

LIBRARY

DAILY TRUST

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2010 RABI'U THANI 8, 1431 A.H.

TRUST IS A BURDEN

www.dailytrust.com VOL. 23 No 93 N150

EFCC arrests 3 Kogi commissioners, 5 LG bosses



Page 2

Yar'adua recovering well, says Yuguda



Page 2

Inside Today's Daily Trust

Business

Economic experts have predicted high inflationary rate in the nation's economy in 2010 **24**

News Extra

Secret Service called in as Twitter users demand 'a bullet to Barack Obama's head' **36**



Politics

The federal government has been urged to reject the proposed two time tables by INEC for 2011 polls **50**

Digest

Fear of spiders, sharks, snakes, heights and other phobias could be cared by a simple injection, claim scientists **34**

New Ministers:

Yar'adua's nephew makes list

By AbdulFattah Olajide, Mohammed S. Shehu, Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Turaki A. Hassan

PRESIDENT Umaru Yar'adua's nephew Alhaji Murtala Yar'adua ended up yesterday in the list of 25 ministerial nominees sent to the Senate by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan for

screening and possible confirmation. Alhaji Murtala is the Tafidan Katsina and eldest son of the president's late senior brother, Major General Shehu Yar'adua.

Daily Trust gathered that 7 of the ministers in the recently dissolved cabinet made it back while 18 others were either fresh faces in the cabinet

or were former ministers in Yar'adua's first cabinet, which was reconstituted in 2008.

Ministers in the recently dissolved cabinet who bounced back yesterday include former Minister of Mines and Steel Development Mrs. Diezani Allison Madueke (Bayelsa), former Minis-

Continued on page 5

Secret killings persist in Jos

From Ahmed Mohammed & Andrew Agbese, Jos

THE spate of secret killings in the restive city of Jos, Plateau State continued yesterday with the discovery of the corpse of city resident Adamu Haruna Abubakar, who was abducted by unknown persons last Friday. Adamu was last seen when he left their house to attend Juma'at prayers. His corpse was found by family members yesterday at the Plateau Hospital mortuary. Adamu was 25 years old and unmarried.

Hajiya Khadija, who is an official of Jama'atu Nasril Islam and chairperson of Hausa Fulani Muslim Women Peace Forum in

“The killing of Adamu was part of the ongoing secret killings in some parts of Jos North

Plateau State, said the killing of Adamu was part of the ongoing secret killings in some parts of Jos North.

She said at the Jamaatu Nasril Islam office in Jos that they have so far recorded 23 people killed and another 58 people missing between March 8 and 21, excluding the people who were injured due to the secret attacks in different parts of Jos North alone. Secret killings have been going on in Jos since soldiers intervened to stop

Continued on page 5

PHOTO: LAWAN DANJUMA ADAMU



FOUR suspected kidnapers being paraded at the Nassarawa Police Division in Kano yesterday.

Yar'adua recovering well –Yuguda

By Mohammed S. Shehu

BAUCHI State Governor Isa Yuguda yesterday urged Nigerians not to foreclose President Umaru Musa Yar'adua's return to power saying the president is recovering well and will soon bounce back.

Yuguda, who was at the State House Abuja to meet with Acting President Goodluck Jonathan,

spoke with journalists after his one hour meeting with Jonathan.

The Bauchi governor was one of eight governors who met with Jonathan in connection with the list of new ministers.

Yuguda, who is Yar'adua's son-in-law, however, did not whether he had contact with the ailing president.

Asked whether he has seen the

president, he said "President is recovering well."

President Yar'adua has not been seen in public since he left for Saudi Arabia in November 23, 2009 and after his return into the country about a month ago.

On his expectation on the new cabinet, Yuguda said he expects the acting president to select a team that can drive the

economy as fast as possible.

"I will expect him to select a team that can drive the economy as fast as possible so that we can refocus and ensure that we are on course as far as vision 2020 is concerned"

He said the government is moving ahead with the programme of President Yar'adua.

Yuguda also described the sug-

gestion by Libyan President's Muammar Gaddafi for Nigeria to be divided, as a big joke made out of ignorance.

He said frontline African leaders, like Gaddafi, who was chairman of AU, should study the countries that are in the continent and understand such countries better before making "such outrageous comments."

National plan on HIV/AIDS to gulp N759bn

By Ruby Rabi

NIGERIA would need N759 billion to implement its national HIV/AIDS strategic plan, the National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA) has said.

The work plan which is expected to be implemented between 2010 and 2015 is geared towards strengthening prevention strategies as well as increasing the number of persons presently on treatment from 300,000 to about 800,000.

Speaking about the document which will be launched within the week, Director General of NACA Professor John Idoko said the national strategic plan will be used to advocate for resources from all stakeholders and partners.

Idoko revealed that the prevalence rate in Nigeria is presently 3.9% and drastic plans need to put in place to reduce the rate.

He said for Nigeria to achieve universal access as well as streamline the spread of HIV, its best option is to strengthen prevention so that no new infection will be recorded.

'If prevention is strong, treatment will also be strong because the less new cases we have the better for us to concentrate on those already infected.'

Earlier the Director of Research and Strategic Policies Dr Alex Ogundipe explained that 35 states have already shown interest of implementing the plan which would make Nigeria a better place in terms of HIV/AIDS if followed.

Ogundipe said the plan has six points of focus which include promotion of counseling and testing for about 60 million Nigerians.

He said services for HIV/AIDS patients would need to be upgraded to take care of the number of infected and affected persons.



SENATE President David Mark (left) with Senator Saminu Turaki after the Senate's plenary in Abuja yesterday.

'Corrupt Nigerians stash \$120bn in foreign banks'

By Hamisu Muhammad

OVER \$120 billion are reportedly stashed in foreign banks by corrupt Nigerians till date, a civil society chief has alleged.

The Executive Director of the African Network for Environment and Economic Justice (ANEEJ) David Ugolor said corrupt Nigerian elite are acting in concert with their foreign collaborators to manage the looted funds. He however did not mention any name.

Ugolor said yesterday at the Nigeria G8/G20 Roundtable that part of what the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) articulated as lobby document to the G8/G20 summit in Mus-toka, Canada is for the advance economies to assist Nigeria to

repatriate the looted funds.

He said the looted fund constituted a major problem undermining Nigeria's development.

"How the UN convention on anti-corruption deals with this case remains a test case for the G8 and G20. The Mustoka Summit must take a deep look at the linkage between corruption and infant mortality rate in Niger and other developing countries".

Nigeria is among the poorest nations in the world despite abundant natural resources, including crude oil.

An independent corruption rating agency, Transparency International (TI), said Nigeria is still one of the countries perceived as having one of the highest levels of public sector corruption.

Senate cuts president's power over INEC

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Turaki A. Hassan

THE Senate has moved to adopt an amendment to Section 160 of the 1999 Constitution to remove the power of president to control activities of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

The Senate will today vote on the recommendations of the Senator Ike Ekweremadu led-Senate Committee on Review of the Constitution (SCRC) which recommends political and financial autonomy for INEC.

Voting on the recommendations could not be taken yesterday due to absence of several senators from the consideration session while the Constitution requires two-third

majority votes, or 73 senators, in favour of each recommendation to pass as amendment.

During the clause by clause consideration yesterday, Senate adopted that Section 162 be amended to read "(1) Subject to subsection (2) of this section, any of the bodies may with the approval of the President, by rules otherwise regulate its own procedure or confer powers and impose duties on any officer or authority for the purpose of discharging its function, provided that in the case of INEC, its powers to make its own rules or otherwise regulate its own procedure shall not be subject to the approval of the President."

The committee has also recommended financial autonomy for

INEC as the body has now been listed along with the National Assembly, State Houses of Assembly and the Judiciary as institutions to get first line charge from the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) of the federation.

Senator Ekweremadu said the provision is to ensure the integrity of the INEC chairman.

The Senate also has lined an amendment to prohibit chairman and members of INEC from being card carrying members of political parties.

The Senate will also vote on amendment to Section 65 (2a) of the Constitution, making tertiary education the minimum qualification to stand for election in the country.

EFCC arrests 3 Kogi commissioners, 5 LG bosses over N3b fraud

By Boco Edet & Isiaka Wakili

THREE commissioners, five local government chairmen and a former local government chairman in Kogi State were arrested by the Economic and Financial

Crimes Commission (EFCC) yesterday for allegedly diverting LG funds totalling N3b.

EFCC's spokesman Femi Babafemi confirmed the arrest and said they were been detained for questioning.

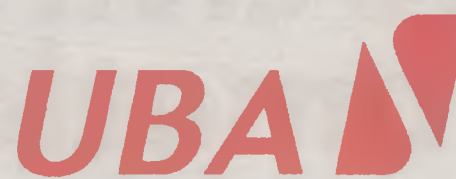
The commissioners arrested include Samuel Abiodun for Finance, T. J. Faniyi, Local Government Affairs and Albert Soje for Agric. Also in custody are five local government chairmen listed by EFCC as Obaro Kay-

ode Yagba East, Gabriel Daudu, Ogori-Magongo, Yahaya Abubakar, Okene, Stephen Afala, Yagba West and Ahmed Raji, Adavi.

Enesi Suleiman Jimoh, immediate past chairman of Adavi LG,

was also arrested.

However, the Kogi State chairman of ALGON and the state commissioner for information Yabagi Bologi and Tom Ohikhere respectively said there was nothing like that.



United Bank for Africa

UBA Academy

Presents

The GMD Inspirational Lecture Series

Date

Friday, 26th March, 2010

Time

2:30pm to 5:30pm

Venue

Amphitheatre, UBA House, 57, Marina, Lagos



Lead Speaker

Mr. Soumaila Cisse

President of the Commission of West African Economic and Monetary Union

Topic: WAEMU... Integration of Payment Systems in The Sub-Region



Guest Speaker

General Martin L. Agwai (Rtd.) CFR

Immediate past Commander of United Nations African Union Mission in Darfur: UNAMID

Topic: The Art of Leadership



In-house Speaker

Mr. Rasheed Olaoluwa

Executive Director/CEO UBA Africa, UBA Plc

Topic: Group Integration, The UBA Africa Perspective

Admission is strictly by invitation. Guests to be seated by 2.15pm.

Africa

London

New York

Paris

150 civil servants fail promotion examination

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

ABOUT 150 civil servants in Niger State have failed promotion examinations, the state Head of Service Alhaji Abdul-lahi Umar Dan-Yahaya said yes-

terday. Dan-Yahaya made the disclosure yesterday in Minna at a news conference. He said at the retreat which was organized for senior civil servants, 15 directors were elevated to the position of permanent secretaries, 115

deputy directors to directors, 200 assistant directors to deputy directors and 400 to grade level 14. He said the 150 who failed were demoted, adding that they were given an option to resign or be demoted.

Dan-Yahaya said the state government in its effort to ensure a virile civil service had concluded plans to introduce the National Association of Public Administrators (NAPAN) of Nigeria to the Niger State civil service.

The Niger State government is prepared to champion a new NAPAN formation as it has been an integral part of the government since inception in 2007 to strengthen service in the state", he said.



Managing Director of Media Trust Limited, Alhaji Isiaq Ajibola (left) presenting a souvenir to Governor Ibrahim Idris of Kogi State during a courtesy call on the governor in Lokoja yesterday.

Governor Idris commends *Media Trust*

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

KOGI State Governor Ibrahim Idris yesterday commended the management of *Media Trust* Limited, publishers of *Trust* newspapers for upholding and maintaining quality. The governor made the commendation while receiving the management team led by the Managing Director and Chief Operating Officer of

the company Alhaji Isiaq Ajibola in his office.

Idris said the company should be commended for its supportive role on good governance in the country, pledging that his administration would not hesitate to support the organization wherever necessary.

"*Trust* has gone very far, I must confess. We are proud that it is from the North. You have

been very cooperative. Sometimes when we in government do something you perceive to be seemingly unacceptable, you correct us with a view to ensuring good governance in the country. We will do our best to support you", he said.

The governor, however, advised the company to dwell more on investigative reporting, saying, "The media is more dan-

gerous than a missile. The pen is mightier than the sword. The media can overthrow the entire country. Continue to ensure that your stories are properly investigated".

Earlier, Ajibola said apart from appreciating the government and people of Kogi State for their support to the company, the visit was also aimed at interacting with the governor.

....*Media Trust* defender of democracy-Emir of Dutse

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Dutse

MEDIA Trust Limited, publishers of *Daily Trust*, *Weekly Trust*, *Sunday Trust* and *Aminiya* newspapers has been identified as a defender of Nigeria's democracy and promoter of peace and unity. The Emir of Dutse Alhaji Nuhu Muhammad Sanusi said this yesterday when the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the *Media Trust* Malam Kabiru Yusuf vis-

ited him.

Sanusi said, "In the past 10 years, *Media Trust* has been defending democracy in Nigeria. Your balanced, fair and objective reportage has contributed a lot in strengthening democratic tenets in Nigeria".

He added that *Trust* newspapers had brought something new to Journalism in Nigeria, saying, "In fact, your contributions to nation building cannot be over emphasized. *Media*

Trust has change journalism. I am impressed, particularly with *Trust*'s policy of 'No thank you'".

Speaking earlier, Yusuf told the emir that he was in his palace to pay homage and to seek blessing.

Yusuf said since journalism was a risky job, its practitioners needed fatherly advice from the royal fathers, saying, "It is a well known fact that while discharging our duties as jour-

nalists, we sometimes offend people and at times, we make mistakes hence, we need advice from others to minimise such".

He assured the emir of the company's readiness to ensure the disseminating information, saying, "Although, no one can be perfect in his profession, we will continue to do our best to ensure fair and objective reportage".

Mallam Yusuf also visited Governor Sule Lamido.

Crisis averted in Kafanchan

From Ibraheem Musa & Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

THE quick intervention of the Emir of Jema'a in Kaduna State Alhaji Muhammad Isa Muhammad and security agents yesterday averted a crisis in Kafanchan when youths protested the release of some people who allegedly tried to destroy a mosque belonging to Nasru-Lahi-Fatih society of Nigeria (NASFAT) yesterday.

According to a resident of the town who spoke to *Daily Trust* on telephone, some youths had earlier gone to remove the blocks that were supporting the tent that demarcated the NASFAT mosque, but they were apprehended and detained by the police. After a while, the councillor of the area bailed the suspects and this did not go down well with the youths.

He added that the aggrieved youths started to mobilise to cause trouble and because of that people started running about and closing their shops.

"The emir had to come out personally to appeal for calm", he said.

15 die in Ibadan-Eruwa auto crash

From Yemi Bamidele, Ibadan

ABOUT 15 people died yesterday in an auto crash involving a trailer and bus along the Ibadan-Eruwa Road in Oyo State. The victims including the driver of the bus and a policewoman died on the spot. The incident was due to a head-on collision.

The only survivor was rushed to a hospital in Eruwa. A witness said the bus driver was trying to overtake a vehicle in front of him when the trailer which was on top speed from the opposite direction rammed into the bus.

The witness said the truck driver ran away for fear of being attacked. When contacted, the Police Public Relation Officer (PPRO) in the state DSP Olabisi Okuwobi said she was in Abuja and could not comment.

N2.5bn fraud: EFCC to arraign Bayelsa officials

By Atika Balal

THREE Bayelsa State government officials are likely to be arraigned before an Abuja Federal High Court today, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) Prosecutor Festus Keyamo has said.

The anti graft agency yesterday filed a six count charge of fraud and money laundering amounting to N2.5 billion against Francis Okokuro, Abbot T. Clinton and Ikobho Anthony Howells.

The accused persons are said to have converted money belonging to Bayelsa State government and also conspired to defraud the state of the sum of N2 billion under the pretence of using the said money to augment salaries of the state government.

Secret killing persist in Jos

Continued from page 1

the crises of January 17-19, she said.

Hajiya Khadija faulted the relaxation of curfew by the state government, saying peace is yet to return to the state. She blamed the deployment of policemen to replace soldiers in many parts of the state as responsible for the escalation of the secret killings.

The chairperson also said "the most unfortunate thing is that no arrest has been made in respect of the secret killings despite the fact that sometimes it was the security operatives who will inform us to go and evacuate the corpse in some places."

Police Public Relations officer ASP Mohammed Lerama advised the relatives of Adamu to lodge a formal complaint to the Police over the incident for proper investigation in order to bring the perpetrators to book. On the secret killings, Lerama said, "we don't have the data of the secret killings but Police are aware of the secret killings in the town that was the reason why the state Police commissioner Mr Ikechukwu Aduba summoned religious and community leaders to discuss over the incident today, Wednesday, in order to appeal to their communities to avoid vengeance and return to Jos."

Also speaking, Assistant Director of Army Public Relations Lieutenant Colonel Galadima Shekari said he didn't have access to the data on the secret killings until commanders in the field supply them.



EMIR of Argungu, Alhaji Muhammadu Samaila Mera (left) representing traditional rulers with the representative of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in Nigeria, Mr Michael Galwau and Dr. S. J. Yahaya, representative of Professor Emeritus Umaru Shehu, at the opening ceremony of the 18th ERC meeting in Minna, Niger State.

Yar'adua's nephew makes cabinet list

Continued from page 1

ister of State for Power Arc. Nuhu Somo Wya (Kaduna), former Minister of State for Petroleum Resources Odein Ajumogobia (Rivers) and former Minister of State for Agriculture, Mrs. Fidelia Akubata Njeze (Enugu).

Also bouncing back were former Attorney General and Minister of Justice Adetokunbo Kayode (Ondo), former Minister of Youth Development Chief Akinlabi Olasunkanmi (Osun) and the former Minister of State for Niger Delta Godsdoy Orubebe (Delta).

Apart from Murtala Yar'adua, the new ministerial nominees include Mrs. Josephine Anenih [Anambra], wife of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chieftain Chief Tony Anenih, and former deputy governor of Nasarawa State, Mr. Labaran Maku.

Others on the list are the Vice Chancellor of Kebbi State University, Prof. M. K. Abubakar; former Managing Director of New Nigerian Newspapers Mr. Ndanusa Alao (Kogi) and Senator Bala Mohammed Duguri (Bauchi).

Also on the list are Mrs. Josephine Tapgun (Plateau), wife of Third Republic governor and former federal minister Chief Fidelis Tapgun; former Bayelsa State Military Administrator, Navy Capt. N. S. Olubolade (Ondo), Chris Ogiwonyi (Edo), Managing Director of Goldman Sachs London Olusegun Olutoyin Aganga (Lagos), Mr. Nduese Essien (Akwa Ibom), Alhaji Umaru Aliyu (Taraba); Alhaji Abubakar Sadiq Mohammed (Gombe), who is the Chief of Staff to Deputy House of Representatives Speaker Usman Bayero Nafada, Chukwuemeka Nwogu (Abia), Bello Adoke (SAN) and Capt. Ernest Odebola. Also on the list is former Minister of National Planning Senator Mohammed Sanusi Daggash, who was removed by Presi-

dent Yar'adua in the first cabinet reshuffle in 2008.

