title race and while the red alarm lights are not

flashing just yet, the fact Rooney may be rushed back for the second leg against Bayern shows just how much United rely on their talisman.

United's late capitulation in Munich means they have to win, something they have managed just once in eight meet-

ings with the Bavarian powerhouse -- the epic 1999 Champions League final when they scored twice in stoppage time to claim a 2-1 victory.

"They're not the same team without Rooney," Chelsea boss Carlo Ancelotti said after his side coped comfortably with a toothless United side. "Rooney is a fantastic player who is difficult to replace with anyone else."

Rooney's 34 goals this season in all competitions have disguised a shortage of firepower from other areas for the three-time European champions.

They're not the same team without Rooney

## THE WEDNESDAY COLUMN

Mohammed Haruna

ndajika@yahoo.com

## Rimi: The passing of a conservative radical

One of the most awkward moments for Alhaji Muhammadu Abubakar Rimi must have been when a gentleman from the audience during the 2008 Trust Annual Dialogue asked him as an invited guest on the high table to defend his shift from his principled stand in 1999 against so-called power rotation into a staunch advocate of power shift to the North long before the 2003 general elections.

Back in 1999 when mainstream Northern political leadership seemed agreed to leave the contest for the presidency to the South, Rimi stood virtually alone in disagreement. Power rotation, he argued with good reason, was the anti-thesis of democracy if only because it unduly restricted the voters' choice.

So against all entreaties by the leadership of the Peoples Democratic Party, Rimi contested for the party's presidential ticket in a field that was supposed to be exclusively Southern. Not surprisingly, his performance was a disaster, especially for someone who had become one of the most well-known politicians in the country.

His stubbornness could, however, not have been the only reason for his disastrous performance. For someone who had come to be identified as a "progressive" politician from his days as a popular governor of Kano State, arguably Nigeria's most populous and perhaps most leftist state, it seemed strange that he should berth in the conservative PDP when the second military intervention in politics ended in 1999. So even without bucking the stand of the Northern establishment it was highly unlikely that he would have done well in the contest for the party's presidential ticket where his progressive image was more likely than not to have been a handicap.

For those Rimi loyalists who thought his membership of the PDP detracted from his progressive credentials, there was still the consolation of sorts that at least up to 1999 he remained a politician of conviction even if only the conviction that the contest for power should be based solely on free choice and not on a dubious principle of turn by turn.

Perhaps the gentleman at the Trust Dialogue who queried Rimi's fidelity to democracy was his loyalist. Perhaps not. Either way his question left the otherwise eloquent Rimi stumbling for an answer. I don't now remember the details of his response but I do remember that it was hardly convincing. Certainly he was hardly his eloquent self.

His answer couldn't have been convincing. After all principles are principles regardless of time and space. Rimi was right in 1999 when he said PDP's turn by turn power politics was wrong. Nothing had happened or could have happened between then and late 2001 when President Olusegun Obasanjo's denial that he ever promised any one to serve for only one term and return power to the North provoked heated debate in the country about PDP's power rotation.

Yet not too long after the 1999 elections Rimi became one of the staunchest proponents of power shift to the North. He seemed to have remained an unrepentant convert till he died last Sunday following his tragic night encounter with armed robbers on his way back to Kano from Bauchi. In what was perhaps his last press interview in the *Saturday Vanguard* of February 27, he staunchly defended the position that power must remain in the North till 2015 after President Umaru Yar'adua must have served a second term.

*Saturday Vanguard*: Is the North entertaining fears about 2011 with (Acting President Goodluck) Jonathan on the saddle? Does the North fear it will not get Presidency in 2011 if Jonathan conducts election?

Rimi: That will never happen. The issue does not arise. We will not cross the bridge before getting there. It's still some months before the election and President Yar'adua can come back any time.

Q: What if Jonathan becomes substantive President?

A: Umaru Yar'adua is alive, not dead. How can Jonathan become substantive President? Or do you want to kill the president?

Rimi's journey from leftwing radicalism to conservatism was a long one. It started in 1964 when, at 24, he joined Malam Aminu Kano's radical Northern Elements Progressive Union. NEPU changed into the Peoples Redemption Party in the run-up to the 1978 elections which ushered in the Second Republic in October 1979. Rimi was PRP's governorship candidate and won handsomely in what was virtually a no-contest election.

Soon enough, however, differences set in between the godson and his godfather. For some rather inexplicable reason Malam Aminu objected to his godson's participation in what became regular meetings of an alliance of so-called progressive parties in the country led by late Chief Obafemi Awolowo, the leader of the Unity Party of Nigeria, an alliance that was opposed to the ruling National Party of Nigeria under President Shehu Shagari. Rimi and the other PRP governor, Alhaji Balarabe Musa of the old Kaduna State that included Katsina State, defied their godfather.

Their defiance eventually led to their expulsion from the party in 1981. By then Alhaji Balarabe had been impeached as governor by an NPN dominated House of Assembly.

Both went to court to challenge their expulsion and eventually won. Alhaji Balarabe decided to remain in the party. Rimi, on the other hand, did the highly unusual in these climes: months before the 1983 general elections he resigned as governor and moved into the Nigerian Peoples Party, one of the so-called progressive parties, to contest the elections. He lost to the PRP which fielded the colourful late Sabo Bakin Zuwo, his main political rival when he was still in the PRP.

Rimi's tenure as governor was highly successful. Among his achievements was the transformation of Kano State from an educationally backward state into one of the most advanced in the country, especially in the sciences and in mass literacy where it won the UNESCO award, the first time a state in the country would do so and so far the only state that has.

His tenure was, however, not without its dark moments, perhaps the darkest being the riots in July 1981 that followed his suspension of the well respected Emir of Kano, Alhaji Ado Bayero, ostensibly for travelling out of the country without permission. The riot led to the brutal murder of his political adviser, Dr. Bala Muhammad, a highly regarded university don.

This was not the only serious personal loss he was to suffer. In 2006, his wife of nearly 40 years was brutally murdered in the night in their Bompai, Kano, home when he was away. It was perhaps a sign of how inseparable they had become that his second marriage lasted only months.

From the time he parted ways with his godfather, Malam Aminu, things were never the same again politically for Rimi. As time went by he increasingly lost his grip of Kano politics, so much so that at the time of his death, some of his younger erstwhile followers had moved to successfully challenge his control of the state's politics.

Even then Rimi would probably go down in history as second only to Malam Aminu as the most popular and charismatic politician the state has ever produced.

May Allah grant him *aljanna firdaus*.

## SPORTS REPORT



TIGER Woods

## Woods to play at Masters with Choi

Tiger Woods will play at the Masters in a group containing K.J. Choi of South Korea and Matt Kuchar of the United States.

Woods will tee off on Thursday at 1:42 p.m. (1742 GMT). It's about

the same time he teed off in the opening round last year.

He will start the second round at 10:35 a.m. Friday (1435 GMT), with the only coverage coming on the Masters' Web site around Amen Corner and the 15th and 16th hole.



GUTI, Real Madrid midfielder

## Guti: We are not afraid of Barca

As Real Madrid prepare to face Barcelona in El Clasico this weekend, Blancos midfielder Guti has issued comments declaring that Los Blancos "are not afraid of anyone".

As reported by Marca, Guti emphasised the significance of Saturday's match. "It will be a very important match and we are not afraid of anyone. We must recognise that Barcelona are doing things very well and have great great players. But we are well armed as well and can beat them."

Manuel Pellegrini's team host Barcelona as the top team in the table and are well on course to beat the 107-goal record in a Liga season. After last weekend's match against Racing Santander, Los Blancos took their tally to 100 goals.