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Inside Today's Daily Trust

Yar'adua: Agaie, Ndume, others to visit Yar'adua



Page 7

Business

There have been mixed reactions over the CBN's 10-yr tenure proposal for bank chief executives **25**

Africa

Zimbabwe has suspended its public outreach efforts to gather views for a new constitution **19**

Sport

Everton striker Yakubu Aiyegbeni has advised teams in Angola 2010 not to take Nigeria lightly **55**

Obasanjo to Yar'adua: Take the path of honour

By Suleiman Bisalla

PRESIDENT Umaru Yar'adua should consider "taking the path of honour and the path of morality" by resigning from his office in view of his serious health challenges, former president Chief Olusegun Obasanjo said in Abuja yesterday. Obasanjo, who was chairman at the 7th Trust Annual Dialogue, was responding to a question by a young man from the audience, who asked him whether he chose Yar'adua as his successor in 2006-07 "out of wickedness."

The question caused a stir in the jam-packed Congress Hall of the Transcorp Hilton Hotel, venue of the dialogue, but Obasanjo retrieved the microphone

and began to answer. He said, "When in the year 2006 the idea came up as to succession, I was convinced in my mind that a Southerner succeeding me will not augur well for Nigeria. [Murmurs in the audi-

Umaru Yar'adua who is now the President, I know he had kidney problem

ence]. You may not agree with that, you may agree. I was convinced in my mind [about] that.

"Now, I was looking for somebody who will succeed me who has three

important qualities. One, he has enough intellectual capacity to run the affairs of Nigeria. Two, he has sufficient personal integrity to run the affairs of Nigeria. Three, he is sufficiently broad minded in knowledge, politically, religiously, socially, whatever to manage the affairs of Nigeria.

"These three were important and very paramount in my mind. [From the audience, someone shouted, "What about health?" There was a brief commotion as many people said, "Let him [i.e. Obasanjo] finish!"]. Wait, wait, wait! You may hear what you have never heard... Then Umaru Yar'adua who is now the President, I know he had kidney problem and was under dialysis. Some

Continued on page 5

Winnie at Trust Dialogue:



THE legendary Mrs. Winnie Madikizela-Mandela speaking at the 7th Trust Annual Dialogue in Abuja yesterday. Pic: Afolabi Sotunde

'Nothing about us without us'

By Austine Odo

WOMEN should rise up to the challenge of their marginalisation in male-dominated society by declaring that "Nothing about us without us" and proceed to swell the ranks of all social and political structures where the future of Mankind is discussed, legendary anti-apartheid fighter Mrs. Winnie Madikizela Mandela said in Abuja yesterday.

Delivering her speech at the 7th Trust Annual Dialogue, she said in ensuring that women claim their rightful place in political life, their engagement should not be

Continued on page 5

Scenes from 7th Annual Trust Dialogue

PIX: AFOLABI SOTUNDE



FORMER President Olusegun Obasanjo, chairman of the 7th Annual Trust Dialogue with the guest speaker Mrs. Winnie Mandela, at the session in Abuja yesterday.



MRS Samia Nkrumah, daughter of Osagyefo Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, speaking at the dialogue.



THE legendary Mrs. Winnie M. Mandela delivers her address.



HAIJIYA Naja'atu Mohammed delivering her fiery speech at the dialogue.



PRESIDENT Olusegun Obasanjo launches the Kilimanjaro magazine at the dialogue yesterday.



FORMER Deputy Governor of Lagos State, Senator Kofoworola Bucknor-Akerele delivers her speech at the 7th Annual Dialogue in Abuja yesterday.

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7th Annual Trust Dialogue in Abuja

How we're building on Nkrumah's legacies – Samia

By Abbas Jimoh

AFRICAN women have a crucial role to play in Africa's renaissance envisioned by the late Ghanaian leader, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah.

This was the submission of Nkrumah's daughter, Ms Samia Nkrumah, a member of the Ghanaian parliament, while speaking yesterday in Abuja at the 7th Annual Trust Dialogue with the theme, "The African Woman and Politics".

"The African woman will spearhead the march towards the New African that Osagyefo (Nkrumah) had evoked on the eve of our political independence in 1957, the 'New African' who is conscious of the African personality. This concept is not associated with a particular state, language, religion, political

system, or colour of skin. It takes account of our diversity, the influence of Christianity, Islam and our African Traditions in our societies today.

"This revival entails revisiting and re-engineering that vision and adapting it to changing circumstances in the present time, and in the process underscoring the urgency of our concern. The call for economic self-reliance, social justice, national cohesion, and greater continental integration acquire special relevance today because sustainable economic development that impact on us all but with special economic development, is still out of reach. This re-awakening, therefore, cannot happen without the active participation of African women in policy

decisions," Samia said.

Samia who called for urgent need to invest in new abilities to increase and improve the quality of production and women empowerment, said, "In order to improve access to credit, we have adopted in my constituency in Ghana, a private company to run a micro-credit scheme to give cheap credit to women to begin small-scale businesses. In my district in the furthest south west of Ghana, we have embarked on a scholarship scheme aimed at awarding scholarship to brilliant but needy students to pursue tertiary education with emphasis wherever possible on female students. We have also initiated an ICT resource centre project to provide basic computer training to all schools in the vicinity."

She said it was the women that helped shaped and nurtured the vision at inception, stating that women traders and small business holders were the key supporters of the Convention People's Party (CPP), founded by late Nkrumah to usher Ghana to independence.

She added that the CPP has passed a law allowing for the nomination of 10 women to the National Assembly, which has radically legitimized women's role in nation building as it gave them opportunity and political space to contribute to national developmental agenda.

She said, "Despite the fact that women make up 51 percent of Ghana's population, this figure is not reflected at the decision making level. The cold fact however is that

we have fallen short of the 30 percent representation stipulated by the United Nations that would make decision-making truly meaningful in any society.

This evidently implies that women in Africa still have a tall order, but this is not insurmountable. People like Yaa Asantewa of Ghana, Queen Amina of Zaria here in Nigeria and recent icons like Winnie Mandela, Wangari Mathai and Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who have collectively made a statement with a very loud voice: It is possible for us to make a difference in our people's lives."

Samia also sympathised with Nigerians on the Jos crisis and what she called constitutional challenge on the absence of President Umaru Yar'adua.

PIC: AFOLABI SOTUNDE

Akerele: Why women are harmstrung in politics

By Mubahu Bashir

THE former Deputy Governor of Lagos State Senator Kofoworola Bucknor-Akerele has said the reason why women in Africa do not get equal chance as men in politics is that political parties are dominated by men.

Akerele made the remarks yesterday at the 7th Annual Trust Dialogue tagged "The African woman and politics". She said women have in the last 50 years failed to achieve equality with men because the African society still believes that a woman still lacks the financial capability to run political campaign and political parties are dominated by men. She said men are reluctant to back women for elective positions and that women have been brainwashed into supporting men rather than their own gender. According to her, the African society still believes that women are better at domestic aspects and not good in governance. Women are also discouraged from politics by violence and thuggery.

She said party positions are dominated by men and women are marginalized in decision making process in most of African countries. In few countries including South Africa some political parties have reserved some position to the women. "The African National Congress of (ANC) of South Africa must be commended for acceptance of 50% of positions for women in the party. Many other political parties in Africa only reserve few positions for women in their parties," she said. Women marginalization in politics is obvious in Nigeria where parties have little or positions reserved for women. "An example is the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) which in the National Executives comprising of 50 positions, apart from the National Women Leader and 2 Deputy, only 2 ex-officio positions from the six geographical zones are reserved for women," she said.

Continued on Page 9



A cross section of dignitaries at the 7th Annual Trust Dialogue in Abuja yesterday

Women don't support women politicians – Naja'atu

By Suleiman M. Bisalla

IN spite of their numerical strength, Nigerian women have failed to be supportive of women candidates during elections in order to achieve their desire for adequate representation in government, politician and woman activist Hajiya Naja'atu Mohammed has said.

Speaking at the Annual Trust Dialogue in Abuja yesterday, Hajiya Naja'atu said this problem amongst the women folk has aggravated the existing political plight already imposed by their male counterparts in the political space who prefer to see them only "as sex objects and instruments of pleasure".

She recalled that when she

came out to contest for the leadership of Students Union at the Ahmadu Bello University years back, she earned names from some female students rather than solidarity.

She also identified other impediments of women in Nigerian politics to include financial constraints, harassment and intimidation by men politicians.

Naja'atu who was at the forefront of the Buhari presidential campaign in 2003, said with what she has seen in Nigerian politics so far, no Nigerian women should expect to get power on a platter of gold because their male counterparts will be most unwilling to soften the ground.

"Let no woman be under any illusion that she will get power on

the platter of gold," she said stressing that if men can go to war for the control of resources, they will certainly not allow breathing space for women in politics.

She also recalled that after leading the Buhari Campaign to all nooks and cranny of Nigeria, some male politicians began to ask why Buhari should be so close to a woman. That, she said, came towards the end of the campaign when victory seemed close.

She said in her political career, she has received many death threats, but each time, she emerged more determined to pursue her political goals.

The woman activist said many male politicians go into politics for personal aggrandisement unlike women who have passion

for development and wellbeing of the people.

She also advised women to remain focussed on their mission and vision. "Women have a choice when they assume leadership position to go the way of men or be themselves; the liberators that they are supposed to be. If you decide to go the way of men, you will end up using what you have to get what you want, like they say, and when you do that you are nothing but 'suya,'" she said.

"But if you have a mission and you have an objective and you want to make a difference, then you must also be prepared to take the consequences. You must be prepared to be assassinated," she said.

No constitutional crisis over official travel — Aliyu

NIGER State governor Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu yesterday dismissed claims that a constitutional crisis exists in Nigeria due to ailing President Umaru Yar'adua's failure to hand over to Vice President Goodluck Jonathan, saying any problem that arises is caused by people who are exploiting the situation for selfish reasons.

"Some people say we have a constitutional crisis, but I say we don't have a constitutional crisis. We have a problem where the people that are saddled with handling the situation cannot handle it because of their selfish interest," he said.

Drawing an analogy from the government of former President Olusegun Obasanjo, Aliyu said, "Mr. Former President, in your eight years, you were probably the most travelled Nigerian or the most travelled President in this country.

"We never had the problem of acting or not acting. All of us who served in the public service were aware that we had a provision

"We could not have elected a President without a Vice President, that's what the constitution says."

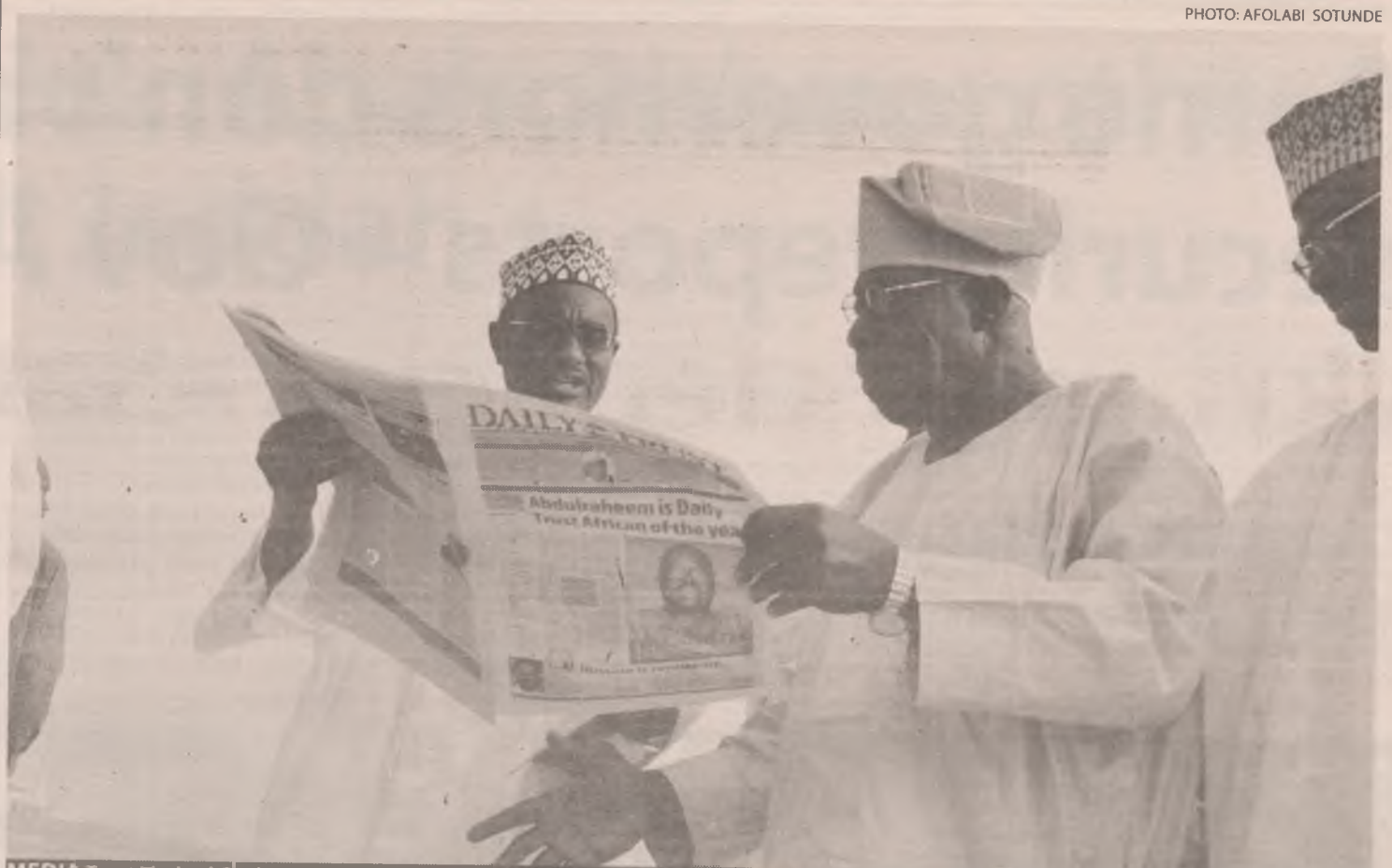
for sit-in, for covering schedule and for acting, and the common denominator of each of these is that you are doing what the substantive person should have been doing.

"I was your first permanent secretary of the Cabinet and I saw what was going on. Mr. former President, I know you will agree with me if I say that the first two years, you indeed referred to your Vice President.

"Sometimes when I looked at a memo as the permanent secretary, I used to advise the ministers that you will have no problem with President Obasanjo on this memo. Go and clear with the Vice President... That is how it should be. We must not allow a situation that could be exploited. We could not have elected a President without a Vice President, that's what the constitution says."

He said whenever he is travelling out of Niger State these days, he writes to inform the Speaker of the Niger State Assembly to enable his deputy to act on his behalf.

He said he sends copies of such letters to the Presidency, complete with phone numbers, in case the Presidency wants to discuss a particular issue with him.



MEDIA Trust Limited Chairman, Malam Kabiru Yusuf, (left) presents a copy of Daily Trust newspaper to former President Olusegun Obasanjo at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja, yesterday. With them is managing Director of the company, Alhaji Isiaq Ajibola (right).

Take the path of honour

Continued from page 1

time earlier, he had gone abroad when he was governor of Katsina. When the idea was for him to contest, I asked him and he gave me a medical report and the medical report showed that he had come off dialysis.

"I asked experts, who then told me that if you were under dialysis or you are on dialysis and you are no longer on dialysis, it means you have had a successful kidney transplant and that you can live for as long as God may wish you to live.

"Now, who am I and who are you not to accept that? [Applause]. Wait, wait, wait! That was the situation and I...now that you want

to hear...He went to campaign and we were campaigning together. And you will remember that at one stage of the campaign, he was run down. Chairman of our party then, Ahmadu Ali, was also run down. Ahmadu Ali didn't go abroad but he [Yar'adua] went abroad for check up. And then there was rumour that he was dead and I called him and put the telephone on speaker. And I said, 'Umoru, are you dead or not?' [Applause and laughter]. And you heard his voice live and kicking! He came back and continued the campaign. That was the true situation, and to the best of my knowledge he wasn't on dialysis after that. When the issue of dialysis came, he was well into his

first term, which must mean one thing; that the kidney transplant is failing, if it hasn't failed. That you cannot blame on anybody! You cannot even blame it on him (Yar'adua)!

"So for people to say that I, Olusegun Obasanjo, deliberately picked somebody who is an invalid, I think it is the height of insult. How can I put so much into this country both in peace and in war and then think of giving this country to somebody who will run it down? [Applause]. How can I? Even if you don't have the fear of God you will not think that way...And you said [referring to the man who asked the question] there is constitutional crisis, I will not comment on that.

What I needed to say on that, I had said it as the chairman of my Board of Trustees last week and I won't say anything more. The one that I need to say is the fact that nobody picked Yar'adua so that he will not perform. If I did that God will punish me. Yes, because I love this country so much that there is no reason why I should do that.

But wait, if you take up an appointment, a job, elected, appointed, whatever it is and then your health starts saying, 'I will not be able to deliver', to satisfy yourself and the people that you are supposed to serve, then there is the path of honour and the path of morality. And if you don't know that, then you don't know anything."

'Nothing about us without us'

Continued from page 1

limited to "the business of politics", but should extend to discussion about "the politics of business".

"As multi-cultural societies representing different regions, we have pivotal roles to play in shaping our regional and continental agenda. Women should be the backbone of our economies. As we address our economic agenda we must also address women's issues and their daily struggles to build a better life for all.

Above all, as we seek to articulate a women's agenda we should commit ourselves to development goals, to address issues related to the elimination of all kinds of racial discrimination and to promote gender equality and mainstreaming a gender perspective in public policies", she said.

In doing so, she said, a new internationalism, which has been

key to women's movements for emancipation in previous decades, is being formed.

Mrs Mandela said Africa is seized with laying the foundations for sustainable social and economic development and that the task was difficult since "only enduring ideas and reinforced foundations could withstand the ravages of time. She also noted that armed with the experience of struggle, women's efforts must be geared towards building a new and different reality which she acknowledged, would be their unique contribution to the world.

But she recognized unity among women as a principle upon which this struggle must radiate, citing the success of South Africa's African National Congress (ANC) in the liberation struggle.

"We cannot achieve this by mere proclamation. We need to be organized and build and strengthen our organizations. We

will need to deepen and entrench democracy in our ranks to enable us robustly debate and interrogate the best way forward to realize our full potential. We can only build an unstoppable wave of collective energies if we are able to reach out to one another", she said.

Noting that the principle of unity holds true for women in politics, Winnie Mandela said women are their own liberators, and unity must find expression in the way in which they approach their social, political, cultural and economic development. This struggle, she added, must like all struggles, have its own detractors, and women would need to respond to the detractors with words that have also inspired their struggle for liberation, that is, a people united shall never be defeated.

"Yes, we need to believe in our capacity to overcome our painful history of marginaliza-

tion when we can be seen and not heard. This path will not be easy, we will stumble and falter, but we will need to focus ourselves on our prize- the emancipation of women, and that of humanity itself. For as long as women are not free, then the freedom that we speak about is incomplete. As we stumble and struggle in this quest, we should regard failures, when they occur, not as finite moments, but as occasions for a new beginning", she said.

She noted that as women seek to articulate their agenda, they should submit to development goals, to address issues related to the elimination of all kinds of racial discrimination and promote gender equality and mainstreaming a gender perspective in public policies. "It is very important that we too assert ourselves as women of a new generation addressing the demands of new times and eager to fulfil our mission", she added.

Some governors don't read security reports – Gov Aliyu

By Suleiman M. Bisalla

STATE governors should be held accountable for any break down of order in their states because some of them do not read the security reports that are regularly sent to their desks, Niger State Governor Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu said in Abuja yesterday. Speaking at the Trust Annual Dialogue, he said governors should ensure they read security reports to enable

them act proactively to forestall communal crisis. "We should not wait until we start counting corpses before we act," he said.

Governor Aliyu said Nigerian leaders at various levels should be held responsible for the loss of lives and property from avoidable communal clashes. "Each one of us with the responsibility to protect the lives and property of the people must be called to order when there is violence in

our area because many of us don't read the security reports that we see," he said.

Aliyu dismissed suggestions that the ongoing crisis in Jos that has so far claimed scores of lives and property worth billions of naira has more to do with religion. He said, "Every time violence happens, people will call it religion. At least we know that the latest one, nobody can pin it to religion. We must resolve as a nation and as a

people, from the federal government to state and local government, that we cannot tolerate communal violence in any guise and for whatever reason."

Referring to the way he dealt with the Darul Islam group in Niger State last year, Aliyu said, "Many of us don't pay attention to security reports. When about 5000 people secluded themselves in one corner of my state in the name of religion, I

dispersed them. That is what we call pre-emptive security. You don't wait until you start counting corpses."

He added, "Many people wanted to vilify me but later on they started asking, 'how did you do it? I said first, by communicating. I went to establish the authenticity of the nature of the religion of these people and I discovered that they had developed into a cult and I moved them out."



THE audience at the 7th Annual Trust Dialogue to a presentation at the Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja, yesterday.

'Gender equality is crucial to progress'

By Misbahu Bashir

SOCIETY cannot progress unless men and women, young and old, have equal chances to achieve their potential, the Chairman of Media Trust Limited, Malam Kabiru A. Yusuf has said.

Yusuf made the remark at the 7th Annual Trust Dialogue with the theme 'The African Woman and Politics' in Abuja yesterday. "It is accepted by even the most obdurate male chauvinist, that women are the natural partners of men in the home. But when it comes to their role in wider society, in the economy, politics, art and culture, many men are unwilling to concede them their due. But society cannot progress unless all of us, men and women, young and old, have equal chance to achieve our potential," he said.

He commended ex-president Olusegun Obasanjo who was the chairman of the occasion, for appointing more women into his cabinet and other arms of government, than any other previous administration, during his tenure as civilian president from 1999 to 2007.

He said the Obasanjo government was the first in Nigeria, to give women high profile positions such as Minister for Finance, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister of State for Defence, Minister for Education, A justice of the Supreme Court and Nigeria's representative at the United Nations.

Guest speakers at the occasion included Winnie Madhikizela Mandela, Senator Bucknor-Akerele, Samia Iyaba Christina Nkrumah and Hajia Naja'atu Mohammed.

Blame power problem on Yar'adua -Obasanjo

By Abbas Jimoh

FORMER President Olusegun Obasanjo yesterday in Abuja blamed his successor, President Umaru Yar'adua for the collapse of the nation's power sector.

Obasanjo made the remark yesterday at the 7th Annual Trust Dialogue themed, "The African Woman and Politics". He was responding to a comment by a member of the audience who blamed the sudden power outage at the Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja, during the , on the government. Obasanjo had earlier blamed the power outage on the hotel management and urged Media Trust to take the hotel to task on the matter.

He said he met the country generating 1, 400 MW of elec-

tricity in 1999 and that he left it at 4, 000 MW, regretting that the country cannot generate even 3, 000 MW now. He said the Nigeria Integrated Power Project (NIPP) plants he started were yet to be completed by the Yar'adua administration over two years after.

"If what you are saying is that what happened here today is not the fault of this hotel and you are trying to pass the buck, you are absolutely wrong, now in my time as president of this country, for 20 years before I came in, there was not even one naira investment in generation, for 20 years; the last investment in generation was made by President Shagari when he completed the Egbin station. Now, for a country that wanted to develop, that is irresponsible behaviour.

"We came in 1999, what was

wrong, this country was generating only 1,400 MW, we told Bola Ige, may his soul rest in perfect peace; Bola Ige got up and said he would fix it in six months, you remember that; after one year I called Bola Ige, what is wrong. Bola Ige has not got to the root of problem of NEPA and NEPA turn out to be the most corrupt government institution. We moped the top and that didn't stop, the problem because the problem was deep rooted from top to bottom, that time we didn't have money, we were making 19 dollars per barrel, we call the oil companies to help, they wouldn't come, when we started having money, we decided to go for the NIPP (Nigeria Integrated Power Project), we wanted and we made the plan, seven units and four

other units; Geredu, Omoteso, Papa-Lanto and Alogi.

"They were on the stream for two and half years, the government that succeeded us wouldn't do anything, you dint blame that on anybody and if that is the situation we are then you must know where you put your blame and the 6, 000 that we are taking around now, this country reached 6, 000 in the past, but for lack of maintenance, lack of repairs, running it down, by the time we came to government in 1999, we were only producing, out of the 6, 000 capacity that was there, only 1, 400; we reached 4, 000 before we left, today, we are not even reaching 3, 000; So if you don't know, try and find out and when you find out, try and put the blame where it belongs," Obasanjo said.

Yar'adua: Agaie, Ndume others to visit Jeddah

By Nasidi A. Yahaya

THE Deputy Majority Leader of the House of Representatives, Rep Baba Shehu Agaie (PDP, Niger State), Minority Leader, Mohammed Ali Ndume (ANPP, Borno State) will be among members that will visit ailing President Umaru

Yar'adua "in order to extend the House goodwill message and discuss other matters of national importance".

Other members of the delegation include Reps Nnenna Ukeje (PDP, Abia State), Patrick Ikhariale (PDP, Edo State), Fatai Morooro (AC, Lagos State) and Jubril Adamu (PDP, Kaduna State).

Speaker Dimeji Bankole who made the announcement at yesterday's plenary session could not however mention the date of their departure.

The MPs visit came after the resolution of the House to visit the President who is said to be in a Jeddah hospital receiving treatment for heart ailment.



SAVE Nigeria Group members protesting in Lagos yesterday.

PIC: NAN

Yar'adua: Senate keeps mum after parley with SGF

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

AFTER about three hours close door session with Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF) Mahmud Yayale Ahmed, Senate yesterday chose to remain silent on revelations about the ill health of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua.

Briefing newsmen shortly after the session, Chairman Senate Committee on Information and Media, Senator Ayogu Eze (PDP, Enugu North) said the session with the SGF was 'frank' but that Senate has resolved to maintain silence pending a resolution on the matter Tuesday.

According to Eze, "Senate has resolved that we will meet on Tuesday, to take on all issues arising from the discussion with the SGF. We will meet on Tuesday behind closed doors; the meeting will be very useful. We call on Nigerians to be patient and restraint in whatever we do. This is the time to display patriotism and we must continue to pray for our country."

When asked of details of the meeting with the SGF, Senator Eze said "I don't have the mandate of the Senate to disclose that, or do you want them to remove me from the committee?"

Contract scam: Reps C'ttee asks Edie Iroh, others to refund N5bn

By Nasidi A. Yahaya

THE House of Representatives committee on Public Account has recommended that former Director General of the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN) Dr Edie Iroh, his management team and Messrs Northgate Limited refund N4.419bn "that could not be accounted for" during a contract for the purchase of uninstalled transmitters for the corporation.



SPEAKER Dimeji Bankole

The Rep Usman Adamu-committee also recommended that the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) should be invited to help in the recovery and prosecution of the persons involved.

The committee recommendations were based on findings and recommendations on the examinations conducted on the Ministries and agencies on Auditor-General of the Federation's reports on the accounts of the Federal Government for 2003 and 2005.

The committee said: "That the sum of N4.419bn representing the amount paid for the uninstalled transmitters in 14 out of 32 stations that Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN) could not be accounted for should be refunded by Messrs Northgate Limited, the former Director General, Dr Edie Iroh and his team management who participated in the award of the contracts, in addition to being pros-

ecuted. The EFCC should be invited to help in the recovery and prosecution".

The committee added: "That the sum of N46,181,886.42 representing the total contract sum for the six(6) nos fences that were not awarded and two (2) nos studios that did not need fencing at all, should be refunded by the contract, Messrs Northgate Limited; the former director general Mr Edie Iroh and his management team".

It recommended that the FRCN should remit all outstanding Value Added Tax which EFCC should be called in to recover the money and the report of the recovery be sent to the committee.

The committee added that officials who deduct taxes and refuse to remit such monies to the appropriate authority should henceforth be summarily dismissed from service and prosecuted and the report of such disciplinary action be sent to the National Assembly.

Reps decline debate on FOI bill

By Nasidi A. Yahaya

THE House of Representatives yesterday declined to debate on a motion to recommend the Freedom of Information (FOI) bill to the Joint Committees on Information and Justice.

This was sequel to a motion by Rep Ita Enang (PDP, Cross River State), Chairman of the House committee on Rules and Business seeking for the rescission of their earlier decision on the bill.

He said that in Nov. 14, 2007, members had committed the bill to the commit-

tee of whole adding that some members requested it be recommitted to the Joint committees for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on it.

He said: "Honourable colleagues may recall that when the bill was read a second time, it was committed to the committee of whole, but from serious issues of law raised by members, it has become pertinent that the public be heard on the provisions".

When it was put to vote by Speaker Dimeji Bankole for debate, members unanimously voted against it.

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Jos crisis caused by impunity - Atiku

by Muideen Olaniyi

FORMER Vice President Atiku Abubakar has attributed the current sectarian crisis rocking Jos, the Plateau State capital to the inability of the government to bring the sponsors of past violence in the state to book.

In a statement released yesterday

in Abuja by his media office, Atiku said he was deeply concerned about the senseless loss of lives and wanton destruction of properties as well as the displacement of thousands of people.

"It is the culture of impunity that is partly fueling the crisis. People have not been held accountable for their roles

in past crises. This is not right. This should not be allowed to continue. Every crime should attract appropriate sanction to serve as deterrence to others," Atiku said.

Atiku also condemned the indigene-settler dichotomy in the state saying, "all Nigerians must feel at home wherever they

are in the country. Indigene - stranger dichotomy, he said, is alien to the constitution.

He called on both the Federal and Plateau State Government to take decisive action to halt ongoing mayhem in Jos and its environs.

The former Vice President specifically suggested the

deployment of more troops throughout the state to halt the spread of the crisis to the rural areas. He also suggested that the security agents be mandated to arrest the sponsors of this violence, no matter how highly placed, and that those arrested should be prosecuted and punished promptly.



FROM left: Minister of Defence, General Godwin Abbe, National Security Adviser to the President, General Sarki Mukhtar, Chief of Defence Staff, Paul Dike, Chief of Army Staff, Lt. General Abdulrahman Danbazau and Inspector General of Police, Ogbonna Onovo, after a security meeting on the Jos crises with Vice President Goodluck Jonathan in Abuja yesterday.

PIC: NAN

Sultan, Onaiyekan want true reconciliation in Jos

By Muideen Olaniyi

TRUE reconciliation of hearts and minds, based on truth, justice, repentance and forgiveness is the solution to the incessant sectarian clashes in Jos, the Sultan of Sokoto and President, Nigeria Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, (NSCIA) Alhaji Mohammad Sa'ad Abubakar and Archbishop John Onaiyekan, President, Christian Association of Nigeria, (CAN) said yesterday.

In a statement jointly

signed by the Co-Chairmen of the Nigerian Inter-Religious Council (NIREC), they noted that the frequency of unrest, destruction of lives and property in Jos, Plateau State was of great concern which did not give room for the much needed development.

The statement issued under the auspices of NIREC titled 'Thou Shall Not Kill!' appealed to parties in the ongoing crisis to eschew violence, seek peace and work for it.

Jos: Jonathan orders army into crisis-prone areas

By Habeeb I. Pindiga

VICE President Goodluck Jonathan last night ordered the army to take over security in and around Jos, Plateau State, to prevent further clashes, which have killed more than 400 this week.

"I have today ordered the army to lead the security forces and take over the entire security of the affected areas, including those areas that are considered prone to risk," Jonathan said in a live television broadcast to the nation. "The security forces have the overwhelming mandate of the federal government to arrest the situation urgently."