It was learnt yesterday night that political consultations were still on as to the nominations of former House of Representatives Chief Whip Abubakar Bawa Bwari (Niger), former Minister of State for Agriculture Alhaji Adamu Maina Waziri (Yobe) and Rep Terngu Tsegba (Benue) to join the ministerial list.

Senate has decided to postpone its recess by one week to screen and consider the ministerial nominees.

Briefing newsmen shortly after yesterday's plenary session in anticipation of the ministerial list, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Information and Media Senator Ayogu Eze (PDP, Enugu North) said, "We are hoping of getting the list this week, hopefully tomorrow or the day after and then we will take it up next week."

"In anticipation of that and in fulfilment of our obligation and commitment to the people of Nigeria we cut our holiday short by one week, so instead of starting on the 26th our holiday will now start by on the 2nd of April, so we have sacrifice one week to wait for the list and make sure we screen them as soon as they come and make sure that the Acting President has the number ministers and the assistance that he needs to deliver on the work at hand."

"We are staying back specifically to finish the work of this Constitution and then finish the issue of ministerial nominee and we are expecting that will come shortly, tomorrow or after tomorrow."

Meanwhile, state governors continued to troop into the State House yesterday as part of last minute bids to protect the names of their loyalists. About eight governors thronged to the State House in the early hours of yesterday and waited for Jonathan,

who came to the office in the afternoon.

A source who confided in our correspondent said, "There presence here is not unconnected to the main issue in town, that is the matter of the new ministers whose names are being submitted to the Senate. Of course, no one takes anything for granted and for fear that anything may happen, the governors had to come and ensure the names they submitted are intact."

According to the source, the acting leader may surprise many of the governors by dropping their choices for his preferred candidates.

The governors who were at the villa yesterday include Mohamed Namadi Sambo of Kaduna, Isa Yuguda of Bauchi, Ibrahim Shema of Katsina, Sullivan Chime of Enugu, Theodore Orji of Abia, Peter Obi of Anambra, Gbenga Daniel of Ogun, Martin Elechi of Ebonyi and Ikedi Ohakim of Imo. While the South East governors met Jonathan as a group, their colleagues from Bauchi, Katsina and Ogun met him separately.

Daily Trust also gathered yesterday from good authority in the presidency that former Speaker of the House of Representative Aminu Bello Masari, former Bauchi State Deputy Governor Mahmud Abdulmalik and Elder Godsdoy Orubebe have been nominated by Jonathan as zonal representatives of North-West, North-East and South-South respectively.

In the case of Bauchi, it was gathered that Yuguda was not comfortable with Senator Bala Mohammed Duguri as a nominee from the state.

Duguri, an ANPP senator from Bauchi, was an ally of Yuguda until last year when they parted ways following Yuguda's decamping to the PDP. Reports say Duguri is being paid with a ministerial appointment for

his key role in the elevation of Jonathan to Acting President by the National Assembly.

However, *Daily Trust* learnt that Shema was also at the Villa to push for one out of the three nominees he submitted. Reports said Shema had nominated his close confidants, the Commissioner for Works Architect Musa Sada, Ali Hussaini Dutsinma, former Group Managing Director of the NNPC Abubakar Lawal Yar'adua and Kabir Saidu Daura. Daura is said to be a close ally of the National Security Adviser, Gen. Aliyu Gusau.

Briefing State House correspondents on behalf of the South East governors, Obi said they were in the Villa to register their concern over lack of Federal Government projects and the rising insecurity in the region.

"The reason why we are here is to discuss about some of the issues bothering the South-East region. You can see that they are peculiar to the South East. One of them is the issue of erosion. And as you know last year, the Federal Government declared the entire South East a disaster area and promised to intervene which actually formed a committee led by the acting president."

That was one of the reasons why we are here. The other issue is that of the second Niger Bridge. The second Niger Bridge, as you know built several years ago is collapsing. The ministry of works, the Senate and House committees on works and the contractors handling the projects have said that the bridge is not safe and there is an urgent need to start the construction of the second Niger bridge. And again the issue of security. As you know most of the governors in the south east are spending fortunes to keep the police and other security agencies but we found out that the hoodlums' firepower is more than that of the police."

Iwu: My tenure ends soon

By Abbas Jimoh & Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

CHAIRMAN of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Prof. Maurice Iwu yesterday said there was no need for people calling for his removal because his tenure ends soon.

Iwu's 5-year will end in June. He was speaking at the INEC

Stakeholders forum for the forthcoming April Area Council Elections.

Iwu's comment is coming a day after protesters under the banner of Make Your Votes Count stormed INEC office demanding his removal if he fails to resign.

The group led by its coordinator Chido Onumah carried placards with inscriptions like:

'Iwu must go', 'We need credible elections', 'On Uwais report we stand', 'Sack Iwu now' 'Make your votes count' among others.

Iwu said less than one year to election, people are spending money which might have been deployed to reduce unemployment to undermine the commission.

"Since the person is unemployed you employ him for

two months and give him 5000 to demonstrate carrying placards you are giving them work. I urged you to collect the money from those tyrants.

"Carrying placards and person abuse on the chairman on INEC whose tenure is only home straight away tells you that some people are just playing politics. Every Nigerian knows that INEC chairman is for five years, very

soon my tenure will be ending.

Iwu said the commission released the provisional timetable for 2011 elections early to avoid repeating the mistake of 2007. He said rather than encouraging the commission some people are busy castigating INEC.

Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) for FCT, Mr. Stephen Many assured that the commission is ready for the polls.

Contract papers forged, UBEC chief tells court

By Atika Balal

EXECUTIVE Secretary of the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) yesterday told an Abuja Federal High Court that one of the one of the documents tendered by prosecution while cross examining him was forged.

Dr. Ahmed Modibbo Mohammed told the court that he did not know the origin of the document and for it not to have bore a signature it means it was forged.

He also claimed not to know the origin of another document tendered by the prosecution, as it was signed by a former secretary that was assigned to the former executive secretary of the commission.

Intermarkets USA LLC had in 2008 sued UBEC and Education Trust Fund (ETF) over an alleged breach of contract.

The company averred that the contract which required them to supply plastic chairs and desks to all junior secondary schools in the federation was awarded to it by UBEC on a condition that it would be done in phases.

UBEC was said to have revoked the contract it entered into with Intermarkets and advertised in national dailies invitations to bid for the contract.

Intermarkets challenged the tender for prequalification opened by the UBEC, insisting that the same contract had already been awarded to them.

Counsel to Intermarket, John Odubela, had also told the court that following the Federal Government ban on the importation of furniture, UBEC had in an agreement with Intermarkets asked them to establish a plastic factory in Nigeria to enable it execute the phases of the contracts.

He asked the court for an order of specific performance of the second and subsequent phases of the contract; he also sought for an order restraining the UBEC from awarding any contract with respect to the production and supplies of plastic chairs and desks to other contractors aside his clients.

He also asked for an order restraining ETF from releasing funds appropriated for his clients to any other company.

Justice Mohammed Garba Umar adjourned till today for further cross examination of witnesses.



FROM left: Senator Eme Ufot-Ekaete, Chairman, Senate Committee and Ms Nkeiruka Onyejeacho, Chairman, House Committee on Women in Politics, at a public dialogue on political party regulation-gender perspective in Abuja yesterday.

Calm returns in Umuahia after communal attacks

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

AGGRIEVED youths in Umuahia, Abia State, yesterday attacked some northerners after a mobile police officer suspected to be from northern part of the country shot and killed a commuter and injured seven others.

The mobile police officer was said to have pulled the trigger

after a bus driver conveying some commuters defied an order to stop for search.

Those attacked by the youths were mainly Hausa/Fulani, the BBC Hausa reported.

The report said many Northerners had to flee to the police and army barracks for safety.

One of the victims Manu Mai Agogo told the BBC that nobody

among the northerners was injured but some of their properties were taken away by the attackers.

The Hausa community leader in Abia Alhaji Danjuma Muhammadu told the BBC that a Joint Task Force including soldiers and police were deployed to the area inhabited by the Hausa to protect them.

He however said that normalcy has since returned to the areas.

Abia State Police Commissioner confirmed the incident and said the suspected police officer has been arrested and would be charged to court after investigation.

He also said property confiscated from the Hausa had been recovered from the youths.

FAAN: Bad weather paralyzes flights at Abuja airport

By Shehu Abubakar

FLIGHTS to and from the Nnamdi Azikiwe International airport Abuja are either cancelled or delayed due to the dusty weather being experienced in the nation's federal capital and some parts of the country, Public Relations Officer of the Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria (FAAN), Abuja regional office, Mr Alfred Itua said the weather has seriously affected flight operations

in this part of the country.

Speaking exclusively with Daily Trust yesterday, Mr Itua said with the dusty weather, it is not safe for flights to either take off or land at the Abuja airport except in the early hours of the day or late in the evening since the dusty weather started some days ago.

He said all flights earlier scheduled to take off or land at the airport between 10am and 4pm daily are either cancelled or delayed to a safer

time.

"Most passengers travelling within the no-flight time must either wait till after 5pm in the evening or most go and come back very early in the morning of the next day. No accident has been recorded because of the proactive measure we took," he said.

The Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET) that is responsible for weather forecast in the country has earlier warned pilots to exercise cau-

tion as the hazy harmattan dust sweeps through some parts of the country.

The agency said in a statement that "Places around Maiduguri, Bama, Kum, Nguru and Kano are presently experiencing severe harmattan dust haze with the associated reduction in horizontal visibility to less than 800 metres. Consequently, flight operations in some airports in the affected states have been disrupted," the statement read in part.

PHCN staff hold prayers over alleged sack plan

From Hisham Habib, Kano

STAFF of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria in Kano State yesterday held a special prayer session over an alleged plan to sack some of them. The prayers were organized by the National Union of Electricity Employees (NUEE) and staff belonging to both religions participated.

According to the chairman of the union in Kano, Comrade Nura Muhammad Gago, the prayers became necessary following their long battle with the Federal Government over entitlements and fears that the proposed power reform advanced by former Minister of Power Lanre Babalola would lead to the sack of many of them.

He said the promise by the present administration to generate 6000 megawatts hit the rocks not as a result of the failure of the staff of the company to deliver, but the inability of the government to fulfil its obligations.

Secretary of the Dala business unit of the union Comrade, Ado Salisu Ririwai, said the prayers would keep them united and focused.

PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE

Berom youths angry at Northern Govs Forum

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

THE Berom Youth Movement (BYM) has asked the Plateau State government to review its membership of the Northern Governors Forum.

The National President of the group, Francis Dalyop Jamang, at a press conference in Jos said Plateau's membership of any organization in Northern Nigeria had been of no benefit to the state.

The group said it was

angered by comments by the Chairman of the Northern Governor's Forum, Dr Muazu Babangida Aliyu, who they alleged made derogatory statements about Governor Jang while addressing a gathering of Northern traditional rulers recently.

"We unequivocally state that the Plateau people who elected Da Jonah David Jang are indeed pleased with his developmental programme which is second to none", the group said.

Appeal Court adjourns Bafarawa's case till April 15

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

THE Appeal Court in Sokoto has adjourned till April 15, 2010 hearing in the case filed by former Governor of Sokoto State Alhaji Attahiru Bafarawa and eight others against their arraignment before state High Court over a N15billion fraud allegation by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission.

It would be recalled that the High Court in Sokoto presided over by Justice Bello Abbas had Wednesday last week stayed action

in the case due to the case at the Appellate Court.

The High court had subsequently adjourned the matter to 7th of April, 2010 pending the determination of appeal.

When the case came up yesterday at the Appeal Court, the Presiding Judge Justice Musa Dattijo directed counsel to put their defence in writing and bring them before the court within seven days.

The judge added that after the submission of application of motion, the court would determine the application and the motion on the same day.

UniJos postpones convocation

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

THE University of Jos has postponed its 23rd convocation ceremony which was earlier slated to hold this weekend.

The Vice Chancellor of the university Prof. Soni Tyoden said at a press conference yesterday in Jos that the postponement was due to the insecurity in Plateau. He added that many of the would be graduands were yet to complete their National Youth Service ori-

entation as they were still in camp. He said the convocation would now hold between April 22 and 24 this year.

Prof. Tyoden who lamented over the security situation in the state said the university lost a student in the recent crisis while a member of staff had been reported missing.

The vice chancellor however assured students and staff of the University of their safety while on the school premises.



FROM left: Prof Ben Agbokhan of the Ambrose Alli University, Executive Director, African Network for Environment and Economic Justice (ANEEJ), Rev. David Ugoin and Counsellor, Political, Canada High Commission, Christian Des Roches during the Nigeria G8/G20 roundtable meeting in Abuja yesterday.

Acid rain, dust haze: NIMET, UN chief allay fears

From Benjamin Auta, Nahimah Ajikanle Nurudeen, Lagos & Hamisu Muhammad, Abuja

FOLLOWING fears over an impending acid rain by many Nigerians, the Acting Director, Weather Forecasting Services of the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET) Mr. Ifeanyi D Nnodu yesterday allayed fears and urged that everyone should go about their normal businesses, saying acid rains do not cause cancer or any infection whatsoever.

He added that the recent change in weather does not call for alarm as it was a usual phenomenon. Nnodu, while fielding questions from journalists at the celebration of this year's World Meteorological Day in Lagos organized by NIMET said if it eventually rains, it would not cause any damage to the body. There were speculations through text messages at the weekend that there is a possibility of an acid rain between 20th and 28th of March this year and that this could cause cancer of the skin

The message reads: "Be careful from the 20th to 28th of this month. There is possibility of an acid rain. The dark circle appeared around the moon on 17th of last month and this is an indication of acid rain. Apparently this happens in 750 years. It rains normally but it may cause skin cancer if you expose yourself to it. This information is from NASA in the USA, do not neglect please" But Nnodu said there would be nothing like that.

"Acid rain does not cause cancer. People should go about their normal business and can come out even in the rain. This rain is caused by activities of industries and it mainly causes corrosion on roofing and kills plants and it is caused by oxides of metals emitted by industries," he said.

On the dust haze, he said there was no major implication except on some occasional cases, asthma.

"The normal implication is that people may have health issues like asthma, lung problems and my advice is that people should try as much as possible to stay indoors," he said.

He said there is nothing unusual about it, adding that the only difference was that the present weather pattern is usually witnessed in late January and February, but that this is being witnessed in March. Nnodu said the weather was due to the fact that the soil was still dry. Representing the Director General at the occasion, the Director Research and Training of NIMET, Mrs. Modupe Ogunwale, said statistics had shown that 70 per cent of natural disasters were weather and climate related.

She said the agency was capable of providing accurate, timely and reliable data, products, information, warning and forecast to the nation.

"We presently have 52 synoptic stations, 40 automatic weather stations, four marine stations, two stratospheric ozone stations and one global atmospheric watch stations to compliment data sent in by voluntary observers," she added.

In a related development, the United Nations Space Chief, Mr Takao Doi, yesterday also allayed fears over the purported warning about the likelihood of an acid rain. Mr Doi who is the Chief, Space Application Section, Office for Outer Space Affairs, United Nations (UN) said in Abuja that people should not take the message seriously because it didn't contain any scientific evidence.

Mr Doi, who is also an astronaut, said the dark circle witnessed around the moon may be as a result of the change in the climatic condition.

Court orders reinstatement of expelled corps members

From Sharafa Dauda & Yahaya Ibrahim, Maiduguri

A Borno State High Court has ordered the Director General of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Brigadier-General Maharazu Tsiga to immediately reinstate three corps members, who were expelled from the orientation camp in November last year over an allegation that they were cult members. Delivering judgment on the matter Monday, Justice Ibrahim Bldiya said the NYSC should also tender a public apology in Daily Trust newspaper within seven days.

"The NYSC should assign the corps members to their places of primary assignments, pay them all their outstanding allowances from November 2009 to date and pay

N100,000 as damages to each of them," he said.

The corps members, Precious Adibor with NYSC number (BO/09C/0338), Tochukwu Nwobu (BO/09C/0348) and Mene Ejenor Preye (BO/09C/0320) had filed a case last month through their counsel, Barrister Anayo Adibe, seeking reinstatement into the 2009 Batch 'C' NYSC scheme.

According to Barrister Adibe, the judgment by Justice Bldiya was predicated on the fact that the action by the NYSC was a violation of their fundamental human rights as specified by the concepts of the right to fair hearing and presumption of innocence as guaranteed by Articles 10 and 11 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948,

Article 7 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (Ratification and Enforcement) Act; Cap A9, Law of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Section 34 and 36 of the Constitution.

In his preliminary objections, the counsel to the defendants, Barrister Peter Omuru, said the court did not have the jurisdiction to entertain the matter, adding that the NYSC being a federal agency and the respondents were not proper parties and should not have been joined.

Dismissing the objection, the court said it had the jurisdiction to entertain the matter because it had to do with fundamental human rights as provided in section 46, subsection 1 and 2 of the Constitution.

Police arrest suspected rapists

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

THE police in Kaduna State have nabbed three youths who allegedly raped a 13 year old house maid, Shukura Abubakar in Kaduna South Local Government Area of the state. The youths are alleged to have raped her on three different occasions. The accused persons; Abulrasheed Surajo, 18, Aba Yusuf 15 and Abdulhafiz Garba 16 were said to have gone to the house where the girl worked at 23 Poly quarters, Tudun Wada, on the 12th, 13th and 15th of this month and raped her. A source told our correspondent yesterday in Kaduna that the girl is now pregnant.

Parading the suspect yesterday, the Kaduna State Commissioner of Police Alhaji Tambari Y. Muhammad said the suspects were arrested following complaint by the employer of the girl, one Mohammed Salihu. He said the suspects had confessed to the crime.

He added that the suspects said they raped her one after the other and that they threatened to set her boss's house ablaze if she exposed them.

"They came to the house thrice and on each occasion, they all raped her. They also collected her four handset, Qur'an and N2,000 belonging to her boss," he said.

He said the accused persons would be charged to court and advised parents to take care of their female children.

In an interview with our correspondent, the suspects said they went to the girl's area to get mangoes, but that when they noticed that the girl was the only person at home, they bounced on her.



FROM left: Chairman, Ekiti State Council, Nigeria Union of Journalists Akogun Tai Oguntayo, Ekiti State Commissioner for Finance, Mr. Tunji Adeniyi and Permanent Secretary, Mr. Bunmi Famosaya, at the 2010 budget analysis in Ado-Ekiti yesterday.