Intersecting violence between Muslims and Christians broke out in Jos on Sunday, when a group of Christian youths allegedly tried to stop a Muslim man from rebuilding his home that was destroyed in the November 2008 clashes.

Below is the text of the vice president's speech:

"It is with a heavy heart that I speak to you today. We have all been witnesses to the resurgence of the crisis in Jos, the Plateau State capital. My heart goes out to all those who have lost loved ones as well as their property in this unwarranted carnage.

"From the time the crisis began on Sunday, I gave directives to all the relevant security agencies to do every-

thing within the limits of the law to bring the situation under control.

"What is happening in Jos has taken on the colouration of sheer wickedness and man's inhumanity to man, and there is absolutely no justification for this. The federal government will not fold its hands while fellow citizens are brutalised and murdered at will.

"Such acts in a plural society such as ours, are sinful, both in the eyes of God and man. We shall not condone them. The Federal Government will confront these ugly developments with all the might and resources at its disposal. Of this, there must be no doubt.

"Therefore, I have today ordered the army to lead the Security Forces to take over the entire security of the affected areas, including those areas that are considered prone to risk. The security forces have the overwhelming mandate of the Federal Government to arrest the situation urgently.

"I use this occasion to warn all ethnic, political, and religious and opinion leaders in Plateau state and nationwide to desist forthwith from further inflaming the situation. The security agencies have been directed to place any such persons under close watch. Those found to have engineered, encouraged or fanned the embers of this crisis, through their actions or pronouncements, will be arrested and

speedily brought to justice.

"We will not allow any one hide under the canopy of group action to evade justice. Crime, in all its gravity, is an individual responsibility, not a communal affair. The Federal Government is determined to secure convictions of the perpetrators of this crime, no matter how highly placed.

"I want to assure all Nigerians, that the Federal Government has the capacity to protect, defend and preserve the lives and property of all citizens, irrespective of ethnic affiliation or creed. Let me also seize this opportunity to assure foreign nationals of their safety.

"I have held daily meetings with the leadership of our security services, and have received daily updates on the situation in Jos and environs. Let me assure all that the Federal Government is on top of the situation, and that the crisis is being brought under control.

"The fundamental principle of the Constitution which we are sworn to uphold, is to ensure the safety and well being of all Nigerians wherever they find themselves in the country. In this regard, I want to assure all citizens and foreigners alike, that the Federal Government will continue to guarantee the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Constitution of our country."

Norma farms proprietor sends distress message

THE owner of Norma farms in Kuru Jenta, Plateau State yesterday gave a horrid account of the situation in the area, saying though she had not yet been able to go to the farm herself, reports from some individuals on phone said all the Muslims in Kuru were killed while their houses were burnt.

"Only a few are still alive. Although the person I spoke with (one of our farm staff) was naturally upset and a bit confused, he told me that he believed that except for himself, the other Muslim members of staff of the farm were all killed, along with many other inhabitants of the village. He along with his wife and children were injured but managed to escape, and at that point (yesterday evening) he was attempting to walk through the bush to get to the Police Staff College, which he felt was the nearest place of safety," she said in an e-mail to her customers.

At Kuru, she said, there was no fight between groups, as had been the case in Jos, but that Muslim inhabitants were rounded

up and shot or burnt in their houses.

"As I said, I have yet to see for myself, but I received the same report from both Muslim and Christian staff and have no reason to doubt its veracity. Only that I am not sure of the details of the exact number killed," she said.

Though she was not sure whether any damage was inflicted on the farm itself, or the condition of the crops, he noted that the farm could not operate without staff, as he could not say how many of the over 25 staff had been killed, and how many had run away.

"After I have gone to the farm, I will let you know the situation. We are unlikely to be able to deliver anything this Friday, although I can't rule this out completely. Another issue is that there have been attacks on passengers along the Jos-Abuja road around Riyom and other villages near the entry point to Jos, as well as in Bukuru, a town just before Jos. So we cannot send Audu and Ado on the road until we can be assured of their safety," she added.

Akerele: Why women are harmstrung in politics

Continued from Page 4
SHE said in order to allow for more participation of African women in politics, countries must entrench in their constitutions some limitations to women representation. She said countries that have adopted quota system or affirmative actions have fared better than those that have not. "The first country to include a

20% quota representation in its constitution, Tanzania, has now upgraded that to 30% in its constitution. Burundi followed with 30% and then Rwanda," she said.

"Ruwanda has 56.3% female representation in parliaments while South Africa has 44.3%. Angola has 37.3%, Uganda 31.8% and Nigeria 7%. By contrast Nigeria with 7% female represen-

tation in parliament does not subscribe to the affirmative action," she said.

She most countries in Africa have adopted universal adult suffrage and political systems of their former colonial masters which instead of uplifting the standard of women, marginalized women. "Many women who had taken part in struggle for independence

found that they were marginalized when it came to being fielded for parliamentary seats or political appointments," she said.

Commenting about the problems in Africa, she said ignorance, disease, lack of infrastructure and corruptions have led to the failure of economic growth and development.

She said people have lost faith

in the political system where few men use their ill gotten wealth in most cases to corrupt and criminalize the democratic process. "Unfortunately this corruption of the democratic process has led to a feeling of helplessness with the populace. What we need to do is to rebrand the people especially the men who are now in control of our affairs," she said.



PIC: NAN

Bayero turbans Shekarau today

From Ruqayyah Yusuf Aliyu, Kano

ACTIVITIES to mark the turbaning of Governor Ibrahim Shekarau as the Sarduanan Kano by the Emir of Kano Alhaji Ado Bayero have commenced with a special prayer held at the Kano city central mosque. The prayer session which was led by the Chief Imam of the mosque Sheikh Muhammed Na'iba was attended by top government officials and politicians in the state.

The activities to commemorate the traditional title are to last

for five days with a public lecture held in honour of the title holder as well as a cultural night in addition to the prayer session during the first day of the ceremony.

The actual turbaning, horse procession and homage to the Sardauna by the emir and a dinner have been slated to commence today.

Other activities to be carried out on the third day are recitation of the holy Qur'an, friendly football match and a special drama to be staged in honour of the Sardauna.

Yar'Adua: Group berates Governors' Forum's alienation from people ...Carpet PDP for fencing V.P. from taking power

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

THE Save Nigeria Group (SNG), a body of groups of human rights association has condemned the governor's in the country alleging that they have collaborated with those who are sustaining the power vacuum at the presidency.

The group also berated leadership of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) for not allowing Vice President Goodluck Jonathan to exercise power temporarily saying such act has nonsense of the rule of law and the electoral reforms that are key items on the seven-point agenda of Yar'Adua administration.

Save Nigeria Group has on Thursday engaged in about four hour protests in Ikeja, Lagos expressing displeasure at the public statements and posturing on this matter by some of the governors in the country noting that most of the statements have shown indifference to the feelings of Nigerians.

"We do not want to believe that the governors are oblivious of the likely implication of the present dangerous slide that the country is taking. It would amount to short-sightedness to think that there will be immunity for anybody if we allow this situation to boil over," the group noted in a letter addressed to the Governor's Forum.

Addressing Governor Babatunde Fashola when the group visited the seat of the state government in Ikeja, the spokesman,

Pastor Tunde Bakare of The Latter Rain Assembly Church at Ogba, Lagos, said the ship of the country is sinking gradually due to the power vacuum at the presidency.

Bakare said the absence of President Umaru Yar'Adua has created violation of the nation's constitution by a group of people he described as 'hawk'. He condemned a situation where some people gathered in the name of PDP and disallowed the rule of law to take its course.

"We are here to tell the whole world that all is not well in our country. The president has travelled out of the country for almost two months ago and nobody has tell us the truth, those who know the truth are shying away to tell the people what's their right to know," the pastor said.

He enjoined Nigerians to open their eyes and refuse to be oppressed. henceforth noting that the key to success of the country on economy, politics and other human endeavor, is not in the hands of Yar'Adua or the PDP as a party.

Submitting a letter on behalf of the group to the Governor's Forum, Bakare noted that Nigerians need to take power from the small group of politicians and eminent Nigerians who are oppressing the people while also calling on governor's across the country to take a stand with the people on the issue of power vacuum at the presidency before it is too late for them.

Shiites allege plan to attack members

From Auwalu Umar, Kano

SHIITE members under the auspices of the Islamic Movement led by Shaikh Ibraheem Zakzaky have raised alarm over alleged plans to attack them in Kano by unknown groups or individuals.

The movement wrote to Governor Ibrahim Shekarau and alerted the police through the state Commissioner of Police. It also copied the state Director of State Security Service, the Emir of Kano and media houses.

"It has come to our notice that certain individuals are circulating news that members of the Islamic

Movement led by Shaikh Ibraheem Zakzaky are likely to be attacked in Kano", leader of the movement for Kano, Muhammad Turi, said in a statement in Kano yesterday.

Turi said the movement in Kano and other places across the country enjoyed cordial relationship with the generality of the public. "We are sure that no member of any religious group will be interested in any such plan", he said.

The leader recalled that the government through its various security agencies had on several occasions descended on the movement. "It is therefore the only source of any likely attack on the move-

ment", he said.

"We are also aware of the rumours being peddled that the Islamic Movement is armed. The government itself knows that nothing can be further away from the truth; the movement has been in existence for over three decades now and has never found it necessary to have recourse to arms. Why should it do so now?"

"We believe there is a calculated move to tarnish the image of the movement, possibly by planting weapons in our locations so as to justify attacking us, which is an open American and Zionist agenda", the statement said.

N50m gift: EFCC may arraign Kano HOS, commissioner

From Auwalu Umar, Kano

THE Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) says it will arraign Kano State's three top government officials accused in the two petitions filed before it of the N50 million said to have been illegally withdrawn from the coffers of the state's Ministry of Rural and Community Development for distribution to politicians as Sallah gift "if prima facie evidence" is established against them upon conclusion of investigations into the matter.

They include the state's Head of Service Alhaji Rabi'u Zakariyya, the Accountant General Alhaji Danjuma Garko and Commissioner for Rural and Community Development Alhaji Musa Iliyasu Kwankwaso. Our sister publication, Sunday Trust, reported on October 18 last year that the money was withdrawn soon before Governor Ibrahim Shekarau left for lesser hajj to Saudi Arabia in August last year and shared it among his supporters and other politicians as Sallah gift. It reported that many in the min-

istry got to know about the financial transaction when office of the state accountant-general queried the way the money was released.

It was learnt that the money was withdrawn via a cheque written in the name of one of the ministry's major indigenous contractors to look as being payment for a job executed. The accountant-general office was said to have raised alarm that the transaction was not in accordance with the known principles of accountancy, but the office was said to have been overruled.

Online Reactions

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON www.dailytrust.com



Yar'adua being briefed on Jos crisis -FEC

THIS crisis is dragging on for too long. Why is the government slow in taking action?

Baba Abubakar Rabi
babone10@yahoo.com

Yes we have agreed that he has been briefed on what is happening in Jos presently. However, what measure is government taking to prevent the recurrence of this crisis in Jos or its spread to other parts of the country? Also what measures are being taken to compensate those that lost properties and those who have been orphaned? We are eagerly waiting to see what the government is going to do.

Abubakar Chika Maru
abubakarsuleiman2009@yahoo.com

The Senators are talking grammar while Nigeria burns. The members of the House of Repre-

sentatives legislators are bickering while Jos is on fire. The members of the Federal Executive Council have all gone to sleep while the United States of America humiliates Nigerians and Nigeria. The elites are talking from the both sides of their mouths while the Federal Republic of Nigeria travels directionless. Who then would save Nigeria from this imbroglio? I believe this is the moment for Nigerians to rise up and claim their country from the hands of opportunists. Our country Nigeria deserves a better deal.

Aaron Dobor
thinkingnigeria@yahoo.com

Thank God Yar'adua is being briefed about Jos crisis. We want to know his health status. This is very important to Nigerians. We are praying for him and wish him well.



PRESIDENT Umaru Yar'adua

What about the President's wife Hajiya Turai... does she have a message for Plateau people this time around? We shall be glad to hear from her.
John Pofi

pastorjohnpofi@yahoo.co.uk

The frequent destruction of lives and properties in Jos and the 'attitude' of government at all levels entails that Nigerians particularly those in Jos should put all things necessary in place that will guarantee their safety and not put all their hopes on the Senators. Why have the perpetrators of the previous crises not been brought to book? How do you prevent further crisis without resolving the previous one? Who is responsible for the safety of the citizens?

Rabiu Isa
rab.mi1@gmail.com

May Allah bring peace to Jos and entire country and may He bless us with good leaders in future.

Kamilu M Zainu Bungu
ibnzainu@yahoo.com

Anyim, 40 others urge N/Assembly to uphold constitution

WE should actually desist from all these protestations to the so-called House of Representatives or the Senate. I do not think any of the two is working for the interest of the nation. The language and the last resort for this nation is to confront these (s)elected politicians in Abuja. It is also gratifying for some of us to hear both Senators Nwagbara and Nnamani, both former Senate Presidents, ask that the constitution be adhered to in the current impasse. There are not too many Igbo PDP leaders who are in tune with the wishes of the people. Rather, many of them are busy re-branding 'their' Nigeria. It hurts to be Igbo in these days.

Merem Emeribe
emeokoro@yahoo.com



PLATEAU State Governor Jonah Jang

Gov relaxes 24-hour curfew

THANK God. At least now the people can go out and look for food to eat. Initially did the government want to kill the people with hunger or what? It is an act of terror to confine people 24hours indoors because some lunatics are on rampage instead of getting rid of the lunatics decisively fast!

Pwaveno Bamaiyi
phbamaiyi@yahoo.com

Jos crisis contained -Army chief

IT is high time the Federal and State government should stop all these political rhetoric of always telling us 'the situation is contained' and 'we are doing everything possible'...it will not reoccur again...etc., and we always see the government proved wrong!

Pwaveno Bamaiyi
phbamaiyi@yahoo.com

Jos: Senate rejects motion for state of emergency

THE only way government is going to fish out the people behind the crisis is by declaring a state of emergency in the state. Besides the Obasanjo administration did it because the state government at that time could not ensure the safety of lives and property to the people. This is the same scenario. Government should please do something about this to stop the bloodshed.

Abdulkadir s. Daura
dauraas@hotmail.com

The government of Plateau

state should take cue from states like Kaduna that has built strategic security posts all around Kaduna and ensure dialogue amongst its people to ensure a lasting peace. Also justice should be done by prosecuting all those behind the crises.

Usman Neji Mohammed
usneji2000@yahoo.com

It is clear that the Plateau State Government has failed in finding a lasting solution to the incessant crisis in the state. I thus pray that the Federal Government should

swiftly intervene through the declaration of a State of Emergency.

Jibrin Jbcool
jbcool@ymail.com

I hereby support those senators that want to set up of state of emergency because following the declaration of same in 2003 state of emergency in Plateau State there was a restoration of peace. The state is recording too many crises again within a very short space of time.

Dahiru Ahmad Tijjani

Geologist@hotmail.co.uk

State of emergency in jos is not the answer, dialogue with the stakeholder could be the best options. Invite the indigene(governor, jarawa, birom, angas, etc) and non indigene(hausas, fulani, yorubas, igbos etc) and discuss with them. You can have a solution to the problem. Let each and every one of them voice out his grievances.

Nasiru Suleman
banbaushe@yahoo.com

'Use restraint in curbing Jos violence'

FIRST and foremost I must say that what is going on in Jos is quite unfortunate. The Federal Government should try and

investigate this terrible crisis and judge according to the reports and physical evidence on ground. This type of prob-

lem needs to be resolved on time because up till now we have not heard anything concerning the findings of the last November

crisis which probably led to this recent one.

Aisha Usman
aishnagaba@yahoo.com

Abdulraheem is Daily Trust African of the year

CONGRATULATIONS to Late Abdulraheem. This is the best way to immortalize a legend like late Abdulraheem. Congratulations Media Trust, Congratulations Nigerians and Congratulations Africans. May His soul rest in peace

Attahir Abubakar
ahkyauta@gmail.com

The choice of Comrade Taju cannot be faulted. He lived an exemplary life of honesty and integrity. Taju was never afraid to say the truth no matter whose ox was gored. May his soul rest in perfect peace.

Babangida Dangora



LATE Dr. Tajudeen Abdulraheem

babangidadangora@yahoo.com

Best choice Daily Trust! Taju

fought a good fight for democracy, human rights, justice, unity and development of Africa. This award is a well deserved recognition of the very important footprint left by Taju. I hope and pray this will continue to inspire us and the next generation to continue on the quest for Africa's political, social and economic change and development. It is important recalling Taju's signature with which he ends in his writings: "Don't agonize, organize!" Adios my friend

Bala Sanusi
balasanusi@ymail.com

Taju was indeed a true Afri-

can. I am so proud of him and of this well deserved Award; I am sure he would have been honored to receive this award himself.

Taju will never die; we will continue to be inspired by his call: "Don't agonize, organize!"

Nengak Daniel
hidan2003@yahoo.com

The choice of my childhood friend Taju (from secondary one) is an honor to all of us. We were classmate from secondary school. I thank you on behalf of his classmates

Usman Isiaku Abdulla
usmanventures@yahoo.com



NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME

CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS: Plot 297, Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Way, Utako, Abuja

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

SUSPENSION OF ACCREDITATION OF WISE HEALTH SERVICES LIMITED HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION (HMO)

The Management of National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) hereby informs the general public, especially institutions that were assigned wise health services as the HMO providing services to their employees under NHIS formal sector social health insurance programme of the suspension of wise health services HMO LTD (HMO 019).

The suspension takes effect from 1st January, 2010 and will last till 31st March, 2010

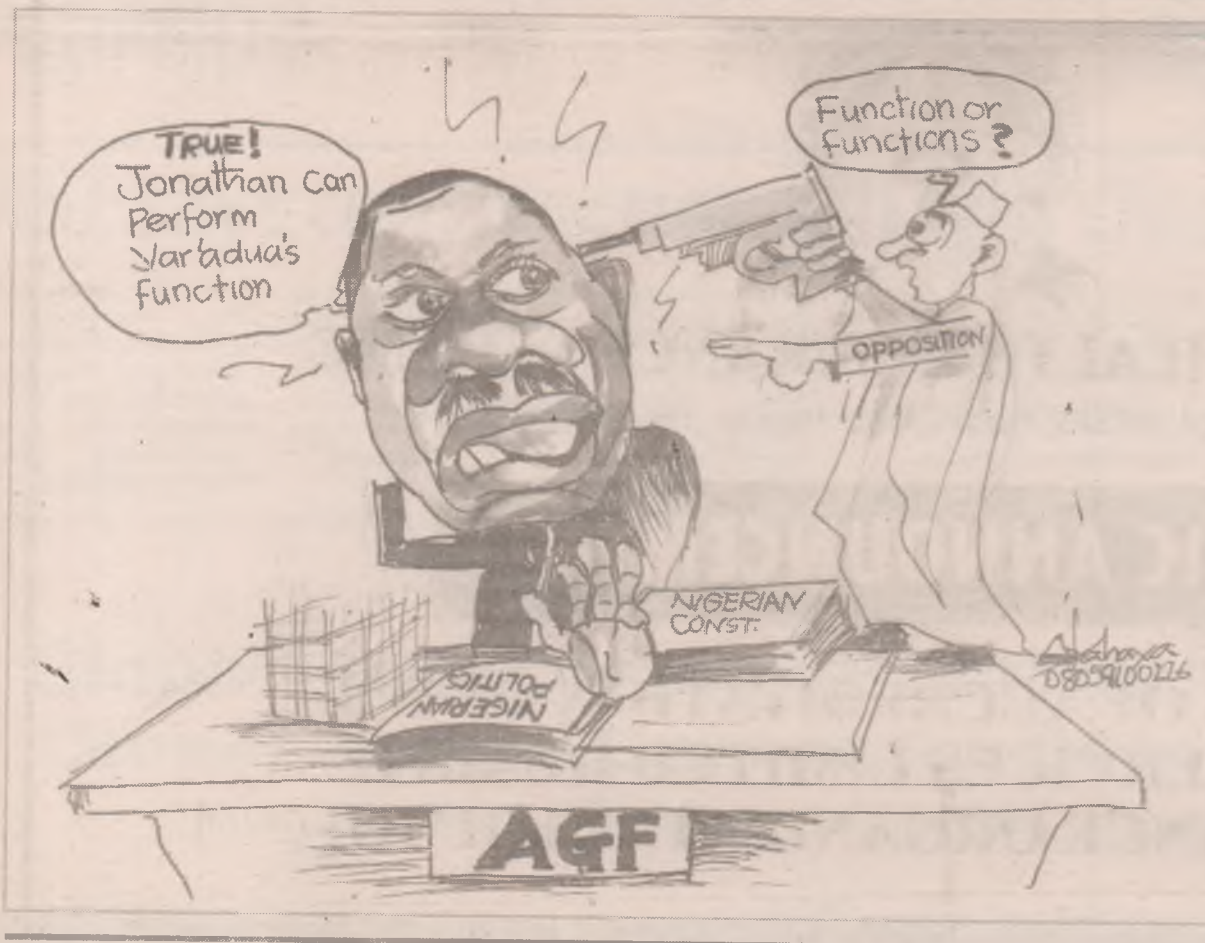
The list of the affected institutions and the HMOs to provide services to their employees during the period of suspension of wise health services Ltd are as follows:

S/N	INSTITUTION	INTERIM HMO
1	Ahmadu Bello University	Princeton Health Group
2	Bayero University Kano	Premium Health Ltd
3	Obafemi Awolowo University	Mediplan Healthcare Ltd
4	University of Benin	United Healthcare International Ltd
5	University of Calabar	Hygeia HMO Ltd
6	University of Ilorin	Premier Medicaid
7	University of Jos	Healthcare International
8	University of Lagos	Total Health Trust

Healthcare providers responsible for provision of care to affected enrollees should please note the current development. All communications on service provision shall be through the listed HMOs during the period under consideration.

The assigned HMOs will soon contact the affected institutions for further briefing.

Signed
Management.



Your Letters

Letter to Wamakko

I am compelled to use this medium to communicate with you, having exhausted all others without success.

I am proud to stress that I happen to be one of your staunchest supporters. I am equally to say that I firmly stood by your side during the election, and the rerun election that followed. I saw you then as a positive replacement of the feudal overlords who consciously or unconsciously took governance as a platform for personal aggrandizement. I followed your brand of politics before your election as deputy, and later as governor of our dear Sokoto State, and can proudly say that you are a person who doesn't associate with, or tolerate failure. However, the activities and conduct of a few of your aides appear to link

you to what you have never been associated with. This is due to the ill-advised allocation of sensitive position to certain opportunists who have shown that they are not fit to occupy the positions.

There are many issues to discuss with you, Your Excellency, but in order to take too much of your time, I will limit myself to a few that I believe deserve your urgent attention.

You redeemed your promise to uplift the standard of education in Sokoto State almost immediately after you were sworn into office. You provided scholarships to Sokoto State indigenes who intended furthering their education in Nigeria and abroad. Even your detractors applauded this gesture.

Unlike your predecessor, your selections for the award were did expose any vindictive streak, as every person was chosen on merit, not because of their connections to the influential and powerful.

To some of us who know your antecedents, it didn't surprise us as we have always known you to be a champion of social justice.

Regrettably however, this positive image of you and your administration is being negatively portrayed by some of your aides which, if not urgently addressed, will give a bad image to your purposeful and focused administration.

I hail from Bodinga Local Government and have the opportunity and honour to benefit from your kind gesture; your focused scholarship scheme aided my entry to study Business/Aviation Management at the Emirates Aviation College Dubai, in 2008. The amount of money you directed to be released to me for the first year was disbursed; I am happy to inform you that I have completed a session in the college.

Mohammed Ibrahim Mazangari, Dept. of Business/Aviation Management, Emirate Aviation College, Dubai.

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

Still on Jos crisis

WHY can't my fellow countrymen realise that judicial inquiries will never solve the puzzle of Jos re-current mayhem, 07026664432.

...And those who should have prevented it

THE security chief in Plateau who made unguarded comments in the course of current crisis is a party to the problem he deserves to be removed and questioned. **ABBA Babangida, Block 10, Mombasa Street, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja, 08034474229.**

...Go even farther

FRANKLY, all heads of the secu-

rity agencies in Plateau State should be sacked for the law and order to be restored.

AMINU Dange, Sokoto, 08063290264.

Who says it's religious?

THE Jos problem is politically-motivated among the ethnic groups in the area, 08065699194.

No thank you, US

IT should shut up and not tell us how to deal with any crisis in our country. Think of yours.

MUSA M Gidado, Katsina, 07027076682.

No laughing matter

IT was shocking to see our sen-

ators laughing and back-slapping while debating the issue of the president's health. Has it come to this; is this a laughing matter? Why can't they be serious for once in debating the most serious affair of the state today?

IWU, Kaduna, 08069196127.

An excellent posthumous recognition

THE African of the Year award conferred on Dr Tajuddeen Abdulrahim by Media Trust is well-deserved and timely. May Allah bless Africa with lots of Tajuddeens.

BASHIR Aliyu, Bauchi, 08021411185.



By Abdulnasir Imam

Aisha Umar Yusuf and her soap opera conspiracies

I enjoy a good conspiracy theory. Notice the word, "good", something that has at least some concrete evidence that can't be disputed even if the rest of the story is questionable. Aisha's latest rounds of theories sound like something out of a Hollywood movie yet to be made, where the script is still being tweaked to make sure it's a success. Now I will admit I have enjoyed her previous theories surrounding the events of 9/11, as much of them had been previously stated by other sources; Aisha was just restating. But her latest theories surrounding the recent botched Christmas bombing seem to have no other sources, but hers. First she claimed she believed our dear brother (he is Nigerian after all) Umar Farouk was drugged, which I think is a bit farfetched. Why would an alleged (for the sake of argument, we'll use the word "alleged") suicide bomber drug himself? I've heard of people taking alcohol or drugs before committing a crime, but not one where the primary crime involves killing themselves, especially if they think they're on their way to heaven. It will seem nobler to die of martyrdom with one's senses intact.

Second of all, if indeed Farouk was drugged, how do we explain his erratic behaviour before the bombing, like cutting ties with his family? Did someone drug him to do that all in the name of learning Arabic and whatnot in Yemen? I don't know of people getting high to read about religion. Aisha's second claim was that the Dutch director was part of the frame up and went as far as saying the man was never shown on TV. Actually, my dear Aisha, he was... on CNN. Or is CNN part of the cover-up now? I never saw the director on any other network, but I'm sure his 15 minutes didn't warrant more exposure time. It's not like he landed a failing airplane in the Hudson. Aisha went further to compare the director's underexposure to (Rudy) Giuliani's overexposure after the 9/11 crisis and how the mayor was named Time's Man of the Year. Giuliani was only named man of the year, because the magazine couldn't afford to name Osama Bin Laden (the original decided winner) as its Man of the Year, risking a loss in readership after complaints of the numerous image of the "perpetrator". So they went for a less controversial individual, yet one still tied to the events of 9/11. Time has a dubious way of picking its annual man of the year, like two years ago, when they gave it to You! PLEASE! They should've given it to YouTube, though not a person, it's still You in a way, but that's not what we're discussing here.

The only thing that Aisha wrote in her soap opera conspiracy that seems to hold any water is the fact that the Farouk's underwear caught fire, yet there was no mention of flesh wounds on his skin and how he managed to walk into court with no sign of pain or recovery. Granted, she raised an important issue there. Now to be fair to Aisha, I'm not saying imperialistic powers like the U.S have never pulled off such elaborate hoax in the hopes of achieving something else, but let's have some substantial proof. Unless Aisha was on the flight to Detroit, she should keep her theories to a minimum. I'm surprised that her article was not published under a column, which would make it clear to the reader it's her opinion. But when it's published not under a column titled, "Conspiracy theories" and just as a newspaper article, it brings to question the meaning of "researched journalism". I understand the need to jump to conclusion, especially when living in a conspiracy prone world, but the best conspiracies are based on some form of facts. As far as the Christmas bombing, there is none except what we're being told... for now.

PS. In the case that Aisha is indeed right, she should feel free to say, "I told you so!" I shan't complain! But I leave you with a conspiracy theory of mine and I'll let readers decide which has more credibility, mine or Aisha's. How come the U.S is so hands-on on helping Haiti, even sending firemen from their various states, yet they couldn't produce the same response in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina? I doubt it has anything to do with a different leadership. Are they planning to send in their "economic hit-men", when the dust settles? You know the people who make business ties for the United States so they keep making money. For example, they hire an American company to rebuild certain parts of Haiti thus gaining an economic advantage over other companies, locally and otherwise.

And here's an extra one for you: Why do people in the United States who live in hurricane prone areas always seem to build their houses with wood? Haven't they heard of concrete or bricks? Or is someone making money off wood? That or it must be extremely cheap! Either way someone is making money!

Imam wrote from Wuse Zone 5, Abuja (lostdog84@yahoo.com)

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

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09-6726241, 6715364

Israel model for Nigeria Police?

The minister of Police Affairs, Dr Ibrahim Yakubu Lame, recently disclosed that the Nigeria Police Force was getting set to adopt Israel's type of policing. In making the announcement during a visit to Israel, Dr Lame told the Israeli minister in charge of public security that Nigeria acknowledged 'the high competence of the Israeli police' and planned to adopt and implement it in Nigeria. If the Police Affairs minister was quoted correctly, his pronouncement represented an unfortunate departure from the conventional wisdom as we know it in this country.

His plan to adopt for the Nigeria Police the highly controversial tactics that Israeli deploys in suppressing dissent, especially among its Arab citizens, is unwelcome and dangerous for the well-being of Nigeria. It is unfortunate that given the violent and brutal nature of Israeli-type policing, from its bloody independence in 1948 to the present, it is amazing Nigerian government officials would contemplate it as a model worthy of our emulation. The Israeli police, as an institution, was set up primarily to enforce Israel's occupation of Palestine. For several decades, documented evidence has shown that they do nothing like civilian policing. Incursions, ejections and other inhumane methods are standard procedure against Palestinian civilians. How can we choose a police force that is nurtured in a country that is in a perpetual state of war with its neighbours and with portions of its population, and say we see in it as a competent and exemplary model appropriate for our situation?

Already we are worried by the rise and frequency of police brutality against hapless Nigerians; Amnesty International only last month issued a damning report on the matter. To add to this unsavoury picture would make matters worse, in our opinion. What Dr Lame should understand is that what the Nigeria Police need is to get more civil, more aware of the rights of the civilian population, and more in tune with what policing is all about. Today, what is common among our police personnel is the assumption that the uniform gives them license to be lawless in handling cases involving citizens. Few see themselves as existing only to serve the civilian population. This is why cases of inhuman treatment are common whenever a problem occurs between a civilian and a member or members of the Nigeria police force.

The Nigeria police need trained personnel, there can be no doubt about that; but the training they require should equip them to render better service to their community in a civilised and humane way. By the way, whatever happened to the community policing exercise earlier embarked upon by former Inspector General of Police Mr Sunday Ehindero? Was it abandoned mid-way because Ehindero had retired; or has it been found wanting that it had to be exchanged for Israel's questionable model? Whatever the case might be, what we need is a police force capable of protecting the lives and properties of the people, capable of preventing crimes and of being effective in times of crisis, in order to enforce law and order.

In fairness to the Nigeria police, they sometimes do their best in the face of numerous constraints. We are all aware of the lack of vehicles and other equipment needed to facilitate their work, as well as poor remuneration and other unattractive conditions of service that are gradually being addressed by the service commission. We also wish to salute those among them who have excelled in peacekeeping missions abroad, thereby doing the nation proud. It is certainly only a portion of them that has been giving the force a bad name through brutal methods, extortion and corrupt practices. But we cannot weed out this minority group by adopting the Israeli model; it is not what we need.

KABIRU A. YUSUF: Chairman/Chief Executive Officer
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ABDULKADIR ALIYU: Head, Advert

e-mail: dailytrust@dailytrust.com

Re: Sokoto election petition tribunal's decision deserves to be upturned

By Sahabi Garba

The above article published in *Daily Trust* of Thursday January 14, 2010, was a demonstration of mischief against the judiciary and the writer's ignorance of law.

The author of the article, Shehu Na' barau, was doing a hatchet job for a group of mischievous and ill-educated politicians.

All the points canvassed in the article are nothing but falsehood, and self-serving ignorance.

Na'barau vainly attempted to use the media and blatant lies to coerce and blackmail the Court of

Appeal, Sokoto into awarding victory to Muhammad Dingyadi of the Democratic Peoples Party (DPP) for the Sokoto state re-run gubernatorial election in 2008.

It is important to understand the background and mind-frame of the sponsors and hatchet man in the article so that the issues will be put in their proper context. The sponsors of the article might have been a group of politicians who not long ago held sway in Sokoto politics and believed that for a long time, they would determine who holds any political position in the state. All of a sudden, the political wind blew away this group from the leadership of the state; not even a remnant or any vestige of the group exists in the state today. The group is incensed that it has lost power, which it never believed it would lose in such a short time. They are therefore politically desperate and need Sokoto State power at all costs and by hook or crook, to protect themselves and massage their terribly wounded ego. They are not fighting for the masses and for good governance. This is why they threw caution to the wind and used a shameless and morally bankrupt character to abuse the judiciary on the pages of newspaper.

They are certain that their lawyers have done a poor job, which might possibly cost them the case; hence they are resorting to media mischief as the last option to coerce the judiciary.

For the sake of preventing innocent and unsuspecting members of the public from being hoodwinked into believing Na' barau's falsehood, I will correct some of the tragic errors he committed.

The Sokoto state 2007 gubernatorial election was contested by Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko of PDP, Muhammad Dingyadi of DPP and Ambassador Abubakar Chika of ANPP among others, with Wamakko of PDP being declared the winner. The DPP challenged the victory at the Electoral Tribunal Sokoto

whose names appeared in that form as directed by the Appeal Court and in the process, Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko of PDP won. Therefore, those who went to court to challenge Wamakko's eligibility to contest the re-run election are illiterates who do not understand simple English and busybody wasting Judges' precious time. The Appeal Court order to INEC was direct and simple. "Those whose names appeared in INEC form EC8E shall be eligible to contest the re-run election". The litigants would have been justified if the court order had read that only those who were eligible to contest 2007

It is important to understand the background and mind-frame of the sponsors and hatchet man in the article so that the issues will be put in their proper context

and lost but won the case at the Appeal court Kaduna but it was the Kaduna Appeal court judgment that is the bone of contention.

While delivering its judgment, the Kaduna Appeal Court made two declarative judgments. The first was the nullification of 2007 Sokoto state governorship election and Wamakko's victory based on pre-election issue involving the process of nominating Wamakko as PDP candidate. Based on this judgment, every anomaly involved in the nomination of Wamakko had been resolved. The Appeal Court judgment did not exclude and disqualify PDP and Wamakko from contesting the re-run election. The 2nd declarative judgment was an order to INEC to conduct a re-run election and all those gubernatorial candidates whose names appeared in INEC form EC8E for the 2007 gubernatorial election shall contest the re-run election. What INEC did was to look at that form EC8E and conducted another election in 2008 for the candidates

election shall be eligible to contest the re-run election.

However, Democratic Peoples Party (DPP) challenged Wamakko's re-run electoral victory at electoral tribunal and lost and is now using media blitz to fight its case at the Court of Appeal, Sokoto, which sat last Monday and reserved its ruling another unspecified time.

Na' Barau's article was questioning the contents of 2008 Kaduna Appeal court judgment and, wished otherwise. It is that wishful thinking, which Na' barau tried to impose on Court of Appeal Sokoto. But in law, such wishful thinking by Na' barau cannot be entertained. It is an external and speculative material which has no space in the case. Law is based on facts.

It can therefore be deduced that DPP has no strong point. It made this litigation out of political desperation and wrong interpretation of court judgment. DPP's case in this matter lacks merit and is therefore incompetent, which can not stand in law.

Even in the matter of public interest DPP has no locus standi. While the party was in power in 2007, its gubernatorial and other candidates lost in the election. As if that was a mistake, a re-run election was held in 2008 and DPP had a poorer performance. An unpopular party and candidate can be imposed on the people. From the point of law and public interest, DPP has no case.

Garba is of Sokoto Democratic Initiatives, No 58 Fodio Road, Sokoto.

Even in the matter of public interest DPP has no locus standi. While the party was in power in 2007, its gubernatorial and other candidates lost in the election

Gaisheka Sardautan Kano!

Congratulations

to our amiable *Sardautan* the new and first ever in the history of Kano emirate, His Excellency the Executive Governor of Kano State
Malam (Dr) Ibrahim Shekarau.

As you are being turbaned today as the first *Sardautan Kano*, by His Royal Highness the Emir of Kano,
Alhaji (Dr.) Ado Bayero CFR, LLD. JP.

We consider this as a fitting recognition of your invaluable contribution to the building of a new Kano State.

*Allah Ya ja zamanin Sarki,
 Allah Ya taimaki masarautar
 Kano. Mun gode*

Malam (Dr) Ibrahim Shekarau
(Sardautan Kano)
Kano State Governor

SIGNED

Alh. (Dr) Musa Ilyasu Kwankwaso
Hon. Commissioner Ministry for Rural and Community Development
Chairman ANPP Publicity Committee, Kano.





YOBE STATE GOVERNMENT

Congratulations *to the New* **SARDAUNAN KANO**

On behalf of the Government and people of Yobe State, I wish to congratulate *His Excellency* **Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau**, *Executive Governor Kano State* on the occasion of his turbaning as the **Sardaunan Kano** by His Royal Highness the Emir of Kano Alh. (Dr.) Ado Bayero.

This recognition by the Kano Emirate Council is another testament to the sterling leadership qualities of His Excellency Governor Shekarau.

We congratulate him and wish him many more happy returns.



Signed
Alhaji Ibrahim Gaidam FNCA, CPA
Executive Governor Yobe State

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Congratulations Sardaunan Kano



The Board, Management and entire staff of **Sterling Bank Plc** heartily rejoice with his Excellency, the Executive Governor of Kano State **Malam (Dr) Ibrahim Shekarau** on his conferment and turbaning ceremony of the traditional title of *Sardaunan Kano*, by his Highness the Emir of Kano **Alhaji (Dr) Ado Bayero CFR, LLD, JP.**

Today Friday 22nd January, 2010

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Malam (Dr.) Ibrahim Shekarau
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The Executive Governor of Kano State

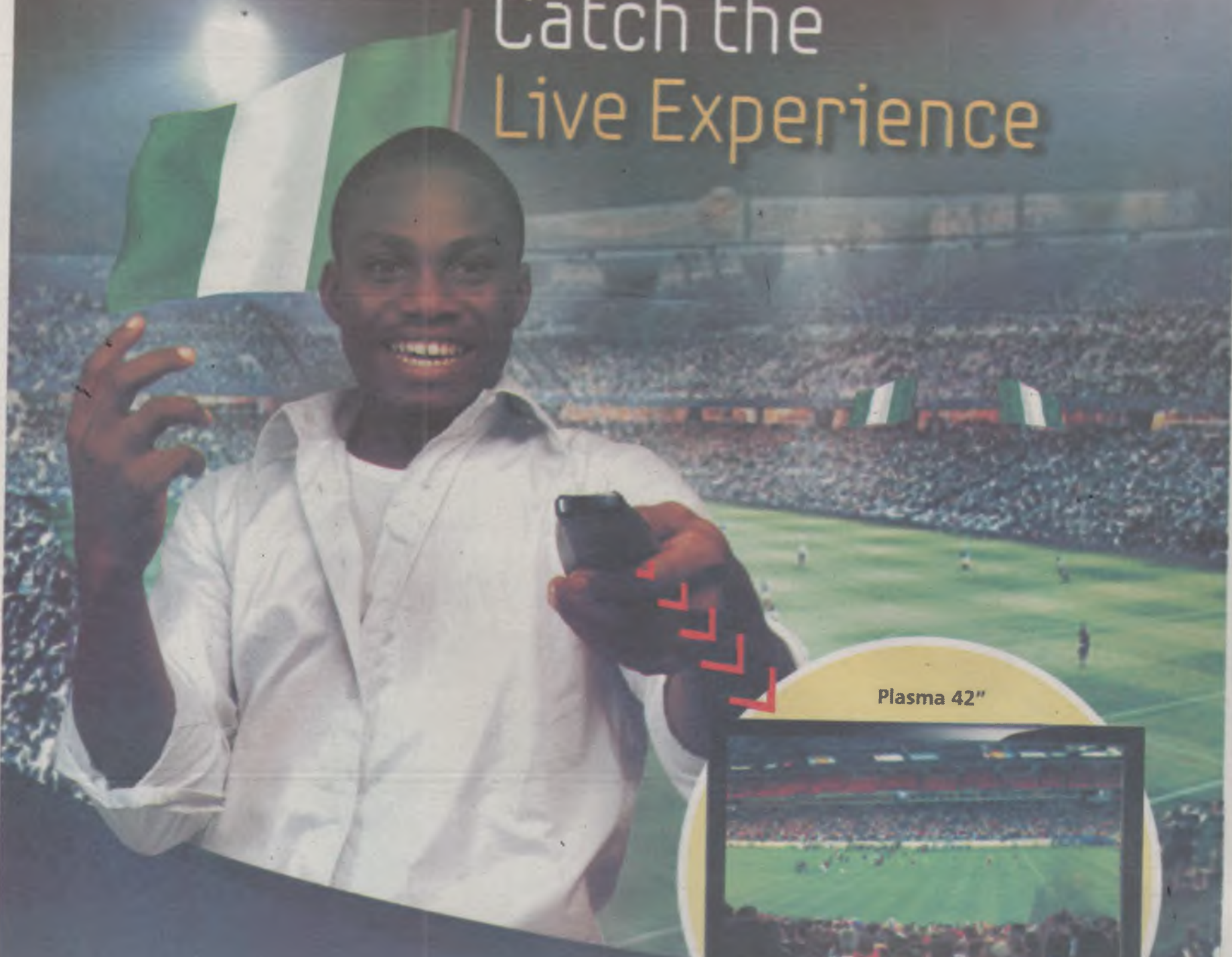
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INTERNATIONAL



ZIMBABWEAN President Robert Mugabe.

Zimbabwe suspends constitution-making project

ZIMBABWE has suspended its public outreach efforts to gather views on a new constitution, throwing another obstacle on the path toward fresh elections, state media said yesterday.

Funding problems caused the latest hitch in the process, which began in July but has been repeatedly delayed, said the state-run Herald newspaper.

"All constitutional programmes have been suspended by the management committee," Munyaradzi Paul Mangwana, a chairman of the committee, said

in the Herald. Teams of rapporteurs were meant to travel around the country to collect opinions on the charter. "There are still disagreements on the composition of the rapporteurs, but there are other more pressing issues which have to be addressed like financial constraints," Mangwana said.

"Recording equipment is yet to be bought, cars haven't been mobilised and rapporteurs are yet to be trained.

"Therefore, we cannot give a timetable of when the actual outreach will start because some of

the issues are beyond our control as the select committee."

Mangwana said the committee would approach the UN Development Programme and other financiers who had pledged to sponsor the campaign.

Under the pact which led to the formation of a power-sharing government in Zimbabwe nearly one year ago, the country's three main political rivals agreed to launch an 18-month-long effort to gather the views of the people and draft a new constitution which would be put to a referendum.

Adoption of a new charter would pave way for new elections following disputed presidential polls in 2008, when President Robert Mugabe won after his main rival Morgan Tsvangirai pulled out citing violence against his supporters.

Tsvangirai became prime minister in a national unity government in February. But the administration remains beset by disputes over key appointments and the prosecution of Tsvangirai's top allies.

Angolan parliament approves constitution

ANGOLA'S parliament yesterday approved the nation's first constitution, which gives more power to the head of state and declares all land is officially owned by the state.

The charter passed with 186 votes in the 220-seat parliament, announced Fernando da Piedade Dias dos Santos, president of the National Assembly, drawing loud applause and chants of "Angola, Angola!" in the chamber.

The session was boycotted by the main opposition UNITA party, which claimed the constitutional process was flawed and undermines democracy.

The document still needs approval from the Constitutional Court and President Eduardo dos Santos, both steps seen as formalities. The charter replaces an interim constitutional law in effect in the southern African country since independence from Portugal in 1975.

Its 244 articles set out how the country is to be governed and defines the rights of citizens, but notably strengthens of the powers of the president. Under the new system, the president will be chosen by the winning party in parliamentary elections, which suggests that Angolans will not vote again until 2012, when the current legislative session comes to an end.

The new system strengthens the powers of Dos Santos, in office for 30 years, allowing him to choose his own vice president, who would operate as a prime minister with a hands-on role in the government.

The post of prime minister has been removed. Parliament can call for the president to be removed, but it must be referred to the Supreme Court, whose members are appointed by the president.

Researchers dispute death toll in DR Congo war

RESEARCHERS claimed that the common estimate of 5.4 million deaths due to war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is vastly inflated.

The 2010 Human Security Report, released yesterday at the United Nations in New York, challenged the research used to arrive at the figure, saying "estimates of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's war death toll are at least twice as high as they should be." The shocking death-toll estimate

has been used worldwide to bolster political support for a massive UN peacekeeping mission and humanitarian aid in the heart of Africa.

The estimate of 5.4 million war deaths -- most from indirect causes including starvation and disease since war began in 1998 -- was calculated from a series of five surveys by the International Rescue Committee and, in two of the surveys, by the Burnet Institute of Australia. But Andrew Mack,

ex-strategic planning director to former UN secretary-general Kofi Annan and now director of the Human Security Report Project at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, criticized the survey methods. For example, he told AFP, the IRC assumed the DR Congo's mortality rate before the war was the same as the average rate in sub-Saharan Africa -- but in fact conditions in the DR Congo were far worse than the regional average even before the war.

Sudan rebels say peace talks unlikely

THE main rebel group in Sudan's Darfur has said peace talks in Qatar with the Khartoum government were unlikely to resume as hoped yesterday but instead there may be "consultations" to choose another date. "As far as the January 24 date is concerned, we cannot say that there will be negotiations.

This depends on our discussions with the mediators," Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) spokesman Ahmed Hussein

Adam said. "There could be consultations on January 24 to choose another date for negotiations as there are many pending issues that we want to settle before going to direct talks," he told reporters in Qatar. A JEM delegation had arrived in Doha for talks with Qatari and other mediators.

Bassole said he expected the exiled leader of the rebel Sudan Liberation Army, Abdel Wahid Mohammed Nur, to join the talks.

International

US to tighten Afghan raid rules

THE top US and NATO commander in Afghanistan plans to tighten the rules on night raids, in a new step to curb public anger over perceived violations against civilians.

Such raids have emerged as the No. 1 complaint among Afghans after Gen. Stanley McChrystal curbed the use of airstrikes and other weaponry last year.

NATO spokesman Rear Adm. Gregory Smith told the AP a new directive would be issued soon to set down new rules for night raids.

"It addresses the issue that's probably the most socially irritating thing that we do and that is entering people's homes at night," he said Wednesday. He would not elaborate pending a formal announcement.

The U.S.-led force has become increasingly sensitive to complaints by Afghan civilians as part of a renewed effort to win support among the public and lure people away from the Taliban.

Last year McChrystal curbed the use of airpower and heavy weapons if civilians could be put at risk.

Smith said complaints about civilian deaths from airstrikes had dropped sharply after McChrystal's order last year but Afghans

are "not seeing enough difference in our nighttime operations."

He acknowledged the possible tactical difficulties but said the problem needed to be addressed in the effort to win the confidence of Afghan civilians and keep them from supporting the Taliban.

"We're not going to be in a position to stop all that activity," he said but suggested more operations could be carried out during the day in less dangerous areas.

The UN said this month the percentage of civilian deaths attributed to pro-government forces had declined over last year. The UN blamed the Taliban for most civilian deaths. Nonetheless, complaints persist that civilians are mistakenly targeted.

Yesterday, about 500 angry demonstrators chanted slogans against the United States and the Afghan government after four people were killed in a raid the night before in a village southwest of Kabul. NATO said the four killed were insurgents but villagers insisted they were civilians.

One of those killed was a young man estimated to be about 15 years old who grabbed the weapons of a service member, it said, adding one insurgent was detained during the operation.



AFGHANS chant anti-US and anti-government slogans as they escort coffins of four people killed in a NATO overnight raid in Qara Bagh district through the Ghazni city, southwest of Kabul, Afghanistan



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KADUNA STATE UNIVERSITY

(OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR)

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION INTO SCIENCE REMEDIAL PROGRAMME OF THE 2009/2010 ACADEMIC SESSION

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for admission into the Science Remedial Programme of the Kaduna State University.

1. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

1. The admission requirement is at least 3 credits and 2 passes in the core sciences in WAEC/NECO Examinations in not more than 2 sittings.
2. The three credits must include any of the following: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics and Geography.
3. In addition to the above requirements, all prospective candidates are required to register and sit for the 2010-2011 Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (U.T.M.E.)

2. METHOD OF APPLICATION:

Application for admission into the Science Remedial Programme of the University will be conducted on-line through the KASU website (www.kasu.edu.ng).

The on-line application will be by the purchase of a pin card at Unity Bank Plc Main Branch, Bakori Ali House, Ali Akilu Way, Kaduna, Zaria and Kafanchan Main Branches at the cost of N2, 100:00 only.

1. Sales of forms on-line will commence on Friday, 22nd January, 2010 and end on Sunday, 7th February, 2010.

NB: The University is not obliged to entertain any complaints or correspondence for the rejection of any application.

SIGNED:
DR. S. GOJE
(Registrar)



COMMITTEE OF PROVOSTS, COLLEGES
OF EDUCATION IN NIGERIA

1st National Conference

Theme: The Emerging Challenges of Teacher Education in Nigeria

1st Day Opening Ceremony

Key Note Address: National Education Roadmap-the Role of Teacher Education-by the Honourable Minister of Education, **Dr. Sam Egwu**,

- i. An overview of NCE & UBE Curricular by Prof. A.O.O. Oguntayo, Provost, Michael Otedola College of Primary Education, Naatorija-Epe, Lagos.

Afternoon session:

- ii. The State of Teacher Education in Nigeria and the way forward By **Prof. Muhammed Ibn Junaid**, Executive Secretary, National Commission for Colleges of Education, Abuja.
- iii. ETF Intervention to meet Strategic Teacher Education Needs. By **Prof. Yahaya Mahamud**, Executive Secretary, Education Trust Fund, Abuja.

2nd Day:

Morning Session:

- i. New Admission Policy for Tertiary Education Sector in Nigeria. By **Prof. Didu Ojerinde**, REGISTRAR/GEO, JAMB.
- ii. Professionalizing Teacher Education in Nigeria: The Journey so far. By **Prof. A.M. Wokocha**, REGISTRAR/CEO, Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria (TRCN), Abuja.

Afternoon Session:

Presentation of Communique and Press Briefing on COP activities. The Conference would be declared open by the Honourable Minister of Education on Wednesday, 27th January, 2010

SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOUR:

Hajiya Aishatu Jibril Dukku,
Honourable Minister of State
For Education.

CHIEF HOST:

Prof. Muhammed Ibn Junaid,
The Executive Secretary, NCCE, Abuja

SPECIAL GUESTS:

- i. Dr. Jamila Shuara,
Director, Tertiary Education,
FME, Abuja
- ii. Prof. Yahaya Mahmud E.S, ETF
- iii. Prof. A.M. Wokocha, Registrar, TRCN
- iv. Prof. Didu Ojerinde, Registrar, JAMB
- v. Dr. Ahmed Modibbo Mohammed, ES, UBE

HOST:

Dr. Shettima A. Saidu,
Chairman, COP

CONVENER:

COP Conference
Organizing Committee

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION:

Conference Fee: N10,000 Per Participant.

PAPER PRESENTATION:

-Facilities will be available for Power Point Presentation

HIGHLIGHT OF THE CONFERENCE

Paper Presentations and Press Conference on COP activities

DATE

Arrival: 26th January, 2010
Opening Ceremony/Paper Presentation:
27th January, 2010

Technical Session: 28th January, 2010

VENUE:

Conference Hall, National
Commission for
Colleges of Education (NCCE),
Plot A01, Cadastral Zone,
Central Business District,
Abuja, Nigeria.
Departure: 29th January, 2010.

Prof. Tijjani Ismail
(Provost, COE, Zuba)
Chairman, Conference Organizing
Committee
08023342197

Smile47@yahoo.com

Dr. T.A.G Oladimeji
(Provost, FEC (T), Akoka)
Secretary, Conference Organizing
Committee
0803393819

Oladimejitiri@yahoo.com



The West African Examinations Council (International)

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION IN RESPECT OF THE WEST AFRICAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL (WAEC) INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX, LAGOS

1. Introduction/Scope of Work

The West African Examinations Council (WAEC) desires to engage the services of competent companies/contractors to undertake the construction of its Headquarters Complex, Lagos. Competent and interested companies/contractors are invited for pre-qualification in the following areas:

- (1) Building/Civil
- (2) Mechanical
- (3) Electrical

The Headquarters Complex shall be made up of an Administrative Block, a Conference Centre and a Guest House, all covering a land area of approximately 25,000 square meters.

2. Pre-qualification Requirements

Interested companies/contractors should submit the following pre-qualification requirements:

- (1) Evidence of Incorporation by Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC).
- (2) Evidence of Tax Clearance Certificate for the last (3) three years.
- (3) Company Profile including names, qualifications and experience of company staff as well as telephone numbers and e-mail addresses of key personnel.
- (4) Evidence of financial capability to handle the project with Bank reference.
- (5) Verifiable list of similar works successfully or partially completed with names of clients and evidence of awards within the last 5 (five) years.
- (6) Evidence of registration with the Federal Ministry of Works.
- (7) Evidence of VAT Registration Certificate.
- (8) Evidence of current Audited Company Accounts for the last three years.
- (9) List of owned Plants and Equipment.

3. Important Information to Note:

- (1) This notice is **not** an invitation to tender.
- (2) WAEC is **not** obliged to invite any company/contractors to bid notwithstanding his submission of pre-qualification documents.
- (3) Only pre-qualified companies/contractors would be invited to participate in the competitive tendering.
- (4) WAEC reserves the right to verify any claim made by companies/contractors. You are therefore to include necessary authorities and guarantee for such verifications. Details of your referenced clients including names and telephone numbers of persons should be given.
- (5) A non-refundable application fee of N250,000.00 (Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira) only, will be paid by successful bidders in bank draft at the point of collecting tender documents.
- (6) This advertisement is neither a commitment on the part of WAEC nor shall it entitle applicants to make any claim whatsoever.
- (7) The West African Examinations Council (WAEC), reserves the right to reject any submission in whole or in part.

4. Submission of Pre-qualification Documents

Pre-qualification documents shall be submitted not later than 12noon; six (6) weeks from the date of this publication. Opening of the documents shall take place by 1pm on the same day at the WAEC Seminar Hall, Research Division and Headquarters Office, 3 Watch Tower Avenue, Onipanu, Lagos. The pre-qualification documents must be in a sealed envelope clearly marked:

**"Pre-Qualification for the construction of
WAEC Headquarters Complex, Lagos"**

addressed to:

The Registrar,
The West African Examinations Council (WAEC),
Headquarters Office,
3, Watch Tower Avenue,
Onipanu, Lagos.

Signed
The Registrar.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW SARDAUNA OF KANO

The Consul General, Republic of Sudan in Kano
ALHAJI OSMAN EL-TAYEB EL- RAYYAH, his family and the
entire Sudanese in Kano rejoice with
His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Kano State
Malam (Dr.) Ibrahim Shekarau
on his Turbaning as Sardaunan Kano by
His, Royal Highness
Alhaji (Dr.) Ado Bayero CFR, LLD, JP.
The Emir of Kano.



His Royal Highness
Alhaji (Dr.) Ado Bayero CFR, LLD, JP.
Emir of Kano



His Excellency,
Malam (Dr.) Ibrahim Shekarau
The Executive Governor of Kano State

LONG LIVE EMIR OF KANO
LONG LIVE NIGERIA
LONG LIVE REPUBLIC OF SUDAN

Alh. Osman El-Tayeb El-Rayyah
Honorary Consul General
Republic of the Sudan, Kano

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Terms of Reference National Programme Officer



Overall Responsibilities: The National Project Officer will assist the National Project Coordinator, who has the authority to run the project on a day-to-day basis on behalf of the Project Management Committee within the constraints laid down by it. The National Project Officer will assist the National Project Coordinator in the management and decision-making for the project. His/her prime responsibility is to ensure that the project produces the results specified in the project document, to the required standard of quality and within the specified constraints of time and cost.

Specific Responsibilities:

- Manage the realization of project outputs through activities;
- Provide direction and guidance to project team(s)/responsible party(ies);
- Liaise with the Project Management Committee or its appointed Project Assurance roles through the National Project Co-ordinator to assure the overall direction and integrity of the project;
- Identify and obtain any support and advice required for the management, planning and control of the project;
- Responsible for project day-to-day project administration;
- Liaise with any suppliers and ensure timely and effective delivery of project outputs;

During the running of the project the Project Officer will assist the Project Coordinator to:

- Plan the activities of the project and monitor progress against the initial quality criteria;
- Mobilize goods and services to initiate activities, including drafting of TOR and work specifications;
- Monitor events as determined in the Monitoring & Communication Plan, and update the plan as required;
- Manage requests for the provision of financial resources by UNDP;
- Monitor financial resources and accounting to ensure accuracy and reliability of financial reports;
- Manage and monitor the project risks as initially identified in the Project Brief appraised by the LPAC, submit new risks to the Project Management Committee for consideration and decision on possible actions if required; update the status of these risks by maintaining the Project Risks Log;
- Be responsible for managing issues and requests for change by maintaining an Issues Log;
- Prepare the Project Quarterly Progress Report (progress against planned activities, update on Risks and Issues, expenditures) and submit the report to the Project Management Committee and Project Assurance;
- Prepare the required Project Reports, including the Annual Review Report, and submit them to the Project Management Committee;
- Based on the review, prepare the Annual Work Plan for the following year, as well as Quarterly Plans if required.

At project closure the National Project Officer is required to assist the Project Coordinator to:

- Prepare Final Project Review Reports to be submitted to the Project Management Committee;
- Identify follow-up actions and submit to Project Management Committee for consideration;
- Manage the transfer of project deliverables, documents, files, equipment and materials to national beneficiaries and prepare financial reports for signature by UNDP.

Qualification: S/he should possess advanced University Degree in any of the following disciplines, Urban and Regional Planning, Governance and Development Management, Environmental Governance or Environmental Economics or related discipline with a minimum 10 years experience. Progressively responsible work experience of at least 7 years in programme management is a must. Previous working experience in UN or any international organization will be an added advantage.

Duty station: Abuja with travel to the project sites

Duration : 9 months



Office of the Accountant -General of the Federation Abuja

Final notice for the verification and collection of the 5 years Pension Buyout entitlements to staff and Pensioners of NITEL/MTEL

This is to inform all staff and pensioners of NITEL who have not yet collected their entitlements and beneficiaries of Death Insurance Claims since the payment exercise commenced in February 2007, that final verification and payment exercise will be conducted one day in each month from January to March, 2010. The days for the Exercise are 27th January, 24th February and 31st March 2010. Beneficiaries are to come to the Office of the Accountant General of the Federation, Treasury House Abuja, for verification. For the avoidance of doubt those who are to come for this final exercise are as follows.

- i. Next of kin of staff who died on duty who have now secured letters of administration,
- ii. Staff and pensioners living outside the country who could not come during the various payment exercises;
- iii. Staff and Pensioners who have not yet collected any entitlement since the exercise commenced;
- iv. Death Insurance Claim beneficiaries.

In the case of staff living abroad that may not be able to come for the exercise, they should forward in writing their contact address in their countries of residence. Arrangements are being made to pay them through the Nigerian High Commission and Embassies located in their countries of residence.

Documents to be produced by staff and pensioners for the exercise are:

- i. Letter of first appointment;
- ii. Letter of retirement/Disengagement;
- iii. Identity card;
- iv. Letter of last promotion;
- v. Letter of administration for deceased entitlements and insurance claims only;
- vi. Letter of Identification from NITEL for the Next of kin.
- vii. Payslip for Pensioners

PLEASE, NOTE THAT THIS VERIFICATION AND PAYMENT IS NOT A NEW PAYMENT EXERCISE. IT IS ONLY FOR BENEFICIARIES WHO HAVE NOT YET COLLECTED THEIR ENTITLEMENTS (FIVE YEAR PENSION BUY OUT).

Sign Language

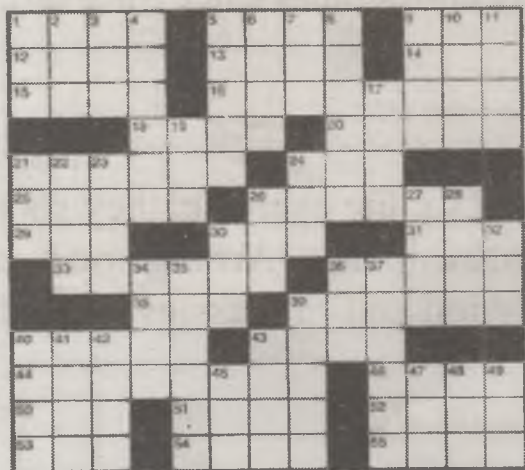


Your bot? Sorry your BOAT, thanks.
Photo location: Kota Kinabulu, Malaysia, by Suzzy
Culled from the telegraph.co.uk

EASY CROSSWORDS

- ACROSS**
- Last name in Champagne Music
 - Island with "You" (2 wds.)
 - Mineo or Maglie
 - Shipper's direction
 - DNA carrier
 - "I ___ Rock" (2 wds.)
 - Autograph
 - Tarried
 - Christmas (Fr.)
 - Emmy, e.g.
 - Buddy
 - Feasted
 - Autlaw Starr
 - College composition
 - Name bracelets, for short
 - Contains
 - Came across
 - Undermined
 - Tablelands
 - Bonn "one"
 - Actress Lombard
 - Ford lemon
 - Singer Guthrie
 - Piece of jewelry
 - Artist Salvador
 - Narc's org.
 - General region
 - Radiate
- DOWN**
- "Kilroy ___ here"
 - Inventor Whitney
 - Table support
 - Residence for Rover
 - Was a girl-watcher
 - Rocker Young
 - Dancer Miller
 - Nullify
 - Actress Gilbert ("EF")
 - The "A" in U.S.A. (abbr.)
 - "Shane" star
 - Sheep females
 - Billfold item
 - G-man's org.
 - Scarlet, ruby, etc.
 - Role in "Casablanca"
 - Admiring sounds
 - Small bit
 - "___ Tired" (2 wds.)
 - Ornamental stamp
 - Egg producer
 - Mao ___-tung
 - Secretly look
 - ___ of the community
 - Bad (prefix)
 - Wore away
 - Squeak when moving
 - Remnants
 - Bart Simpson's grades
 - "Go away!"
 - Crack pilots
 - Jackie O's second husband
 - "Who ___ kidding?" (2 wds.)
 - Swear falsely
 - ___ impossible

58



Solution to Easy Crosswords 57

F	E	A	R		C	H	I	C		S	H	H	
L	I	M	E		A	I	D	E		P	O	E	
U	N	I	V	E	R	S	A	L		A	N	N	
			E	V	A			L	I	N	K	S	
C	A	B	L	E		P	R	O	S				
A	V	A			L	U	L	U		I	M	I	N
L	I	L	I		L	E	G			S	I	D	E
F	D	I	C		N	A	S	A		R	E	T	
			B	R	A	D		P	R	E	S	S	
S	L	I	M	E		M	E	A					
H	A	D			E	N	C	I	R	C	L	E	D
A	I	L			F	R	A	N		K	E	R	R
Q	T	Y			S	A	N	G		S	T	A	Y

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.