College dismisses 74 students over poor performance

THE Federal College of Education (FCE), Katsina, has dismissed 74 students for poor academic performance. The Provost of the college Dr Magaji Dansarai told newsmen in Katsina State yesterday that the affected students had already been served with their letters of dismissal. He said 15 other students were expelled for indulging in examination

malpractice during the last semester examinations. Dansarai said the college would not lower its academic standard or compromise the national policy on the three-year minimum and five-year maximum period recommended for obtaining an NCE certificate.

He reiterated the college's commitment

to academic excellence and warned that any student who failed to measure up to the standard would be shown the way out. He warned students against examination misconduct, stressing that the college had put in-place stringent measures to ensure that perpetrators of such acts were fished out and thrown out. (NAN)

Niger begins work on three arms zone

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

THE Niger State government has commenced work on the three Arms zone at the Eastern by-pass, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Works and Infrastructure, Architect Ramatu Suleiman said yesterday in Minna. He said the contractors would begin by constructing a 10.3 kilometres road network including drainages and culverts in the place. She said

the state government had signed an agreement with Messer's Infoest Construction Company to work on the road network for eight 'dry' months.

Flagging-off work at the site, the Commissioner for Works and Infrastructural Development Dr Ibrahim Sule, who represented Niger State Governor Babangida Aliyu said the road network alone would gulp about N1.8 billion. He said N898 million is to be spent on clearing

the area and marking the main entrance route to the three arms zone. He added that the three arms zone which would comprise of office and lodging facilities for the executive, judiciary and legislative arms of government would be modelled after the one in Abuja.

Other structures to be included in the three arms zone are residential structures for staff of the three arms zones, parks, schools and shopping malls.

Court refuses LG boss bail

From Yahaya Ibrahim, Maiduguri

ATTEMPTS by a former local council boss to leave the Maiduguri Maximum Prison in Borno State yesterday suffered a setback as the state High Court in Maiduguri dismissed his application for bail. The bail application was filed by Shugaba Umara Gana, the former Chairman of Monguno Local Government Area of the state, who is serving a seven year jail term. The former council chairman is in prison for colluding with one Alkali Imam, a staff

of the Board of Internal Revenue to misappropriate funds meant for his local government. Counsel to the convicted chairman, Peter Adebayo Bello, had filed the application for bail pending the determination of a substantive suit against the judgment of the state High Court that convicted him. The presiding judge, Justice Paturm Haruna Ngadda, said the affidavit supported by the application did not have evidence of exceptional circumstances as condition to grant the applicant bail. She said there was no evidence that the health of the applicant could not be

managed by any specialist hospital in Borno, adding that there was no evidence that the health of the applicant posed danger to himself or inmates at the prison. It would be recalled that the court had in September last year convicted Shugaba Umara Gana and a staff of the Board of Internal Revenue over corrupt charges levelled against them by the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC). The commission had accused them of withdrawing N 1.5 million under the pretence of paying withholding tax.

PIC: NAN

Sharia court bans online chat on amputation case

A Sharia court has banned Twitter and Facebook debates on the country's first wrist amputation for theft, according to court papers seen by AFP yesterday.

The Magajin Gari Shari'a court sitting in Kaduna on Monday ordered the Civil Rights Congress (CRC) to suspend its Twitter and Facebook online debates on the amputation, which was carried out in 2000. The

court granted an interim injunction "restraining the respondents either by themselves or their agents... from opening a chat forum on Facebook, Twitter, or any blog for the purpose of the debate on the amputation of Malam Buba Bello Jangebe," said the order.

Jangebe was the first person to have had his right wrist amputated on the orders of a Sharia court in

Zamfara State, a year after 12 northern Nigerian states adopted the strict Islamic penal code.

The order followed a suit filed Friday by the Association of Muslim Brotherhood of Nigeria, a pro-Sharia group based in Kaduna, which argued that Internet forums would be used as "a mockery of the Sharia system as negative issues will be discussed".

In the wake of the interim injunction, the case is set for hearing on Monday. The head of the CRC Shehu Sani confirmed to AFP that he was served with the court papers Monday.

"We opened the blog, the Facebook and Twitter chats 10 days ago to serve as a platform for which Nigerians could air their opinions on Sharia law as a whole and the justification or otherwise of the amputation of the

hand of Malam Buba Bello Jangebe," Sani said on the phone from Kaduna.

Out of Nigeria's 36 states, 12 re-adopted a strict version of Sharia in 1999 nearly a century after it had been abandoned.

Zamfara state in the predominantly Muslim north of Nigeria pioneered the move after the country returned to civilian rule following 15 years of military dictatorship.



OGUN State fire servicemen securing where a tanker loaded with 33,000 litres of petrol skidded off the hilly Oba Gbadebo road, Oke-Ilewo in Abeokuta after smashing a taxi cab and emptying its content into a nearby stream yesterday.

NTDC disowns 'Welcome to Nigeria' advert

By Abdullahi Yahaya Bello

DIRECTOR-GENERAL of Nigeria Tourism Development Corporation (NTDC) Otunba Olusegun Runsewe yesterday said the corporation is not behind the Welcome to Nigeria advert and asked Nigerians and foreigners to disregard it.

Runsewe also said that those behind the advert have no clearance from the agency, which regulates tourism activities in the country.

In a briefing to clarify the issue, Runsewe said "Our attention has been drawn to the ongoing Welcome to Nigeria advert on AIT by a private organisation who is bent violating a subsisting court judgement that only NTDC is authorised to do Welcome to Nigeria promo as the agency charged with the responsibility of regulating Tourism in the country. Right now they are calling for sponsorship from Nigerians. NTDC is not part of it and therefore advice Nigerians not to get themselves duped."

Alleged N400m scam: Court to hear Ogbulafor's application May 11

By Atika Balal

AN Abuja Federal High Court has slated May 11 to hear the application by National Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Chief Vincent Ogbulafor seeking to be joined as party in a suit filed by Human Rights Justice and Peace Foundation (HRJPF).

Ogbulafor, through his lawyer Abel Ozioko, told the court that his interest will be jeopardized unless the court makes him a party as prayed.

The court in August 2009, granted leave to the group to file an application for judicial review for an order of mandamus compelling ICPC to investigate and

prosecute Ogbulafor for corrupt practices.

The group is asking the court to compel the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) to investigate Ogbulafor for allegedly corruptly acquiring a property worth N400 million.

In a letter written to ICPC, the group is accusing Ogbulafor of obtaining gratification, embezzlement and corrupt enrichment.

However, the ICPC has challenged the competence of the group to file a legal action against Ogbulafor.

Counsel to the ICPC, Paul Bassi said that the group lacks the locus standi to institute the action.

Women want gender parity in political parties

By Akor Ojoma

THE inclusion of women in political party structures and nominations for elective posts will enhance their participation in politics, women have said.

Speaking yesterday at a public dialogue on 'Party regulation: Gender perspectives' organized by Gender and Affirmative action (GAA) in Abuja, the women said political parties in Nigeria are male-dominated and this feature influence their ability to determine which candidates are nominated and elected.

The chair of women in parliament committee Nkiruka Onyediocha said the situation where there are few women in the national executive of political parties in Nigeria is not

good enough.

Senator Eme Ufot Ekate said the major problem in women's political participation from party level is reflected in the lack of an elected female governor in the country since independence and also lack of women holding principal positions at the national assembly till date.

Mrs Abiola Akiode Afolabi said in a paper that political parties should adopt voluntary targets or quotas for women candidates to get them in winnable positions as used in East Timor among others.

Ambassador Sarah Jibril urged women to build on the spirit of Aba women riot, Margaret Ekpo and Hajiya Gambo Sawaba by employing a developmental approach in their political aspirations.

Senator faults SNG's stance on Yar'adua

By Turaki A. Hassan

SENATOR Adamu Garba Talba (PDP, Yobe South) has condemned calls by the Save Nigeria Group (SNG) that President Umaru Musa Yar'adua be impeached through the invocation of Section 144 of the constitution.

The senator said this while speaking with *Daily Trust* yesterday in Abuja.

He described the series of peaceful demonstrations staged by various groups as good for democracy adding that democracy cannot survive if the people are not allowed to voice out their opinions and grievances as obtainable in advanced nations of the world.

Talba however condemned the SNG saying, "I don't want to say that they are being dubious but there is something fishy about their call for the impeachment of Yar'adua. I think they should twice. We are all human beings who are liable to illness."

Police move to free abducted student

By Misbahu Bashir & John Chuks Azu

THE police in Abuja said they are working to establish the whereabouts of a 22-year old girl who was kidnapped by unknown persons.

The abducted girl is a student of the University of Abuja and

her parents are in the upper class in the social strata, the police said.

A police officer in Abuja said a number of crime scenes and other suspicious places are being searched to find the girl and her abductors.

But the police would not pro-

vide further details of the victim until police authorities address the media anytime soon. A

armed policemen have sealed off and search places including the University of Maiduguri Liaison Office located at Plot 475 Cadastral Zone B5, in Utako but could not find the victim.

About 35 combat ready policemen acting on tip off stormed the office but did not find the girl or her abductors.

The liaison officer Lucas Gowon said the guest's apartment of the office was searched by the police but nothing incriminating was found and no arrest was made.

Police foil attempted kidnap

From Lawan Danjuma Adamu, Kano

AN attempt to kidnap two children in Kano State was foiled by the police on Monday and the suspects arrested, the state Commissioner of police Mohammed J. Gana has said. Speaking with *Daily Trust* yesterday, the police commissioner said one of the suspects was arrested while he was attempt-

ing to abduct 12-year-old Rabi'u Yusuf along Beirut Road. He said after his men who were on patrol rescued the child, they received information that the suspects had already snatched Rabi'u's younger brother, 8-year-old Hassan Musa and that he was in the boot of their car.

He said the police searched the said vehicle and found the boy in the car trunk,

soaked in engine oil. Gana added that three of the suspected kidnapers ran away while the police arrested one Abubakar Salisu, who helped in apprehending the others.

"There is someone somewhere or a group of persons who send them to go and get the children for rituals. The case will be transferred to the CID for further investigation. We want to get to the root of the matter

and see if the people are based in Kano or they come from somewhere else," he said. He gave the names of the suspects as Abubakar Salisu, 23, Uzairu Aminu kurfi, 19, Mohammed Sani Bello, 21 and Naziru Bala Suleman, 19.

The police commissioner called on parents to stop sending their children to hawk so that they do not fall prey to kidnapers.

Youth group wants Najatu on ministerial list

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

A group, the National Youth Coalition for Democracy and Good Governance (NYCDGG) is calling for the inclusion of human right activist and politician, Hajia Najatu Mohammed, in the ministerial list. Addressing newsmen in Kano State yesterday, the national Coordinator of the group, Sanusi Isma'il Mai Biskit, said youths wanted her on the list because of her outstanding qualities as an activist and politician. "She is an activist, a pro-democracy campaigner and a fearless politician who tells the truth no matter whose ox is gored. Hardly can you see a politician with such attributes," he said. Mai Biskit said the nation was yet to tap from her wealth of experience as her chance of becoming a minister was sabotaged ten years ago because of political reasons. "She was qualified for the job when her name was presented to the Senate for screening by the Obasanjo government, but her name was later dropped," he said.

9,000 applicants jostle for INEC Jobs

From John Kennedy Uzoma, Owerri

MORE than 9,000 applicants in Imo State are jostling for jobs with the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) following the recent advertisement in some national dailies on exiting vacancies in the commission. Resident Electoral Commissioner in Imo State Mrs. Maria Owi disclosed this to our correspondent in Owerri in a telephone chat said more applications were still being received.

She said within 10 days, 9,599 applications were received, adding that for the past one week, her office had become very busy. On the number of persons to be recruited, Mrs. Owi said the directive would come from the National Headquarters, Abuja.

Katsina LGs share N2.3b

From Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

ABOUT N2.3 billion has been distributed among 34 four local government areas of Katsina State as statutory allocation for March.

The state Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs Musa Adamu Fun-tua who spoke with our correspondent after a joint monthly allocation meeting in the state yesterday said N879 million was removed from the money as statutory deductions. Our correspondent gathered that while two local government areas, Katsina and Bakori were given zero allocation, Daura had the least with N148,000 after the statutory deductions.

The deductions were made for the Universal

Basic Education, staff pension and staff training.

The commissioner added that N1.8 billion was paid as overhead cost and salaries to local government workers and that N370 million was released to the councils for the execution of capital projects.

He commended Governor Ibrahim Shema for prompt release of funds and praised the coun-



GOV Ibrahim Shema

cil bosses for the execution of people oriented projects.

Jos crisis: Red Cross donates to victims

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

THE Kaduna State branch of the Nigerian Red Cross Society has donated relief materials to victims of the last Jos crisis, the branch chairperson, Dr. Asama'u Sani Maikudi has said. Speaking with our correspondent in Kaduna yesterday before sending relief materials to Jos, she said the branch decided to send the items to assist in alleviating the suffering of the people.

She said the distribution of the items would be anchored by the vice chairman of the branch, Barrister Murtala J. Zubairu. The items according to her include cloths, drugs and other medical materials.

"This is in line with the organization's usual activities of rendering humanitarian services to victims of disasters. This, we hope will cushion the unpleasant effect of the crisis," she said.

Gombe to spend N1b on water

From Aliyu M. Hamagam, Gombe

THE Gombe State government has earmarked about N1 billion for the operation and maintenance of the Dadin-Kowa regional water project, the General Manager of the state Water Board Engineer Isa Muhammad has said. He disclosed this while briefing newsmen in Gombe yesterday. He said the contract for the maintenance of the water scheme was awarded to CGC Nigeria Ltd. He added that a mobilization fee of about N200 million had since been paid to CGC, saying govern-

ment had to contract out the maintenance and operation of the regional water scheme to ensure adequate supply of pipe borne water in the state.

The Dadin-Kowa water project that was commissioned in 2005 was constructed at over N80 billion by the state government to address the perennial water scarcity in the state capital.

Engineer Isa said despite the capacity of the regional water scheme, his organization had not relented in resuscitating existing boreholes in the state so that they could complement the Dadin-kowa water scheme.

EASTER Special Offer

EX LAGOS	
120Lts	- N28,000
126Lts	- N26,000
138Lts	- N37,000
230Lts	- N47,000



120/126Litres



230Litres



138Litres

LAGOS - 08075093781, 08075093778
08075093770, 08055581782
01-8935020, 01-8935018

ABUJA - 08075093782, 08075093783
08075093772

P/HARCOURT - 08075093784, 08075093783

KANO - 08075093790, 08075093791

MAIDUGURI - 08075093789, 08075093773

AKURE - 08075093771, 08075093788



Airflow
AIR CONDITIONERS, FRIDGES & FREEZERS
18, NORMAN WILLIAMS STREET, OFF KEFI STREET, S.W. IKOYI, LAGOS.

*Offer Lasts till STOCK Runs-out

Excellence Performance. Durable. Tropicalised



HP G60T LAPTOP

Intel® Cel T3000 I.8
250G HDD
2G RAM
15.6 Brightview TFT
DVDRW
WLAN
Windows 7

N77,500



DARODAZ LIMITED
No 43B New Dawaki Road, GRA Kaduna
08035101701, 07031627159, 07033203482, 07039446765
Website: www.darodaz.com Email: info@darodaz.com



Your Letters

Compensate the Gbagyi for FCT land

The Gbagyi are the majority tribe in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). The tribe is known to be accommodating and spends its time thinking about complicated ideas and discussing them, instead of hatching and unleashing hostility by violating the nation's laws.

Since the inception of the FCT, the Gbagyi have suffered deprivation of their rights to ownership, disposed of their only economic tool that they have at their disposal. All their lands have been taken from them. They cannot claim any land, not to talk of their right. Being agrarian in nature, the people have lost out on one of the most valuable

things that they have in life.

The coming of the FCT has in one sense opened up the area. They have modern infrastructure today: roads, good schools and almost all that can be compared with other part of the country. Basically, the people gain in term of infrastructure, access to education and political empowerment.

But then, you can see the stagnation, families growing in size, teenage marriages on the rise but cannot build any infrastructure of their simply because the coming of the FCT adjudged that all structures had already been enumerated and new thing put on ground must be paid for, an alien thought process for the people. Meanwhile families are growing in size.

The past and present administration has rendered tremendous

support and cooperation that have enabled the administration to be successful. However, this has not actually translated to goldmine for the Gbagyi from the towns to settle in the bush.

The Gbagyi nation express their plight and untold hardship through a peaceful and a far-reaching means that will bring meaningful change and progress to them. In fact one can testify that they cannot vote for governor like their compatriots in other state of the nation. They do not have a state, and they cannot go to any of these states and claim that they belong to them which simply mean that they are second class people. They do not have 100% rights like other Nigerians.

Deborah Gazazhi Micah, Block 150 Kukwa Kubwa, Abuja.

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

Proving a negative

I totally disagree with Magwen Tsenyen that *Daily Trust* is pro-Muslim and pro-Hausa. *Daily Trust* is one of the most objective papers in Nigeria. Its publication of Magwen's text is a classic example. ZIA, Kaduna, 08134948734.

Re- Minority view?

MR Magwen needs to have himself examined. When did you start reading Nigerian national dailies? Let me tell you, Nigerian press both of southern and northern extraction are dreaming different dreams and sometimes sleep in the same tent. Meanwhile, *Daily Trust* is the best thing to have happened to Nigeria owing to its objectivity, balance reports as well as intellectual depth of its columnists unlike its ngbati-ngbati counterparts which always caused disaffection and sow seeds of discord, distrust and mutual suspicion among Nigerians. AHMED, Kano, 08038740956.

Jonathan's ministers

APPOINTMENT of ministers into the Federal Executive Council should be based on merit instead of favouritism. This time

round, the administration should appoint serious-minded, determined and hardworking people to steer the affairs of the ministries. KAYODE Jimoh, Ilorin, 08086650700.

Re: This is Nigeria: A great nation indeed!

THIS article by Ahmad Sojah read in part: "In fact not only we are great but we are the most loved by God; no earthquake, no mudslide, no tsunami, no flood and no drought as well." But we are blessed by thieves, pen robbers, bandits because every Nigeria is a thief if given the chance! Having thieves in every home is also another tsunami. 08033265473.

The return of the cockroach?

MR President you are welcomed. May Allah guide, protect and give you the strength to carry us to the Promised Land, amin. MUKHTAR Muhammad Mansur, 08029366163.

Re- begging for answers

MAY I ask Auwal A. B. what he knows about administration? In this profession, you don't

keep people you know are fully and truly against you. Ask why Yar'adua refused to go along with some of OBJ's cabinet members. Please let us not allow our bitterness to becloud our sense of judgement. B.J. Shaba, Minna, 08038120101.