70

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

Solution to Sudoku 69

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

BUSINESS

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Reactions greet 10-year tenure for bank CEOs

**'Policy shouldn't be retroactive'*
** 'Retirement age be considered instead'*

From Kayode Ekundayo, Chris Agabi, Lagos

SINCE Tuesday when the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) announced the fixing of 10-year tenure for the bank chief executive officers, there have been mixed reactions. While majority of those who spoke to Daily Trust agreed with the apex bank's decision, a few however thought otherwise.

Bank CEOs who might be affected by the directive include Mr. Jim Ovia of Zenith Bank, Mr. Tony Elumelu of UBA and Skye Bank Plc, Mr. Akinsola Akinfemiwa. For instance, Debo Ogunkoyode, National Financial Secretary, ASSBIFI on his part argued that CBN should have limited the tenure to eight years-four years per term, adding that 10 years is too long. "I don't see any reason why CBN should allow for 10 year-tenure. Eight years is good the other or additional two year will not add anything. But on the whole fixing tenure is good. It is the continuation of the CBN reform and to end share manipulation", he said.

The CBN Director of Banking Supervision, Mr. Samuel Oni, had broken down the 10 year-tenure into one five-year term, in the first instance, subject to renewal for another five years by the board of the respective banks.

The decision of the apex bank, according to Oni, was communicated to the bank CEOs on Tuesday by the Governor of the CBN, Mr. Lamido Sanusi, during the Bankers' Committee meeting. The apex bank said that it took the decision in order to enthrone good corporate governance practices in Nigerian banks; institutionalise the arrangement of the appointments of bank CEOs; ensure that banks developed good succession plans, and also ensure that banking institutions were not personalised.

Opeyemi Agbaje, an economist said in as much as the new policy is laudable, some banks such as Equitorial Trust Bank, Citi bank and standard chartered bank which are not public quoted should be excluded. "But I understand the fear of the CBN in this regard. Banks are different from private business because they



TONY Elumelu of UBA (left) and Jim Ovia of Zenith Bank

take depositors' fund. The policy is in tune with corporate governance and risk management and in the interest of the public. The policy is good going by what has been happening in the nation's banking sector", he said.

Former acting National President of Association of Senior Staff of Banks, Insurance and Financial Institutions (ASSBIFI) Olusoji Salako described the policy as a welcome one, adding that banks managing directors should not stay for too long in the office. "I think it is a good policy. The policy deviated from old system in which bank managers can stay for as many years as possible once he or she can make his or her ways through the shareholders. Definitely, if you stay too long in an office you run out of ideas and I think while there is rightsizing in the staff strength, there should be similar exercise in the management level", he said.

Alhaji Yussuff, chairman Association of Stockbrokerage Houses of Nigeria, in his reactions said going by the reasons given by the CBN, the policy look good. "I think it is a good idea to allow new innovation. 10 years is long enough for any manager to contribute whatever good to an organisation, anything above that, doesn't make sense. Again, the policy will

stop the 'sit don' syndrome among the bank CEOs", he said.

The managing director and chief executive officer, Fresh Field Asset Management Limited Abuja and former Spring Bank Regional Director, North Abdurashed 'Abubakar told Daily Trust on phone that, "It is good but it should not be retroactive. The CBN should give the existing banks tenure because the transition would not be that easy." Even in small branches six months is not possible to raise a successor to a manager talk more of large banks, so the decision is too sudden. "Don't forget that most of the banks MDs were running the banks as their property because of their investment, some don't have other investments elsewhere and you are asking them to retire all of a sudden. I think it is too drastic." He said some of the MDs have not reached retirement age yet because they are less than 60 years.

According to the managing director and chief executive officer of Nigeria Reinsurance Corporation Mr. Joe Ameh, the policy is good because it would entrench good corporate governance, adding that ten years is long enough for any CEO to institute a suc-

cession plan. He said it would also discourage the run of banks like personal properties.

"There is nothing wrong with that. The tenure is not short. If the banks were well run, handing over in the next six months shouldn't be a problem because the CEOs would have put in place a succession plan," he said. "In any case, as a CEO, if you want to retire you give at least six months notice. The six months is to enable you prepare to handover thus, this shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone of them," he noted.

Also reacting Ubong Awah, the Chief accounting Officer, XDS credit bureau services said, "succession planning is part of the attributes of a well organised and governed entity. It builds confidence and ensures sustainability. Whilst a domineering lone CEO may be appropriate at certain phases of organisational life, prolonged stay may become counter-productive and create anxiety in the market. The measure conduces to good government and should have positive effect on the markets." He explained that: "The term limit is one of the steps towards addressing the corporate governance challenges in the banking sector as revealed by recent events. One other measure that can be helpful is the adoption of professional independent directorship as practiced in the UK and other climes. This will bridge the existing gap in corporate ownership and control, especially in sophisticated industries like banking.

"Institutions without succession planning may have to consider an interim measure of engaging a CEO from the outside for a specific term and specific brinksmanship assignment."

To this end, the CBN warned all CEOs who would have served for 10 years by July 31, 2010, to cease to function in that capacity. It said, "The guidelines shall apply notwithstanding the terms of engagement or the provisions of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of any bank."

It also directed them to kick-start a succession programme that would be supervised by their respective boards and monitored by the CBN. This, it noted, would enable the CEOs hand over to credible successors. Where a bank is a product of a merger, acquisition, takeover or any other form of combination, the CBN said that the 10-year period shall include the pre and post combination service years of the CEOs, provided that the bank in which he previously served as CEO was part of the new bank that emerged after the combination.

CBN EXCHANGE RATES				BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES	
11/1/2009					
	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)	BUYING	
CFA	0.3014	0.3114	0.3214	DOLLAR.....	N152
DANISH KRONER	28.7781	28.8757	28.9733	EURO.....	N218
EURO	214.231	214.9577	215.6843	POUNDS.....	N250
POUNDS STERLING	238.4799	239.2888	240.0977		
RIYAL	39.3093	39.4427	39.576	SELLING	
SDR	231.8759	232.6624	233.4489	DOLLAR.....	N153
SWISS FRANC	145.003	145.4948	145.9866	EURO.....	N220
US DOLLAR	147.41	147.91	148.41	POUNDS.....	N253
WAUA	228.6019	229.3773	230.1527		
YEN	1.595	1.6004	1.6058		

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

Stock Market Index	
Date:	Thursday, January 21, 2010
Index:	22,114.93
Deal:	88,565
Volume:	455,808,181
Value:	N 3,360,117,989.10
Cap.:	N 5,325,996,588,296.61

Business/Finance

Bank PHB unveils new road map

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

BANK PHB Plc said yesterday that a new financial road map that would re-invigorate the organisation and see it to a level of profitability has been marked out by the management, just as the three of its four Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) appointed executive directors resumed duties.

The new road map, according to a statement from the bank is based on six pillars, geared towards rebuilding the business' foundation and establishing a direction for profitable future operations driven by efficiency and accountability. The pillars and related strategies were arrived at through a broad-based strategy formulation exercise chaired by the Managing Director Mr. Cyril Chukwumah.

The three newly resumed EDs are Alwan Ali Hassan, Olusegun Bolaji and Ayaba Ayo-Joseph.

Hassan will serve as the ED, Public Sector. He will also act as the interim ED for the Commercial Banking SBU until a substantive ED assumes office. Hassan, has

over 20 years banking experience. Until his appointment, he was the Executive responsible for Business Development in the Kano District for First Bank of Nigeria Plc. He had previously headed the Corporate Finance and Public Sector groups at AIB. He also had extensive Commercial Banking experience at UBA and was a Manager in the Banking Operations Department at CBN.

Segun Bolaji is ED, Service Bank covering the bank's Operations and IT. Segun had spent 26 years in various capacities at Afribank, including Head, Branch Network; Chief Inspector /Head Internal Control. He was also Chief Credit Officer, Regional Manager Abuja Region and Regional Manager Lagos Island Region at various times.

Ayaba Ayo-Joseph is ED, Global Markets covering Treasury, Investment Banking and Wealth Management business. Ayaba has over 25 years experience in the banking sector. Until her appointment, she was the Head, Retail Transaction Bank, EcoBank Nigeria Plc. She had also held

various senior positions in private banking transaction services, head office and foreign operations, legal, customer service and quality control.

At the induction of the new ED, the bank opportunity to review the bank's financial position spelt out the principles used in preparing the recently published September 30 management accounts.

"Risk assets were reviewed following prudential guidelines while investments in subsidiaries (mainly Spring Bank) were marked to market. The further deterioration of CBN/NDIC-reviewed loans between June 2009 and September 30, 2009 meant that management's internal stress test led to further provisions on same loans. This is in addition to provisions on newly classified loans. These loans were either previously wrongly classified as "Other Assets" and hence not reviewed by the regulatory auditors or became delinquent thereafter. The review of the pre-intervention balance sheet did reveal legacy unreconciled GL balances and unexpensed profit & loss items. These transactions were reviewed for

propriety and duly written off against profit and loss account", it said

As a result of the huge loss position, the bank said management evaluated the availability of deferred tax assets which would be available for use in offsetting future tax liabilities when the bank returns to profitability. To arrive at the final number, the bank obtained the opinion of independent tax experts. This was to ensure that the amounts recognized are indeed recoverable from future profits.

"Already the new EDs and other SBU and divisional heads have received their 2010 goals to go re-build the business via provision of best-in-class banking products and services and restoration of customer and overall stakeholder confidence.

In a subsequent communication to all staff, the Managing Director, Cyril Chukwumah encouraged management and staff to "remain focused because we have a business to re-build, bank to recapitalize, customer confidence to restore and very importantly employee belief to restore", it stated.



PIC: KENNEDY EGBONODJE

FROM left: Managing Director, Kakawa Discount House, Mr. Olaoye Jaiyeola, Managing Director, Access Bank, Aig Imokhoude, CBN Director, Banking Supervision Sam Oni, and CEO, Stank IBTC, Chris Newson during a press briefing on the outcome of the Bankers' Committee meeting held in Abuja Tuesday.

StanbicIBTC to support Nasarawa investors

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

STANBIC IBTC Bank Plc, a member of the Standard Bank Group, has expressed readiness to support Nasarawa State entrepreneurs and small businesses.

The Regional Manager (North Central), Stanbic IBTC Bank Bala Shehu stated this at the commissioning of the Stanbic IBTC Bank Plc, Lafia branch.

"The bank will encourage entrepreneurship and support small scale businesses to create more employment opportunities," he said.

The Regional Manager said the bank is also ready to partner with the state government and other corporate organisations driving infrastructural development and socio-economic growth in the state.

A statement from the bank said the branch is opened for full service and it is part of the bank's expansion programme across the country.

"We have the competence to deliver

in Nasarawa State, world class banking products and services for which Stanbic IBTC and indeed Standard Bank is very well renowned," said Shehu.

Also speaking at the event, Tolu Oladipo, Head, Personal Banking, Stanbic IBTC Bank, said banking is not just about transactions but being a partner to the community where the institution operates, which he said has been a major operational principle of the Standard Bank Group, the majority stakeholder in Stanbic IBTC. The financial institution has been in business for 146 years and is Africa's largest banking group. The Group operates across a network of 18 African countries and 20 countries outside of Africa including the key financial centres of Europe, United States of America and Asia.

Oladipo described the dearth of access to credit facilities in Nigeria as the bane of economic development and promised that Stanbic IBTC will strive to strike a balance by rolling out prod-

ucts and services that will improve the economic wellbeing and empower its customers in the state.

He explained that even though the bank is more renowned as an investment bank, it is actually a full service universal bank with a clear focus on three main business segments - Corporate and Investment Banking, Personal and Business Banking and Wealth Management.

"Regardless of the size of the customer's business, Stanbic IBTC Bank is interested in working with the people in developing their businesses, the community and the state as a whole", Oladipo explained.

The Nasarawa State Government on its part pledged its support and patronage to the bank to enable it realise its set objectives for which it opened a branch in Lafia, adding that it is open to any partnership that will catalyse socio-economic development in the state.

Court orders AfriBank to pay sacked 506 staff

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

THE National Industrial Court sitting in Kano yesterday ordered Afri Bank PLC to pay the full benefits of the sacked 506 staff of the bank based on current salary scale.

Delivering judgement yesterday in Kano, the presiding judge MB Dada said the judgement was being declared in favour of the disengaged staff as the bank was not able to contravene all the claims adduced by the sacked staff.

He said the bank also failed to bring any single document to substantiate their stand and vitiate the contents of the plethora of documents submitted by the claimants.

Counsel to the claimants Barrister Sa'udu Mohammed Alkali expressed happiness with the judgement, saying the case was brought to logical conclusion as the industrial court is the final arbiter on the matter.

Barrister Alkali called on the bank to hastily settle the ex-staffers full entitlements on due course, saying the decision of a final arbiter in a case is imposed immediately.

At an earlier hearing, the two of the disengaged Afri-bank staff, Maikudi Aminu, Umar Isah and Nura Jafaru Dan Malam, through an originating summons read to the court by their counsel, Sa'udu Mohammed Alkali, asked the court to determine whether in view of their letter of disengagement from the service of Afribank, dated 27 May, 2009, they were not entitled to full payments of their benefits in line

with article five of collective agreement between Nigerian Employers Association of Banks, Insurance and Allied Institutions and the Association of Senior Staff of Bank Insurance and Financial Institutions.

Speaking to *Daily Trust* after the judgement, one of the retrenched staff, Nura Jafaru Dan Malam noted that they have served the bank for at least 10 to 20 years, and as the bank terminated their appointments without committing any fault, they were entitled to full redundancy payment as the law says.

"The employment protection law has imposes an obligation on employers to make full payments to their employees who have been disengaged from service by reasons of redundancy" he claimed.

He added that instead of them to be paid on the basis of current salary scale, but they were paid on the old salary scales of 2005. They argued that previously retrenched staff were paid based on their current salaries.

"Redundancy payment according to article 5 (a, b, c & d) is based on the employee's current basic salary, housing, transport and lunch subsidy," the ex-banker stated.

The spokesman of the sacked staff Malam Maikudi Aminu, whose appointment was terminated as a manager, said going by the bank's decision to pay them based on retroactive principle, the amount he received as benefit was less than what a driver received in the bank's previous retrenchment exercise.

Business/Agric

AGOA: Nigeria exports N5.6bn worth of products in 2009

By Sunday Williams

FIFTY seven companies in Nigeria exported goods worth \$37,734,286.81 and £286,224.53 (over N5.5 billion) of various products to the United States of America under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) scheme, the Executive Director/CEO of Nigerian Export Promotion Council David Adulugba has said.

Addressing newsmen in Abuja, the Executive Director said the total export in 2009 was about \$48 million less than the amount that was realised in 2008 when a record of \$86,502,236.36 was made.

He said since the establishment of AGOA by the United

States, Nigerian entrepreneurs are yet to fully maximise its benefits.

He said the poor response of Nigeria's entrepreneurs to AGOA is attributed to the non-competitive business environment they operate which includes lack of functional infrastructure, high cost of funds and myriads of taxes which increase cost of production.

He said: "The profile of textile and apparel exports to the United States showed Nigeria only pegged as 25th among the 41 countries of Africa, due to the fact that most factories in Nigeria have closed down because of high cost of production."

Adulugba said the Council have concluded arrangements with a reputable AGOA consultant to implement measures

towards a full commercialization of the Human capital development centre (AGOA training school), which was established to give fillip to AGOA by way of producing for the US market.

On Export Expansion Grant (EEG), the Executive Director said all the backlog of 2005, 2006 and 2007 have been paid, adding that the 2008 has been worked out and will soon be sign by the minister of finance.

He said available evidence from EEG payments shows that most companies have utilised their claims for procurement of machinery to expand their products for export base.

He said the scheme has raised the confidence level of exporters in the system, adding that many companies now file their annual returns with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC).



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Star Feature

'You can't fill a pick-up': Story of Bassa-Nge

Does the development of communities revolve around size of the population, with larger populations being first recipients of the much needed facilities? **Tadaferua Ujorha** went to Shintaku, Gboloko and Abocho in Kogi state seeking answers to this question.

THE Bassa-Nge need a bridge. It would rise at Lokoja, extend across the Niger and neatly terminate at Shintaku. They repeat that the bridge would turn around their lives and enhance travel and trade. It would be a boon to agriculture and quicken the pace of tourism and development. They love the concept of the bridge and they have different words for what they need. In their language 'Akpada' is the word for bridge, and 'Akpada Zi' is the plural form. They have been waiting for the bridge all their lives. But they suspect that this bridge won't be built just yet, because of the nature of power equations in Kogi state. So they say, rather prophetically, that it will certainly be built whenever a Bassa-Nge son becomes Governor. A prominent ruler in the area says 'If we produce a Governor for Kogi state, his first priority will be the bridge.' The thought consoles them but how long will they have to wait? One government comes. It does little. It is quickly replaced by another. The award winning cycle of neglect and forgetting continues. Still the people wait and hope and pray. The people pray and hope and wait. The situation is akin to that of Sisyphus, the legendary character in Greek folklore, who rolls a stone to the top of the hill. When he is about to exult that he has succeeded in his task, the stone rolls downhill, and he has to roll the stone uphill afresh. Speaking on the Bassa-Nge communities, a former civilian Governor of Kogi state is reported to have said in public 'I can afford to ignore you (Bassa-Nge), because your population is not significant. Your entire people cannot fill a pick-up van.'

Dr Samuel Kafewo of the Department of Theatre and Performing Arts, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria comments on the long history of pain and abandonment suffered by his people, the Bassa-Nge. His words 'The paradox of development around here is that the Bassa-Nge fared better in other states where they were a minority ethnic group. For instance, when we were in Kwara state we were small, but we produced a commissioner in the cabinet. In Benue, we were still very small compared to the Tiv, Igala and Idoma, but we produced a Secretary to the State government.' In Kogi state, the Bassa do not have people in the upper echelons of power, and when they had in the past, such persons were of little assistance to their fellow Bassa-Nge. They were in government to feather their nests. Sam Kafewo speaks of one Bassa who was high up in government in the state. Whenever a request

was taken to him, he would say it was impossible to fulfil. So, the Bassa-Nge, frustrated by his attitude, began to refer to him as 'Mr Impossible'. He also speaks on what he perceives to be the selective tarring of roads in the area. His words 'The road from Dekina through Olowa to Abocho is tarred, simply because it passes through Igalaland. The tarred portion stops at the border with Bassa communities'. But roads in the Bassa-Nge parts of the state are in poor shape. Access roads are in bad state or non-existent, and this has implications for harvest and agriculture, generally. There is no light. There are only tall electricity poles which have been in place for decades. The row of poles stretching into the distance along the dusty road, have become modern artefacts. The story of governments desire to achieve 6000 megawatts of electricity by December 2009 must have sounded like a big joke to the Bassa-Nge, who have never seen or experienced a nanosecond of electricity supply.

Samuel Kafewo is also shocked at a situation where 'There is no tertiary institution among Bassa-Nge speaking communities. If population is the only determinant for siting institutions, it means that if you are small you will be allowed to sink. That is bad politics which is based on population alone. There is no place for development, equity or justice in that type of politics which we have experienced'. In one of his recent lectures delivered in Kaduna, he states 'Decades after the emergence of Bassa-Nge land as a result of migration from Gbara in Nupeland, the Bassa-Nge people are yet to arrive. We are yet to assume our rightful position in the comity of ethnic nationalities in Kogi State...yet available demographic statistics show that we rank among the most educated in the state and in Nigeria at large. There is hardly any family without a graduate in Bassa-Nge land. One would have thought that the gains of giant strides in Western literacy, coupled with highly placed people in the military...and police will translate to rapid socio-economic and political development'...

Bassa-Nge communities lie just across the River Niger at Lokoja and a speedboat will get the visitor there in no time. It is actually a 15 minute journey whether you go by boat or ferry. The boat this reporter boards to Shintaku, one of the many Bassa-Nge communities by the bank of the Niger, is clearly overloaded. There are men, women, motorcycles, sacks and numerous items. Everyone

sits calmly despite the load. ...Or people just pretend to be calm. Someone makes small talk about the needs of the people. A bridge from Lokoja seems to be urgent. He also speaks of a wish for light, access roads and hospitals. Another fully loaded boat approaches from Shintaku. It's a miracle that it remains afloat. Someone in our boat smiles keenly into the river throughout the journey. A child yells. Its mother yells back. It yells again. Someone clears his throat, as though about to hawk drugs as they do in the overpopulated buses that go to Gwagwalada every hour. But, finally and happily, he doesn't hawk anything. Soon the speedboat begins to move, and the engine purrs all the way to Shintaku.... Shintaku draws closer.

Abdu Ihiabe, the member representing Bassa/Dekina Federal Constituency was unwilling to be interviewed by this reporter on conditions prevalent among the Bassa-Nge. He asked instead that the reporter reveal the names of all persons interviewed during the visit to Bassa-Nge. The reporter found this request strange, and did not oblige him. He said that he needs to consult with all the persons interviewed before granting audience to *Daily Trust*. He also wondered why the reporter by-passed him and went straight to the Bassa-Nge communities.

Etsu Bassa-Nge, retired General Abu Ali, one time Governor of Kaduna and Bauchi states, says that the need for a bridge has a long history among his people. When the Bassa-Nge communities were in Kwara state, they were promised a bridge by the Military Governor at that time. His words 'Our predicament started when we went with the Igalas to Benue state. Before, we were under Kwara state who were ready to help us construct a bridge that would extend from Lokoja to Shintaku. Governor Bamgboye, Governor of Kwara state, promised us a bridge in 1975. A few elite moved us to Benue, and later Kogi state. We have been moved up and down. So the struggle for a bridge has started all over again.' Right now, there is a plan for a bridge in the state, but it is not for the Bassa-Nge communities. It is to link up with Plateau state. He also speaks on what the absence of a bridge has done for his people. 'It is hazardous to come here because there is no bridge. Today, you have to line up and wait for the ferry. When this bridge is constructed, people will now start to come home. As it is now, many of our sons and daughters are reluctant to return home. Surely, something is discouraging them. There is a mass exodus out of Bassa-Nge communities to urban centres'. He says that the Kogi state government has decided to build a bridge at Bagana, and adds that the anticipated Lokoja-Shintaku bridge is a 'busier and more urgent project'. Etsu Bassa-Nge also sees that one consequence of the dredging of the Niger will be that Lokoja will become a sea port which will have a ripple effect on Shintaku, creating port like activities and a commercial boom at the latter. His words 'By the time they finish the dredging and Lokoja becomes a sea port, Shintaku will also be a small sea port, serving the south-south and



Deerless looking school in Abocho: Apart from lack of power supply in the area, there is no pipe borne water, poor roads, no chalk, few or no blackboards and poorly motivated teachers.

north-central states. He also recalls that when Kogi state was created in 1991, Colonel Zakari, the initial military administrator had said in his inaugural address to the people of the state, that his vision is that Lokoja should develop outwards in a 14 mile radius. This would have meant that practically the whole of the Bassa-Nge Kingdom would have been covered by this, the Etsu tells me. His words 'Development should have extended to Gboloko if they had followed the military administrator's vision and built a bridge'. Sadly today, there is no bridge to Shintaku as politicians have taken the military administrator's vision and distorted it. The people say that because Lokoja is already congested, expansion in the direction of Shintaku is a neat way out. This is because Lokoja is hemmed in by hills. They argue for a bridge leading into Bassa-Nge communities. Etsu Bassa-Nge adds 'If we had a bridge people will be able to live here in Gboloko, for instance, and work in Lokoja.' They anticipate the creation of a new exciting part of the state capital across the river in Bassa-Nge land.

A road with a long history begins at Shintaku, and extends all the way to the eastern parts of Nigeria. It cuts through most of the Bassa communities. It will naturally connect with the bridge from Lokoja when this is finally constructed. According to Etsu Bassa-Nge 'Before the construction of the Itobe bridge, this road used to be the only one that led to the south-south for those who want a

short cut. If not for the road we would have won the Biafran War. When the bridge at Onitsha was destroyed by the Biafrans, the only alternative route was this road. The whole equipment of the Armed Forces passed through here to get to the East which was the principal theatre of the war. This is why there are two military bridges built along the road'. He says that the road helped Nigeria to become united, and that people still prefer the road up till today.

The state of education in Bassa-Nge land is a paradox, given the history of education in the area which Etsu Bassa-Nge joyfully recounts. His words 'When we were under Kabba province, all the teachers used to come from Bassa-Nge Kingdom. The first primary school in Kabba province was at Akabe. We also have uncountable phd holders and medical doctors. He laments that standards have fallen now 'Our well to do people are not encouraging education. So we have established an educational endowment fund to help students pay the school fees, because people are poor'. He adds that he wants to take decisive action against early marriages, so 'that our daughters can go to school rather than stop their education halfway'. He also explains that on account of poor infrastructure in the area, corps members and teachers are not willing to stay and work in Bassa-Nge land. When contacted by this reporter Aaron Baba, Kogi State Commissioner for Special Duties, declined to comment on the prevailing conditions in Bassa-

Nge communities.

Samuel Kafewo says 'When something is zoned to a senatorial district, we don't even feature. It's as though we are not even counted. It is not helped by the attitude of our neighbours who respond to the majority/minority politics in Nigeria. We are always at the receiving end. We are actually well read. When it comes to heading institutions we go back to the game of numbers. We are neglected. There are appointments for us, and no amenities provided too'.

Emmy Idegu is a lecturer on Sabbatical at the department of Theatre and film studies, University of Jos. He speaks on the status of the Bassa-Nge in Kogi state. His words: The Bassa-Nge are a minority but powerful ethnic group in Kogi State. They are a minority population, but powerful in terms of intellectual output. Stating that they have made tremendous contribution to Kogi State, he comments on their experience. "When the Bassa-Nge complain of being marginalised, they have a solid point. Where the minority is not in control of power, the chances are that the minority will be marginalised." He says that because of the immense contribution the Bassa-Nge have made to the state, they deserve much more than they have received. Next he speaks on other issues which could explain the marginalisation of the Bassa-Nge. His words "The Bassa-Nge belong to Kogi East senatorial zone. Kogi East is more than the two other senatorial districts put together. If you are distributing resources, what you give to Kogi East is the same that you will give to the other two senatorial districts. These are the things that contribute to the seeming marginalisation of the entire people of Kogi East." He argues that the Bassa-Nge should mobilise and present a united front to speak to government. In this way they can roll back many years of neglect. He adds that he is from Odolu, a marginalised part of the Igala. Odolu voted massively for the ruling party in the state (PDP) but the community lacks amenities. They need pipe borne water, but what they got are solar powered street lights. This makes him laugh because Odolu does not have streets. They are a minority among the Igala, he says.

The row of poles stretching into the distance along the dusty road, have become modern artefacts. The story of government's desire to achieve 6000 megawatts of electricity by December 2009 must have sounded like a big joke to the Bassa-Nge, who have never seen or experienced a nanosecond of electricity supply.

Business/Telecom

Mobile phone runs on Coca-Cola

BULKY mobile phone chargers could soon be a thing of the past with handsets running on soft drinks instead.

The Central Saint Martins graduate came up with the concept for Finnish mobile phone manufacturers, Nokia. Ms Zheng said the prototype could run up to four times longer than a traditional lithium ion battery and has the potential to be fully biodegradable.

The greenphone's bio battery generates electricity using enzymes to catalyse sugar in the drink. As the battery dies out, only water and oxygen are left behind.

Unfortunately, Nokia will not be developing the greenphone prototype further in the near future. Ms Zheng told Sky News: "At the time they wanted something to bring out within the next two years and thought my design was too futuristic."

But she added that bio batteries are being developed by large electronics companies and may be on the market in the next five years.



FIZZY phone mobile runs on coca cola

SIM card registration feasible—MTN CEO

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

MTN Nigeria's CEO Ahmad Faroukh in this short interview at the Economist Conference held in Lagos last week told our correspondent that SIM card registration in Nigeria would be a success. The exercise starts March 1, 2010. He also spoke on the much anticipated number portability and how it will not be in the interest of small operators contrary to popular held view that the big operators will suffer losses.

MOST Nigerians still doubt the possibility of having SIM registration regime. Is it workable here?

Yes, it is possible. It has been done elsewhere. We have two types of registration. We have the new connecting (new subscribers) SIM registration which the National Communications Commission (NCC) is focusing on now and we have the existing subscribers SIM registration. Both types are possible. It requires from us, a certain level of awareness. For security, it is

becoming a necessity for Nigeria. Nigeria will be among the countries that would be leading in the SIM registration. It only needs awareness and patience from all of us. It also needs a process that is well designed; it needs a mechanism that would make everything smooth so all the services will continue to flow.

How would you drive it?

We would drive it through different angles. We are driving it through our different distribution channels basically and technology is helping everything. We use our customer care centres and trade partners who are close to 70,000 points. We will also have mobile registration where our vehicles would go around registering people in the streets.

How would you tell the authenticity of the owner of a SIM?

We are not the agencies who should verify. We collect the data basically. Also in the regulation process set up for the registration, there are certain types of identity cards that whoever is registering needs to provide for a successful registration. We will take scanned

ID and take the picture. But the NCC would come up with the final guidelines for a successful SIM registration whether it would be biometrics or finger print. The burden of proof wouldn't be on us. We would just be collecting data.

How would you encourage participation?

The awareness campaign will be by the government and NCC. There will be an awareness campaign once the process starts. At every point where we have our points, we would do the registration.

Is the time frame sufficient for the process to be completed?

The March 1 date for commencement of SIM registration is for new subscribers. There is no date yet fixed for existing subscribers. There is no country that as I know starts SIM registration and fixed terminal date to it and it worked. It's always an ongoing process. We will make every effort to make it happen and once it happens, it becomes a routine. It will be more feasible after a period of 18 months after the day we start. For the existing SIM base, when we complete the phase of new

subscribers, we will move to existing SIM base. At the beginning of the exercise, there may be impact on us, but with more flexibility, we would achieve it.

What about mobile money transaction?

First we would know who our subscribers are hence the SIM registration exercise and providing data is essential. With mobile money, you can use your mobile phone for money transactions with the aid of small software. Kit also creates several jobs opportunities particularly in the big segments that will be using it. Currently, we are waiting for the regulatory approval but MTN is ready for it.

Once the regulatory framework is clear, we can immediately start offering mobile money in conjunction with willing banks. With mobile money, you can go to any point, load you handset with money and transfer to any account whether on mobile money or not. We have been testing our equipments for more than twelve months now, testing all securities, stress test for high volume transactions but what

we are waiting for is between the CBN and the NCC to define the guidelines. We are not banks, only service providers.