To Goodluck

MR President, I want you to be focus and dedicated in your ministerial appointment nomination, putting into consideration those who are actively involved political activities in their respective states more especially those who lost their elections in their states. This will enhance great development, progress in our great party PDP and the nation at large, more graze to your elbow. SANTI Salcon 08126224666

Reviving reading culture

THE twin plagues from the West: football and movie is the scourge that is depriving our students from reading. The cultural invasion has made our youths culturally acculturated. UBALE Bompai, Rano, Kano, 08033246464.



By Tunde Asaju

Behold, Ekaette has replacements

If you live in Asokoro, Maitama, Victoria Island, Lekki or GRA, life would be incomplete without house-helpers. While some are ewers of wood and drawers of water, others either have blue blood or are born with silver and golden spoons in their mouths. If you care, no place is this displayed like public and private schools. The Nigerian poor daily thank God, at least they can move from grass to grace, unlike their counterparts, the untouchables of India who are sentenced to die with their caste.

So you can imagine the rumpus in Nollywood when Akwa Ibom State governor, Godswill Akpabio, launched the Operation Redeem Ekaette from abuse. He threatened to sue any script writer that uses an Ette, Ekaette or Ekong as a serf in their scripts. Since then, you will not hear a new production in which someone calls junction *yunction* or Ikeja as *Ikeya*. Olagunsoye Oyinlola should lead the same campaign against stereotyping Osun people driving taxis in Abuja.

Akpabio has caused more trouble. Since his decree, bachelors and spinsters have been grumbling that their outings are not the same. The few Akwa Ibom and Calabar people to whom cooking comes as naturally as water around fish have all disappeared. Akpabio is a killjoy. The real Calabar and Uyo women who used to cook before el-Rufai outlawed open air cooking have left Abuja with no hope of returning. These days, if you must taste real white soup, *ekpankoko* and *mfi*, or *edikanikong*, you have to fly either to Uyo or Calabar proper. The fake cooks who took over the business first burrow a hole into your pocket before sending you to the hospital. If you ask me, those who are good at boy-boy work should proudly keep at it as part of the principle of natural selection. The only thing that should not be exported is child witchcraft!

Anyway, I truly believed that the world would not be balanced if all of us become managing directors, permanent secretaries, ministers, politicians. We need a special class of people to do the cooking, wash the dishes, drive the cars around and even provide manicure and pedicure either in the salon or wherever such services are required. And I was afraid, on behalf of the good people of Asokoro etc that if more Akpabio's show up on the scene, not only bachelors and scriptwriters, but Nigeria might just get into trouble.

So I actually packaged a deal, to elicit a promise from Akpabio not to hinder his people from doing what they know best in return for a hitch-free second term. After all, he is a PDP member and does not have to win elections to govern. A second option would be for us to allow him to move from governor to the presidency. Since it looks like the argument now is that having dissolved the cabinet, Goodluck Jonathan has taken south-south shot at the top job and that other ethnic groups in the area are qualified to vie in 2014, after we northerners would have taken our second slot *ko*?

But while I was looking at the proposal with the deft eye of a consultant and the interest it could earn me if I get Ogbulor to support it, Nigerian youngsters decided to puncture a hole in my exclusive proposal. Some of you would have read with shock that Nigerian students failed their NECO examinations with astronomical percentages. Compared with last year's failure, this year's is so bad that universities hoping to run courses next year would have to do education fairs in neighbouring Niger Republic to canvass for candidates to fill course quotas. That shouldn't be difficult if Sam Egwu does not return to the Education Ministry to celebrate the 26th anniversary of his marriage this year end, there should be enough money to embark on such trips. The failing students have destroyed my proposal. By refusing to pass their English and Mathematics, these students have all enrolled to a lifetime of servitude, or at least a year of servitude during which they are qualified to do nothing more than being house-helpers.

So, instead of carrying my proposal to Akpabio and risk being beaten, I have chosen to set up a servant recruitment agency, cooks and stewards. The only qualification you need is NECO and School Cert failure. I can imagine being inundated with so many candidates that I am likely to borrow the National Stadium Abuja as my base. And it looks like a lucrative job, ministries have placed an embargo on the recruitment of graduates with third class and ordinary passes. They prefer those with shinning sexually transmitted degrees. Unfortunately, somebody took that case to the National Assembly, which of course is largely populated by Toronto legislators.

(tundeasaju@yahoo.co.uk)

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

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

Cabinet dissolution

Acting President Dr. Goodluck Jonathan a week ago today dissolved the federal executive council. The action came shortly after the weekly meeting of the council in which some decisions affecting government and governance were reached. The action saw permanent secretaries again taking full control of the affairs of the ministries which hitherto had been headed by the disengaged ministers since 2008.

The dissolution did not come as a total surprise to many Nigerians. There had been rumours and conjectures that Jonathan inherited a divided cabinet since he was named acting president following the absence of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua and his disappearance from public engagement. The dissolution however came with mixed reactions from Nigerians, with some saying that the acting president had nothing to prove with barely a year in the saddle, presuming that President Yar'adua would not be fit enough to return to work earlier. Others simply say that the cabinet had outlived its usefulness and that if the Yar'adua had been in charge, he would have dissolved it anyway preparatory to winding down his first term for elections.

Still others believe the acting president needs his own team in order to perform well, while another group holds that the action is part of a design by the acting president to permanently get rid of the looming shadows of his principal, and eventually eclipse him effectively for the remainder of his term.

In the murky waters of Nigerian politics, it is not unusual to hear discordant tunes like these. From the public gallery, one thing is clear, however, and that is that Nigerians desire change from the current political infighting; the kind of change that will help transform the society and prepare it for its next step politically. Nigerians desire a practical transformation of their lives and living conditions. While time would eventually reveal the essence and utility of this dissolution, Nigerians are anxious to see the dividends of democracy.

In this quest, the permutation for who occupies the highest seat of government in 2011 should not be the overriding feature. The acting president needs to tread softly and not yield to the temptation or tendency to grab power for its sake. The country may appear stable, but its very foundations are indeed wobbly. Any wrong step could lead to serious danger and destruction with catastrophic repercussions. Nigeria cannot afford to take this path.

There are basic things required of this transition era; one is the need to put in place a credible and trusted electoral process which will deliver results that reflect the people's votes. We are of the opinion that important goal cannot be achieved by the Independent National Electoral Commission, (INEC) as currently constituted. Nigeria's infrastructure is in the doldrums and needs rejuvenation. There are challenges in the energy sector, fuel supply is threatened and social infrastructure is dilapidating. All these require not just new people but new determination to implement laid down policies. Mention must be made of the need to fight corruption and ensure safety of lives and property. At its last meeting the FEC endorsed projects totalling N68 billion; Nigerians would be looking forward to seeing this money work for them.

This is why Nigerians look with expectations and renewed hope to the new cabinet that Dr Jonathan has already proposed, with vigour to work, vision to direct and a mission to accomplish. Those that eventually are cleared by the Senate must be men and women of proven track record, integrity, vision and zeal, with no baggage of any sort that might wear the entire team down. Dr. Jonathan needs to deliver on promises and not waste precious time to play politics.

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

e-mail: opinion@dailytrust.com

Re: Jang: Between the hammer and the anvil

My column last week titled 'Jang - Between the Hammer and the Anvil' was an expression of empathy with Jang, in hope that we understand some of the factors that drive the crisis if we aim at fashioning out an end. I am dumbfounded by the reader reaction I got, much of it quite unprintable, but instructional, and erupted from the assumption that my perception of Jang and his predicament was also my belief. I come from Numan, Adamawa State, where the settler issue has long been settled. The Hausa Fulani residing in Numan are bona fide citizens, get elected into councils and get appointed Commissioners in the State cabinet.

Plateau is a great gift from God. In one single world, the Berom and their kith and kin on the Plateau are endowed with vast fertile land, flat plains and undulating hills, grazing fields and valleys, continuously being caressed by a temperate climate, excellent for agriculture, ideal for animal husbandry and the good life. But ironically the Berom were denied cattle or the love of those animals. For the Fulani pastoralists, nature endowed them with cattle but attached to them, landlessness in a nomadic existence.

Following are some of the reactions, in addition to the ones the editor published during the week.

Mr Mathias,

I think you are the one who writes with crass ignorance on the factors behind the conflict. You are also the one employing parochial mindset and stereotype not only in this write up but all your writings. Your ideas and opinions are always guided by religious and ethnic sentiments. This is the pattern of all your myopic writings. To you, non Christians are not fit to live. Their rights and opinion therefore do not matter. No wonder, ethnic and religious bigots and people bent on ethnic cleansing and perpetrators of genocide such as Jang are always your heroes. All your argument is in support of him.

Whatever the army said to defend themselves against the baseless accusation of Jang are not right. Why because the GOC is a Muslim. You have never hidden your disdain for Muslims and Islam. When hundreds of innocent Muslims were murdered and stuffed in wells in broad daylight massacre at Kuru Karama, the Muslims are to blame not Jang even when he got the intelligence report. And you rose to defend him. My candid advice to you is to please bear in mind that you cannot succeed where your forbearers failed so also Jang himself. If Jang wants peace in his state he will get it. But if he will continue to listen to stereotypes such as you, let him know that he will never succeed. Hausas are the originators of Jos and they will stay no matter your derogative of branding them "Settlers" just because they are Hausas and Muslims.

Nasir Yaro

Dear Sir,

HABA, ETU-TIMAWUS MATHIAS?

I have known and admired Mr. Timawus Mathias since the 1980s, as a responsible and respected journalist. In fact, I felt fulfilled and happy

Timawus Mathias

timmathias@yahoo.com

when Mr. Mathias joined the "Daily Trust" columnists, and since then, I never missed his Wednesday column.

However, my feeling and thinking towards Mr. Mathias is, unfortunately, beginning to change when I read his article of Wednesday, March 17, 2010, titled, "Jang: Between the hammer and the anvil". Reading through this article, I instinctively started asking myself if this is the writing of the man I have known and admired, Timawus Mathias. Later I came to realize that, human beings will always remain human beings. As part of the nature of human beings, we always tend to have the instinctive element of bias and sentiment in matters that affect our religion, ethnicity, race and even country, except that some people tend to be more circumspect while others are outright mischievous with hearts full with burning hatred. Though, I

accused of partisanship in the crisis, the Commissioner of police for Jos got sanctioned for saying what HE KNEW TO BE TRUE (emphasis mine) except that there was an incident the previous day that sparked off the violence" *Haba* Mr. Mathias, are you also supporting and defending the former Police Commissioner for his irresponsible and unprofessional conduct that eventually led to the genocide at Kuru Karama and its environs; or perhaps because the Commissioner is a Christian. Initially, Governor Jang denied the massacre at Kuru Karama, until when Al-Jazeera International media network posted video clips of the genocide that Governor Jang admitted the killings, but denied the casualty numbers, and even accused Al-Jazeera of biased reporting. The Governor did not call for the immediate arrest and prosecution of the perpetrators of the massacre, nor did such call ever come from people like Mr. Mathias. But the Governor was quick to weep sentiment during the last reprisal attack by the Fulani herdsmen at Dogo Na Hawa by giving the casualty figure of over 500, while the Police countered

“Between the hammer and the anvil”.
Reading through this article, I instinctively started asking myself if this is the writing of the man I have known and admired, Timawus Mathias

can say with some degree of certainty, that Mr. Mathias is not a person with such burning hatred in him, as I used to believe him to be a de-tribalized middlebelton from the Plateau.

Naturally, this can not prevent me from reacting to the human side of Mr. Mathias, as shown in his article under reference. I really find it difficult to accept, at least three issues raised by Mr. Mathias. First, Mr. Mathias' quick acceptance of Governor Jang's statement, to the effect that, the Governor had informed Maj. Gen. Sale Maina, the army GOC in Jos, of the impending reprisal attack at Dogo Na Hawa, three hours before the attack. Why Mr. Mathias refused to accept the subsequent GOC's public denial of receiving such information from the Governor, is what surprises me, as there was no corroborating evidence of what really transpired between the two. All we can safely say is that, either one of them is telling the truth. For Mr. Mathias to have descended so low and harshly criticize the army is to say the least, most unfortunate. This has confirmed the dynamics and the direction the Plateau crisis is heading to. That is to say, gradual involvement of the army into the crisis, and this is indeed dangerous. Now, supposing the GOC in Jos is to be redeployed by the army, what guarantee do we have, if his successor happens to be a Christian, that he will not also be accused of partisanship by the other side of the conflict? Dose that means that is how we intend to solve the crisis on the Plateau?

The second issue I want to comment on is, when Mr. Mathias says, "At a time when the army was being

with a less number of 109, simply because the victims were his ethnic Berom tribe. One can now discern why Mr. Mathias wrote in his article under reference thus, "They expect Jang to declare and defend a policy that opens up indigenship to "settlers", against the will of PEOPLE WHO VOTED HIM (emphasis mine)? It is like asking Mugabe to return recovered land to the white of Zimbabwe. No leader will pursue policies against the wishes of the people that VOTED HIM IN (emphasis mine)" Yes, Mr. Mathias has said it all. The Hausa/Fulani massacred in January deserved it because they probably did not vote for Governor Jang, and did not also deserve his protection, because they were "settlers".

Finally, Mr. Mathias' subtle attempt to malign some of his columnist colleagues, accusing them of bias in their writings and comments on the Jos crisis, is something strange, as reading through Mr. Mathias' article will equally make some one to accuse him of being exceptionally "parochial, bias and stereotype" in his conclusion. Now I know that Mr Timawus Mathias is indeed human.

Abdussalami M. Yaro abdussalami@yahoo.co.uk

Sir,

I always read your piece in Daily Trust, and I admire your objectivity. But my question refers to your last paragraph. So it is true for someone to spend at least 150 years in a place and still be a settler! What of the constitution which says 10 years?

Ibrahim Buhari Rufa'i

Ecobank

Rapidtransfer

The fast, convenient and reliable way to transfer money across Africa.



Present in more countries in Africa than any other bank in the world.

Benin • Burkina Faso • Burundi • Cameroon • Cape Verde • Central African Republic • Chad • Congo (Brazzaville) Congo (Democratic Republic) • Côte d'Ivoire • Gabon • Gambia • Ghana • Guinea • Guinea-Bissau • Kenya Liberia • Malawi • Mali • Niger • Nigeria • Rwanda • Sao Tome and Principe • Senegal • Sierra Leone • Tanzania Togo • Uganda • Zambia

To find out more about this great service, visit your nearest Ecobank branch or call (234) 1 761 37 93 / (234) 1 270 13 23

www.ecobank.com

Ecobank
The Pan African Bank



StepUP

Discover a world where the more you talk the better it gets

Designed exclusively to fit your lifestyle, with a wide range of meaningful value added services and unique benefits.

 Special Numbers

 Access to VIP Airport lounge

 120 Complimentary SMS

 Exclusive Internet offers

 Exclusive BlackBerry offers

 50% Monthly Discount

Buy a Zain SIM card now and dial *200*110 activate (K\$1,500 Monthly access fee applies)

For more information, visit www.zain.com, dial *200# or call 111

Terms and conditions apply.

www.zain.com

A wonderful world



THE ENTIRE MEMBERS OF
NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION, ABUJA BRANCH
(UNITY BAR)

Invites the general public to the

**1ST N.B.A.
ABUJA**
LAW LECTURE SERIES

in honour of
HON. JUSTICE L.H GUMMI (OFR)
Chief Judge, FCT

TOPIC:

**LAW AS A TOOL OF SOCIAL ENGINEERING:
PROSPECTS DEMANDS AND CHALLENGES IN
CONSOLIDATING DEMOCRACY.**

under the distinguished chairmanship of:
HON. JUSTICE I.A. UMEZULIKE (OFR)
Chief Judge, Enugu State

guest speaker:
PRINCE LATEEF FAGBEMI (SAN)

DATE: Wednesday, 24TH MARCH, 2010
VENUE: Shehu Musa Yar'adua Centre, Abuja
TIME: 10.00 AM

R.S.V.P: 08033334362, 08033496091

CBN's MUZZLING OF BANKS: KICKING THE ECONOMY INTO OBLIVION

The Nigerian economy may be on the verge of collapse, as an outcome of the current CBN Banking reforms, which many discerning Nigerians believe is being poorly executed, a reason the Federal Government has decided to become more involved to stem the excesses of the current CBN leadership. According to Mazi Sam Oluwabunwa, Chairman of Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG) and member of the recently inaugurated Presidential Advisory Council (PAC), "my understanding is that the reforms were not sufficiently sold to all the stakeholders of the economy."

"Things are really bad. Banks have stopped lending, manufacturing activities are on the verge of collapse, several airlines have stopped flying, the telecoms sector is experiencing its lowest growth since the advent of telecoms in Nigeria, the NNPC is now the sole importer of fuel into the country; private enterprise is no longer functioning. Things are that bad", said an economist who does not want to be named.

Recently, the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) revealed that production capacity has dropped to an all-time low of 27 percent and despite that, most manufacturers cannot still sell the little they produce. Economic analysts say this may indicate a possible collapse in consumer demand following the massive lay-off in the banking industry and other sectors of the economy since the CBN started its banking reforms. The Nigerian Airline industry is also in dire strait which has been traced to the current reforms in the Nigerian banking industry. Bismark Rewane, MD, Financial Derivatives Company, speaking at the Lagos Business School breakfast forum notes that "the global recession did not initially and completely affect the Nigerian aviation markets, until the reforms introduced into the banking sector by the Central Bank of Nigeria crept into the airlines business leading to credit crunch."

Already, analysts are predicting that only about five airlines will survive from the current financial crisis hitting them from the fourteen domestic airlines in operation. The Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) has revoked the license of Afrijet while the operations of Bellview Airlines and Capital Airlines have been grounded.

But while the real sector and other businesses are complaining of lack of credit from the banks, investigations have revealed that banks are swimming in cash which they are afraid to lend to the real sector. Mazi Sam Oluwabunwa, a manufacturer, who is MD/CEO Neimeth Pharmaceuticals, confirmed this in an interview with The Guardian, Sunday, March 14, 2010. Said he: "The new managements of banks are careful, they are the ones coming to us to ask for more collateral. They don't want to be fired or taken to court because they lent money. That is why they are asking for what people will not be able to provide. They have gone back to traditional banking when they ask for your grandfathers and grandmothers before they give loan."

Dealers in the Nigerian money market are said to be currently turning away deposit placements because they do not have outlets for the funds at the price they are collecting the funds. Three banks are said to be dominating the interbank markets offering very low rates for deposits since they have nowhere to lend it to. This trend was confirmed by the CBN at the end of its Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting when it complained that banks have kept N600 billion in its vaults at two (2%) percent per annum. In a bid to encourage banks to lend, the CBN had reduced the interest rate to one percent. However, indications are that despite the reduction, banks are still not inclined to lend to the real sector, preferring risk-free government securities instead.