On the touted number portability

It has been discussed severally. We don't have a problem with that. It is a complicated technical solution. Some entrants into the market thinks number portability will favour them. They are completely wrong. I like benchmarking. What did the number portability do in UK? Nothing! In fact, the launch was shifted twice or thereabout.

What did it do in South Africa; nothing. If anything, it served the bigger operators more than smaller scale operators. Some people think we would lose market share with number portability; that is completely wrong. Again, look at what happened in those parts of the world, the bigger operators got more subscribers than the smaller ones. If anyone feels Nigeria is good investment place now, come and invest in Nigeria, come and build the infrastructure rather than wait for number portability.

Business/Finance



Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Thursday, January 21, 2010

Company Name	Shares	Price	Value	Volume
2ND-TIER SECURITIES				
CAPITAL OIL PLC	10	0.53	181,000	92,700.00
SECTOR Totals				
AGRICULTURE				
AFPRINT NIGERIA PLC	1	0.86	300	258.00
FTN COCOA PROC. PLC	14	0.69	1,571,282	1,096,224.08
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	8	0.62	156,304	96,908.48
PRESKO PLC	3	5.32	3,958,955	21,061,640.60
SECTOR Totals				
AIR SERVICES				
AIRL/SERV. & LOG. PLC	22	2.68	487,265	1,235,656.20
NIG. AV. HAND. COY PLC	122	8.99	1,496,934	13,493,614.49
SECTOR Totals				
AUTOMOBILE & TYRE				
DN TYRE & RUBBER PLC	4	0.50	65,608	32,804.00
R. T. BRISCOE (NIG.) PLC	11	6.27	86,320	520,373.00
SECTOR Totals				
ACCESS BANK PLC	198	8.10	7,371,920	59,629,250.51
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	62	2.76	2,875,359	7,979,737.59
DIAMOND BANK PLC	81	7.65	10,756,786	83,386,943.25
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	3	9.60	3,840	35,020.80
FIR/CITY MON. BANK PLC	58	8.43	5,495,013	46,238,303.20
FIDELITY BANK PLC	194	2.45	30,124,515	74,337,130.99
FIR/BANK OF NIG. PLC	842	14.35	18,765,229	271,713,200.03
FINBANK PLC	81	0.64	6,327,796	4,144,658.06
GTBANK PLC	412	16.50	15,189,820	250,443,682.59
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	45	7.92	623,193	4,969,778.64
INTERCONT. BANK PLC	156	1.92	2,709,776	5,202,769.92
OCEA/BANK INT. PLC	191	2.23	6,400,824	14,069,515.98
BANK PHB PLC	161	1.90	2,585,064	5,010,069.87
SKYE BANK PLC	101	5.88	4,924,187	28,529,130.62
SPRING BANK PLC	7	0.90	151,638	136,474.20
STERLING BANK PLC	44	1.40	5,766,430	7,945,846.11
UNT. BANK FOR AFR. PLC	236	11.25	12,540,032	141,468,305.69
UN/BANK OF NIG. PLC	179	6.50	3,978,939	25,592,044.26
UNITYBANK PLC	44	0.96	4,170,267	3,918,834.05
WEMA BANK PLC	39	1.03	645,905	666,902.15
ZENITH BANK PLC	237	14.72	103,343,727	1,548,176,146.67
SECTOR Totals				
BUILDING MATERIALS				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	46	13.30	695,348	9,288,185.26
BEN/CEMENT COY PLC	36	50.02	707,274	35,424,762.62
CEM. CO. OF N/NIG. PLC	40	14.80	327,275	4,774,593.87
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	27	30.00	209,944	6,309,015.10
SECTOR Totals				
CHEMICAL & PAINTS				
BERGER PAINTS NIG. PLC	6	3.36	104,082	366,368.64
SECTOR Totals				
COMMERCIAL/SERV.				
AFROMEDIA PLC	4	0.70	454,250	111,980.00
COURTVILLE INVEST. PLC	2	0.50	90,000	45,000.00
RED STAR EXPRESS PLC	14	2.53	202,440	498,433.20
SECTOR Totals				
COMP. & OFFICE EQUIP.				
NCR (NIGERIA) PLC	1	8.51	1,196	9,675.64
OMATEK VENT. PLC	13	0.83	965,000	591,400.00
THOMAS WYATT PLC	2	1.84	725	1,268.75
TRIP/GEE & COY PLC	1	4.60	46,646	203,843.02
SECTOR Totals				
CONGLOMERATES				
A. G. LEVENTIS (NIG.) PLC	13	2.56	132,747	343,042.33
JOHN HOLT PLC	5	9.28	21,080	185,925.60
PZ CUSONS NIG. PLC	67	25.00	876,569	21,916,349.86
SCOA NIGERIA PLC	1	8.71	200	1,656.00
TRANSN. CORP. OF NIG. PLC	59	0.52	4,367,117	2,262,904.16
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	52	40.00	431,732	17,226,594.27
UNILEVER NIG. PLC	95	26.41	1,368,601	35,919,553.13
SECTOR Totals				
CONSTRUCTION				
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	54	3.69	1,757,512	6,430,041.60
G. CAPPA PLC	1	14.46	25,000	343,500.00
JUL/BERGER NIG. PLC	6	28.50	1,280	112,582.40
MULTIVERSE RES. PLC	2	0.50	4,000	2,000.00
SECTOR Totals				
ENGINEERING TECH.				
CUTIX PLC	5	3.63	21,379	73,757.55
INTERLINKED TECH. PLC	1	5.15	1,000	4,900.00
SECTOR Totals				
FOOD/BEVERAGES & TOB.				
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	8	29.40	14,212	427,014.30
BIG TREAT PLC	13	0.86	365,736	314,532.96
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	127	14.81	1,806,329	26,743,137.20
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	220	12.50	1,483,580	18,498,485.94
DANGOTE SUGAR REF. PLC	75	15.00	1,123,411	16,857,719.29
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	67	38.00	168,052	6,288,203.79
H/WELL FLOUR MILL PLC	9	8.07	23,750	193,762.50
P. S. MANDRIDES PLC	1	5.95	2,000	11,320.00
NATIONAL SALT COY NIG. PLC	138	6.73	6,554,168	44,971,701.66

NIG. BOTT. COMPANY PLC	26	26.00	266,141	6,925,039.30
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	56	252.00	204,180	53,321,900.62
TANTALIZERS PLC	15	0.83	736,600	615,682.00
UTC NIGERIA PLC	8	0.90	79,686	71,715.48
SECTOR Totals				
HEALTHCARE				
EVANS MEDICAL PLC	11	1.09	176,195	192,042.39
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	71	2.06	4,347,636	8,955,332.16
GLAXOSM. CONS. NIG. PLC	11	22.01	12,487	274,821.40
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC	17	5.87	50,005	282,317.00
NEIMETH INT. PHARM. PLC	35	1.75	1,569,491	2,619,846.13
UN/DIAG. & CLIN. SERV. PLC	13	0.66	742,000	493,960.00
SECTOR Totals				
HOTEL & TOURISM				
IKEJA HOTEL PLC	5	1.05	128,000	133,900.00
SECTOR Totals				
IND./DOMESTIC PROD.				
ALUMACO PLC	1	23.77	50,000	1,188,500.00
VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC	26	5.27	202,220	1,074,553.09
VONO PRODUCTS PLC	2	0.66	117,000	77,220.00
SECTOR Totals				
INF. & COMMUNIC. TECH.				
CHAMS PLC	43	0.66	4,918,384	3,419,111.59
E-TRANZACT INT. PLC	2	6.08	8,500	49,130.00
MASSTEL. INNOV. NIG. PLC	7	0.50	998,100	499,050.00
STARCOMMS PLC	31	2.00	1,351,290	2,717,051.20
SECTOR Totals				
INSURANCE				
AFRICAN ALLIANCE INS. PLC	1	0.79	3,000	2,280.00
AIICO INSURANCE PLC	33	0.95	1,388,849	1,353,310.99
CONTINENTAL REINSUR. PLC	13	1.06	1,970,000	2,066,450.00
C/STONE INSUR. CO. PLC	19	0.53	1,419,609	746,193.04
CUST. AND ALL. INSUR. PLC	22	2.75	2,938,638	8,169,220.40
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	2	0.58	106,920	62,013.60
GUARANTY TRUST ASS. PLC	23	2.18	3,824,829	8,023,687.35
CONS. HALLM. INSUR. PLC	4	0.50	255,000	127,500.00
INT. ENERGY INS. COY PLC	33	0.61	1,475,776	915,307.09
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC	27	0.54	2,578,900	1,408,821.76
L/UNION & ROCK INS. PLC	1	0.56	25,000	13,750.00
LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	1	0.50	25,000	12,500.00
MUTUAL BEN. ASSUR. PLC	15	0.64	4,195,030	2,684,819.20
N.E.M. INS. CO. (NIG.) PLC	20	0.55	1,436,424	797,097.72
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC	1	0.96	5,000	4,600.00
OASIS INSURANCE PLC	1	1.49	4,000	5,680.00
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC	4	3.80	3,500	13,300.00
REG. ALL. INSUR. COY PLC	2	0.50	110,000	55,000.00
SOVEREIGN TRUST INS. PLC	3	0.50	449,300	224,650.00
STACO INSURANCE PLC	1	1.04	10,000	9,900.00
STANDARD ALLIA. INSUR. PLC	25	0.60	3,860,828	2,252,856.79
UNIC INSURANCE PLC	12	0.75	940,229	705,171.75
UNITY CAPITAL ASSUR. PLC	1	1.78	3,000	5,100.00
UNIV. INSURANCE COY PLC	7	0.50	207,314	103,659.00
INTERCONT. WAPIC INS. PLC	17	0.99	167,529	162,715.13
SECTOR Totals				
MEDIA				
DAAR COMMUNIC. PLC	15	0.52	144,900	78,126.00
SECTOR Totals				
MORTGAGE COMPANIES				
ABBAY BUILD. SOCIETY PLC	1	1.61	200	306.00
ASO SAVINGS & LOAN PLC	39	0.68	27,581,692	18,175,285.51
RES/SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	3	0.50	1,045,000	522,500.00
UN/HOMESAV. & LOANS PLC	45	0.94	2,269,723	2,215,121.49
SECTOR Totals				
OTHER FINANCIAL INST.				
CRUSADER NIGERIA PLC	30	1.25	1,927,089	2,355,137.22
D/CAPIT. MAN. & TRUST PLC	4	2.02	105,000	212,100.00
ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC	11	0.61	1,709,750	1,042,923.90
SECTOR Totals				
PETROLEUM (MARK.)				
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC	38	36.50	51,772	1,856,181.88
BECO PETROL. PROD. PLC	9	2.18	66,475	144,915.50
CHEVRON OIL NIGERIA PLC	7	69.79	2,375	170,117.00
CONOIL PLC	35	33.57	136,330	4,590,976.51
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC	34	6.00	528,868	3,155,534.70
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC	13	99.95	10,859	1,073,597.06
OANDO PLC	7	99.99	25,169	2,365,634.31
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	9	150.00	43,330	6,501,610.50
SECTOR Totals				
PRINTING & PUBLISHING				
ACADEMY PRESS PLC	9	6.87	29,500	192,635.00
LONGMAN NIGERIA PLC	11	9.44	341,546	3,020,763.76
UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC	26	5.03	2,078,313	10,456,358.65
SECTOR Totals				
TEXTILES				
UNITED NIG. TEXTILES PLC	1	1.72	51,000	87,720.00
SECTOR Totals				
THE FOREIGN LISTINGS				
ECOBANK TRANSN. INCORP	63	14.80	6,837,671	99,480,404.37
SECTOR Totals				
OVERALL Totals				

What is income stock?
A security with a solid record of dividend payments and which offers a dividend yield higher than the average common stock.

Google.com

GAINERS

UNILEVER	1.25
CADBURY	0.70
LONGMAN	0.44
ETI	0.44

LOSERS

ALUMACO	1.25
ZENITH BANK	0.77
ASHAKA CEM	0.65
FIRST BANK	0.45

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His Excellency

Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau

Executive Governor, Kano State

Bank PHB heartily congratulates His Excellency, the Governor of Kano State, Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau on his recent turbaning as Sardaunan Kano, by His Royal Highness Alhaji (Dr) Ado Bayero CFR, LLD, JP.

Your Excellency, this honour is another valid confirmation of the public approval of your stewardship in office. We wish you Allah's continued guidance in serving the people of Kano State. Congratulations

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THE HOME FRONT

In Today's Edition

Getting along with your mother-in-law

Page 34

Health Interactive with Dr Aminu Magashi

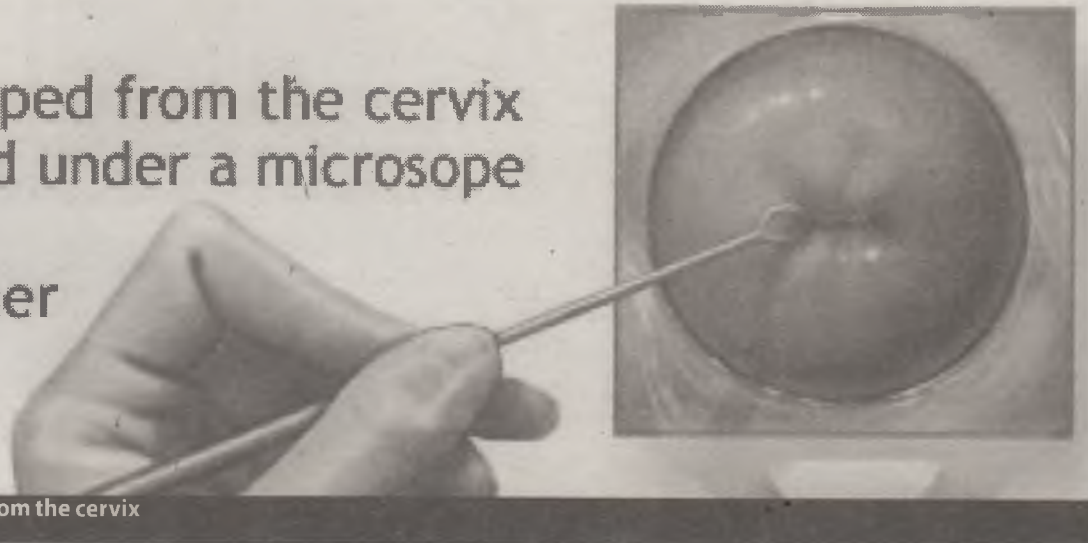
Page 35

FASHION

Rihanna: The latest trend in hairstyles

Page 36

Pap smear: cells are scraped from the cervix and examined under a microscope to check for cancer or other problems



A speculum used to scoop a cell from the cervix

Why women need to do pap smear

By Akor Ojoma, Victoria Awom and Romoke Ahmad

WITH the rise in cancer cases these days, it has become necessary for women to do pap smear in order to prevent cervical cancer. Worldwide, cervical cancer is the second commonest female cancer after breast cancer. It is estimated that there were almost 260 000 deaths from cervical cancer in 2005. Cervical cancer is cancer in the cervix, the lower, narrow part of the uterus that is the womb. The cervix forms a canal that opens into the vagina that is the birth canal, which leads to the outside of the body.

According to the World Health Organization "Cervical cancer, a complication of HPV infection has 500, 000 new cases each year worldwide, 80% of which occur in low-resource countries in Africa, Latin America and south-east Asia. More than half of women with cervical cancer will die, with deaths projected to rise by almost 25% over the next 10 years."

Statistics show that 50-80 percent of women will acquire an HPV infection in their lifetime. Progressions from HPV infection to Cervical Cancer is slow and usually take years. Hence, the infection is usually more prevalent among women from ages 35-50.

Risks factors for cancer of the cervix include the following: Multiple sexual partners, starting sexual intercourse at an early

age, viral infection such as human papillomavirus (HPV), human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and herpes, weakened immune system, previous cancer of the lower genital tract and Smoking.

Several African women stand the risk of developing cervical cancer and dying of it, while many others may have it without knowing due to poor knowledge on its diagnosis and management.

The word Pap smear is an extract from Dr Georgios Papanikolaou's name, the Greek Physician who in the early 40's researched to know how to prevent cervical cancer. Papanikolaou took a sample from a cell around the cervix of a woman and sent it for cytology-study of individual cells to detect abnormal cells. And looking at it with the microscope, he was able to detect some of the cells that will progress to cervical cancer.

Pap smear, according to Dr Nathaniel Adewole, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist at University of Abuja Teaching Hospital is a screening method to prevent the development of cervical cancer.

A pap smear can detect certain viral infections such as human papillomavirus (HPV) and other cancer-causing conditions. Early treatment of these conditions can stop cervical cancer before it fully develops. A woman may have cervical cancer and not know it because she may not have any symptoms medical experts say. But according to Dr Adewole, after conducting Pap smear screening, the result will either be

negative-that is the woman has no traces of cervical cancer or show various stages of Cervical Intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN).

- CIN 1- if you have mild cell changes
- CIN 2- if you have moderate cell changes
- CIN 3- if you have severe cell changes

The three grades of CIN relate to the thickness of the skin covering the cervix that is affected. CIN 1 means one third of the thickness of the skin covering the cervix has abnormal cells. CIN 3 means the full thickness of the skin covering the cervix has abnormal cells. All the level of cell abnormality (mild, moderate or severe) and the CIN level will be taken into account when deciding whether you need treatment.

This progression he says takes about ten years so that if women are screened regularly, the chances of developing cervical cancer will be minimised. For instance, in developed countries, Pap smear screening has been structured in to the health system. Hence, the number of people with cervical cancer is very low in those countries.

Preparation for pap smear

The best time to have a pap smear is when the woman is not menstruating. Again, for 2 days before the test, experts say avoid the following because these might hide any abnormal cells: Sexual intercourse, douches, and vaginal medications (except as directed by your doctor) and vaginal con-

It is estimated that there were almost 260 000 deaths from cervical cancer in 2005

traceptives. At what age should a woman go for Pap smear?

Dr Adewole says "Any woman that has started having sexual intercourse should go for pap smear screening. This is so because cervical cancer is directly linked to sexually transmitted diseases. Again, 90% of cervical cancer is linked to human papillomavirus. And this virus is sexually transmitted. For instance research has shown that true nuns hardly have cervical cancer. Hence, the good news is a woman who has not started having sexual intercourse; don't have fear of contacting cervical cancer."

The doctor said that in Nigeria it is unfortunate that only 5 % of people know of cervical cancer and undergo Pap smear screening hence making it one of the highest killers of women in the country. He advised government to help out by making it a National policy and put in place mechanism for people to go for screening, provide organised screening centres, and also create awareness.



Razor bumps

Handling bumps

By Abbas Jimoh

ASIDE baldness which is one of the non-life threatening medical conditions, other than impotence that all men have a mortal fear of, goose bumps popularly called razor bumps, shaving bumps, and ingrown hairs can be considered the twin-brother of baldness. The bumps are both painful and unattractive.

Although it is generally associated with men, razor or skin bumps also affect the women-folk; While Nigerians of Eastern origin call it *Akpu* (pronounced a-h-p-u <apple>); Hausas call it *Kuraje* and Yorubas call it *Gbid-ingbidin*. It is medically called pseudofolliculitis barbae by physicians.

According to an article

“Shaving too close causes the tip of the hair to get trapped beneath the skin, so when the hair grows, it grows back inward, trapped under the skin causing skin inflammation”

posted by Sarah Letts on men-health.com, Razor bumps can occur anywhere on the body that is shaved. Men commonly experience them on their faces and necks due to frequent shaving.

Jeffrey Benabio of the Home remedies website on his part said the bumps can also occur in women especially when they shave their bikini area.

So how does shaving lead to bumps?

Many men have thick or curly hair in their beards. Shaving too close causes the tip of the hair to get trapped beneath the skin, so when the hair grows, it grows back inward, trapped under the skin causing skin inflammation that leads to a small skin infection that manifests itself as razor bumps. Eventually, this can lead to keloidal scarring which appears as hard bumps on the affected areas.

Solution

First Step: Prevention-

Since shaving depletes moisture from the skin and cuts hair bluntly, both creating breeding grounds for the hair to grow back into the skin; simple changes to ones routine like: not shaving with excessive pressure,

able to shower, than it is advisable to soak a washcloth in warm water and apply it to the area that would be shaved.

-Use a clean, sharp razor to shave. Dull blades are more likely to pull on the hair, resulting in skin irritation and razor bumps. Older blades may contain bacteria that can lead to razor bumps.

-Applying shaving cream or gel to the area every time it is shaved. Such products lubricate the skin, allowing the razor to pass over it smoothly. This prevents the razor from dragging across the skin's surface which almost inevitably leads to razor bumps.

-Spreading aftershave lotion or toner over the shaved area. Since shaving opens skin pores, aftershave products tighten them to prevent bacteria from entering.

If bacteria enter your skin post-shaving, you're likely to get razor bumps. Most aftershave products also soothe the skin.

-Shave in the direction of hair growth. If you shave against the direction of your hair growth, you are more likely to get razor bumps.

For a long-term solution to bumps, laser hair removal may be the best option. Electrolysis and laser hair removal should be considered when all else fails. It is however hard to tell if that is available in Nigeria.

Burning Sensation

According to reports on Home Remedies website one can dissolve two uncoated aspirins in a teaspoon of warm water and mix into a paste, which can thereafter be applied on the affected area. It should then be washed after sometime with lukewarm water to tackle the burning sensation.

using a shaving oil and shaving brush, and choosing the right razor will help seeing less redness and bumps.

Others include:

-Soak your skin with warm water prior to shaving: This process makes hair more supple or flexible, making it easier for the razor to slice it cleanly and decreasing the likelihood of getting razor bumps. If one is not

Getting along with your mother-in-law

By Boco Edet

WHEN you get married, it feels so wonderful unwrapping the presents but there is a special gift you would have to accept whether you like it or not and that is your mother-in-law. At first you seem to understand that she is protective of her son and wants the best for him but after the honeymoon, it goes from okay to not so okay. You got married to your husband hoping to be the only woman in his life but it has now turned out that he has two to contend with. There you are trying to upstage the queen and she is not quitting!

The thing is you have to make an effort to strike a balance and not put your husband in a position where he has to choose between either of you. That way you save him stress and discover it is not so bad getting along with her after all. It may not be the perfect relationship but it can be very cordial. Yes? This particular mother-in-law seems difficult to satisfy but even the toughest of them can have their defences broken. Here are a few tips that could make a difference:

How about changing your attitude towards her? Usually when you are with her you are always on the defensive and before she attacks, you have prepared a counter attack. Why not step back a bit and instead of coming up with a 1001 reasons why you dislike her so much think of all her nice attributes instead even if you never get to catch a glimpse of that personally. For every negative you come up with think of a positive to replace it even if it is as simple as she gave birth to the wonderful husband you have.

“The thing is you have to make an effort to strike a balance and not put your husband in a position where he has to choose between either of you”

Mother-in-laws like validation, especially from their children. Somewhere in her heart, she probably feels you are not appreciative enough. She probably thinks you treat being married to her son as a birthright.

Secondly, how about having a thankful attitude towards her? Thank her for the simplest things. Surprise her with a thank you note for all the qualities you love about your husband. Even if she is an ice-queen, she is sure to melt a bit.

Gifts do the trick! Buy her nice, thoughtful gifts. Do not wait until it is her birthday or Christmas before you show up at her doorstep with a hamper. When you are giving her the gifts, make it private so she does not think you are showing off or your husband cajoled you into getting it for her.

There must be some kind of activity both of you enjoy to do together. After all you are both women! Whenever she comes visiting, you could go shopping or to the salon. Make time for a girls' day out. This can help build the bond between both of you.

Health interactive

Write in confidence to healthinteractive@hotmail.com; www.healthinteractive.wordpress.com or send a text message to 080-89972539 or P.O.Box 14807, Kano, Nigeria

Advice by Dr Aminu Magashi

Pain during sexual intercourse

I have been married for some weeks now and experience pain during intercourse. No enjoyment and excitement. For how long should I endure this pain? Please shed some light and may God bless you.

Worried woman

Most women experience discomfort or pain the first time they have sex. The hymen is torn and there may be blood. Also, one may psychologically not be ready to have intercourse.

If you have doubts and fears either of your partner or the intercourse itself, you may not produce enough lubrication. Lack of lubrication can also occur even if you are aroused -- women on birth control pills, for example, often are drier. Let me also give you a wider view to pain during intercourse

A number of conditions may cause pain and / or discomfort during sexual intercourse. These conditions include:

Vaginal Infections;

Certain vaginal infections, such as yeast infection and trichomoniasis, are often present without noticeable symptoms. However, during sexual intercourse, the rubbing motion of the male organ against the vagina and genitalia sometimes causes the symptoms of these vaginal infections (stinging, burning) to intensify. Genital herpes sores are another frequent cause of pain during sex.

Vaginal irritation

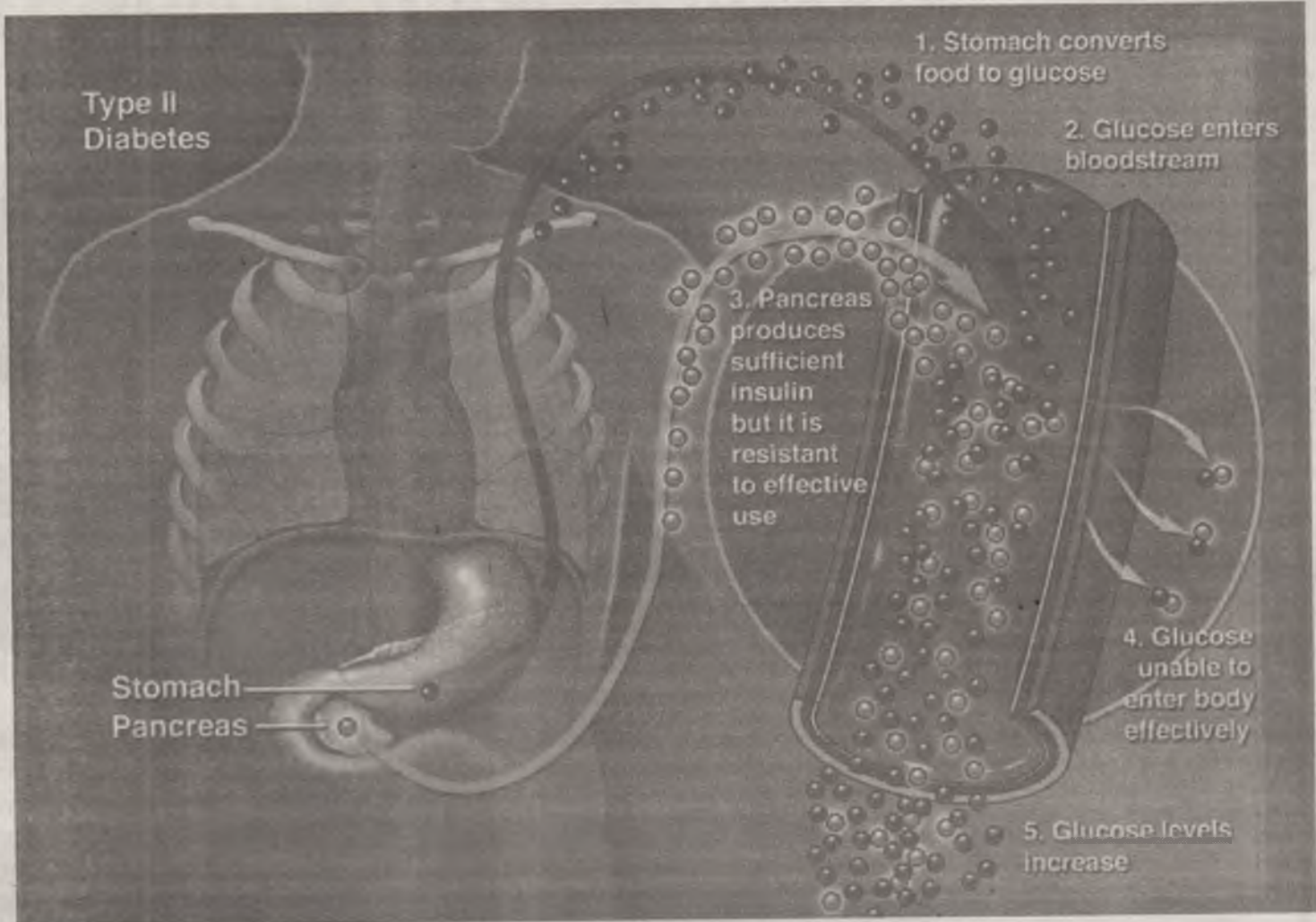
Many products contain irritants that can cause vaginal irritation, leading to discomfort or pain during vaginal sexual intercourse. These include:

1. any contraceptive foams, creams, or jellies
2. allergic reactions to condoms, diaphragms, or latex gloves
3. vaginal deodorant sprays
4. scented tampons
5. deodorant soaps
6. laundry detergents (in sensitive individuals)
7. excessive douching

Vaginal Dryness

Vaginal dryness often causes painful sexual intercourse. Normal vaginal lubrication is a given for most women; however, the vagina may be dry at certain times, making vaginal penetration painful. Lack of vaginal lubrication can be caused by several factors including:

1. • trying to achieve vaginal penetration too fast before enough stimulation has occurred to allow normal vaginal lubrication to take place
2. feeling nervous or tense about the sexual experience; this can slow the release of vaginal lubrication
3. using a condom with-



out the addition of a vaginal lubricant, such as K-Y Jelly

4. hormonal imbalance during such as during menopause, the years preceding menopause, or following childbirth
5. Vaginal tightness

This occasionally happens when you feel tense or not fully relaxed when penetration occurs. Difficulty penetrating a tight vagina can happen even when vaginal lubrication is not a problem. The first few times you engage in sexual intercourse, the vagina may be tight due to an unstretched hymen, which can cause pain at the time of penetration, like in your own case now. Sometimes a more severe condition called vaginismus is responsible for vaginal tightness; women with vaginismus experience strong, involuntary muscle spasms of the vaginal muscles during sexual intercourse.

Pain of the clitoris

The clitoris is the most sensitive part of the female genitalia. Gentle touching or rubbing of the clitoris is extremely pleasurable for some women, while it is unbearably painful for others. Clitoral pain may also occur due to poor hygiene; vaginal secretions may collect under the clitoral hood and may lead to pain if not properly washed away.

Pelvic pain

Occasionally, a woman will experience pelvic pain upon deep, thrusting penetration. Many conditions may cause this pain, including:

1. tears in the ligaments that support the uterus (causes include problems during child-

birth, inappropriately performed abortion, previous violent sexual intercourse or rape)

2. cervical, uterine, or tubal infections, such as Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID)
3. Pelvic adhesions (often the result of previous pelvic surgery or PID)

4. Ovarian cysts
5. Uterine fibroid

Pain and / or discomfort are not part of normal sexual intercourse. If you experience pain during sex, don't be afraid to tell your partner who has no way of knowing that you're uncomfortable unless you talk about what you're feeling.

I suggest the use of a water-based lubricant like K-Y Jelly until your situation has improved. With patience, you will be able to have a full and satisfying sex life. Take it slow, and don't be frustrated. You may also share my response here with your partner.

See your doctor if the situation continues

Causes of diabetes and erectile dysfunctions

I have been suffering from diabetic mellitus for years and recently, I started experiencing erectile dysfunction. Is the erectile problem a complication, if it is what is the remedy? I want you to shed light about the disease.

Bala

Diabetes Mellitus is a clinical syndrome characterized by high level of sugar in the blood

due to either absolute or relative deficiency of Insulin (a chemical agent being released from a structure within the abdomen called Pancreas). There are Primary and Secondary form of Diabetes Mellitus

Primary is subdivided into Insulin Dependent Diabetes Mellitus and Non Insulin Dependent Diabetes Mellitus.

Insulin Dependent Diabetes Mellitus (IDDM). The Aetiology precisely is still unclear but environmental factors interaction with genetic factors can predispose one to the problem.

Some of these factors are:

1. Infection with viruses such as Rubella in Utero (during pregnancy), Retrovirus and mumps.
2. Diet such as Bovine Serum Albumin which is found in Cow milk may trigger IDDM especially in children who at an early age are exposed to cow milk. Non Insulin Dependent Diabetes Mellitus (NIDDM)

Genetic factors very important, also there are environmental factors that interact with genetic factors and make one more susceptible to this type. Among them are;

1. Over eating with obesity and under activity
2. Malnutrition especially during pregnancy may damage some cells necessary for development in children
3. Age, those above 50 years are more susceptible to this form of Diabetes.
4. Pregnancy, some women during pregnancy may suffer Diabetes.

Children can inherit Diabetes from their parents, but that also depends on the genetic factors involved. As such at times a mother and/or father may have the problem and their children are free from it. Another form of Diabetes Mellitus is the Secondary Type, among the causes are ;

1. Inflammation of the Pancreas (a structure within the abdomen that secrete Insulin)
2. Removal of Pancreas
3. High Level of Some Hormones such as Growth Hormone, Thyroid Hormones and Glucocorticoids
4. Severe Burns
5. Trauma
6. Drugs such as Thiazide which diuretics use for the management of Hypertension

If the above mentioned secondary factors are removed in this type of Diabetes, the person will get cured of diabetes mellitus. With respect to the inability to achieve and maintain an erection sufficient for satisfactory intercourse, it can be a distressing and common symptom, affecting up to one-third of adult men globally. The prevalence of erectile dysfunction increases with age and it is common in men with systemic disorders such as hypertension, ischemic heart disease, or diabetes mellitus. So, your dilemma could be a complication of your condition. Your physician needs to establish the extent of the erectile problem before instituting management. Drugs and Psychotherapy tailored towards building self confidence will form part of the management.



FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY COMMISSION

66, SAMUEL AJAYI CROWTHER STREET, ASOKORO, ABUJA

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR A STUDY ON FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION

The Fiscal Responsibility Commission is set up to provide prudent management of the nation's resources, ensure long term macro-economic stability of the national economy, secure greater accountability and transparency in fiscal operations within a medium term fiscal policy framework.

2. The Fiscal Responsibility Act under Section 3 Subsection (1)(a) empowers the Commission to undertake fiscal and financial studies, analysis and diagnose and disseminate the result to the general public.

3. In this regard the Commission proposes to undertake a study on an issue that is contemporary and directly touching on the growth and development of the national economy. Low capital budget implementation as signified by general public outcry especially the open complaint of the National Assembly makes it an apt issue that is to be given very close attention. The Commission observes that there is indeed skewed Government performance against the execution of capital projects when compared with its implementation of recurrent budget. Generally, over 60% of the annual budget is allocated to the recurrent activities and over 80% of this is spent. On the other hand, less than 50% of the budget is assigned to the capital projects and actual execution is less than the proportionate performance.

4. The main objective of the study is to establish the extent of budget implementation annually both physically and financially and the process of preparing as well as implementing the exercise by:

- i) Identifying the various stakeholders and the role played by each one of them from the stage of preparing the budget to getting items delivered on ground;
- ii) Examine each of the roles and their processes with a view to determining value addition against time usage and other expendables;
- iii) Determine areas of waste that are more of impediments than valuable contributions to progress of the budget implementation; and
- iv) Recommend solutions to the problems of low capital budget implementation as well as draw up an action plan for addressing the problems.

5. Accordingly, the Commission is inviting reputable research institutions and consultants to tender for the study titled:

"A Review of the Federal Government Budget Implementation over the Past 5 Years to Determine Levels of Achievements as Well as Impediments to Successful Implementation and recommend ways of improvement"

6. The bid should be prepared in two parts viz: Technical and Financial. The Financial bid should include among others;
 - i) A brief to demonstrate an understanding of the task.
 - ii) Methodology to be deployed.
 - iii) Proposed presentation format.
 - iv) Expected completion time with justification of the period to be taken. While the financial bid should be based on the input to the study and process to go through.
7. The bid is to be submitted in a single sealed envelop containing the two envelopes, one bearing Technical Bid and the other Financial Bid, each clearly marked at top right hand corner "Technical" and "Financial", respectively. The covering envelop (containing the two bids) should also be clearly marked at the top right hand corner "Study Program January 2010". The following requirements need be enclosed in each bid.
 - i) Certificate of Incorporation or Registration as appropriate;
 - ii) Current Tax Clearance Certificate covering the last three years (as applicable)
 - iii) VAT Registration Certificate and evidence of remittances;
 - iv) Evidence of similar jobs handled including the award letters;
 - v) Evidence of financial standing from your bankers; and
 - vi) Tender fee of N50,000 in bank draft in favour of Fiscal Responsibility Commission.

The tender should be addressed to:

**The Secretary
Tenders Board,
Fiscal Responsibility Commission,
66, Samuel Ajayi Crowther Street, Asokoro,
Abuja.**

To reach him not later than 12:00 noon Thursday 18th February, 2010. Tenders will be opened same day at 1.30pm. All bidders are invited to attend the tender opening session.

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- Establishment of cottage industries in Local Governments.



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A publication of Press Unit Government House, Lokoja



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TO A CONSISTENT, VALUED AND COMMITTED LEADER

The Management and staff of National Commission for Museums and Monuments (NCMM), heartily felicitate and rejoice with you on your deserved conferment of the title of the **SARDAUNA OF KANO** by his Royal Highness, Alhaji (Dr.) Ado Bayero CFR,LLB,JP The Emir of Kano.

This is to celebrate your outstanding achievement and impeccable leadership qualities, as is evident in your humanitarian developmental projects and socio-cultural re-orientation programmes.

**May your light continue to shine.
May all of us continue to be proud of you.
Our brother, friend and cultural icon.**

Allah Ya ja zamanin Sardauna!

**Yusuf Abdallah Usman
Director-General
For & on behalf of Management.**



H.E MALAM IBRAHIM SHEKARAU
Executive Governor of Kano State
(SARDAUNA OF KANO)



News Extra

So was the statue 'attack' on Berlusconi a stunt? ...Now prosecutors want him to have a medical



SILVIO Berlusconi after the alleged attack in which a statue was flung at him on December 13 last year

Silvio Berlusconi has been asked by prosecutors to have a medical examination of his attack injuries - prompting renewed speculation the assault was a stunt.

TV footage showed the Italian premier covered in blood after being hit in the face by a miniature statue that was hurled at him following a political rally last month.

Officials said he suffered a fractured nose and two broken teeth but websites immediately began theorising the attack was a set-up.

At the time his personal doctor, Alfredo Zangrillo, said he would need at least 90 days to recover from the injuries.

However just over three weeks later, Mr Berlusconi, 73, was seen without any noticeable cuts and scars.

Depending on the medical report prosecutors will decide with what offence to charge Massimo Tartaglia, 42, who threw the statue.

Under Italian law if a recov-



BERLUSCONI looks injury free as he attended an official visit on Tuesday

an attack on a VIP - he stands and waves to the crowd before being driven to hospital.

Prosecutor Armando Spataro who is investigating the case has asked for two facial specialists doctors to examine Berlusconi next week and give a report.

A prosecution source said: 'It's an obligatory matter of routine. It has to be done.'

Berlusconi has always insisted that he is the victim of left wing orientated prosecutors and his political allies rallied round him following news of the medical request.

Francesco Casoli, a senator with Berlusconi's People of Freedom Party, stormed: 'What the prosecutor has asked for is

“ Websites had hinted at a stunt because of his bizarre reaction in the minutes after the statue was thrown at him, as he was seen bringing a dark cloth to his face in less than a second



HIS attacker Massimo Tartaglia (centre) is in custody awaiting trial

ery is deemed to be less than 40 days then the offence is wounding.

However if recovery time is longer then the more serious charge of wounding with intent comes into play.

Websites had hinted at a stunt because of his bizarre reaction in the minutes after the statue was thrown at him, as he was seen bringing a dark cloth to his face in less than a second.

Other footage shows him in his car being handed something by an assistant.

Perhaps the most questionable issue is that rather than leave the area - standard practice after

against all good sense and logic.

'In essence by asking for this medical examination the Milan prosecutor is calling into question the health of the Prime Minister - once again the judiciary is showing how it feels superior to the elected authority.'

Dr Zangrillo, who will be at Monday's examination, said: 'To be honest the Prime Minister is still having difficulty eating and he is still in some discomfort which is giving him trouble sleeping.'

A spokesman for the Prime Minister's office said they had no comment to make. Tartaglia remains in custody after the attack on December 13.

News Extra



SOMALI sea bandits in their speed boat.

British captain's Somali pirate nightmare

It began with a green blip travelling in the wrong direction. Captain Peter Stapleton was chatting with his chief officer on the bridge of the 18,000 tonne cargo ship *Boularibank* when the green light on the radar caught their attention.

"It appeared to be putting itself in a good position across our stern about two miles [3km] away from which it would quite likely launch an attack," he remembered.

The *Boularibank* was returning to the British port of Hull from a journey to Malaysia on 28 April 2009 with a Russian crew and 11 passengers, one of whom was the captain's wife.

There was still a day to go before the ship entered the pirate-haunted waters of the Gulf of Aden but Captain Stapleton, 56, had already ordered anti-piracy drills.

Bad feeling

When he realised that he was about to enter a real-life drama, the captain found himself "surprisingly calm". As he began giving orders to his crew, he began to mentally tick boxes.

"You ask yourself: 'Have I done this? Have I got that ready? Have I told everyone what we're going to do?'"

One of the first things he did was to tell his wife he had a bad feeling about the approaching green blip. He found her even calmer than himself.

"I think she was quite sceptical that they would actually try it and she still can't really believe it. It's like people getting run over by buses, it will never happen to me,"



CAPTAIN Peter Stapleton was awarded for his bravery in tackling the pirates

he recalled.

Back on the bridge, he watched as two attack boats were launched from the trawler that was acting as the pirates' mother ship.

Repel boarders

Capt Stapleton knew that trying to turn the ship or outrun his assailants would be futile. The *Boularibank* was too big and slow for an escape based on speed.

"So what we tend to do is just to try and make them weave which slows the speed down unfortunately, that's just a feature of manoeuvring ships.

"But it does create a bit of a lumpy wash that these small boats have got to cross over all the time so it means they've got to do some work to catch up with you, it's not just straight alongside and bang

on board."

Capt Stapleton summoned his passengers to the bridge. Some were "rubbernecking" out the windows to try and catch a glimpse of the pirates, almost as if they were a tourist attraction.

Capt Stapleton told me he decided very early in the crisis that he did not intend to languish in some grim Somali port waiting for ransom negotiations to take place. His hardy Russian crew agreed.

"Russians are a tough bunch of guys anyway, they've had a hard life in their history and they are pretty tough... They were prepared to defend the ship as best they could. They knew that I wanted to defend the ship. I wanted to get back home and they want to go home."

Operating on that unequivocal

principle they set about repelling the boarders.

Shiver me timbers

By the time the pirates came close, and realised Capt Stapleton was not going to surrender, the bullets started to fly, ricocheting off the ship's superstructure.

A rocket propelled grenade was fired and the blast was heard by the engineers in the bowels of the ship. Another followed soon after.

Luckily neither caused any injuries. The captain's response was to "release the port-side battery" as he put it. This meant the crew tumbling 10-foot (3m) long pieces of heavy timber onto the attacking boat. It was a simple tactic but it drove the attackers back.

"My bottom line was I don't want to kill anybody but I want to put them off boarding my ship so if you drop them in the water in front of a speed boat he has got to pull away from you, he cannot go over it. So that was the thinking all the time. Passive defence."

“One of the first things he did was to tell his wife he had a bad feeling about the approaching green blip”

Saved

Capt Stapleton's seamanship and the crew's bravery saved the *Boularibank* and its passengers from capture.

He remains remarkably matter-of-fact about the whole affair, as if it were simply a minor occurrence in the life of the high seas.

Last November he was awarded the Merchant Navy Medal for bravery and he continues to sail the route.

"Well because you've got to get home," he says bluntly, "that's the bottom line. It's the gateway back to Europe so you've got to go through there."

Culled from bbc.co.uk

PORTUGUESE warship *Corte-Real* captures 19 pirates

Congratulations

SARDAUNAN KANO

The Chairman, Alhaji Dahiru Barau Mangal, Management and Staff of AFDIN Group of Companies/Max Air Limited, wish to congratulate Mal. (Dr.) Ibrahim Shekarau, the Executive Governor, Kano State on his installation as **SARDAUNAN KANO**, by His Royal Highness, the Emir of Kano, Alh. (Dr.) Ado Bayero Today.



Accept our Congratulations

MAL. (DR.) IBRAHIM SHEKARAU
SARDAUNAN KANO
 Executive Governor, Kano State



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Signed:

ALHAJI DAHIRU BARAU MANGAL
 Chairman



THE PRINT COMMUNICATIONS

Congratulations

I, Alhaji Musa Salihu, Commissioner Kano State Ministry of Education wish to on behalf of the Management and Staff of the Ministry of Education and its parastatals express our congratulations to the Executive Governor of Kano State Malam (Dr) Ibrahim Shekarau on his conferment with the prestigious title of *Sardaunan Kano* by His Royal Highness, The Emir of Kano Alhaji (Dr) Ado Bayero, CFR, LLD, JP.

It is evident that the conferment of this noble title was in consideration of the Governor's enormous contribution in all spheres of development, ranging from Education, Commerce, Health, Water, Infrastructure, Security, etc. *For the education alone the following constitute some of the major achievement were recorded:-*

- Introduction of free Girl Child education at Post basic Education level since the inception of this administration.
- Establishment of 521 new Junior Secondary School across the state.
- Establishment of Education Management Information System (EMIS) at the Ministry Headquarters which is radio linked with its parastatals.
- Increased the number of Normadic schools from 57 to 115 with an enrolment from 10,696 to 18,071
- Total renovation and rehabilitation of six selected Secondary School at the cost of N1.7billion.

PROJECTS IN 2009

- Construction of Community Centre at Yar Maishinkafi quarters in Gwale LGA at the cost of N28million.
- Construction of 1000 classrooms and their furniture in various Secondary School in the state at the cost of N2.5billion.
- Total renovation of Unity School Karaye and AKCC at the cost of N1.1billion
- Upgrading of structures in 18 Junior Secondary School and 27 Primary Schools across the state at the cost of N1.2 billion.
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- Sponsoring of 23,200 students for WAEC, NECO and NBAIS Examinations at the cost of N251 million
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- Literacy by radio covering 44 Local Government with enrolment of 2,200 students.



Malam (Dr) Ibrahim Shekarau
(Sardaunan Kano)
Kano State Governor



His Royal Highness
Alhaji (Dr) Ado Bayero, CFR, LLD, JP.
The Emir of Kano



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Allah Ya taimaki Sarki, Ya karawa Sarki lafiya.

Allah Ya yi wa Sardaunan Kano Jagora Ameen.

Signed:
MUSA SALIHU
Hon. Commissioner
Ministry of Education Kano.



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The Emir of Kano
Alhaji (Dr) Ado Bayero, CFR, LLD, JP.

Today 22nd of January 2010.



The Emir of Kano
Alhaji (Dr) Ado Bayero, CFR, LLD, JP.

*Mai martaba mun gode, Allah Ya ja zamanin sarki, Allah Ya jikan sarki Alhaji,
da mai babban daki amin. Allah Ya kuma rikawa sardaunan Kano.*

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Sale of FG houses: PCC calls for c'ttee dissolution

By Nasir Imam

THE Public Complaints Commission (PCC), have called for the dissolution of the ad-hoc committee on the sale of government houses because the members had compromised on "the confidence and trust reposed on them".

This was contained in a press statement to Daily Trust, signed

by Mr Udu Ewa, PCC's Assistant Director, Legal Unit.

The recommendations which had been submitted to the Federal Government through the FCT Minister, Alhaji Adamu Aliero, also included disciplinary actions against members of the committee.

According to the statement, the development was a fall out of investigations carried out by PCC

over complaints against the committee by a beneficiary of the sale of the houses under the monetisation policy.

It added that a female civil servant had complained in writing to the commission that "the committee was unlawfully attempting to revoke or withdraw an apartment which she duly bought and paid for".

The payment, the civil servant

said, was effected "through mortgage finance like other benefiting civil servants."

She said her refusal to obey an order by a senior officer of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to share the said property with his relative earned her a withdrawal letter on the ownership of the property.

However, in its defence, the committee claimed that the sale of the house to the complainant

was "being withdrawn because the house sold to her did not fall under the FGN non-essential residence housing units.

The statement further added that "in the final recommendation submitted to the Federal Government, the commission is convinced that by its conduct against the innocent civil servant, the present committee should be dissolved and a new one constituted".

Starwood Hotels develops Four Points resort

By Yunus Abdulhamid

STARWOOD Hotels & Resorts, in conjunction with Trinity Gardens Limited, have announced the development of Four Points by Sheraton Ikeja, a hotel and resort facility scheduled to open in 2013.

The new hotel will be situated in the Ikeja area of Lagos, within close proximity to the international and domestic airports, the Lagos industrial zone and the Ikeja golf course, a statement from Sheraton Abuja Hotels Public Relations manager, Nnaji Tyem said.

It said the Four Points by Sheraton Ikeja will offer 191 guest rooms, including a number of suites, a restaurant, a lobby bar, an open air bar and barbeque, and a juice bar.

Guests will also be able to enjoy the hotel's spa, fitness centre and swimming pool. An ideal venue for business meetings and social functions, Four Points by Sheraton Ikeja will feature a 1,500 square meter banqueting space that will be one of the largest in Lagos, the statement said.

"We are very excited about the development of this hotel as it gives us the opportunity to further strengthen our partnership with ARM and our presence in Lagos, Nigeria," said Roeland Vos, President of Starwood Hotels and Resorts, Europe, Africa & Middle East.

The six-story Four Points by Sheraton Ikeja will form part of a mixed-use development that includes a shopping mall and an entertainment complex.

"This multi-purpose complex will provide convenient one-stop hospitality and retailing experience in a comfortable, safe environment, with ample parking. The hotel, which will offer easy access to the mall and all the neighbouring amenities, will also provide a clear view of the surrounding golf course from the guest rooms," Nnaji said.



PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE

MANAGING Director, Hawthorne Hotel and Suites, Mr Faruk Aliyu (right) and Director, Sales and Marketing, Miss Maryam Aliyu, at a press briefing on the newly built Hawthorne Hotel and Suites, in Abuja on Wednesday.

Imo to rehabilitate rural water schemes

From Johnkennedy Uzoma, Owerri.

IMO State Government have stated its resolve to commence rehabilitation of all rural water schemes in all communities across the state.

The State Commissioner for Public Utilities and Rural Development, Mr. Ralph Nwosu disclosed this to Daily Trust in Owerri yesterday. He said that the plans in line

with 2010 government budget that reflected the rehabilitation of rural water scheme.

The Commissioner hinted that the measure is aimed at ensuring regular supply of drinking water to the people of the state.

Nwosu said that government would not want to make the mistakes of the past, condemned a situation where some politicians sites

projects to communities where they are not needed. He attributed the cause of malfunctioning of the projects to out right abandonment by the people who sited them.

According to them to effectively actualize this both Local Government Areas and Communities in the state will contribute 20, and 10 percent ratio while government would pay 70% ratio respectively.

He attributed the cause of malfunctioning of the projects to out right abandonment by the people who sited them

Yobe to build nine major roads

From Hamza Idris, Damaturu

COMMISSIONER for Works in Yobe State, Alhaji Alkali Abdulkadir Jajere, says nine new major roads would be constructed across the state this year while efforts would be intensified to complete those under construction.

To actualize this, Jajere says the 2010 finance and appropriation bills of the state has earmarked N13, 500,000.00 and N208,

390,000.00 for capital and recurrent expenditures which gives his ministry the highest allocation in the budget.

Jajere who spoke to Daily Trust in Damaturu yesterday said some of the new roads to be constructed would include Maiduwa-Gadaka road, Damaturu-Bundigari road, Danchuwa-Garin Bingel road, Nzamma-Mairari-Kanamma road, Gashua-Yusufari road, Buni-gari-Gulani road; Gashua-Dum-

bari-Dadigar road; Jaji Maji-Karasuwa road, Daya-Fadawa road and completion of Karage Bridge.

Other projects that would be completed according to the commissioner include Geidam-Bukarti road; asphalt overlaying of Tikau-Jajere road; completion of Geidam- Maine Soroa international road; completion of Gujba-Mutai-Gabai-Ngotala road; as well as continuation of work on the construction of Garin-

Alkali-Jakusko-Potiskum road, Kanamma-Yunusari-Yusufari-Karasuwa-Kumaganam-Mayori-Gumshi to Machina road among others.

Jajere said the state government will intensify efforts towards completing the asphalt overlaying in respect of Nguru-Machina road, Kaliyari-Bayamari-Gaidam road and Damaturu township and Housing Estate roads, including new township roads and drainages.

PROPERTY

NSE says construction bill will create jobs

By Nasir Imam

THE President of the Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE), Engr. Olumuyiwa Alade Ajibola has stated that the 'Nigerian' Indigenous Construction Com-

pany (motivation and protection) Bill 2009' currently at the committee stage at the House of Representative will bring about increased employment in the country when passed into law.

Speaking during a

presentation at the Public hearing on the bill at the National Assembly, Ajibola said the bill shows that the legislators were desirous of what he called positive progress in the real sector of the economy.

He said the bill was coming at the right time as countries all over the world were doing everything to improve local capacity of its professionals especially engineers through support of indigenous companies.

In Africa, he mentioned the governments of Zambia and Tanzania where a National Construction Council (NCC) has been established by both governments to promote the development of the local

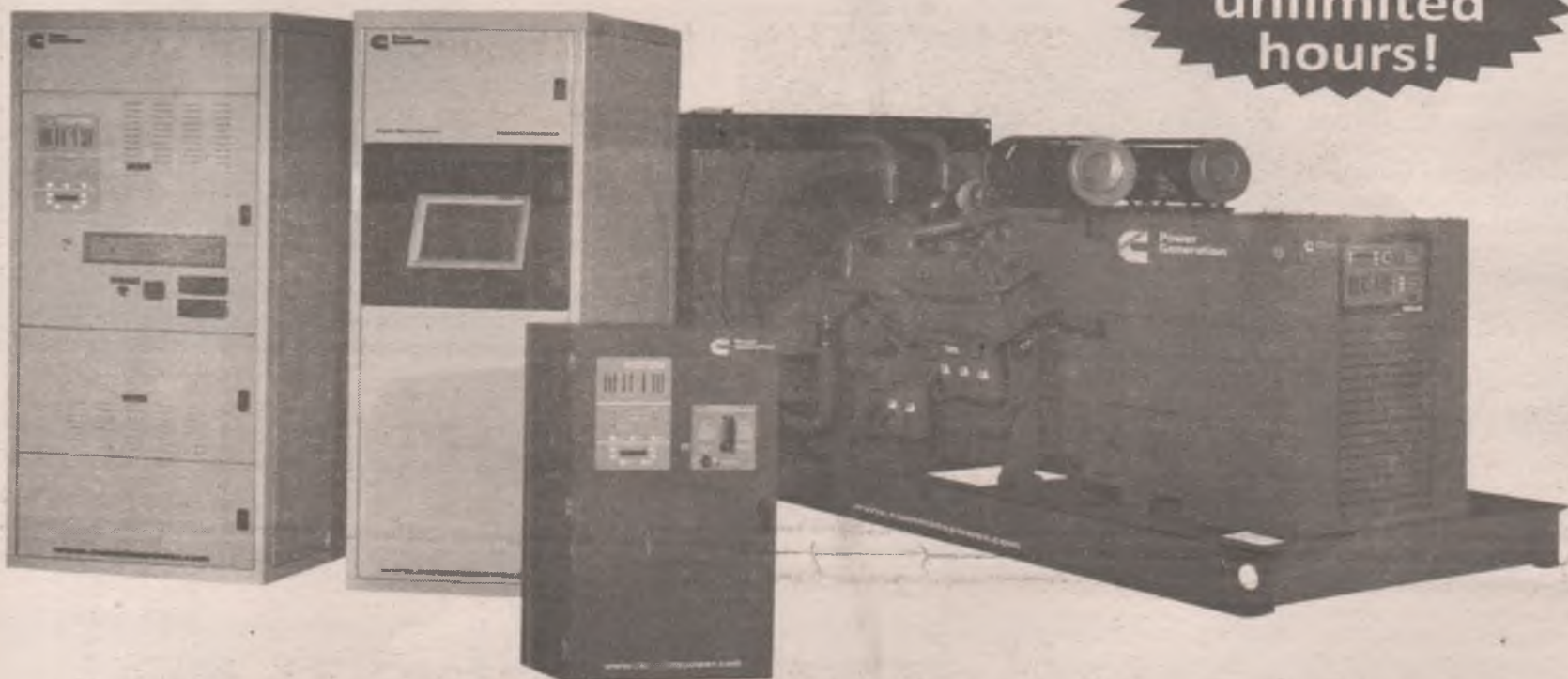
construction industry in their countries.

Engr. Ajibola said the passing of the bill into law will particularly lead to a construction industry that maximises local participation in the country.

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Court orders Ringim's arrest

By Abubakar Yakubu

A Chief Magistrate Court sitting at Wuse, Abuja, Wednesday issued a bench warrant for the arrest of one Alhaji Atiku Hafiz Ringim for ejecting one Miss Amina Aliyu from his apartment at Block 3 Umme Street, Wuse Zone 1, despite a court's injunction.

The true identity of Ringim is yet to be ascertained as lawyers suspect he might be a serving top police officer, who deployed about 10 armed policemen to forcefully remove Miss Aliyu's property in her absence.

Miss Aliyu, who is a teacher, complained that when she returned to Abuja after the festive holiday, she met her prop-

erty has been packed out and does not know where they are.

The order issued by Chief Magistrate Josephine Obanor describes as criminal and contempt of court, the forceful removal of the property of Ms Aliyu from the apartment and ordered her to take immediate possession of the property as well as ordered the landlord to stop further work or renovation of the property pending the determination of the case that was adjourned to January 25, 2010.

Lawyer to Ms Aliyu, Barrister Esther Uzoma, said yesterday that efforts are on to trace the true identity of Ringim as the particulars he gave in a court application

have proven difficult to trace.

According to her, efforts were made to contact Ringim through the phone and address stated in the application he filed in court but all proved fruitless.

Barrister Uzoma said the two lawyers that stood in for the said Ringim in a case he instituted in court against his tenants are being sought for, so that they can reveal his true identity to the public.

Ringim had in November 2009 instituted an ejection suit before a chief magistrate court against Miss Eziaghala Doris, Miss Amina Aliyu and Mrs Mary Ann Dadzie (defendants).

In the application filed in

the suit, the applicant, Ringim, denied entering into any tenancy agreement with the defendants before they occupied his premises.

He told the court that he rented the three-bedroom apartment to one Hassan M. Saleh on August 1, 2008, adding that after Saleh's tenancy expired, he packed out on July 31, 2009.

The landlord accused the defendants of illegally moving into his house and partitioning it amongst themselves as well as disfiguring his house.

He said the defendants have been begged since August 2009 to leave the apartment so that he can renovate it for his private use but they wilfully refused.

AEPB seals up 32 shops at Emab Plaza

By Usman A. Bello

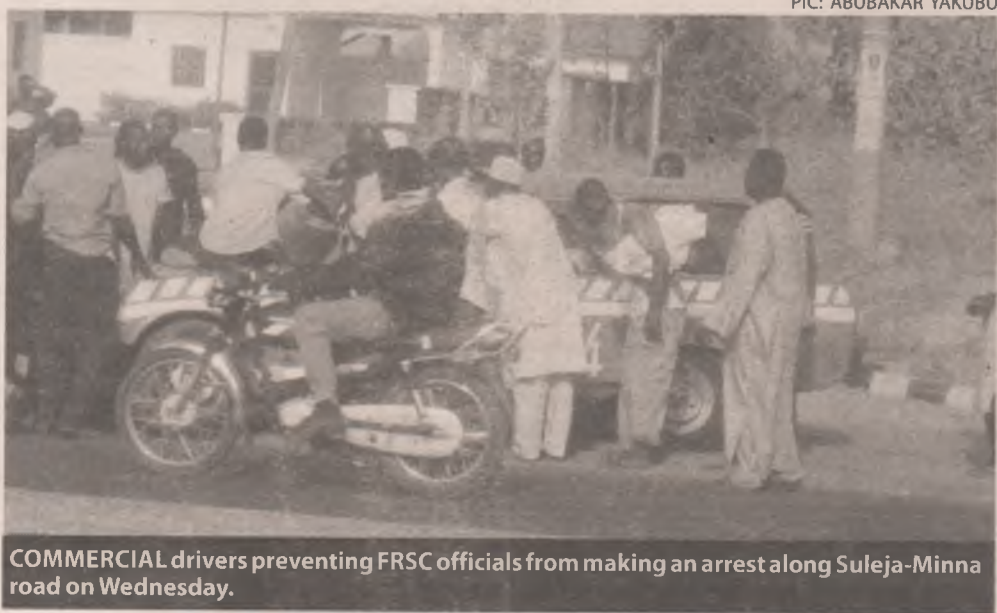
THE Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB) have so far sealed 32 shops at Emab Plaza, along Aminu Kano Crescent, Wuse 11, Abuja, as well as issued court summons to some residents.

Public Relations Officer of the board, Samuel Musa, who disclosed this to City News yesterday, said the action became necessary because the shop owners failed to pay waste service bill to the board as required by the law.

He also disclosed that about 36 residents of Garki and Gwarinpa have been served with court summons for refusing to provide dust bins in their environment after the board had severally warned them against such attitudes.

Musa said the board has intensified its public enlightenment campaign to sensitize residents on the forthcoming FCT monthly environmental sanitation exercise, adding that the board will do everything possible to make the city clean.

He advised residents to always clean their environment, saying the board will arrest and prosecute defaulters.



PIC: ABUBAKAR YAKUBU

COMMERCIAL drivers preventing FRSC officials from making an arrest along Suleja-Minna road on Wednesday.

Labourer jailed for handbag theft

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

AN Abuja magistrate court yesterday sentenced a 25-year-old labourer to two weeks imprisonment for stealing a handbag belonging to one John Victor.

The accused, Benjamin John stole a bag containing two cell phones, cell phone batteries and recharge cards valued at N10,000.

Police prosecutor, Paul Anigbo, had earlier stated in court that on January 19, 2010, one Victor John of Lugbe, Abuja, reported to the police that the accused dishonestly entered his business centre at Lugbe and stole his bag.

"After stealing the bag, the accused ran away, while the complainant ran

after him and the accused was apprehended with the assistance of some passersby," the prosecutor added.

He further stated that the accused was caught with the handbag, adding that the offence is punishable under Section 288 of the Penal Code Law.

When the one -count-charge was read to the accused, he pleaded guilty, saying he actually stole the bag, but begged the court for leniency.

Based on his plea, the prosecutor asked the court to try him summarily under Section 157 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

In her ruling, Magistrate Njideka Duru, convicted the accused and sentenced him to two weeks imprisonment or to pay N1,000 as fine.