First Securities Discount House (FSDH) report recently had revealed that the interbank market is awash with excess cash leading to huge over-subscription of government securities on offer. The 91-day Treasury bill auction that took place in the second week of March recorded 545.92 percent subscription level while the 182-day bill recorded a subscription level of 208.33 percent indicating the high level of risk evasiveness currently in Nigerian banks.

Even high level projects which banks, before the current CBN reforms were falling over themselves to finance, are being shunned by the banks. Mr. Segun Ahmadu, Chairman, Implementation Committee of Lagos-Ibadan Expressway concessioned to Bi-Courtney Highway Services, has disclosed that a "number of banks from South Africa and China have shown interest in financing the project." No Nigerian bank was mentioned. Recently, Dangote Cement had also resorted to South African banks to finance its cement plants after paying off its Nigerian bank debtors. Little wonder, Mallam Sanusi Lamido Sanusi's former boss, and ex-Managing Director of First Bank, Mr. Jacobs Ajekigbe, in Punch of Monday, 15 March 2010, at page 20, warned the CBN over its proposed sale of the hijacked banks, saying that "foreign banks are not likely to develop our economy for us. They do not have the appetite to finance economic development projects and indigenous business, which are critical to economic development". Analysts have warned that the mutual loss of confidence by the banking sector in the Nigerian economy and as well as loss of confidence by the business sector in the Nigerian banking sector will spell doom for the Nigerian economy, no thanks to the CBN Governor. He has, by his unguarded comments, and unarticulated actions, destroyed confidence in the banking sector, and the economy, a reason why Mazi Sam Oluwabunwa has cautioned that **ibanking is a sector built on confidence, so any statement that will cause loss of confidence should be avoided. If bankers are conservative, CBN Governor should be more conservative. Conservative people don't say all they know; they don't speak all the time; they don't answer all the questions. They take their time to say things. They consider the impacts of what they want to say.**

MR. AG. PRESIDENT, NIGERIANS COUNT ON YOU TO RESTORE ECONOMIC SANITY AND PROGRESS

SIGNED

Renaissance Professionals

VICTOR SHODIPO, IKEJA, LAGOS

victorshodipo@yahoo.com

INTERNATIONAL

Ivory Coast peace process may collapse

SUPPORTERS of Ivory Coast's President Laurent Gbagbo yesterday said the peace process was in danger after former rebels refused to tie disarmament to an election date.

"Disarmament and reunification are non-negotiable. The peace process in Ivory Coast is in danger, it is at risk of becoming biased," said the leader of the so-called Patriots, Charles Ble Goude. "We're going to struggle for disarmament and the reunification of the nation calmly but firmly," Ble Goude told AFP by telephone while touring the divided West African country ahead of elections planned for "late April-early May."

On Monday, the former rebel New Forces (FN), led by Prime Minister Guillaume Soro, refused to link the disarmament of their troops to the organisation of the vote, which is being mediated by Burkina Faso's President Blaise Compaore.

"Disarmament has never been linked to the organisation of the presidential election and has thus never been a condition for its organisation," FN spokesman Affouy Bamba said, despite the terms of a 2008 peace pact. He told a press conference that the "process of disarmament, demobilisation and (social) reinsertion will continue after the presiden-

tial election."

Ivory Coast has been divided in two since a foiled coup against Gbagbo in September 2002, after which the rebels took control of the northern half of the cocoa-rich country.

Gbagbo has been in power for 10 years, but his mandate expired in 2005, and successive internationally mediated bids to organise an election foundered six times. Few in Ivory Coast believe that it will be possible to organise one by the latest planned date, but Soro has said he wants a poll by June. Ble Goude accused Soro of wanting to be "prime minister in Abidjan and head of state in Bouake," the central stronghold of the FN.

"This situation could rebound on him. I wish he would be more courageous and clarify his position," Ble Goude said, adding that "we can't continue to develop a parallel economy (in the north) and make believe that we are heading for peace."

Signed at the end of 2008, the last peace accord, which was a complement to a political agreement signed in Ouagadougou a year earlier, stipulates that the disarmament of FN elements who have not been incorporated into mixed brigades or demobilised should be complete at the latest two months before the presidential election.



PRESIDENT Laurent Gbagbo

Kenya witness protection programme unsafe

KENYA'S government is trying to launch a witness protection program, yet those who were threatened after the country's post-election violence left more than 1,000 dead say they're so afraid that they want no part of it.

The International Criminal Court is investigating whether to open a formal case into the 2007-2008 fighting and is now gathering testimony in Kenya. But some witnesses fear the country's power players could hunt them down for retribution even if they were protected by a government witness protection program.

"We will die if we go there," said Samuel Kimeli Kosgei, who testified during a government inquiry after watching a church filled with women and children set on fire. Dozens died in that attack.

Kosgei is one of two witnesses who told The Associated Press about living in hiding after their names were leaked out of a government commission, even though they were assured they would remain anonymous. Government spokesman Alfred Mutua declined to comment.

The prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Luis Moreno Ocampo, has asked the court's judges for permission to start investigations into Kenya's violence. Ocampo has said he believes top officials from Kenya's major political parties were responsible for crimes against humanity.

More than 1,000 people were killed and 600,000 forced from their homes after Kenya's electoral commission declared that President Mwai Kibaki had won a second term in the December 2007 poll.

147,000 to receive food aid in Mauritania

SOME 147,000 people facing food insecurity in Mauritania, a country largely taken up by desert, will be receiving immediate aid, Mauritania's food security commissioner said yesterday.

"We estimate that some 147,000 people find themselves in a state of food vulnerability and in the coming days we will

be distributing food aid to them," Mohamed Ould Mohamedou told state television.

He said the figure was the result of a study done in February alongside the World Food Programme (WFP) in all poor areas of the country, especially those in border areas which are most affected.

This vulnerability is "due to

the inadequacy of agricultural output" in these areas combined with dwindling food stocks put in place in regions targeted by government, he said.

"In the coming days we will initiate the free distribution of 6,000 tonnes of various food products and we think that even though the situation is difficult, it is under control."

Somali militants exhume grave of revered cleric

WITNESSES say Somalia's al-Qaida-linked militant group is exhuming the remains of a revered moderate cleric in the capital to stop people from worshipping him.

Al-Shabab official Ali Mohamed Hussein says yesterday

his group dug up Sheik Mohyadin Eli's grave in Mogadishu because people seeking blessings visit the tomb for spiritual purposes. Witness Hassan Da'ud says the cleric's 30-year-old remains were stuffed into sacks.

Al-Shabab has prohibited

adoring tombs and destroyed idolized tombs in areas under its control over the last couple of years.

The group espouses a strict interpretation of Islam. Many Somalis observe a relatively moderate form of Islam that allows the veneration of respected saints.

International

Arab League chief pushes for closer ties with Iran

THE Arab League chief wants the 22-nation bloc to engage Iran directly over concerns about its growing influence and its nuclear activities, in a step that could undermine US and Israeli efforts to isolate the country, diplomats said yesterday.

Senior US officials including Defense Secretary Robert Gates toured the region last month to urge Arab allies to back Western efforts to increase the heat on Iran over its nuclear program, including through tougher economic sanctions. Arab diplomats said Secretary-General Amr Moussa will present his proposal in a policy document to a two-day Arab League leaders summit in Sirte, Libya, that starts Saturday. The leaders are expected to discuss a range of regional issues, including stalled Middle East peace efforts and Iran.

The engagement would take the form of a forum for regional cooperation and conflict resolution that would include non-Arab nations Iran and Turkey, two Arab League diplomats said. They agreed to discuss details of the proposal on condition of anonymity because of their sensitivity.

One of the diplomats, who has seen Moussa's document, said the League's chief hopes the inclusion of Turkey, an increasingly influential Sunni Muslim nation, will provide a powerful counterbalance to Shiite Iran.

Moussa also wants the leaders to authorize him to initiate direct talks with Tehran on Arabs' concerns over what they view as Iranian meddling in regional affairs, including through its support of militant groups beyond its borders. A senior aide to Moussa, Hisham Youssef, confirmed the secretary-general would present the ideas to the summit.

It is not clear if Moussa has yet consulted with key Arab nations such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia, which have resisted closer ties with Iran in the past.



SOUTHERN Yemenis hold the flag of former south Yemen during a protest last week in Radfan in Lahij province.

Yemen-US discuss anti-terrorism measures

YEMENI President Ali Abdullah Saleh has met a senior US defence official to discuss fighting terrorism amid a warning of Al-Qaeda maritime attacks, the official Saba news reported.

Saleh's yesterday meeting with James Clapper, the US undersecretary of defence for intelligence, came on the same day the US navy

warned that the militant Islamist group could attack ships off Yemen's coast. The two men discussed "bilateral relations and means of cooperation in security matters, training, fighting terrorism, and protection of coasts," Saba reported.

Saleh welcomed "the cooperation between the two friendly

countries in fields of development, training and exchange of information," the news agency said. The US Office of Naval Intelligence warned on its website that Al-Qaeda, which killed 17 sailors in a 2000 attack on the American destroyer USS Cole docked in Aden, might carry out maritime attacks.

BRITISH COUNCIL

Bank PLAB



MY HOME IS HERE

Images of climate change in Nigeria

A Photography Exhibition

Lagos: 20 – 24 March 2010

Kano: 25– 30 March 2010

Abuja: 1 – 7 April 2010

All showing at British Council

20 Thompson Avenue, Ikoyi, Lagos

10 Emir's Palace Road, Kano

Plot 3645, IBB Way, Maitama, Abuja

International

Man stabs, kills 8 children at Chinese school



POLICE officers guard the crime scene outside Nanping City Experimental Elementary School where students were stabbed by a man in Nanping in southeast China's Fujian province, yesterday.

A former doctor armed with a large knife rampaged outside an elementary school in eastern China, stabbing eight young children to death and wounding five others yesterday, a local official and a state news agency said.

The attacker launched his early morning attack as students were arriving for school. Zheng Minsheng, 41, had mingled with parents at the school gates then suddenly pulled out his knife and began slashing children, Xinhua News Agency said.

In the aftermath of the attack at the Nanping City Experimental Elementary School in Fujian province, doctors treated small children and bodies lay covered in bloody sheets. Police officers manned a cordon around the school. Some comforted distraught parents.

China has witnessed a series of school attacks in recent years, most blamed on people with personal grudges or suffering from mental illness, leading to calls for improved security. Zheng was arrested after his rampage was finally stopped by passers-by and school security guards, Xinhua said, citing Wu Jiachong, the owner of a nearby shop.

Zheng worked as a doctor in a community clinic before resigning last June, Xinhua said, citing Huang Zhongping, spokesman for the Nanping city public security bureau.

Zheng was known to have a history of mental illness, said a man surnamed Wu in the Nanping city government office, who would not give his full name as is common among Chinese officials. Eight children were killed, and five were being treated at a hospital, Wu said. Six died at the scene.

The victims' ages were not known, but Chinese elementary schools typically have students ages 6 to 12. The school was closed and students were sent home for the day. Counseling would be provided for students when classes resume today, Xinhua said.

Recent schools attacks including a July 2007 assault in which a mentally ill man wielding a wrench wounded 18 children and a teacher in a kindergarten in southern China before fleeing on a motorcycle and trying to stab himself to death.

China's worst such incident in March 2001 destroyed a schoolhouse and killed at least 42 people, most of them children. Officials blamed a mentally ill man who charged into the school in Jiangxi province with a bag full of dynamite.

Indian military to weaponise world's hottest chili

THE Indian military has a new weapon against terrorism: the world's hottest chili. After conducting tests, the military has decided to use the thumb-sized "bhut jolokia," or "ghost chili," to make tear gas-like hand grenades to immobilize suspects, defense officials said yesterday.

The bhut jolokia was accepted by Guinness World Records in 2007 as the world's spiciest chili. It is grown and eaten in India's northeast for its taste, as a cure for stomach troubles and a way to fight

the crippling summer heat. It has more than 1,000,000 Scoville units, the scientific measurement of a chili's spiciness.

Classic Tabasco sauce ranges from 2,500 to 5,000 Scoville units, while jalapeno peppers measure anywhere from 2,500 to 8,000. "The chili grenade has been found fit for use after trials in Indian defense laboratories, a fact confirmed by scientists at the Defense Research and Development Organization," Col. R. Kalia, a defense spokesman in the northeastern state of Assam, told The Associated

Press.

"This is definitely going to be an effective nontoxic weapon because its pungent smell can choke terrorists and force them out of their hide-outs," R. B. Srivastava, the director of the Life Sciences Department at the New Delhi headquarters of the DRDO said.

Srivastava, who led a defense research laboratory in Assam, said trials are also on to produce bhut jolokia-based aerosol sprays to be used by women against attackers and for the police to control and disperse mobs.

Kyrgyz leader says Western democracy unsuitable

KYRGYZSTAN'S president said yesterday that Western-style democracy has run its course in the ex-Soviet Central Asian country, prompting fears of a further decline in political freedoms.

President Kurmanbek Bakiyev told a national congress that democracy based on elections and individual human rights may no longer be suitable for Kyrgyzstan.

He said "consultative democracy," envisaging dialogues with influential social groups, would be more in keeping with his country's traditions.

Public dissatisfaction with Bakiyev's government is running high in Kyrgyzstan amid recent sharp increases in heating and electricity tariffs and alleged oppression of government opponents.



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the leading UN organization in Reproductive Health and Population and Development, is seeking to recruit 2 Consultants to carry out the following activities:

Job Title

- 1. Consultant to develop/adapt gender sensitive mainstreaming tools for reproductive health & rights**
- 2. Consultant to conduct gender sensitive policy review and analysis**

Type of Contract:

Special Service Agreement (SSA)

Location:

Abuja

Duration:

1 month (30 days)

Fees:

According to UN prevailing rate

Closing Date:

12 April, 2010

For further details on the job description and application process, please visit <http://nigeria.unfpa.org/vacancy.htm> and submit your application.

Please note that UNFPA will respond only to those applicants in whom it has a further interest. **Kindly also note that ONLY applications sent by e-mail will be accepted.** Qualified men are encouraged to apply.

*UNFPA reserves the right to appoint at the indicated or lower level and prior to the closing date.

International

Obama signs health bill, celebrate with allies



PRESIDENT Barack Obama makes a statement to Americans following the final vote in the House of Representatives for a comprehensive overhaul of the health care system.

PRESIDENT Barack Obama's yearlong health care overhaul drama featured dozens of speeches, contentious debate and a televised summit with lawmakers before a divided Congress passed the bill. An elaborate White House signing ceremony kicks off the next act: selling the sweeping changes to a skeptical public.

House and Senate Democrats who backed the bill as well as lesser-known people whose health care struggles have touched Obama were to join him yesterday for the ceremony in the East Room. Afterward, Obama and much of the audience were headed to the Interior Department for an even larger celebration.

The White House did everything possible to make sure Obama's health care victory lap carried the day with no competition. A planned announcement of the administration's new drug control policy by Vice President Joe Biden was called off, White House press secretary Robert Gibbs declined to hold his regular daily briefing for reporters and all Obama's meetings were closed to coverage, including one with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Act II begins tomorrow when Obama visits Iowa City, Iowa, where as a presidential candidate he announced his health care plan in May 2007, to talk about how it will help lower health care costs for small businesses and families.

The House late Sunday voted 219-212 — no Republicans voted in favor — to send the 10-year, \$938 billion bill to Obama. The measure, which the Senate passed in December, eventually will extend coverage to 32 million uninsured Americans, reduce federal budget deficits and ban such insurance company practices as denying coverage to people with existing medical problems.

A companion measure sought by House Democrats to make a series of changes to the main bill was approved 220-211. It goes to the Senate, where debate could begin as early as Tuesday. Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., says he has the votes to pass it — though only under special budget rules requiring just a simple majority vote.

Republicans are united in opposition to Obama's redesign of the health care system, and are assailing it as an unwarranted government takeover, threatening a move to repeal it.

UK expels Israeli diplomat over Dubai case

BRITAIN plans to expel an Israeli diplomat yesterday to rebuke Israel for its alleged use of forged British passports in the assassination of a Hamas operative in a suspected Mossad hit, a U.K. government official said.

Foreign Secretary David Miliband was to address Parliament on the issue, following an investigation into the use of 12 fake UK passports in the incident.

Britain's Foreign Office would not provide any details of Miliband's statement in advance. "The foreign secretary will make a statement to the House of the Commons this afternoon," a spokeswoman said.

However, a UK official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to comment ahead of the statement, confirmed that one Israeli diplomat will be expelled.

In 1988, Britain expelled Israeli attache Arie Regev for "activities incompatible with diplomatic duties", a euphemism for espionage. It also barred a second Israeli, Jacob Barad, from returning to Britain after his departure in 1987.



GOMBE STATE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA

STATE UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION BOARD (SUBEB) GOMBE

Tel: 072-2224200
Fax: 072-2229090P.O. Box 079
Gombe,
Gombe State

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

The State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) Gombe invites interested, reputable and competent contractors/Consultants to tender for Pre - Qualification under the following categories of the 2009 ETF Special - BOT Intervention Projects:-

1. (a) CONSTRUCTION OF
 - i. Storey Building of 6 classrooms
 - ii. 3 - Classrooms Blocks
 - iii. 2 - Classrooms Blocks
- (b) RENOVATION OF
 - i. 3 - Classrooms Blocks
 - ii. 2 - Classrooms Blocks
- (c) Fabrication and supply of Furniture (for Pupils & Teachers)

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- (a) Evidence of Company Registration with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC)
- (b) Company's Current Tax Clearance Certificate for the past three (3) years
- (c) Company's VAT Registration Certificate
- (d) Letter of attestation of good financial standing of the Bank including the name and address of the Bank(s) (Bank Reference)
- (e) Bank Guarantee or insurance Bond for advance payments.
- (f) Evidence of previous similar contracts stating contract value and showing evidence of award and timely completion.
- (g) Evidence of Company's Registration with SUBEB Gombe.

SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS

All prospective contractors/suppliers should submit their documents in sealed envelopes addressed to:-

THE SECRETARY,
TENDERS' BOARD,
GOMBE STATE UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION BOARD (SUBEB).

The documents should be submitted within two (2) weeks from the date of this publication.

The Board reserves the right to reject any or all pre-qualification submission and or discontinue the tendering process at any time. Nothing in this advert shall be construed to be a commitment on the part of the Board or entertain any potential tenderer to make any claim whatsoever and seek an indemnity from the Board on account of responding to this advert. The Board shall not go into any correspondence with non prequalified contractors in any form.

The list of those pre-qualified shall be listed and pasted on the Notice Board of SUBEB Gombe.

ALH. SALISU ABAJI
BOARD SECRETARY



Arewa Suites, Abuja

Samuel Adesujo Ademulegun Street, Off Herbert Macaulay Way,
Central Business District P.M.B. 416, Abuja



- Newly Renovated Rooms for our Esteemed Guest
- Lavishly Furnished Rooms
- Available Services:-

- Single Room
- Standard Double Room
- Luxury Suites
- Diplomatic Suites
- Presidential Suite
- 24 Hours Room Service
- Restaurant Service
- Business Centre
- Shop Arcade
- Travel Agents
- Conference/Banquet Hall
- Outdoor catering services
- Bar Service
- Car Hire Services
- Bukka Chop
- Spacious Car Park

Telephone: 08065657788, 08035927553, 08068435737

E-mail: arewasuites@arewahotelsfd.com



NATIONAL BOARD FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION

PLOT 'B' BIDA ROAD, P.M.B. 2239 KADUNA

www.nbte.gov.ng

2010 SCHEDULE OF VISITATION TO INSTITUTIONS (PHASE I) NORTH WEST AND SOUTH EAST ZONES

The National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) was established by Act No. 9 of 1977 to coordinate all aspects of Technical and Vocational Education falling outside the Universities. Over the years, it has established a time-tested system of quality assurance through the accreditation of all programmes on offer by institutions under its purview: Polytechnics, Colleges of Agriculture, Colleges of Health Technology, Other Specialized Institutions and Technical Colleges. In line with the above, the Board wishes to announce the commencement of the 2010 accreditation exercise as listed below. Proprietors and Chief Executive Officers of Institutions are enjoined to kindly note the dates and details as they affect their respective Institutions and make appropriate arrangements.

Date of Visit	S/No	Institution	Type of Visit	Programmes
6 th - 9 th April, 2010	1.	Abdu Gusau Polytechnic, Talata Mafara	Re-Accreditation/Initial accreditation	ND/HND Computer Science ND/HND Statistics
			Re-Accreditation	Pre-ND Science
			Resource Inspection	ND SLT
			Verification	ND/HND Accountancy
6 th - 9 th April, 2010	2.	Federal Polytechnic Kaura Namoda	Re-Accreditation	HND Biochemistry
			Verification	HND Food Technology
			Accreditation	HND Electrical Engineering (Electronics & Telecom.) HND Mechanical Engineering (Production)
			Resource Inspection	ND Public Administration
6 th - 9 th April, 2010	3.	Waziri Umaru Federal Polytechnic B Kebbi	Accreditation	HND SLT Physics/Electronics ND/HND Statistics ND Computer Science
			Re-Accreditation	Pre-ND Science ND Surveying & Geo-Informatics ND Local Govt.
			Verification	ND Public Administration
6 th - 9 th April, 2010	4.	Sokoto State Polytechnic, Sokoto.	Accreditation	HND SLT (Chemistry/Biochemistry) HND SLT Chemistry HND SLT (Environmental Biology) HND SLT (Microbiology) HND Civil Engineering HND Electrical Engineering (Electronics & Telecom) HND Mechanical Engineering (Manufacturing) HND Building Technology
12 th - 16 th April, 2010.	5.	Kano State Polytechnic, Kano.	Re-Accreditation/Initial Accreditation	ND/HND Hospitality Mgt
			Re-Accreditation	HND Chemistry ND Statistics ND Computer Science ND Electrical/Electronic Engr. ND Mechanical Engineering ND Welding & Fabrication Engineering Technology Pre-ND Science
			Initial Accreditation	HND Phy/Elect. ND Pharmaceutical Technology
12 th - 16 th April, 2010.	6.	Hussaini Adamu Federal Polytechnic, Kazaure.	Initial Accreditation	HND Computer Science HND Environmental Biology HND Chemistry HND Physics/Electronics ND Statistics
			Accreditation	HND Fashion Design and Clothing
			Verification	ND Polymer
12 th - 16 th April, 2010.	7.	Jigawa State Polytechnic, Dutse	Initial Accreditation	ND Statistics
12 th - 16 th April, 2010	8.	Audu Bako College of Agric. Dambatta.	Re-Accreditation	HND Crop Production Technology
12 th - 16 th April, 2010	9.	Jigawa State College of Agric. Dutse	Resources Inspection	Pre-ND Science ND Agric. Technology ND Animal Health and Production Technology
19 th - 23 rd April, 2010	10.	Institute of Information Technology, Kazaure.	Resources Inspection	ND Computer Science
19 th - 23 rd April, 2010	11.	Nuhu Bamali Polytechnic, Zaria.	Initial Accreditation	ND Agricultural Engineering Technology HND Electrical/Electronics (Electronics & Telecom) HND Architectural Tech. HND Building Technology HND Estate Management HND Urban & Regional Planning
			Re-Accreditation	ND Quantity Surveying ND Urban & Regional Planning ND Banking & Finance
19 th - 23 rd April, 2010	12.	Kaduna Polytechnic, Kaduna.	Resource Inspection	HND Chemistry HND Biochemistry HND Environmental Biology
			Re-Accreditation	HND Electrical/Electronics (Electronics & Telecom) P-HND Chemical Engineering HND Public Admin. ND Banking & Finance HND Mass Communication ND Mass Communication HND Library & Information Science HND Leisure & Tourism ND/HND Local Govt. HND Marketing
19 th - 23 rd April, 2010.	13.	Federal College of Forestry Mechanization, Afaka	Re-Accreditation	HND Horticulture & Landscape Technology
19 th - 23 rd April, 2010	14.	Airforce Institute of Technology (AFIT), Airforce Base, Kaduna	Accreditation	HND Aircraft Engineering Technology (Airframe) HND Aircraft Engineering Technology (Avionics) HND Electrical Engineering (Electronics/Telecom)
			Re-accreditation	ND Aircraft Engineering Technology ND Elect/Elect Engineering ND Mechanical Engr. Technology ND Business Administration & Mgt.
26 th - 30 th April, 2010.	15.	Fed. College of Chemical & Leather Technology, Zaria.	Resources Inspection	HND SLT (Biochemistry) HND SLT (Microbiology)
26 th - 30 th April, 2010.	16.	College of Agriculture, Bakura.	Carrying Capacity	ND SLT
26 th - 30 th April, 2010.	17.	Hassan Usman Katsina Polytechnic, Katsina.	Initial Accreditation	ND Agricultural Technology
26 th - 30 th April, 2010.	18.	ABU Teaching Hospital, Zaria.	Initial Accreditation	ND Animal Production Technology HND Electrical Engineering (Electronics & Telecom) HND Mechanical Engineering (Production) ND Architectural Technology
			Re-Accreditation	ND Library Science ND Mass Communication HND Office Tech. & Management
26 th - 30 th April, 2010.	19.	Abia State Polytechnic, Aba.	Initial Accreditation	ND Health Information Management
10 th - 14 th May, 2010.	20.	Federal Polytechnic, Nekede, Owerri	Initial Accreditation	HND Bio/Microbiology HND Chemistry/Biochemistry HND Physics/Electronics
			Re-Accreditation	HND Statistics ND Architectural Technology ND Building Technology ND Estate Management ND Quantity Surveying ND Surveying & Geo-Informatics ND Urban & Regional Planning
10 th - 14 th May, 2010.	21.	Federal College of Land Resources Technology, Owerri	Initial Accreditation	HND Biochemistry/Microbiology HND Environmental Biology HND Surveying & Geo-Informatics
10 th - 14 th May, 2010.	22.	Akanu Ibiam Federal Polytechnic, Unwana Afikpo	Re-Accreditation	HND Biochemistry HND Chem/Biochemistry HND Civil Engineering (Structures) ND Quantity Surveying ND Public Admin.
			Initial Accreditation	HND Statistics
			Verification	ND Hospitality Mgt ND SLT
10 th - 14 th May, 2010.	23.	Federal Polytechnic, Oko.	Verification	ND/HND Food Technology
			Re-Accreditation	HND Art & Industrial Design (Graphics) HND Art & Industrial Design (Painting) HND Art & Industrial Design (Sculpture) HND Art & Industrial Design (Textiles) ND Fashion Design & Clothing Technology ND Printing Technology ND Computer Engineering HND Art & Industrial Design (Ceramics) HND Civil Engineering (Structures) HND Elect/Elect. (Telecom)
16 th - 20 th May, 2010.	24.	Institute of Management & Technology, Enugu.	Verification	ND Library Science
16 th - 20 th May, 2010.	25.	Our Saviour Institute of Science Agriculture & Technology, Enugu.	Re-Accreditation	ND/HND Computer Science
16 th - 20 th May, 2010.	26.	Imo State Polytechnic, Umuagwo	Accreditation	HND Biochemistry HND SLT Chemistry HND SLT Microbiology
16 th - 20 th May, 2010.	27.	Federal College of Agriculture, Ishiagu	Initial Accreditation	ND/HND Computer Science, ND Statistics
16 th - 20 th May, 2010.			Resource Inspection	ND Fisheries Technology

Signed:

Dr. Muhammad S. Abubakar, FN Inst P, FNIST
AG. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

BUSINESS

0805 1000 536



THE handing over ceremony of former Minister of Power Lanre Babalola and former Minister of State Power Nuhu Somo Wya to the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Power Alhaji Isah Bello Sali in Abuja.

NCC issues 2.3 GHz spectrum licence to Mobitel Ltd

By Hamisu Muhammad

THE Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) has finally issued licence to Messrs Mobitel Ltd for the utilization of frequencies in the 2.3 GHz Spectrum Band, having emerged successful at the licensing bid concluded by the Commission on May 8, 2009 by paying the specified fees of N1.368 Billion Naira.

There were protests initially on the Mobitel licence when it was announced to be among the three winners in the bid until last week when the judgment of the Federal High Court of Nigeria, in Abuja Division, presided over by Justice M.G Umar, on Thursday, March 18, 2010 ordered the NCC to allocate to the company, frequency slot in the 2.3 GHz band forthwith.

The Chairman of the Board of the Commission, Alhaji Joda, approved that the licence be issued immediately in compliance with court judgement. While delivering the judgment in an application brought before it by the company, the Justice made an order of mandatory injunction compelling the Commission to allocate a slot in the 2.3 GHz band spectrum to the company, having satisfied all the requirements for the allocation.

Experts predict high inflation rate in 2010

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

ECONOMIC experts on Monday predicted high inflationary rate in the nation's economy if the current political uncertainty is not resolved.

Inflation rose in January 2010 to 12.3 per cent after a decline to 12 per cent in December 2009. Inflationary pressures have risen due to fiscal expansion in last quarter of 2009, expectations of oil sector deregulation and political uncertainty.

According to Resources and Trust Company Limited, a group of economists' experts led by Mr. Opeyemi Agbaje in its Business and Economic Review, February edition said: "We believe as we have earlier projected that inflationary pressures will be strong in 2010. The January inflation rate of 12.3 per cent suggests that our projected year-end rate of 15-16 per cent is possible. Businesses must continue to seek cost optimization and reduction strategies". The group noted that the present uncertainty and heightened political risk is not good for business, adding that policy and

governance has taken a back seat. As a result of these, major economic decisions are not being taken. "It is likely that new investment decisions and capital investment by existing businesses may be suspended until the outlook is clearer", the group stated.

The improving global environment, the group said portends resumption of international capital and investment flows unfortunately Nigerian businesses are not positioned to benefit due to local financial sector concerns and political uncertainty.

The economy, according to the CBN Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is already bearing the inflationary consequences of downstream oil sector deregulation even before the policy is implemented based on market expectations. The group said Nigerians are already bearing the effects of the inflationary downsides without the benefit of deregulated markets.

"The MPC basically confirms what the markets already knew-the Nigerian economy is starved of liquidity and the banks are not lending. Until the capital and liquidity which the banks have lost is replaced and bankers'

bruised psyches are repaired, lending may yet be deferred. The Asset Management Company (AMC) which can ameliorate the situation is yet to receive final legislative backing", the group said.

The group said though the proposed scheme by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to provide funding at a concessionary maximum rate of 7 per cent to commercially oriented power projects and refinancing loans to manufacturers if well-implemented, will provide long term financing at relatively low cost to these critical sectors. The most critical challenge right now for the Nigerian economy is to resolve the uncertainty in the political environment so that critical challenges of power, financial sector disintermediation, infrastructure, corruption and macroeconomic management can be addressed.

"Capital markets appear to be trending slightly upwards. We believe that even though that accords with stock fundamentals, the political uncertainty may yet bear down on market recovery", the group added.

Stock Market Index

Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Index: 24,673.55

Deals: 8,118

Volume: 460,434,578

Value: N4,169,120,060.65

Cap.: N5,962,531,496,983.29

Trust Index

Inflation	→ 12.3%
GDP	→ 6.90%
Budget	→ N3.1tr
External Reserves Acct	→ \$41bn
Excess Crude Acct	→ \$3.2bn
Poverty Ratio	→ 54.4%
Monetary Policy Rate	→ 6%
Banks	→ 24
Oil Price	→ \$80 a barrel
Power Supply	→ 2,500MW
Oil output per day	→ 2.5mbd
Broad Money Supply	→ N10,796,734.5m
Credit to Private Sector	→ N10,018,035.3m
Inter-Bank Rate	→ 1.1600%
Treasury Bills	→ 2.02%
Deposit Rate	→ 12.28%
Prime Lending Rate	→ 18.38%

CBN

19/3/2010

CBN EXCHANGE RATES

BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES

	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)
CFA	0.29	0.3	0.31
DANISH KRONER	26.8195	26.9105	27.0015
EURO	199.6533	200.3306	201.0078
POUNDS STERLING	223.1489	223.9059	224.6628
RIYAL	39.3067	39.44	39.5733
SDR	225.2714	226.0356	226.7997
SWISS FRANC	138.991	139.4625	139.934
US DOLLAR	147.4	147.9	148.4
WAUA	225.6026	226.3679	227.1331
YEN	1.6246	1.6301	1.6356

BUYING	
DOLLARN150
EURON205
POUNDSN231

SELLING	
DOLLARN152
EURON207
POUNDSN233

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

Business/Aviation

British Airways still cancels flights after strike

Stories from Nahimah Ajikanle Nurudeen with agency report

BRITISH Airways is still cancelling flights in the aftermath of a three-day strike by cabin crew.

The airline's website shows it has cancelled nearly 200, or more than 19%, of flights that had been scheduled up to midnight on Tuesday.

BA is reviewing its schedule for a further strike between 27 and 30 March.

No further talks to resolve the dispute are planned ahead of the next walkout, but unions have challenged BA chief Willie Walsh to return to negotiations.

BA says the majority of services in the next four days will operate normally.

But on Tuesday, in the immediate aftermath of the strike, its services at a number of major British airports continued to be disrupted.

At London Heathrow, its biggest UK hub, it has cancelled 14% of outgoing flights and more than a third (34.2%) of arrivals.

Aberdeen, with more than 28% of BA flights cancelled, and Glasgow, at 18.2%, are also among the worst-hit.

In a statement issued to the London Stock Exchange about its operations over the weekend, BA said it estimated the three-day strike had cost the company £7m a day. But the airline said the industrial action was unlikely to have



BRITISH Airways suspends three-day strike

much impact on its full-year earnings figure.

It suffered a loss before tax of £342m for the nine months to the end of December 2009 and says it needs to cut costs in order to survive.

BA's main hub at Heathrow suffered the biggest disruption, with

201 of the 443 flights before 1700 GMT marked as cancelled on BA's online schedules.

BA said that over the first two days of the strike, it operated 78% of its long-haul flights and 50% of short-haul.

It said it had operated another 70 "positioning" flights, in most

cases carrying cargo, which the airline said had returned passengers home "with minimum disruption".

The airline said the stoppage, which ended at midnight on Monday, would continue to affect its operations this week after cabin crew returned to work.

"We are sorry for any cancella-

tions, as we get our aircraft, pilots and cabin crew back into the correct positions around the world," the airline said in a statement.

"We are contacting customers and offering them a full refund, a rebook or a re-route so that they can get to their destinations."

The strike action is the latest episode in a long-running dispute over changes to pay and conditions by BA that union Unite claims are being unfairly imposed on its members.

Workers are particularly angry that last November BA reduced the number of crew on long-haul flights and is introducing a two-year pay freeze from 2010.

The airline also proposed new contracts with lower pay for fresh recruits.

Unite argues that the actual number who turned up for work during the strike is much lower than BA claims. Tony Woodley, joint leader of Unite, questioned why BA was funding what he called "a floundering strike-breaking operation", pointing out that his members had offered the company their own cost-saving plan of more than £55m.

Speaking to striking cabin crew at a rally near Heathrow, he confirmed that he had been talking to Prime Minister Gordon Brown about the strike and was grateful for his attempts to encourage the two sides to reach a negotiated settlement. BBC.

Boeing criticises German loan plan for rival Airbus

US planemaker Boeing has reacted angrily to news that Germany plans to give a 1.1bn euro (\$1.49bn, £1bn) loan to help Airbus develop its A350 plane.

Boeing vice president Ted Austell said the loan was "unfortunate and disappointing".

But Germany said it was legitimate as Airbus met all the loan pre-conditions.

Germany's move comes ahead of a much anticipated World Trade Organization ruling on European Union (EU) financial assistance to Airbus.

Boeing and arch rival Airbus have been at loggerheads for years over accusations that the EU provides subsidies to the

European planemaker.

Peter Hintze, parliamentary state secretary at the German ministry of economics, said on Sunday that his government was preparing to make the loan for the A350, a competitor to Boeing's new 787 Dreamliner.

"As far as we are concerned all pre-conditions have been met and the funds are available," said Mr Hintze.

Mr. Austell hit back, saying the move "flies in the face of both the expected WTO decision and the rules-based global trading system we've all endorsed".

Development costs of the A350 are 12bn euros. France has announced support of 1.4bn

euros and Britain is contributing 400m euros.

The Spanish government remains in discussions with Airbus over its funding contribution.

"Illegal European subsidies have done great harm to the US aerospace industry," Mr Austell said.

"It's time to level the playing field and let companies compete on product, price, innovation, and customer support without market-distorting government subsidies."

The US filed the WTO complaint in October 2004, alleging that EU loans were no longer valid since Airbus was now a major industry player and not a fledgling firm in need of start-up aid.

The EU has also filed a complaint against the US, accusing it of channeling multibillion-dollar state aid to Boeing.

BBC.

Navigation: Air space managers partner air force

NIGERIAN Airspace Management Agency [NAMA] has announced joint efforts with the Nigerian Air Force [NAF] on Engineering Services to boost quality of air navigation in the country.

According to NAMA's Head of Public Affairs, Mr. Supo Atobatele in Lagos, Top Air Traffic Safety Engineers from the duo organizations at a recent meeting in Lagos, stressed the need to collaborate on training, acquisition and maintenance of air navigation equipment at the nation's airports.

At the meeting, NAMA's Director of Electronics and Engineering Services, Mazi Nnamdi Udoh and his counterpart from NAF, Air Commodore Patrick Udabor, posited that sharing of professional experience amongst their respective engineering personnel would promote the needed development in the nation's aviation industry.