Lawmaker's staff donates to orphanage

By Usman A. Bello

WORKERS in the constituency office of a lawmaker representing AMAC/Bwari federal constituency, Philip Aduda, recently

donated food, provisions and toiletries to Karu Orphanage Home.

Presenting the items on behalf of the workers, James Jimoko, said it was part of their annual

routine to donate food and other items to orphanage homes as well as the less privileged for them to know that they are also part of the society.

He advised the management

to make judicious use of the items for the benefit of the children they were meant for.

Ahmed Yahaya who received the items on behalf of the management, promised that the

items will be used judiciously and called on other good spirited and well meaning Nigerians to also come to the aid of the children so that they can be well catered for.

FCT pilgrims' board to make refunds

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

THE Federal Capital Territory Muslim Pilgrims' Welfare Board has concluded plans to refund the money of those who did not perform the 2009 hajj due to reasons beyond their control.

The board's director, Dr Shu'aibu Yakubu Kurfi, said the board has reserved the deposits paid by such applicants.

He advised the concerned applicants to report to the headquarters of the board before February 8 with proof of payment and all necessary documents to

claim their money.

According to him, those who willingly intend to defer their fares to this year's hajj exercise should also come forward and declare their intention for necessary action, adding that the board would soon commence preparation for this year's hajj exercise.

He said the board has retained good houses used in the 2009 hajj operation in Makka, while houses number seven at Ghishla and number two at Sahatul Islam were dropped due to their poor status and distance from the Grand Mosque (Masjid-el-Haram).

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600 PDP members decamp to ANPP at Gwagwalada

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

PIC: ABUBAKAR SADIQ ISAH

ABOUT 600 card carrying members of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) with their party elders Wednesday defected to the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), at Paikon-Kore community, of Gwagwalada Area Council.

Receiving the new members at Paikon-Kore, the FCT ANPP Chairman, Alhaji Usman Abdulmalik, disclosed that it has been the tradition of ANPP as a party to give all members equal chances to contribute to the progress of the party.

He urged the new party members not to engage themselves in anti party activities as well as allow themselves to be deceived by the PDP, which he said has no manifesto.

Speaking on behalf of the decamped PDP members, Pastor Isaiah Madaki said their decision to pitch tent with the ANPP was as a result of the ongoing transformations under the area council's administration of Alhaji Zakari Angulu Dobi.

He said since the administration stated over two years ago, residents of the community have enjoyed the dividends of democracy, which he listed as constant water supply, health, electric-



CHAIRMAN of Gwagwalada Area Council Alhaji Zakari Angulu Dobi (centr) addressing the decampees at Paikon-Kore community, Wednesday.

ity, agriculture, youth/women empowerment and good roads.

Reacting, Gwagwalada Area Council Chairman, Alhaji Zakari Angulu Dobi, commended the new members for taking the

decision to join the party, noting that their coming to ANPP was a sign to show that the council has indeed touched the lives of people in the area.

The chairman condemned

speculations going around the community that the ANPP will not be declared winner if it wins the council's election.

He advised residents of the council not to listen to such prop-

aganda, adding that he has confidence that the forth coming elections will be protected because electorates will cast their votes and protect them," he said.

Three in court over theft

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

THREE men, who were arraigned before an Abuja magistrate Wednesday, denied stealing property belonging to one Adebayo Odulana of National Assembly, Abuja.

The accused persons, Nurudeen Usman, Umoru Yahaya, both of the National Assembly and Emmanuel Ugbangbi, were all arrested by the police for jointly stealing some electronics belonging to the complainant.

Prosecutor Isenyo Adoche stated in court that the accused persons illegally entered into Room 1274, Annex 1 building of the National Assembly on December 31, 2009.

"They illegally entered the house of one Honourable Adebayo Odulana and stole one HP Computer Set, UPS, and a 37 inches television set, thereby committing offences punishable under Sections 97, 342 and 288 of the Penal Code Law," the prosecutor added.

When the charges were read to the accused persons, they denied them and requested for bail.

Chief Magistrate David Ochimana granted each of the accused persons bail in the sum of N200,000 with a reliable surety in like sum that must reside within the court's jurisdiction.

Driver denies reckless driving charge

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A 26-year-old driver Wednesday denied driving a car recklessly without the authority of the owner and causing an accident.

The driver, Chijioke Okanya of No 6, Ethopia Close, Maitama, Abuja, was accused of committing the offences on January 12, 2010.

Prosecutor Monday Akor told

the court that on January 12, 2010, the accused drove a Mercedes Benz car with registration number, NK 222 ABC without the consent of the owner along City Park, Maitama, Abuja.

"The accused drove the said vehicle in a very dangerous manner and as a result hit a Toyota Corolla car with registration number AE342GWT that was driven by one Hassan Saleh," the prosecutor stated.

He also disclosed that as a result of the accident, the driver of the Toyota car sustained a deep head injury, adding that the two cars involved in the accident were damaged because of the accused person's action, thereby leading to offences punishable under Sections 28 (1) and 33 of the Road Traffic Act.

When the charges were read to the accused, he pleaded not guilty and requested for bail,

which was not objected by the accused.

In his ruling, Magistrate Emmanuel Iyanna granted the accused bail in the sum of N200,000 with a reliable surety in like sum that must reside within the court's jurisdiction and swear to an affidavit to produce the accused in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to February 16 for hearing.

I'm not lobbying to deputy chair – Aspirant

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

A chairmanship aspirant under the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the last party primaries in Kwali, Alhaji Usman Jiya, Tuesday denied lobbying to be running mate to the incumbent acting council Chairman, Mr Danlami Saleh Yebu.

Jiya said he never wrote the FCT PDP requesting to be a running mate to the incumbent chairman of Kwali, adding that the decision to pick him as a running mate was the resolution of the party's reconciliation committee.

According to him, his optimum intention was to become the flag bearer of the party in the council and not running mate but he has taken everything as destiny.

The former council speaker said he lost interest in the vice-chairmanship position because of what befell the slain chairman and the prosecution of his vice as a prime suspect.

He said if the party still decides to pick him as a running mate; the working relationship might not be cordial due to comments of the chairman's supporters.

"A focused politician will not make his position known to the electorates that he prefers a Bassa person to Ganagana person openly, as all communication has to be within the party's internal mechanism," he explained.

He however commended the efforts of the PDP reconciliation committee for taking time to reach out to all aggrieved parties.

Man denies abducting girl

By Foluke Ojumu

A 28-year-old man, James Okon, was on Wednesday arraigned before an Abuja Area Court for allegedly abducting a girl for four days.

Prosecutor Sule informed the court that on January 17, at about 1 pm, one Raymond Friday reported to the police that on January 15, 2010, the accused abducted his sister (names withheld) for four days and kept her in his house.

He said the accused refused to honour police invitation and resisted arrest, adding that he fought and tore the clothes of one

Constable Adin Shagbaor.

"The accused fought him, tore his clothes valued at N6,000, destroyed his sandals of N1,800 and wrist watch valued at N2,500," the prosecutor added.

He also told the court that the policeman incurred a medical bill of N1,700 for injuries inflicted on his leg and further accused the accused of escaping from police custody.

The accused pleaded not guilty to the charges and requested for bail.

Judge Babaginda Hassan remanded him in prisons custody and adjourned hearing for February 23, 2010.

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In the name of Allah the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful. All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the worlds. We testify that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, and that Muhammed (peace be upon him) is His prophet and messenger. May the benediction and blessings of Allah be on Prophet Muhammed who is the noblest of mankind, his household, his companions and those who follow their foot steps till the day of resurrection.

The husband has greater rights over his wife than her parents (2)

Continued from last week

Shaykh al-Islam Ibn Taymiyah (may Allah have mercy on him) was asked about a woman who got married, and was no longer under her parents' care. Which is better – honouring her parents or obeying her husband? He replied: When a woman gets married, her husband has more authority over her than her parents, and obeying her husband is more obligatory for her. Allah says (interpretation of the meaning): "Therefore the righteous women are devoutly obedient (to Allah and to their husbands), and guard in the husband's absence what Allah orders them to guard (e.g. their chastity and their husband's property)" [al-Nisa' 4:34]. And in a hadeeth the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "This world is temporary conveniences and the best of its comforts is a believing wife, who when you look at her she pleases you and if you tell her to do something she obeys you, and if you are away from her she protects you with regard to herself and your wealth." In Saheeh Abi Haatim it is narrated that Abu Hurayrah said: The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "If a woman offers her five (daily prayers) and fasts her month and guards her chastity and obeys her husband, she will enter Paradise from whichever of its gates she wants." In al-Tirmidhi it is narrated that Umm Salamah (may Allah be pleased with her) said: The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: Any woman who dies when her husband is pleased with her, will enter Paradise." This was narrated by al-Tirmidhi, who said it is a hasan hadeeth. It was narrated from Abu Hurayrah that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "If I were to order anyone to prostrate to anyone, I would have ordered women to prostrate to their husbands." Narrated by al-Tirmidhi who said it is a hasan hadeeth. It was also narrated by Abu Dawood with the wording: "I would have ordered women to prostrate to their husbands because of the rights that Allah has given them over them." In al-Musnad it is narrated from Anas that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "It is not acceptable for any human to prostrate to another, but if it were acceptable for any human to prostrate to another, I would have ordered women to prostrate to their husbands, because of the greatness of the rights they have over them. By the One in Whose hand is my soul, if there were sores from his feet to the top of his head flowing with pus, then she licked

them, she would not have given him all his rights."

And he quoted ahaadeeth about the virtue of obeying the husband.

There are many ahaadeeth on this topic from the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). Zayd ibn Thaabit said: The husband is a sayyid (lord or master) in the Book of Allaah. Then he quoted the verse (interpretation of the meaning): "They both found her lord (i.e. her husband) at the door" [Yoosuf 12:25]. Umar ibn al-Khattaab said: Marriage is slavery, so let one of you look to whom he is giving his beloved daughter to be a slave to. In al-Tirmidhi and elsewhere it is narrated that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "I urge you to treat women well, for they are like prisoners with you." So the woman is like a slave of her husband, or like a prisoner; she should not go out of his house without his permission, whether she is told to do so by her father, her mother or anyone else, according to scholarly consensus.

If a man wants to take her to another place, so long as he is doing what is required of him, and observing the sacred limits of Allah with regard to her, and her father tells her not to obey him in that, then she must obey her husband and not her father, because in that case the parents are wrongdoers, and they have no right to tell her not to obey someone like this husband, and she does not have the right to obey her mother if she tells her to leave him or to cause trouble to him so that he will divorce her, such as demanding more maintenance and more clothing, and demanding (the deferred portion of) her mahr so that he may divorce her. It is not permissible for her to obey either of her parents by divorcing him if he fears Allah with regard to her.

In the four Sunans and Saheeh Ibn Abi Haatim it is narrated that Thawbaan said: The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "Any woman who asks her husband for a divorce when there is nothing wrong, the fragrance of Paradise will be forbidden to her." According to another hadeeth: "The women who ask for khula' and the women who make a wanton display of themselves are indeed hypocrites."

But if both or one of her parents tells her to do something that involves obedience to Allah, such as praying regularly, speaking the truth and fulfilling trusts, and tells her not to squander or waste her money, and other



BARRISTER Nurain Dindi, Assistant Chief Registrar of FCT High Court (right) solemnising a marriage recently.

things that have been enjoined or forbidden by Allah and His Messenger, then she must obey them in that, even if the command comes from someone other than her parents, so how about if it comes from her parents?

If her husband tells her not to do something that is enjoined by Allah, and he tells her to do something that Allah has forbidden, then she should not obey him in that. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "There is no obedience to any created being if it involves disobedience towards the Creator." If a master orders his slave to do something that involves disobedience towards Allah, it is not permissible for him to obey him by disobeying Him, so how can a woman obey her husband or one of her parents by committing sin? All goodness is in obeying Allah and His Messenger, and all evil is in disobeying Allah and His Messenger. End quote. Majmoo' al-Fataawa (32/261-264).

This is a strong answer based on knowledge, and it is sufficient to explain what is meant, which is that it is not permissible for your mother to spoil the relationship between you and your husband, and it is not permissible for you to obey her in that, and your husband's right to your obedience is greater than your mother's.

Just as you are not obliged to take care of any of your siblings because of your commitment of your husband and the requirement that he should first agree to that, the same applies to your visiting your mother with your children. This is not permissible

except with the consent of your husband, and you have done well to refuse your mother's request. We affirm that this refusal is Islamically acceptable, especially since you have no mahram to travel with you.

With regard to limiting the number of your mother's visits to you, this is something that is also up to your husband, and you can work it out with him. The husband has the right to prevent anyone who he thinks is a trouble-maker from entering his house, even if they are your family. As you are in agreement and you have a good relationship, then the matter is simple. All you have to do is agree on a specific number and time for her visits, and stipulate that to her. Your husband has every right to do this; indeed we think that if he stops her altogether he will be doing the right thing, but there is the hope that if her visits are restricted to only a few, and do not affect your family's happiness, then there is no reason why they should be prevented, and there is nothing wrong with tolerating them. Determining the limit is up to you and you should consult one another and come to some agreement.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al-Uthaymeen (may Allah have mercy on him) said: "And not allow into your houses anyone whom you dislike" means, they (wives) should not allow anyone to enter the house if you (the husband) do not want him or her to enter, even if it is her mother or her father. It is not permissible for her to let her mother, father, sister, brother, paternal uncle, maternal uncle, paternal aunt

or maternal aunt into her husband's house, if he objects to that. Attention is drawn to this because some women – Allah forbid – are bad even to their daughters. If they see that the daughters are settled and happy with their husbands, they become jealous – Allah forbid – even though they are mothers, and they try to spoil things between the daughter and her husband. So the husband has the right to stop such a mother from entering his house, and he has the right to say to his wife: She should not enter my house. He has the right to prevent her according to sharee'ah, and he has the right to prevent his wife from going to see her, because she is namaamah (one who spreads malicious gossip) and a troublemaker. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "No spreader of malicious gossip will enter Paradise." End quote. Sharh Riyaaadh al-Saaliheen (2/91, hadeeth no. 276),

It seems that the sin of the riba-based loan that is mentioned in your question is borne by you, because you were an adult and responsible for your dealings. So try to get back what is rightfully yours from your mother, and stop the mounting interest payments that result from your delay in repaying it. Try not to pay back anything but the original amount without the interest (riba). If you are not able to do that, then there is no blame on you, but it is essential to repent sincerely, because riba is a major sin.

We ask Allah to guide your mother and to reconcile between you and your husband.

Concluded

Inside Politics

Kogi 2011: Will the PDP get it unopposed?



GOVERNOR Ibrahim Idris

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

JUST a year and few months ahead of the 2011 general elections in the country, recent political events in Kogi State have observably taken a shape. The shape, all things being equal, underscores an emergence of a one-party state.

PREVIOUS elections in the state, since 1999, witnessed rivalry among major political parties. In particular, it has always been a dagger-drawn contest between the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the All Nigerian Peoples Party (ANPP).

The unfolding political scenario, which has seen a large number of opposition members throwing in the towel and decamping to the ruling PDP in Kogi State, has continued to lend impetus to the insinuations that the opposition may have been grounded to an inevitable halt in the confluence state.

At the re-union rally recently organised in honour of thousands of opposition members who defected to the PDP from the ANPP and the Action Congress (AC), Governor Ibrahim Idris said in clear terms that the era of vibrant opposition in the state is gone.

"I congratulate the state executive and members of our great party for this wonderful achievement. Now, I am sure it is indisputable that Kogi is the first to become a one-party state in the country. I assure all the returnees and decampers that they will enjoy equal opportunities with every other member of the party," the governor said.

"We are one family. Our principal concern is to deliver the dividends of democracy to the people of the state. We have, indeed, proved this through our laudable programmes and projects which have positively touched the lives of our people," he added.

Prominent among the returnees and decampers are Chief

Olusola Akanmode, former Chief of Staff to former President Olusegun Obasanjo; Senator Salihu Ohize of Kogi Central District, Chief Simon Achuba, former member of the State House of Assembly; Chief Joseph Ibrahim; Reps Abdulkarim Salihu and Suleiman Kokori-Abdul from the AC.

On why he and his co-defectors took the decision, Akanmode, whom many had often relied on for an effervescent opposition, explained: "When we considered our huge individual investments in PDP, our physical commitment and emotional attachment; we cannot but be pained by the circumstances of our exit. Although we experienced the usual stresses and strains in the party, the final straw was the re-registration exercise of the year 2006 which was comparable to launching a guided missile, and which unfortunately ended up hitting wrong target."

"Many otherwise loyal and committed members of the party suffered severe collateral damages. During the formative years of political parties in the state, many of us in Kogi state dreamed of venturing into a mainstream political party which could enhance the unity of our people by virtually eliminating inter-party quarrels. Regrettably, the events of 2006 dealt a great blow to

our fragile political environment. Elections were fought with unprecedented ferocity and during the state and federal elections in 2007, we were literally at war."

"Our decision to return to the PDP was borne out of the need to return sanity and create an atmosphere in which eloquence can take place and people we are claiming to serve can at least live peacefully. Some of us had resolved that we can no longer be part of politics of so brutish and so nasty a nature. There is time for everything, there is time to agree and time to disagree. There is a time to work against each other and there is time to work with each other," the politician declared.

Received into the PDP, Senator Salihu Ohize was not only grateful, but also affirmed that the re-union would restore peace in his political domain, the Central Senatorial District, and foreclose the possibility of the opposition thriving in Kogi any more, stressing that PDP will win the subsequent elections in the state.

In the same vein, the leader of the decampers from the ANPP, Chief Abdul Ibrahim, said he and his co-defectors were attracted by the achievements of the current administration in the state, stressing that "Governor Idris has proved beyond doubt that the ruling PDP is committed to giving the full dividends of democracy to the people. We will not only be loyal to the party, but we will unswervingly support the governor on his passion to impact positively on the lives of the masses".

Priding on the defection of opposition members to the PDP, the state Chairman of the party, Mallam Hassan Salawu, noted that those who defected from the AC were hitherto part of the PDP. Now, they have realised that the PDP is a real democratic party. "Basically, the exemplary leadership of the party in the state attracted them all to defect to it. We are giving hope to the people and that is why many politicians are decamping to our party."

On the rumours that Prince Audu Abubakar, former state governor and gubernatorial candidate of the ANPP during the last re-run election would defect to the PDP, Salawu said it would make no difference.

"With or without him, winning elections is not our problem in the PDP. I don't see any difference", Salawu said.

Audu himself, in a media interview, had vowed that no amount of persuasion could make him decamp.

"I joined politics to better the lives of my people. Those who know me can testify that I am not into politics for what to eat. Why then should I decamp? They have made such rumours of my decamping to PDP. Since the formation of the ANPP, I have financed it without any support and we did well... I am not hungry and will continue to play politics of issues and development of my people... Politicians should not turn the nation into a one-party state as it will not be healthy for a multi-ethnic and plural society like Nigeria", Audu was quoted as saying.

Meanwhile, reactions from the opposition camps are dispelling the possibility of the emergence of a one-party state in Kogi. Describing those who defected to the PDP as disgruntled elements, the state secretary of the ANPP, Mr. Kenneth Bosede Elesho, in a chat with Daily Trust, threatened that notwithstanding the defection of some members of the opposition, nothing would derail the party from its goal of wresting power from the PDP in 2011 in the state.

"We cannot stop anybody from decamping. It is their right to do so. I can only say that nobody, except disgruntled ones, will consider decamping as a wise option now. We remain firm on our decision to win future elections in the state", Elesho said.

The state acting chairman of the Action Congress, Alhaji Hadi Ahmed, described the defection of the party's members as a stab in the back of the party that made them, regretting that some of them who rose to elective positions on the platform of AC did not deem it fit to follow the constitutional procedure of relinquishing their positions before decamping.

The AC chieftain, however, said that the party was not disturbed by this development, stressing that "the AC was not unaware of the inept leadership in Kogi State, but as a grassroots party, we are committed to seeing a change. We are getting prepared to rise to the daunting challenge of actualising the aspirations of the people of the state. I assure the PDP of a thorough contest in the coming general elections".

For the Progressive Peoples Alliance (PPA), the opposition is alive and vibrant in Kogi State. According to the state chairman of the party, Dr Simeon Ojonugwa, "the perceived death of the opposition in Kogi is due to our resolve to play cool to avoid continuous trouble in the state. For people to know that the opposition is not dead in Kogi, some months ago, about 110 youths from Koton Karfe Local Government Area defected to PPA from PDP. As part of our strategies to win 2011 elections, we have opened campaign offices in 17 out of the 21 local government areas of the state in a bid to prove stronger than the PDP in the next general elections".

Ojonugwa, however, lamented the seeming non-viability of the opposition in the country, saying that "without opposition, there is no democracy. Unfortunately, the opposition is extremely poor in Nigeria because there is no united front to confront the government. Those in opposition have to criticise and oppose those in government so that they can improve on the system".

"The unfolding political scenario, which has seen a large number of opposition members throwing in the towel and decamping to the ruling PDP in Kogi State, has continued to lend impetus to the insinuations that the opposition may have been grounded to an inevitable halt in the confluence state."

TRUST CLASSIFIED

HEALTH GUARD FOUNDATION

The above named Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration in accordance with the companies and Allied matters Act 1990.

The Trustees are:

1. Juliana Uzoka
2. Dr. Mrs. Sarah Jibril
3. Rev. Fr. Raphael Fagbohun
4. Augustina Uzoka
5. Dr. Ikenna Okam

The Aims and Objectives are:

1. To engaged in community and rural assistance through the provision of portable and hygienic water supply.
2. To engage in community and rural assistance in the area of sanitary and environmental protection.
3. To network with individual and corporate organizations in the achievements of rural and community assistance.

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420 Tigris Crescent, Maitama District Abuja with 28 days of this publication.

Signed: ERIC OBA & CO

Suite 215 Lozumba Commercial Complex, Area 10 Garki Abuja.

SAVING LIVES AND CHARITY NEEDS FOUNDATION

This is to inform the general public that the above named Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration in accordance with the companies and Allied matters Act 1990.

The Trustees are:

1. Engr. Anthony Anny
2. Barrister Juliet Odimma
3. Nze Sydney Ezeji
4. Mrs. Iyabo Sonuga
5. Chioma Mary Margaret Amam

The Aims and Objectives are:

1. To improve on the lives of the needy through charity support
2. To provide free medical assistance to the indigent and underprivileged persons.
3. To provide educational support to the needy in the society

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420 Tigris Crescent, Maitama District Abuja with 28 days of this publication

Signed: Engr. Anthony Anny.

SILVER LINING FOR THE NEEDY INITIATIVE

This is to inform the general public the above named Initiative has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Hauwa Abbas
2. Rita Adaobi Okwesa
3. Oscar Osondu Opara-Kadi
4. Nkeiruka Edmund

Aims and objectives:

1. To foster love and cater for the indigent and less privileged in our society.
2. To provide for the orphans and orphanages.
3. To campaign against discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed: Atasié Nkasiobi, Atasié, Atasiés & Associates
Suite 32/33, Kay's Plaza, Plot 48 Ebitu Ukiwe Street,
Jabi-Abuja.

GRACE AND MERCY EVANGELICAL MISSION

This is to inform the general public that the above named Mission has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Patrick Pius
2. Anthonia Pius
3. Solomon Ogun,
4. Divine Pius

Aims and objectives:

1. To preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to all men.
2. To reach out to the less privileged in the society.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed:
Secretary

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of loss of the following documents:

Original acknowledgement letter of certificate of occupancy issued by FCDA in respect of Plot No.433 Nhora District in favour of universal Ideas Limited Drwer's Licence, Official Identify Card of National Orientation Agency and Zenith Bank cheque Book' all belonging to JA AFAR BALA FAROUQ. All effort made to trace it proved abortive. If found return to the nearest police station, FCDA and relevant authorities take note please.

In the Light of Truth The Grail Message

"You should give to your neighbor with your being, your nature! Not necessarily with money and goods."

Abd-ru-shin

Grail Centre Madalla, Madalla Suleja Road
08054183304

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION

AFFIDAVIT OF LOSS OF ORIGINAL OF CONVEYANCE OF PROVISIONAL APPROVAL OF CUSTOMARY RIGHT OF OCCUPANCY

1. Charles Chukwuzor, Christian, Male, Adult, Nigerian of Lands Department, Kuje Area Council, Kuje FCT do make oath and state as follows:

1. That I am an agent of Mrs. S. A. Ibrahim who is presently in the United Kingdom.
2. I know as a fact that Mrs. S. A. Ibrahim is the Aliotee of Plot J62, Mpape Layout, measuring 1500 Sqm.
3. I know that she was allotted the property vide a Conveyance of Provisional Approval of Customary Right of Occupancy dated 3/12/2002 issued by the Bwari Area Council.
4. On the 15th of January at about 12 noon Mrs. S. A. Ibrahim informed me vide a telephone conversation and I verily believe her to be true that she has lost her Original Copy of Conveyance of Provisional Approval of Customary Right of Occupancy dated 3/12/2002 covering Plot J62 Mpape Layout.
5. That all efforts to trace or find the Original document has not yielded a fruitful result.
6. That the only document she has of the Plot is a photocopy of the Provisional Approval of Customary Right of Occupancy dated 3/12/2002 covering Plot J62 Mpape Layout.
7. That this affidavit is now necessary for record purpose.
8. That I swear to this affidavit in good faith conscientiously believing its contents to be true to the best of my knowledge and in accordance with the Oaths Act.

Signed:

Abdullahi Ibrahim & Co.,
48 Halls Sellasie Street, Asokoro-Abuja

LIVING PRAISE AND POWER COVENANT CHURCH

This is to inform the general public that the above named Church has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Ignatius Igbadumhe
2. Dele Igbadumhe
3. Patrick Pius
4. Solomon Ogun

Aims and objectives:

1. To preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to all men.
2. To reach out to the less privileged in the society.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed: Secretary

FREEDOM GATE CHAPEL

This is to notify the general public that the above named organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part C of the companies and allied matters act, law of the federation of Nigeria, 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

Pastor. Nwadam Peter	Chairman
Mrs. Nwadam Regina	Secretary
Mrs. Margaret Modupe	Member
Mr. Tolufase Jimmy David	Member
Mr. Egbe Sylvester Eborly	Member

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

To preach the Gospel of Christ
To operate as a church of God in accordance to the will of God
To train and raise disciples for the spread of the gospel
Any objective to this registration should be forwarded to registrar general, corporate affair commission, Maitama Abuja within 28 days of the publication.

SIGNED: DANIEL ADENJI
LEGAL PRACTITIONER, PROVIDENCE CHAMBERS
MINNA. 08035906254

LOSS OF LAND DOCUMENT

This is to notify the general public of the loss of certificate of Occupancy belonging to Late Alhaji Suleiman Takuma, in respect of Plot No. NGS 4032 located along Zarumai Road Minna, which got missing while travelling from Maikunkele town to Abuja in 2001. If found please contact this number 08034522237 or 08065800821.

I, formerly MISS JIMOH SHADE now wish to be known as MRS ALO-FOLASHADE FLORENCE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note

My correct name is HUSSAINI ISMAILA ABDULLAHI of S.W 671 Efu Etsu Yisa, bida not as erroneously written in my WAEC & NECO result of 2008 as HUSSEIN ISMAIL ABDULLAHI.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly MISS UCHEMA ROSELINE NWEZE now wish to be known as MRS UCHEMA ROSELINE OKECHUKWU. All former documents remain valid. Nigeria Prison Service, Unizik and general public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS MARY DANJUMA, now MRS. MARY SAMAILA YAKUBU former documents remain valid, general public take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as MISS AGAH VIOLET NDIDI, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS OKONKWO VIOLET NDIDI. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly MR. ILEBA, DUM FRIDAY now wish to be called MR. KOORI, DONATUS DUM. All former documents remain valid. Ministry of Education, Rivers State and the general public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS KELECHI JOY OHAPOP now wish to be addressed as MRS KELECHI JOY OKPUE. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I, formerly known as MISS VERONICA ONYOWO ADAH now wish to be addressed as MRS VERONICA ONYOWO UNAJI. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

Formerly MISS UFOMADU EZIAHA wish to be known and addressed as MRS OBI CHIDI EZIAHA. All former documents remain valid. ABSU, NYSC and general public take note.

I, formerly EMMANUEL RICHARD ENANG now wish to be called EMMANUEL UVARA ANANI. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS NDUBISI CAROLINE, now wish to be known as MRS CHUKWU CHIBUEZE CAROLINE. All former documents remain valid. NHIS and general public please note.

I, formerly known as MISS ESTHER FUNMILAYO AJAYI now wish to be known and addressed as MRS ESTHER FUNMILAYO APATA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I SALIMON SODIQ AYINLA confirmed that I am also known as SALIMON SODIQ AYINLA ADESHINA. That both names are part of my full name that all documents these names appear referred to me and are valid. ABU. Zaria, general public note.

I formerly GODWIN EDIRORO UKEH now wishes to be known as GODWIN EDIRORO DAY. All former documents remain valid. ABU Zaria, NYSC and General public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS ESTHER ANDREW MULWA, now wish to be called MRS ESTHER PHILIP. All former documents remain valid. P. H. C. general take note.

I formerly known as JIBRIN HARUNA IDRIS, now wish to be known as JIBRIN MAMMAN Alfa. Former documents remain valid, general public take note.

I, formerly MISS EKEH COMFORT NKASIOBI, now wish to be MRS CONFORT SAMUEL EJERE. Former documents remain valid. Institute of Management Technology, Enugu, general public take note.

I FORMERLY MISS PEACE NWANNEKA OKOLGI NOW MRS PEACE NWANNEKA ILGOCHUKWU. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC TO NOTE.

I FORMERLY ONWUMERE MAMA BRIGHT NOW ONWUMERE EBERE GLORY. ALL FORMER DOCUMENT REMAIN VALID NSE, CSCS TAKE NOTE.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AS HALIMA GARBA NOW MRS HALIMA GARBA AHMED. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. NYSC, AND GENERAL PUBLIC TO NOTE.

I FORMERLY MISS SAIDAT BALOGUN ABIKE WISH TO BE ADDRESSED AS ODEDUNTA SAIDAT ABIKE FADERERA. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. THE GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.

I formerly HAUWA RAMAT ABUBAKAR now wish to be addressed as HAUWA YUSUF MUHAMMAD. NYSC and general public should take note.

Formerly MISS WATIRAHYEL ANJIKWI CHIWAR now MRS WATIRAHYEL ISUWA A.JI. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

Formerly MRS APER NGUVEREN DEBORAH now wish to be called MISS WAAKAA NGUVEREN DEBORAH. All former documents remain valid. General Public take note.

TRUST CLASSIFIED

VACANCIES

A Catholic hospital based in Bwari requires for immediate employment, qualified persons in the following position.

- MEDICAL DOCTORS:** With at least 4 years experience. Ability to do basic surgeries is an added advantage
- RADIOGRAPHER:** With at least 3 years experience
- X-RAY TECHNICIAN:** With at least 3 years experience

METHOD OF APPLICATION

Interested applicants should send their application including C.V to the Catholic Hospital Bwari, Abuja or call 08039584089 or 08074185416

CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE FOR DEVELOPMENT

This is to inform the general public the above named Initiative has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

- Ms. Virginia Ikeduro
- Mr. Joel Odigbo
- Mr. Joseph Ibekwe
- Ms. Chinoe Odele
- Mr. Japhet Sunny

Aims and objectives:

- To provide a platform for CSOs to monitor and evaluate World Bank and other donor-assisted projects in Nigeria.
- To serve as a voice to communities where World Bank and other donor assisted projects are being implemented.
- To collate data on successes and failures of the World Bank and donor assisted projects across the country.
- To bring together non-governmental organizations, faith based organizations, community based organisations, individuals, business organisations, communities, towards a common focus on the impact of World Bank and other donor assisted projects.
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight (28) days from the date of this publication.