According to Air Commodore Udabor, integration of civil and military facilities in Israel is worth emulating, saying that it has helped the country to develop its aviation

industry.

He stated that if the two organizations can collaborate in this regard, it will also assist in boosting the safety in the country's airspace considering the co-location of NAF navigation facilities with that of NAMA at the nation's airports.

His words: "We need to work together because we operate from same airports and within a single airspace. Though our mission may be different, the purpose of securing a safer airspace is one."

Meanwhile, Mazi Udoh told the visiting NAF Engineering Corps that NAMA had trained 36 engineers on various sub-systems of the new radar project and another 12 on VSAT, promising that the Agency would be ready to assist the engineers on - On - The - Job training exercise.

He suggested that a regular workshop for engineers from both organizations to allow sharing of information on new technology just as Udabor called for aggressive research to improve on the current facilities.

“Illegal European subsidies have done great harm to the US aerospace industry”

Business/Mines & Steel

Challenges before Nigeria's mining sector



FORMER Minister of Mines and Power Mrs Diezani Alison-Madueke inspecting a site with the site manager (left) at National Iron Ore Mining Company Limited (NIOMCO), Itakpe recently.

Stories by Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

WHILE reading her handing over note, the former minister in charge of Mines and Steel Development, Minister Mrs. Diezani Alison-Madueke, shed light on the enormous challenges she faced while in office and the ones that will be inherited by anyone who eventually becomes the minister of Mines and Steel Development.

At the handover ceremony, she said: "The Mineral and Metals sector, if developed, will be the bedrock of the nation's industrialisation dream, thereby providing a solid foundation for the actualisation of vision 20: 2020."

She said during her stay in office she succeeded in completing the airborne magnetic survey by 95% of the country landmark which is the bedrock for the development of mining sector.

Other policies initiated while in office include: eleven strategic coal clusters for easy development by investors and the "establishment of a framework for the development of coal to power plants" to help boost power supply in the country.

"We have established new laboratories for the effective monitoring for mines environmental compliance in

the six geo-graphical zones of the country, initiated a gemstone certification process and established a mining Cadastre System to further promote investment in the mining industry," she said.

Also in the kitty of her achievement is that workers in the steel sector are already being paid their salaries.

Those in the Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited and National Iron Ore Mining Company Itakpe NIOMCO got their outstanding ten months salaries, but when last two weeks the ministry announced that FG had approved for both companies to resume operation the workers were overjoyed.

The Chairman, Ajaokuta Iron and Steel Senior Staff Association, Abdulkarim Jimoh, said Ajaokuta has over 3,000 workforce and that if it starts operation the company may need to employ more.

He said: "What we are saying is by the time government injects this fund of N650million into the companies, government would get more revenue. We owe five months salaries that were last year, and two months this year including allowances. However, if government could resume operation, we believe they will be able to settle us."

The former minister therefore said pending issues in

the sector include re-operation of Ajaokuta Steel Company, NIOMCO and the Completion of the Airborne geo-physical survey.

Other leftovers in the sector could be the Completion of the Technical Audit and the Super Concentrate Plant of ASCL and NIOMCO, and Legal issues-Mining Regulations, National Metallurgical Training Centre, Onitsha Bill, Nigerian Institute of Mining and Geosciences, Jos Bill, Setting up the Mining Cadastre Office, Community Development Agreement Model, and ASCL and NIOMCO Arbitration Case in London.

Recently artisanal and small-scale miners got \$120m World Bank boost. This is out of the \$200m grant promised the sector.

The Permanent Secretary of the ministry, Sheikh Goni had once given detail that out of the money collected from World Bank as grant more than half of it goes into the development of Nigerian mining activity from the grass root, as "\$120m" goes for the Artisanal and Small-Scale Miners, while \$80m will be used to promote medium scale mining activities.

For the development of the sector, he said, in the last three years the ministry granted 11,600 licenses to the investors.

"In the area of sustainable development of mineral resources, Nigeria has received \$120m. Also the ministry has succeeded in getting the World Bank to approve additional \$80m to support the activities of medium scale miners and to grant extension on the drawing on loans from the bank's facility for development of the mining sector," he said.

Last year, Goni said: "The embargo on applications for mining licences was lifted and we had over 9,000 applications. Between October last year to date, we have completed processing of 9,300 applications for mining licences and improved on our speed of processing application to 24 hours."

He said: "We had 9,300 new applications pending and 2,300 defective applications."

He said during the out-gone minister's era, investment promotion got a significant boost by attracting many credible international organisations and showcasing real activities going on.

The former minister had one time said, "Regarding the future of mining in Nigeria, I must state that from my vantage point, it is a very bright and optimistic future."

"However, the brightness of that future is predicated on our ability to articulate and maintain the enabling environment necessary to attract the levels of capital inflow fundamental to the development of the sector. Understandably, there is an indirect relationship between capital investment and risk; mining is not different," she said.

Ministers come and go but policy continuity, they say, is central to any long term investment. The sector needs to be prioritised by the government if it must be relevance to the overall economy. The mining sector is too important and sensitive for it determines the future of Nigeria's industrialisation.

Nigeria not on the list of world's steel producers

NIGERIA has not been listed among the 66 world's steel producing nations. The report was compiled by World Steel Association.

Some of the steel companies in Nigeria are: Ajaokuta Steel rolling mill, National Iron Ore Mining Company Limited, Delta Steel Company Limited, Jos rolling mill and Dana rolling mill.

On Nigeria, the group said: "We do not have sources which provide monthly crude steel production figures for Nigeria. However, our recent Statistical Yearbook shows that Nigeria produced 100,000 metric tons of crude steel in 2008, which is an estimated figure based on reports in the press."

Soo Jung Kim, Media Relations Manager of the World Steel Association said the statistics were collected from members of worldsteel and various international organisations and that the contents were finalised in December 2009.

The World Crude Steel production for the 66 countries

is up by 24.2% compared to the same production for February last year, World Steel Association said.

A report from the association stated that as at February this year the production "was 108 million metric tons which is "24.2% higher than February 2009."

The report rated China as the highest with its February production of 50,357 and 52,535 in January followed by Japan and South Korea. It would be recalled that China has overtaken US in the 2009 sales of automobile.

"China's crude steel production for February 2010 was 50.4 mmt, an increase of 22.5% on February 2009. Japan produced 8.4 mmt of crude steel in February 2010, up 54% compared to the same month last year. South Korea showed an increase of 25% from February 2009, producing 3.9 mmt of crude steel in February 2010."

Germany's crude steel production for February 2010 the report said stood at 3.4 mmt, an increase of 34.3% compared to February 2009. Italy produced 2.2 mmt, 28.5% higher than the same month in 2009. Spain produced 1.3 mmt of crude steel in February 2010, an increase of 35.8%

on February 2009. France's crude steel production was 1.1 mmt, up 10% compared to the same month last year.

Turkey produced 1.8 mmt of crude steel in February 2010, a 1.6% increase over the same month in 2009. The US produced 6.0 mmt of crude steel in February 2010, an increase of 51.3% compared to February 2009. Brazilian crude steel production was 2.4 mmt, 47.9% higher than February 2009.

Iran produced 1.0 mmt of crude steel in February 2010, an increase of 3.3% on February 2009. Egypt's crude steel production for February 2010 was 0.4 mmt, 10.6% higher than the same month last year.

Australia produced 0.5 mmt of crude steel in February 2010, recording a 89.6% increase over the same month in 2009.

The world crude steel capacity utilisation ratio for the 66 countries in February 2010 was 79.8%, a 15-month high since September 2008. Compared to February 2009, the utilisation ratio in February 2010 increased by 12.0 percentage points.



NIGERIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Member of the Confederation of African Medical Associations and Societies (CAMAS)
Commonwealth Medical Association (CMA) and the World Medical Association (WMA)

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

8, Benghazi Street, Off Addis Ababa Crescent, Wuse Zone 4, FCT, Abuja. Nigeria.
P.O. Box 8829 Wuse, Abuja. E-mail: info@nigeriannma.org
Tel: 08035870494, 08055243259, 09-8709249, 01-4801569. Website: www.nigeriannma.org



ABUJA 2010 NMA GOLDEN JUBILEE

The Nigerian Medical Association holds her
**ANNUAL GENERAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE AND
DELEGATES MEETING (AGC/ADM) / 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS**

Theme: 50 YEARS OF HEALTH-CARE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

DATE: April 20th - April 25th 2010 **TIME:** 10 am Daily
VENUE: International Conference Centre, Abuja

LECTURE TOPIC: The Evolution of HealthCare Systems in Nigeria: Which Way Forward in the 21st Century? *By Prof. Ajovi Scott-Emuakpor, Professor of Paediatric and Adolescent Haematology/Oncology, Centre for Bleeding and Clotting Disorder, Michigan State University, East Lansing, USA.*

OUTLINE OF OTHER ACTIVITIES

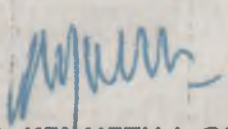
- 1. Mon. 12th Sunday 18th April - Golden Jubilee Activities at NMA Branches
- 2. Mon. 19th April - Arrival of NOC members
- 3. Tue. 20th - Wed. 21st April - Arrival of International Guests and NMA Delegates
- 4. Wed. 21st April - Scientific Session
- 5. Thur. 22nd April - Commissioning of National Secretariat Complex
- 6. Thur. 22nd April - Opening Ceremony and Grand Finale of Golden Jubilee Celebrations, Anniversary Gala Night/Awards Dinner
- 7. Fri. 23rd April - NEC and Plenary Session
- 8. Sat. 24th April - Annual Delegates Meeting
- 9. Sun. 25th April - Departure



Dr. Prosper L. Godell
NMA President

Other details of the AGC/ADM are as planned by Local Organizing Committee and will be appropriately communicated in the course of the events.

FOR ENQUIRIES ON THE AGC/ADM, CONTACT THE LOC:
Tel: 08086595477, 08034822622


DR. KENNETH J. OKORO
Secretary General



SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOUR:
Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, GCON,
Ag. President and Commander-In-Chief of the
Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria

Star Feature

Okene: When brothers war

Recently, two Ebira communities were at daggers drawn, killing close to 40 people, and burning over 300 houses. Despite government's measures to stem the tide, the warring groups are yet to sheath their swords. Our correspondent was in the war-torn area recently.

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

ARRIVING in Okene, this reporter was warned by commercial motorcycle operators and taxi drivers not to risk going to Obehira-Okengwe communities which have been deserted. After trekking about 10 kilometers from Okene city to Obehira, he was suddenly encircled by some youths. One of them seized his bag, bringing out all the items including my midget and camera. "Wetin you come do here? Abi you wan die? Wetin you want do with camera? If you try take any picture, we go finish you", they threatened.

Listening to the conversation, some elders in the area intervened, intermittently looking left and right, obviously for fear of attack from the warring youths. "Young man, can we help you? You look like a journalist, please don't snap me o. You are lucky not to have come here some days ago. It could have been a dangerous adventure for you. Anyway, those passionate about shedding fellow humans' blood seem to have relaxed now; but we still live in fear. If you have a cause to do as little as a naming or wedding ceremony, you have to dash out some money to some youths, so that they don't spoil your fun. It has become so terrible" said Abu Adamu, who remains shocked at the horror of the recent crisis in the area.

Clement Asonoge has lived at Obehira for over three decades. He says it is suicidal to sleep there with both eyes closed, stressing that the spate of clashes has rendered the area disaster-prone, hence halting its socio-economic activities.

"The entire Ebiraland is currently no longer a fertile ground for business activities. I can't quantify what I have lost to various clashes. Sometimes, when crisis erupts, you forget to lock up your shop. You only run for your life. In the end, if your shop is not razed, your wares disappear. Markets are shut, people can no longer walk freely. How does a business flourish in that kind of situation?", Clement wondered.

A resident of Obehira, Bello Sadiq, is convinced that the clashes in Ebiraland are motivated by both centrifugal and political forces. "There are clannish sentiments. Instead of the communal efforts previously put in place to build the community, people now believe more in their clans which are a mere segment of the community. Traditional festivals were used in those days as a monument for community development, but now, they are used as a vehicle of destruction. The politicians want to get to power at all costs, by recruiting thugs and giving them arms to maim and terrorise opponents", he said.

Weeping profusely, Taibat Yahaya who lost her husband to a clash last December, suspects some external forces. Some people, she says, are trying to invade Okene for unknown reasons. "I am

in deep agony. Here in Okengwe, my husband was coming from the farm when he was gunned down by some people, who came from outside to invade our community. You can observe that many of our people have fled", she said.

At Okengwe, three young men and their parents were found sitting in the corridor of their burnt house. Sighting our correspondent from a distance, they hurriedly took to their heels. Abdullahi Noa, the eldest son of the family, found some courage and staggered back. "Oga, we thought we are in trouble again. We are already rendered homeless. Crisis is not a good thing", he affirmed.

The palaces of the two traditional rulers of the troubled community resemble a graveyard. Their Royal Highnesses are simply hiding, *Daily Trust* could confirm. The Ohindase of Okengwe, Stephen Bello, is said to have been seeking refuge in Sokoto State since the mayhem in his territory. But an old woman who identified herself as a royal mother, told our correspondent that he merely left for Sokoto on a visit to a relation. The following day, the old woman, apparently confused, denied knowing her son's whereabouts.

Meanwhile, it took our correspondent three days to get to the Ohioviza Obanyi of Obehira, Alhaji Yisa Ahmed. His palace was razed during last month's clash. His family house too was not spared. He could not but resort to hiding in an undisclosed village within Ebiraland. He obviously had a rethink before agreeing to talk to our correspondent.

Ohioviza maintains that the recent clashes were not communal in nature. Rather, he regards them as an act of invasion instigated by politicians, who intended to destroy his domain. "They would tell you it was a communal crisis. It was not! Previous clashes were caused by clannish sentiments and youth restiveness. This time around, politicians are behind it. At Obehira here, we have Ehire and Ebe clans. We have had some masquerade-related crises which

have been controlled. But the recent clash was an invasion of Obehira by people from Okengwe, Idoma and Okene. Over 300 houses were burnt, and a lot of lives have gone.

“During the first attack last December, my palace was set ablaze. The invaders put on military uniform to destabilise my people. The proliferation of arms is caused by desperate political power-seekers who sponsor the youths to suppress opponents. The youths still have these arms in their possession. We, the traditional rulers, are helpless and unsafe. Our community is devastated. Many people have been rendered homeless. The problem is not tied down to masquerade festivals. From the time immemorial, our masquerades have been whipping one another with canes during festivals. I came out of my hideout to attend to you. My life is not safe" he proclaimed.

Between last December and this March, some efforts were made by the state government, in a bid to restore calm to the troubled area. First was the resolution banning masquerade after which a seven-man committee, with one representative each of the State Security Service (SSS) and the police, was inaugurated to investigate the immediate and remote causes of the clashes; identify those involved; recommend appropriate punishment for those found guilty and proffer an enduring solution.

Also, the government opted for disarmament which in February saw over 50 restive youths, led by the leader of the Ebira Youth Initiative Move-



It has become a docile society loaded with pro your family unit, you would protect it. If you have you would not want invasion. Peace and progress. cians play politics of unity and ideology and pur



When, you see people displaying murderous instincts, shooting into the air to scare everybody, killing people, burning houses and carting away property'

ment, Adams King, surrendering a total of 66 arms, mainly guns, including three AK 47 rifles to the government. Governor Ibrahim Idris, who received the arms at the Government House in Lokoja, the state capital, saluted the youths' courage for accepting to allow peace reign in the war-torn zone.

"I feel so bad on account of the level of destruction of lives and property in Okene in the past. I am happy that the youths in the area have realised that there is no need fighting one another all the time for nothing. There can be no development without peace. There is a need for a change of heart", the governor said. He later appointed two Ebira youth leaders Special Assistants to sooth the militants in the land.

However a week later, another round of mayhem was unleashed in the Obehira-Okengwe community, where three people died and over 60 houses went up in flames.

The government at its executive meeting a fortnight ago, resolved to ban all the existing 20 vigilante groups in Okene, and ordered the police to arrest their leaders, warning that any community desirous of having vigilante groups, should get approval from the local government area.

Also, in line with the recommendations of a white paper committee on the recent clashes in the area, the government has also lately directed the police to arrest and prosecute the 21 persons identified as perpetrators.

Apparently embittered by the protracted clashes in his kingdom, the paramount traditional ruler of Okene and Chairman of the Ebira Traditional Council, the Ohinoyi of Ebira land, Alhaji Ado Ibrahim, wants the perpetrators prosecuted, believing that "bringing them to justice is a solution. They think violence is legal because nobody has been prosecuted by the authority".

The monarch also called for the implementation of the recommendations of the reports submitted by various committees of inquiry into the clashes, with a view to dousing the tension in the land, adding that security apparatus should be strengthened at the grassroots level to protect lives and property.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Abubakar Mohammed, who wonders why Okene's kinsmen have continued to go for one another's throats, flays the youths for allowing themselves to be gullibly used by politicians

Commissioner for Information Tom Ohikhere, a native of Ebiraland, has been involved in the various committees on the clashes there. He says there would be no peace in the land until politicians opt for value reorientation.

Ohikhere hinted: "Ebira is a society against itself, with brothers killing brothers, husbands killing wives, and people burning one another's houses. The crises are traceable to history. It is a society without cultural values, working marriages, and respect for traditional institutions. It has become a docile society loaded with problems. If you have value for your family unit, you would protect it. If you have value for economic power, you would not want invasion. Peace and progress will return when politicians play politics of unity and ideology and purposeful leadership. It is the weakness of our leaders that causes arms' proliferation in Ebiraland, and value reorientation is highly needed. If we have visionary politicians, peace and progress would return".

"Apart from politics, there were clan problems traceable to the past problem of masquerades in the land, especially between the Ogwu and Omuye clans. We all share the same tradition and culture. We married each other. Nowadays when two masquerades are singing, one would assume that the other is singing against it and all of a sudden, you see people displaying murderous instincts, shooting into the air to scare everybody, killing people, burning houses and carting away property", the commissioner explained.

blems. If you have value for
e value for economic power,
ss will return when politi-
purposeful leadership.

Business

Firm unveils new elevators

By Yunus Abdulhamid

A major revolution in the technology of diagonal movement of personnel from one level to the other has taken place in Nigeria with the commissioning of the ten Nos KONE Escalators in Africa with exquisite side cladding material in "Glass" and trusses and handrails in the client's chosen colour.

Also, they have beautiful "Skirt Spot Lights" on the incline of a 1000mm step width. Worthy of note is the exclusive KONE Innovation of the chain type which is lubrication free; no oil change, no spills!