Signed: **Chinoe Odele**
Secretary

AFRICAN LASSA FEVER INITIATIVE

This is to inform the general public that the above named Initiative has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

- Chief Erwie Aimenwau - President
- Chief Joe Ediorwele
- Mrs. Ndidi Aimenwau
- Mrs. Philo Ihenyen
- Dr. Peter Okohere - Medical Advisor
- Dr. Asogun Akhera Danny

Aims and objectives:

- To promote national/international awareness in the control, prevention and eradication of Lassa Fever.
- To promote sustainable diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of Lassa Fever victims.
- To draw attention and undertake advocacy for the institution of large frame work for dealing with medical emergencies especially infectious diseases and Lassa Fever in particular.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight (28) days from the date of this publication.

Signed: **Essigbe & Essigbe & Co.,**
08038480088, 08056544270

ADAGS UNIVERSAL TRADE LIMITED Block D 13, Flat 3, Zone 5, Games Village Abuja SPECIAL RESOLUTION

OF ADAGS UNIVERSAL TRADE LIMITED RC NO. 770821

AT THE EXTRA-ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF ADAGS UNIVERSAL TRADE LIMITED held at the Company's head office located at No. Block D15, Plot 2, Zone 5, Games Village Abuja, on the 19th day of Jan. 2010, the following resolution was proposed and passed.

- That **ADAGS UNIVERSAL TRADE LIMITED** be voluntarily wound up by the unanimous consent of all the members present voting.
- That **Adamu S. Galadima Esq.** be and is hereby appointed as the official liquidator of the company
- That the winding up should be subject to the supervision of the court.

ABIODUN KESTER EKE FOUNDATION

The general public is hereby informed that the above named Church has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matter Act, 1990.

The Trustees are:

- Pastor Abiodun Kester Eke
- Pastor Mrs. Lilian O. Eke
- Miss Emmanuel E. Eke
- Miss Koforuaola Eke

Aims and Objectives:

- To help provide and improve water supply and sanitary condition of the people in rural communities of Nigeria.
- To help improve primary healthcare services delivery through training, workshops, seminars and provision of health and mobility appliances to the underprivileged.
- To contribute toward educational enhancement through programmes and provision of teaching aid and community base primary and secondary.
- To empower women and children (widow and youth) for self reliance and dependence skills acquisition.
- To satisfy and create awareness of the civil duties of the people living in the rural communities towards sustainable development.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, plot 565, Ndofia Square, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed: **Pastor Mrs. Lilian O. Eke, Chairman**

SHEPHERDS OUTREACH CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

The general public is hereby informed that the above named Church has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for Registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matter Act, 1990.

The Trustees are:

- Pastor Abiodun Kester Eke
- Pastor Mrs. Lilian O. Eke
- Miss Emmanuel E. Eke
- Miss Koforuaola Eke

Aims and Objectives:

- To help elevate poverty and the underprivileged in the society.
- To preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to all nations of the world.
- To help contribute towards social development of the underprivileged in the society through programmes.
- To contribute towards the Empowerment of women and youth through skills acquisition.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, plot 565, Ndofia Square, Wuse, Zone 5, P.M.B 198, Abuja within Twenty-eighty (28) days for the date of this publication.

Signed: **Pastor Mrs. Lilian O. Eke**

GENO HOPE ALIVE FOUNDATION

This is to inform the general public that the above named Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

- Pst. Mrs. Eno-Abasi Geno Unogu - President
- Pst. George Unogu
- Rev. Efeiong Effiom

Aims and objectives:

- To cater for the underprivileged.
- To identify and rehabilitate devastated teenage mothers.
- To care for unwanted babies and care for the elderly who have no means of support.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight (28) days from the date of this publication.

Signed: **Secretary**

ALL KINGS CLUB 1 OF NIGERIA

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Club has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act No. 1990.

The Trustees are:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Ochiwar Kalu | Governor |
| 2. Obasi Nwankwo Iro | Deputy Governor |
| 3. Dauphin Okochukwu Obasi | Secretary |
| 4. Udemba Isaac | Treasurer |
| 5. Arua Ejem Uwaoma | Member |

Aims and Objectives:

- To strive to be useful to our immediate community and the society at large.
- To bring back old friends.
- For social and recreational interaction.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja, not later than 28 days after this publication.

Signed: **Trustees**

ALPHA MISSION INTERNATIONAL

The general public is hereby informed that the above mentioned organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act No. 1990.

The Trustees are:

- Pastor Samuel Abiodun Wright
- Pastor Olayinka Abosede Wright
- Pastor Foluke Victoria Akerele
- Mrs. Olayinka Adetoyi
- Pastor Joseph Okubanga Olaneni

Aims and Objectives:

- To preach and teach the full Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- To impact in people the true knowledge of God.
- To establish training Centres Schools and Theological Institutions.

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Str, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed: **Peters Adesoji & Co.**
Legal Practitioners
57, Obafemi Awolowo Way, Ikeja, Lagos.

AREWA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

The general public is hereby notified that the above named foundation has applied to Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under the Companies and Allied Matters Act No. 1 of 1990 Part C, of the company and allied matter act, 1990 (as amended), Cap C20 LFN 2004.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

- AMBASSADOR ALH. MAGAJI MOHAMMED- CHAIRMAN
- ALH. YUSUF ABDULKADIR BARAU - SECRETARY
- ALH DAUDA BIRMA OFR
- ENGINEER ABDULLAHI UMAR FAROUK (MAJIKIRAN GWANDU)
- ALH AHMED TIJJANI SURAJO (DAN MASANIN KATSINA)
- ALH ABUBAKAR SULEIMAN (UBANDOWAN GUDU)
- ALH IMRANA GARBA NAS
- ALH ABBA ALIYU MOHAMMED
- ALH SANI IDI DAN FULANI
- ALH ABDURRAHMAN IBRAHIM

AIMS AND OBJECTIVE

UP LIFTING THE PROSPERITY OF THE NORTH ENCOURAGING QUALITATIVE AND SOUND EDUCATION AND THE RISING WAR AGAINST ILLITERACY.

AGITATION FOR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY.

Any objection to this registration should be forward to the registrar general, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420 Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama P.M.B 198 Garki, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

RAPHA EVANGELICAL REVIVAL MINISTRY

This is to inform the general public the above named Ministry has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

- Rev. Obinna C. Nwaemene
- Mr. Michael Nwaemene
- Barr. Kaiechi Okordigwe
- Miss. Blessing Nwaokake

Aims and objectives:

- To preach the gospel of Christ to all nation.
- To intercede for the body of Christ.
- To reach out to the un-reach with the gospel of revival.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight (28) days from the date of this publication.

Signed: **Barr. Saiome Moses Eboh**

AJEGUNLE MOTOR DEALERS ASSOCIATION, OLORUNDA IGBONA

This is to inform the general public that the above named Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration in accordance with the companies and Allied matters Act 1990.

The Trustees are:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Ayobami Oyelade Rafiu, | 2. Mr. Tijani Adesina |
| 3. Mr. Rafiu Ajide, | 4. Mr. Adewumi Akinwale |
| 5. Mr. Mukadam Olubi, | 6. Mr. Nathaniel O. Oke |

The Aims and Objectives are:

- To promote unity and progress within the members
- To promote and protect the integrity, rights and interests of the members of the association whenever the need arises viz other working partners
- To assist members, individuals and other group whenever the need arises
- To solve common business problems via a collective opinion and bargaining
- To promote cordial working relationship among the members of the association and ultimately encourage the brotherhood principle among members.

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420 Tigris Crescent, Maitama District Abuja with 28 days of this publication

Signed: **Barrister Abdulraheem Muyideen**

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

The general public is hereby notified about a missing land document belonging to **BAYTIDE NIGERIA LIMITED**. With the original provisional allocation of land to **NANET LIMITED** with File No FCT/ABU/MISC-3495 in respect of Plot No.738 Cadastral Zone A7 Wuse II FCT Abuja, measuring about 1071.74sqm. All efforts to trace it have proven abortive. If found please contact **Baytide Nigeria Limited Makay Plaza 2nd floor 21 Road Festac Town Lagos** or the nearest police station.

Formerly called **Wasila SHEHU** now wish to be called **Mrs Wasila Shehu ABDULLAHI**. Kano State Polytechnic and the public to note.

Formerly called **Miss MONYE Blessing Patricia** now wish to be called **Mrs OGAH Blessing Patricia**. All documents remained valid. NYSC and the public to note.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

The general public is hereby notified about a missing land document belonging to **BAYTIDE NIGERIA LIMITED**. With the original provisional allocation of land to **ALHAJI ISIAKA JIBRIN** with File No MZTP/LA/2000/BA242 in respect of Plot No.CBN41 Cadastral Zone A3 Garki II FCT Abuja measuring about 1351.06sqm. All efforts to trace it have proven abortive. If found please contact **Baytide Nigeria Limited Makay Plaza 2nd floor 21 Road Festac Town Lagos** or the nearest police station.

I, formerly known as **MISS HAJARA MUSA SULEIMAN**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS HAJARA MUSA KALLAMU**. All former documents remain valid. BUK and general public to note.

PUBLIC NOTICE

SICKLE CELL AID 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. NKECHIKWU AZINGE | President |
| 2. JAKE OKECHUKWU EFFODUH | Vice President |
| 3. NKEMDILIM AZINGE | General Secretary |
| 4. FRENY JAMES | Treasurer |
| 5. IJEOMA NWODO | Public relations officer |

THE AIM AND OBJECTIVE ARE:

- To improve awareness and Conselling on Sickle cell
- To provide drugs at subsidized rates
- To provide quality healthcare

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B. 198, Maitama, Abuja within Twenty-Eight (28) days from the date of this publication.

Signed: **Nkemdilim Azinge**
General Secretary (08029012291)

SPORT

New hope or false dawn for Nigeria?

Page 54



ZAMBIA players celebrate after James Chamanga scored during their Africa Cup of Nations Group D match against Gabon at the Ombaka stadium in Benguela, Angola, yesterday. Zambia top the group and will face Nigeria in the quarter-finals.

Confusion trails Group D games

■ Nigeria to face Zambia in q-finals

By Ismaila Lere

THERE was some confusion yesterday after the end of Nations Cup Group D games, with Zambia and Cameroon qualifying for the quarter-finals of the biennial championship.

Zambia defeated Gabon 2-1 in Benguela, while Cameroon played a 2-2 draw with Tunisia at Lubango.

But there was some degree of

uncertainty as to which of the two countries ended as group winners.

Zambia, Cameroon and Gabon all finished the first round 1-1-1, while Tunisia was 0-0-3.

Earlier, Confederation African Football (CAF) officials said Cameroon finished first thanks to a better head-to-head record following its 3-2 win over Zambia earlier in the competition.

However, according to CAF regulations, FIFA later confirmed

that Zambia topped the group because it scored more goals against the two other sides.

CAF had yet to issue its official Group D standings.

So, going by FIFA's ruling, Zambia and Nigeria will meet in Lubango on Monday, January 25, while Cameroon will face two-time defending champions Egypt in Benguela on the same day.

Zambia's coach Herve Renard, who was elated after his side's vic-

tory over Gabon, reacted swiftly to the prospects of meeting the Super Eagles on Monday.

"When we arrived in Angola, we announced that we will reach the quarter-finals. Many people laughed at us. But here we are, and now up against Nigeria. The clash reminds of the final of the 1994 clash between the two teams. This is our turn to go," he told CAF website yesterday.

Super Eagles Coach Shaibu

Amodu will now fancy his team's chances of reaching the last four as the Chipolopolo seem weaker than the Indomitable Lions on paper.

The recent meeting between Nigeria and Zambia was a pre-tournament friendly which ended goalless. Both teams last met in a major competition 16 years ago in the final of the 1994 Africa Cup of Nations in Tunisia, when the Eagles came from behind to win 2-1.

Lumumba blames Eagles woes on NFF

By Orkula Shaagee & David Ngobua

FOLLOWING the lack lustre performance of the Super Eagles at the ongoing African Cup of Nations in Angola, JC Raiders Football Club of Jos Proprietor Lumumba Dah Akeh yesterday said the Executive Committee of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) should be blamed for the unimpressive showing of the team in Angola.

The former House of Repre-

sentatives member, who stated this at the FCT Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN) Dialogue in Abuja, explained that for engaging an unfit person to handle the job of coaching the Super Eagles, the NFF takes the bulk of the blame for the country's lack lustre performance in the qualifying rounds and the Nations Cup proper in Angola.

According to Lumumba, who also contested the presidency of the NFF at its last elections, the

country has enough to hire the best to handle its national football teams, and for the football ruling body to go for Amodu means they lack the wherewithal to administer the country's football.

He therefore urged all soccer loving Nigerians to rise up to save the country's football from the impending doom.

"If Amodu is the problem of the Super Eagles, then the NFF should be blamed because they were they were the ones that engaged him.

They knew his capability before they employed him.

"We (Nigeria) have enough resources to employ the best for our national teams and for the NFF to engage somebody like Amodu means they are incompetent.

"All soccer loving Nigerians must rise up to save our football from the impending doom; because Nigeria deserves the best", Lumumba stated.

Speaking further, Lumumba says with positive changes in the

team's technical crew, he was sure of improved showing at the South Africa 2010 World Cup, even as he said he does not expect fresh legs in the team.

Lumumba also congratulated the Super Eagles for their qualification for the quarter-final of the ongoing African Cup of Nations in Angola, saying nobody would have expected the team to crash out at the group stage.



2010 AFRICAN CUP OF NATIONS

New hope or false dawn for Nigeria?

WHAT can be deduced from Nigeria's passage to the Africa Cup of Nations quarter-finals following wins over Benin and Mozambique? Neither side is among the best on the continent and the Super Eagles were certainly far from impressive over the weekend against the Squirrels. The win against Mart Nooij's charges looks impressive on paper, but a 3-0 win was surrendered without much of a fight by the Mambas.

A more accurate portrayal of the ability in the west African ranks came when Egypt vanquished Shuaibu Amodu's side last week. The Pharaohs were better organised, more hungry and demonstrated more aptitude for mounting an AFCON challenge than their counterparts. Nigeria fell a long way short of championship standards on that occasion and the six points accrued over the last two matchdays may only serve to give the Super Eagles a false dawn as to their tournament chances.

Consecutively, Benin and Mozambique were meek against Nigeria and rarely looked like causing trouble for anyone other than themselves from the get-go. Had one or the other claimed a win on the opening matchday then a challenge to Egyptian and Nigerian superiority could have been on the cards, but it was not to be.

Amodu's side were handed an initial reprieve thanks to the 2-2 draw between the Squirrels and the Mambas as it left them with only one point, and not three, to overturn in order to make the knockouts. In that respect, circumstance has been relatively kind to the Nigerians; they watched the also-rans in the group slit each other's throats and saw Egypt defeat both with distinction. Without performing well for at least two-thirds of their game time thus far, the Nigerians have squeaked through.

It was not only luck that designed Nigeria's passage to the last eight though; the coach



SUPER Eagles attacker Osaze Odemwingie controls the ball during the group stage match against Mozambique

drew a masterstroke in starting with Peter Odemwingie in the final two group games. Arguably Nigeria's best player through an inconsistent qualification campaign, the Lokomotiv Moscow attacker helped his side pull through at Angola too. His two goals, one either side of half-time, were indicative of his importance to the side and his

ability to bring Nigeria back from disaster. Defensively, a boost was received also; Nigeria may not be the sharpest at the back but two clean sheets in two matches tell their own story.

It is perfectly conceivable that Gabon will jettison either Cameroon or Tunisia with a good result against Zambia today and the Black Panthers and are on

target for top spot ahead of the last round of Group D fixtures. Although the vanquishers of Cameroon also held Tunisia on matchday two, the Super Eagles would doubtless prefer Alain Giresse's side instead of the other African heavyweights in the round of eight. A kind draw could see an underwhelming Nigeria carried all the way to the last four.

Siasia demands more aggressive Eagles

By David Ngobua

FORMER International, Samson Siasia has expressed happiness with Eagles qualification for the knock out stage at the on going Africa Cup of Nations in Angola but observed that the team has not shown enough agility and aggressiveness in the matches played so far.

Speaking to Trustsports yesterday, the former U-23 team handler said by winning the match against Mambas of Mozambique on Wednesday, the Eagles have proved in very clear terms that they are improving with each match.

He said in the opening match, they lost 1-3 to the Pharaohs of Egypt but won 1-0 against the Squirrels of Benin and on Wednesday, they increased the goals to three which to him is an indication that the team will continue to improve.

Siasia however said the players need to improve on their approach to matches now that they have reached the knock out stage of the competition. The football tactician said most times Eagles did not show the kind of aggressiveness that is needed to unsettle their opponents for them to take charge of proceedings.

"I am happy that the team won 3-0 against Mambas of Mozambique. Although they lost the opening match to Egypt, they were able to come back by beating Benin 2-0. Now, they added two more goals to make it 3-0 against Mozambique, meaning they are improving.

"There is now hope that the team will continue to improve with each match. The only thing which they must not forget is that this is knock out stage. At this stage, there is no room for mistakes. Only one mistake will take them out of the championship. If they remain focused, they will achieve even better results.

"My fear is the attitude of some of the players. Most of them are not aggressive enough. I don't want to say they are complacent but there is room for improvement. If they get more aggressive, they will be able to unsettle their opponents. Sometimes, they are caught watching their opponents play which is very dangerous". Siasia said technically, the defenders should learn to bridge the gap between the defence and the attack.

"Instead of allowing the gap to exist, the defenders should always move up to give support to the attack. They must be able to complement one another. If the defenders and midfielders are alive to their responsibilities, attackers will not lack the necessary passes".

Siasia opined that calls by Nigerians for Amodu to be sacked are not necessary at this moment because everything has to do with the players' attitude and ability to deliver.

He noted that if the players step up their game, nobody will notice anything about the technical deficiencies in the team.

"Everybody is talking about the coaches but let the players step up their game and nobody will notice the technical lapses. We have the players who can do the nation proud but they need to sit up".

QUARTER FINALS PAIRINGS

Sunday, 24 January

Match 25 Angola v Ghana Luanda 17:00

Match 26 Ivory Coast v Algeria Cabinda 20:30

Monday 25 January

Match 27 Egypt v Cameroon Benguela 17:00

Match 28 Zambia v Nigeria Lubango 20:30



2010 AFRICA CUP OF NATIONS

Yakubu: Never write off Nigeria!

EVERTON striker Yakubu Aiyegbeni has told MTNFootball.com that any team who take World Cup-bound Super Eagles of Nigeria lightly here in Angola, will be only doing so at their own peril.

The Eagles stormed back into strong contention for the continental crown at stake here with a more convincing 3-0 victory over Mozambique than what they had managed in the lone goal win over Benin four days earlier.

Coach Shuaibu Amodu and the entire team including Wednesday's stand-in skipper

Yakubu have come under fire back home, but must have silenced critics at least till the next game as they booked their place in the last eight of Angola 2010.

"Against Mozambique, we partly showed that we have the potentials to go very far in this tournament and it would be wrong for anybody to write us off," Yakubu told MNFootball.com "The confidence is gradually returning to the team and there is a growing belief that we can now really go all the way because we are getting better with each game."

The Eagles will be back in action on Monday in new-found favourite hunting ground of Lubango against the winner of Group D, which is currently topped by Gabon before Thursday's final group games.

Yakubu admitted that the Eagles have not really taken note of the Gabonese, but they are upbeat about their chances against the Azingo.

"We have been playing our matches and have not really worried ourselves about our opponents in the quarter-finals. We can

do that now that we have reached that stage of the competition," said the Everton star, who set up one of the goals for Osazé Odemwingie to do damage against the Mambas on Wednesday.

"The most important thing is that we need to play more as a team and once we can do that, we will be just fine."

Each player got \$30,000 for qualifying the team for the quarter-finals, coach Amodu pocketed double that amount while his assistants received about \$50,000-a-man.

Pillars players, officials get new cars

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

KANO State governor, Malam Ibrahim Shekarau has rewarded the state-owned soccer team with brand new cars for their performance in the 2007/2008 Premier League and CAF Champions League encounters.

Presenting the keys of 42 vehi-

He commended the continental and the management committees for their quality leadership

Kaita calls for Amodu reprieve

SANI Kaita said he is proud of his snapping performance as well as the Super Eagles overall play in the 3-0 win against Mozambique and appealed to fans to cut coach Shuaibu Amodu some slack.

Kaita came on for the last 17 minutes against Benin, and saw out all 90 minutes against Mozambique.

In both performances, he continually snapped at the heels of the opposing team's attacking players, disrupting their flow and allowing his team mates to move forward with more time and space.

Kaita said it was proof positive that he deserved his place in the squad.

"I don't really think about what people say. I have always known that if I get the chance to play, I will prove myself because I know I am good enough," he told KickOffNigeria.com. "I am just happy I got the chance and I showed it on the pitch."

One of the biggest criticisms of Amodu was his selection of Kaita, but the midfielder says the coach has earned the right to be treated with respect

"We all talked to each other and agreed as players that we had to focus on the game because we got the assurance that the coach will be the one in charge.

"I think people should leave him alone to concentrate on his job."

The squad celebrated all the way to the hotel, but Kaita says that was as far as it got.

"Now, everybody just wants to rest and concentrate on the next match. We want Nigerians to support us because we believe that we are good enough to get to the final and win the Cup."



SUPER Eagles defender Daniel Shittu, right, and Dominques of Mozambique, left, have eyes on the ball during their group stage match.

I've silenced my critics - Amodu

SUPER Eagles coach, Shaibu Amodu seems to be having the last laugh over his critics and the ebullient former Orlando Pirates of South Africa manager is not one to let go the opportunity to rub it in.

Amodu's Eagles whipped Mozambique 3-0 in their final group game and the coach believes the result has afforded him the chance to silence his critics.

"I am very happy that we won this game at least to silence most of my critics.

"We took some decisions at

the beginning of this tournament which some people back home have been quick to criticize but which I think as the tournament progresses will yield the desired results. We want to prove that we're still in contention to win this tournament.

"We have won against Mozambique and even though we won 3-0, it was not an easy match at all. They were a highly technical side and we had to be very careful. We knew from onset that we can win and win very well to send a message out there that we have a good team here. We could have

even won by wider margin."

About the possibility of meeting Cameroun at the quarter final stage, Amodu said he would like to savour the victory against Mozambique.

"I will like to be silent on that at least for now and enjoy this moment. This victory will bring back the needed confidence in the team as we await our quarter final opponents. Let me say that for now, I do not want to jump the gun. Let me savour this victory first, when we get to that bridge of who to face, we will cross it," he said.

cles to the players and officials yesterday in Kano, the governor expressed his government's commitment and determination to honour athletes who bring laurels to the state at the national and international engagements.

According to him, his government had contributed a lot not only in funding various sporting activities and also provided conducive atmosphere for the athletes to develop their skills.

Shekarau said government would continue to encourage and support athletes at various sporting activities in order to ensure that they achieve their set goals, saying the "token gift" of the vehicles was an appreciation to their services.

While expressing appreciation with the performance of Kano Pillars players in the domestic and international ties, the governor charged them to redouble their efforts to progress into the national team.

He commended the continental and the management committees for their quality leadership exhibited and assured that the state government will continue to support the team.

In his earlier remark, the state commissioner for Information, Internal Affairs, Sports and Culture Barrister Haruna Isa Dederi said the gifts were fulfilment of the state government's pledge.



GOVERNOR Shekarau

THE FRIDAY COLUMN

Adamu Adamu
adamuadamu@dailytrust.com

Jos: Playing with Fire

Just as the Federal Government-appointed panel to look into the causes of last year's religious crisis in Jos was settling down to business, the Plateau State capital erupted again. And according to Plateau State Commissioner, Mr. Gregory Anyanting, this eruption was started when Muslim youths launched an unprovoked attack on Christian worshippers attending a service in church.

If this is true, it raises a number of questions. First, it indicates a signal failure of the police force in Plateau State. Barely a year after a major crisis, and on a Sunday—one of the two days, the other being Friday—when security surveillance around places of worship should have been enhanced, the nation expects that the police won't be caught in sixes and sevens.

Second, those attacked in that church or anywhere for that matter have the right to defend themselves. But since Christians don't go to church armed, the commissioner may wish to tell the nation where they got the guns with which they defended themselves to account for the bullet-wounds on the bodies found. Or, is he insinuating that the arms used have all this while been hidden in the church?

Third, if he could say this with such definitiveness and promptness, the commissioner must have found a way of solving cases without investigation. And the worlds of investigative journalism and crime investigation will be happy to share this great secret. Or, is this a rehearsed answer to an anticipated question? In which case the commissioner must have had prior knowledge of the crisis; and, so, had his dictated answers ready. The truth, unfortunately, is that the Plateau State Commissioner of Police has been unable to cover his blatant and dishonourable partisanship with even the thinnest veneer of political and professional correctness.

And even if his assertions were not false, his position required him to speak publicly only on issues on which he could produce evidence; and even in such a circumstance, he must carefully weigh the consequences of his public utterances. Blaming one side to a conflict before investigation is carried out will give a toga of advance absolution to whatever atrocities the other side commits. And, not surprisingly, following the judgment pronounced by the police commissioner, all those in outlying villages began preparations and they descended on Jos; and, as a result, areas previously untouched by the crisis were by Monday encircled and torched.

Though Jang had planned well and put in place everything to cover his tracks and deflect any criticisms of his direct involvement in the crisis, he didn't want to take chances. So, he got what he called the Society of Islamic Brothers [Perhaps he wanted to copy and translate the name of the Egyptian *Ikhwan al-Muslimeen*, in which case, the correct translation should have been: the Society of Muslim Brothers.] to absolve him of all blame and even commend him for his timely intervention.

Whatever we may think of their own intervention, we must admit that this Society of Islamic Brothers is extremely resourceful to be able to call a meeting of its executive council, have time to consider all the great works that Jang had done for Plateau and for Muslims, and conduct a thorough investigation into a crisis that was still going on, and in which its own members were being hunted down, and issue a statement exonerating Jang from complicity in it. And to be able to do all these things before the crisis was brought under control. Funny enough, when the exoneration was given, no one had yet formally accused Jang of the complicity they wanted to clear him of.

Next in the line of admirers, and coincidentally issuing a statement on the same day as the Society of Islamic Brothers, members of the Coalition of South-South Association [s], CSSA, announced their intention to honour Jang as *The Harbinger of Peace and Progress* in an elaborate ceremony coming up in the next few days. "The reason for conferring on him this recognition boils down to the fact that the state now enjoys good roads, water, local government development, mineral exploration, hospitals, qualitative education and a conducive environment for business among others," the CSSA statement said. [Emphasis mine.]

In reporting all this the press has often been collusive and witless; but for the first time, there is an attempt at fairness. In a front-page picture captioned: *The House that Set Jos on Fire, This Day* [21/1/10] came close to real journalism on this issue, departing from the usual knee-jerk, prejudiced reporting that had become a hallowed hallmark of the so-called Ngbati press in times of national crises with religious undertones. Its conclusions and the minds of its readers have been permanently set as far as the culpability and guilt of Muslims in any religious conflict is concerned. And the few times when the facts are available, they are distorted and twisted to support a conclusion reached without them.

This is a press that cannot tell the truth about itself: it is ignorant even of its immediate surroundings, preferring to be predatory, self-serving and partisan instead. Unelected and therefore unaccountable, journalists wield the pen of the press as a weapon for sectionalist or religious war-mongering, when in fact they should take as a national public trust. But without its objectivity, the Nigerian press not only becomes a problem, it stops solutions to other problems being found. The journalist, as judge, fails his profession when he gives a prize to someone who ought to be made to pay the price. When the guilty becomes the innocent, of his conduct, nothing is likely to change; and a vicious cycle is doomed to continue.

While newspapers were reporting 460 killed, the real figure, gathered from the accounts of people on the ground—security operatives, victims and escapees—for Jos alone might well have passed the 3,000 mark. And only God knows what must have happened off the road. One escapee from Kuru, a village off Heipang Road, said except for the very few of them lucky not to have been at home when the killers came, no Muslim escaped alive: they were all slaughtered and dumped inside a well; and so body count is unlikely to tell the full story of the crisis.

One looks for but one cannot find rhyme, reason or rationale behind Jang's almost psychotic obsession with taking vicarious revenge on behalf of his forebears. You can't begin killing innocent people in Jos in this age and time to satisfy some primordial bitterness just because you imagined and could not get over the fact that their grandfathers might have maltreated yours. People, who are unable to come to terms with history, always think that solution for them lies in altering other people's geography. But there is always dangerous short sight in the types of short-term solutions that are suggested by the intoxication of transient power.

They fear solutions to problems because the whole of their elitist essence depends on the dictum: I have a problem; therefore, I am. They reckon that if the problem disappears, so will they. And for that reason, Jang has consistently refused to cooperate with any attempts to find a solution to this crisis. He snubbed the panel set up by the House of Representatives and refused to recognize the one set up by the Federal Government. A source close to the Sultanate confirmed to me that throughout Sunday night when rumours of renewed attack against Muslims in Jos planned for the following morning reached Sokoto, His Eminence Sultan Mohammed Sa'ad Abubakar III rang Jang more than 20 times but the governor refused to pick the line. Certainly, this is not the attitude of an unbiased umpire or of someone interested in resolving a conflict. And now matters have gone from bad to worse.

In the absence of government or faced with the inaction of government or a government of inaction, it is to be feared that the ethnic and religious kith and kin of Plateau Muslims in neighbouring states may attempt to mount a revenge attack. This is no longer a possibility; it is a probability now.

Fortunately, this may not come to pass for many reasons. One, it is not altogether a civilized solution even for such a barbaric problem. Two, it is not the way problems of this nature are solved in a federal set-up. Three, there are too many reasonable elders among the Hausa-Fulani in the neighbouring states who can successfully prevent it. And, four, in the event this is contemplated, the police force will become surprisingly effective in containing it; because, their only failure is when Muslim lives are at stake. And, as usual, while the killings continue, there were allegations of police bias; proving once again that in crises of this nature, the police are not the solution; they are part of the problem.

SPORTS REPORT



MART NOOIJ

Mozambique sacks Nooij

Mozambique has dismissed coach

Mart Nooij after the team failed to reach the knockout stages of the African Cup of Nations.

Fezal Sidat, chairman of Mozambique's football federation, told the Associated Press by telephone from Angola that the Dutch coach's contract will not be renewed when it expires

at the end of January.

"There is no point to renew with Mart Nooij, who could not fulfill his goal of taking the team to the final," Sidat said.

Earlier Wednesday, Nigeria beat Mozambique 3-0 in their final Group C game. Mozambique got one point from its three group games.

Nooij oversaw Mozambique's first qualification for the event since 1986.



FREDI KANOUTE

Kanoute retires from international football

Mali striker Frederic Kanoute has announced his retirement from international football.

The Sevilla attacker's decision comes in the wake of Mali inability to reach the second phase of the Africa Cup of Nations.

The Eagles narrowly failed to qualify after being edged out the the Group A place by Algeria.

Kanoute says he will now concentrate on his club career after serving his country for several years.

"That's life. I'm sorry I couldn't succeed in helping my team go further at the Nations Cup which now marks my retirement," Kanoute said.

French-born Kanoute, who made his international debut in 2004, scored 23 goals in 38 appearances.

He is also a former Africa Player of the Year award winner.