"This novel concept at the newly completed Silverbird Galleria in Abuja induced by the need to enhance the aesthetic and tourism values of Escalators was brought into Nigeria by Kresta Laurel Limited, the authorized distributor of KONE Elevators and Escalators in Nigeria," a statement said.

KONE Elevators of Finland, the worldwide technology leader in Elevators and Escalators worldwide had revolutionized the elevator world in the early 90's with the introduction of the KONE ECODISC motor.

The statement said: "The permanent magnet gearless ecodisc motor weighs less than half of a conventional geared fraction machine has only one moving part and is roughly twice as efficient. Its efficiency is three times that of a hydraulic power unit and it uses 60% less energy a saving which can represent half or more of the annual cost of elevator operation."

The Managing Director of Kresta Laurel, Engr. Dideolu Falobi said: "We had recently installed eighteen nos Elevators in conjunction with Julius Berger Nigeria (JBN) at the New National Assembly Complex in Abuja, two of which are Panoramic with steel shaft and glass. Presently, we are installing eight nos Elevators in the New National Assembly Extension, Abuja."

BPE explains delay in PHCN privatisation

By Yunus Abdulhamid

THE Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) will privatise all the unbundled units of the generation and distribution arms of Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) once it gets the nod from the Federal Government to conclude the implementation of the power sector reforms.

Acting Director General of the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) Ms. Bolanle Onagoruwa said this when she received the Chief Executive Officer of the University Of South Africa Graduate School of Business Leadership, Professor David

N. Abdulai, who paid a courtesy visit to BPE.

She said BPE was determined to carry out reforms in the power sector in order to bring about efficiency and service delivery.

Represented by BPE's Director of Information and Communications, Mr. Benjamin Dikki, she observed that the power sector is bedevilled by a lot of problems but that "BPE would surmount these once the government gives the go ahead to recommence the reform of the sector."

She informed that the reforms in the sector commenced in 2000 with the setting up of a steering

committee on the power sector which produced a policy paper for the country and subsequently led to the enactment of Electric Power Sector Act of 2005. Other components of the reform process include the formation of the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) and the unbundling of PHCN into 18 units.

She said the "BPE is always willing to learn and bring out fresh ideas for the reform and privatization programme".

In his remarks, Professor Abdulai noted that the visit affords him an opportunity to share ideas on corporate

governance and reform programmes.

He urged the BPE to add what he called the Committee of Practice (COP) which would involve "international

experts coming together to share ideas and work out solutions to some of your teething problems," spokesman of the BPE, Mr Chukwuma Nwokoh said.



BPE would surmount these once the government gives the go ahead to recommence the reform of the sector.

Get YOUR Transaction Alert



- ★ Provides instantaneous transaction information.
- ★ Guaranteed security against unauthorized transactions.
- ★ Empowers you with the required information to pro-actively monitor your account.
- ★ Block all unauthorized card transactions on your account with Money Guard.

Visit any of our branches nearest to you!

Unity Bank Plc, RC: 94524.
Unity Bank Tower, 785 Herbert Macaulay Way, Central Business District, Abuja FCT.
Telephone: 09-4616700-5, 09-2342553. Fax: 09-4616730, 09-2347957
Call Center: 09-4602141. E-mail: we_care@unitybankng.com

www.unitybankng.com

unity
bank

Succeeding Together

Business/Agric

'Women farmers need bailout fund'

By Tina A. Hassan

WHAT do you do at WIA?

Women in agriculture is a project that is aimed at enhancing the participation and representation of women in agricultural activities at all levels, be it the local government, the state or the federal government.

What are difficulties facing women farmers in Nigeria?

The issue of finance is a very serious constraint facing rural women when it comes to farming. You know women are the ones that carry out almost all the farming activities since the men only go to make the ridges leaving the women to plant weed, put fertilizer and do all the other activities up to the time they would also go back to harvest and process the farm produce.

In most cases, after the women harvest the crop, the men would take out of it and sell to make their own money still leaving the women to take care of the family with the left over. This is what is happening in some rural set up in Nigeria.

Another complaint is the lack of access to fertilizer status and agro inputs, which they are unable to buy because of their low financial and poor access to markets.

Even the federal government knows that women form the core group of farmers but yet there are no policies aimed at empowering them in agriculture despite their contributions to the sector.

We are working in Benue, Nasarawa and Plateau States to

Mrs. Dzum Msendoo Agatha is the Project Officer of Women in Agriculture (WIA) based in Makurdi, Benue State. In this interview, she tells DailyTrust some of the challenges faced by women in agriculture, and adds that the Federal Government should initiate a policy that will provide bailout fund for women farmers.



MRS. Dzum Msendoo Agatha

implement this project although that of Plateau is temporarily on hold because of the crisis there but we hope to complete the project in the next few months and we hope that by then the benefiting communities would

be able to take decisive steps in their farming methods and their marketing strategies.

We have conducted a NEEDS assessment of the women and we try to engage the women on how they can contribute to govern-

ment policies that affect them.

We carry out our activities by engaging the women so that they can be able to get the best out of the little resources that are at their disposal.

What is the nature of your work among rural women?

As a non-governmental organization, WIAA is a body that works among women in the rural areas whose major occupation is farming and most of this farming that they do is done using old techniques and also many of them do not know how to link to the various markets to sell their farm produce and make money for the family so WIAAs work among these women is to train them to acquire improved agricultural skills.

We are currently undertaking a project among the rural on Improving Women's leadership and effectiveness in Agricultural Governance in North-Central Nigeria and the project is supported by Oxfam International which is working with women farmer groups to improve their farm output as well as their standard of living.

In WIA, we know that if we train women on how to make good decisions regarding their

livelihood, the society stands to benefit and the future of agriculture would definitely be enhanced.

What is your advice to the government?

The government should look into the plight of these women because most of the farm work is done by these women so the women have been involved in this all along, they suffer a lot.

If the government can make small loans available to these farmers as well as subsidize improved varieties of seedling, then the women would be having a big relief and farm output would be increased.

But are you aware of the N200 billion commercial agric credit scheme?

Ah that loan? Of course it can only be accessed by the big time farmers. I have not seen a single person that has accessed it.

What we are asking for is a direct loan that the women as co-operative groups can go through some of these microfinance banks to access, we are asking for a special fund that is specifically for rural women farmers.

Would this fund not be mismanaged as it were?

It depends on the channel the government uses to pass the money to the women and you know that there is politics everywhere but I believe that if it is a woman that is put in charge of that, she would not let go of her duty to these women. If the women come as co-operatives or their own organized way as registered bodies, which most of the women are doing, they should be able to access one form of loan or the other.

“If the government can make small loans available to these farmers as well as subsidize improved varieties of seedling, then the women would be having a big relief and farm output would be increased.”

Nigeria needs more food-Oxfam

By Tina A. Hassan

OXFAM International wants food production boosted in Nigeria.

To this end, the Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) is seeking the cooperation of the media in influencing policy makers to evolve policies that would boost food production, availability and storage.

The group made this plea at a Capacity Building workshop on Media engagement with Non-Governmental Organi-

zations over the weekend in Abuja.

Campaigns and Communication Coordinator of Oxfam Osaro Odemwingie said the media as a tool for information dissemination is a strong tool that can be used to influence positive policies and access to information that would develop the agricultural subsector.

He noted that the objective of the training is to promote and strengthen access to the media as source of information and means of expression for the poor and marginalized,

Expert advocates large scale farming

From Halima Musa, Kano

COMMERCIALISATION of agriculture in the country is long overdue and remains the best option for diversification into non-oil sector, permanent secretary Kano State ministry of agriculture Malam Baffa Bello has said.

Declaring open a training workshop for members of commodity interest groups on group development, identification, designing and implementation of sub-projects under the World Bank assisted Commercial Agriculture Development Project in the state,

the permanent secretary said the project would also encourage local production, processing and marketing of the selected value chains that would assist in the attainment of food sufficiency.

A statement by communications officer for the project Danasabe Yahaya said a total of 150 participants attended the training aimed at achieving sustainability through organized groups. The participants were drawn from members of the commodity interest groups across the three value chains.

Bello also said the training was organized to establish sound founda-

tion for implementation of the project in the state and urged participants to put all hands on deck for the success of commercial agriculture development project as the benefits are numerous.

Earlier in his opening remarks, state coordinator of the project Alhaji Muhammad Badawi said the training was designed to enhance the understanding of participants of the concept and implementation process of the project and further prepare them to actively and positively engage in the successful implementation of the project activities.

Business/Finance

Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

COMPANY Name	No of Deals	Quot. (N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)				
2ND-TIER SECURITIES								
CAPITAL OIL PLC	4	0.52	37,000	18,720.00				
MCNICHOLS PLC	1	1.02	100,000	102,000.00				
SECTOR Totals	5		137,000	120,720.00				
AGRICULTURE								
FTN COCOA PROC. PLC	9	0.89	1,036,256	912,018.64				
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	20	0.67	269,296	185,519.20				
OKITIPUPA OIL PALM PLC	3	6.21	2,600	16,146.00				
OKOMU OIL PALM COY PLC	2	21.62	6,296	129,319.84				
PRESCO PLC	20	5.57	235,280	1,285,272.00				
SECTOR Totals	54		1,549,728	2,528,275.68				
AIR SERVICES								
AIRL/SERVICES & LOG. PLC	19	2.77	40,990	114,557.00				
NIG. AV. HAND. COY PLC	94	9.53	1,014,235	9,540,857.14				
SECTOR Totals	113		1,055,225	9,655,414.14				
AUTOMOBILE & TYRE								
DN TYRE & RUBBER PLC	39	0.50	15,079,300	7,539,650.00				
R. T. BRISCOE (NIG.) PLC	19	5.75	129,922	746,205.56				
SECTOR Totals	58		15,209,222	8,285,855.56				
BANKING								
ACCESS BANK PLC	208	10.00	15,068,271	150,418,169.75				
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	122	2.87	14,625,876	40,565,448.43				
DIAMOND BANK PLC	172	9.97	17,813,164	174,109,104.32				
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	119	7.00	3,908,096	27,376,169.62				
F/CITY MON. BANK PLC	74	9.06	5,133,554	46,291,491.60				
FIDELITY BANK PLC	197	3.41	13,116,895	44,599,654.90				
FIRST BANK OF NIG. PLC	844	15.83	12,426,508	196,884,819.20				
FINBANK PLC	85	0.75	12,162,241	8,984,953.26				
GTBANK PLC	649	20.00	25,603,515	513,297,036.86				
STANB. IBTC BANK PLC	87	11.00	4,366,086	47,093,186.87				
INTERC. BANK PLC	72	2.10	1,704,286	3,693,465.78				
OCEANIC BANK INT. PLC	176	2.12	10,978,051	23,361,062.51				
BANK PHB PLC	105	1.89	5,147,242	9,842,176.98				
SKYE BANK PLC	328	8.01	34,488,256	275,157,407.26				
SPRING BANK PLC	6	1.02	133,340	137,506.80				
STERLING BANK PLC	46	2.14	5,429,406	11,554,446.65				
UNT. BANK FOR AFR. PLC.	243	14.91	19,347,343	286,764,220.60				
UN/BANK OF NIG. PLC	216	6.00	11,208,548	66,654,838.90				
UNITY BANK PLC	26	1.05	2,042,670	2,154,223.61				
WEMA BANK PLC	40	1.10	2,567,295	2,847,158.43				
ZENITH BANK PLC	337	18.00	53,023,522	955,830,907.64				
SECTOR Totals	4,152		270,298,165	2,887,617,449.97				
BUILDING MATERIALS								
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	84	17.60	2,538,295	43,673,527.65				
BENUE CEM. COY PLC	85	59.50	923,872	54,627,637.98				
CEM. CO. OF N/NIG. PLC	40	18.64	719,298	13,358,479.40				
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	50	32.00	353,778	11,468,205.88				
SECTOR Totals	259		4,335,143	123,127,850.91				
CHEMICAL & PAINTS								
BERGER PAINTS NIG. PLC	4	4.69	53,418	250,530.42				
CHEM. & ALLIED PROD. PLC	8	29.67	53,312	1,577,033.63				
DN MEYER PLC	7	3.40	142,374	484,031.92				
NIG.-GERM. CHEM. PLC	1	14.29	152	2,064.16				
SECTOR Totals	20		249,256	2,313,660.13				
COMMERCIAL/SERV.								
AFROMEDIA PLC	2	0.51	15,000	7,650.00				
COURTVILLE INV. PLC	2	0.50	500,000	250,000.00				
RED STAR EXPRESS PLC	8	2.90	245,075	710,717.50				
SECTOR Totals	12		760,075	968,367.50				
COMP. & OFFICE EQUIP.								
HALL. PAPER PROD. PLC	1	3.22	100	306.00				
NCR (NIGERIA) PLC	5	8.13	29,527	240,054.51				
OMATEK VENT. PLC	34	0.54	3,901,128	2,003,258.68				
SECTOR Totals	40		4,030,755	2,243,619.19				
CONGLOMERATES								
A. G. LEV. (NIG.) PLC	7	3.15	404,050	1,271,162.90				
JOHN HOLT PLC	1	9.28	12,876	113,566.32				
PZ CUSSONS NIG. PLC	37	28.52	205,588	5,972,621.85				
TRANS. CORP. OF NIG. PLC	35	0.52	8,255,031	4,453,196.12				
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	81	48.01	2,408,301	115,652,571.34				
UNILEVER NIG. PLC	82	26.80	3,113,802	83,279,078.81				
SECTOR Totals	243		14,309,548	210,742,197.34				
CONSTRUCTION								
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	24	5.23	94,490	503,544.06				
J/BERGER NIGERIA PLC	62	28.83	1,018,126	29,879,484.88				
MULTIVERSE RES. PLC	2	0.50	41,000	20,500.00				
SECTOR Totals	88		1,153,616	30,403,528.94				
ENGINEERING TECH.								
CUTIX PLC	3	2.83	49,532	147,110.04				
NIG. WIRE AND CABLE PLC.	2	0.65	1,100	682.00				
SECTOR Totals	5		50,632	147,792.04				
FOOD/BEV. & TOBACCO								
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	7	30.60	11,532	370,523.16				
BIG TREAT PLC	7	0.79	385,000	306,050.00				
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	70	18.70	717,985	13,356,583.23				
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	258	17.49	4,697,470	81,806,123.89				
DANGOTE SUGAR REF. PLC	124	18.00	3,380,332	60,569,863.13				
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	84	51.00	1,114,833	56,683,436.62				
H/WELL FLOUR MILL PLC	53	8.66	1,146,363	9,903,092.18				
P. S. MANDRIDES PLC	1	5.66	6,900	37,122.00				
NAT. SALT COY NIG. PLC	93	7.21	4,048,909	28,920,520.72				
NIG. BOTTLING COY PLC	9	28.24	72,824	2,050,203.76				
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	52	270.00	192,806	52,456,758.17				
N/NIG. FLOUR MILLS PLC	3	26.61	5,497	153,586.18				
TANTALIZERS PLC	44	1.05	2,611,885	2,696,781.85				
UTC NIGERIA PLC	9	0.66	210,773	139,316.04				
SECTOR Totals	814		18,603,109	309,449,960.93				
HEALTHCARE								
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	6	1.02	79,121	83,124.92				
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	29	2.97	799,822	2,356,515.06				
GLAXOSM. CONS. NIG. PLC	26	30.97	57,757	1,790,738.45				
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC.	28	5.00	293,927	1,477,439.10				
NEIMETH INT. PHARM. PLC	11	1.40	124,925	177,685.60				
UNIONDIAG. & CLIN. SERV. PLC	29	0.62	2,168,820	1,369,969.00				
SECTOR Totals	129		3,524,172	7,255,472.13				
IND./DOMESTIC PROD.								
B. O. C. GASES NIGERIA PLC	6	9.86	116,000	1,143,760.00				
NIG. ENAMELWARE PLC	17	47.70	128,311	6,120,434.70				
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIG. PLC	1	0.52	3,000	1,500.00				
VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC	28	5.34	335,937	1,778,815.34				
SECTOR Totals	52		583,248	9,044,510.04				
INF. & COMM. TECH.								
CHAMS PLC	29	0.70	4,389,500	3,000,885.16				
STARCOMMS PLC	26	2.10	4,792,107	9,905,340.95				
SECTOR Totals	55		9,181,607	12,906,226.11				
INSURANCE								
AFR. ALLIANCE INS. PLC	1	0.50	2,000	1,000.00				
AIICO INSURANCE PLC.	588	1.09	5,740,818	6,206,108.19				
CONTIN. REINSUR. PLC	15	0.97	2,323,194	2,226,912.06				
C/STONE INSUR. CO. PLC.	11	0.54	1,625,070	876,137.80				
CUST. AND ALLIED INS. PLC	57	3.75	6,922,121	26,095,015.07				
EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC	1	0.50	50,000	25,000.00				
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	12	0.61	2,622,113	1,599,488.93				
GUARANTY TRUST ASS. PLC	120	3.00	17,833,740	53,535,232.00				
GUINEA INSURANCE PLC.	1	0.50	2,000	1,000.00				
CONS. HALLMARK INS. PLC	3	0.50	164,600	82,300.00				
INT. ENERGY INS. COY PLC	47	0.53	2,194,450	1,160,231.17				
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC.	27	0.50	2,837,600	1,418,800.00				
LAW UNION & ROCK INS. PLC.	27	0.51	3,231,615	1,679,902.65				
LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	3	0.50	283,352	141,676.00				
MUT. BEN. ASSURANCE PLC	5	0.64	222,500	142,400.00				
N.E.M. INS. CO. (NIG.) PLC.	25	0.54	2,104,300	1,128,609.41				
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC.	17	0.69	2,843,846	1,853,263.74				
OASIS INSURANCE PLC	1	1.07	100	102.00				
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC.	9	2.97	70,900	219,800.00				
REG. ALLIANCE INS. COY PLC	4	0.50	32,800	16,400.00				
SOV. TRUST INSUR. PLC	4	0.50	22,200	11,100.00				
STACO INSURANCE PLC	10	0.56	312,000	174,720.00				
STAND. ALLIANCE INS. PLC	11	0.50	271,200	135,600.00				
UNIC INSURANCE PLC.	11	0.76	593,000	450,650.00				
UNITY KAP. ASSURANCE PLC	8	0.61	700,100	427,061.00				
UNIV. INSURANCE COY PLC	2	0.50	10,700	5,350.00				
INTERC. WAPIC INSUR. PLC	10	0.84	152,102	125,977.62				
SECTOR Totals	1,030		53,168,421	99,739,837.64				
MORTGAGE COMPANIES								
ASO SAV. AND LOANS PLC	19	0.65	3,567,757	2,241,341.33				
RES. SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	12	0.50						



CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA

In furtherance of the transparency and full disclosure stance of the Central Bank of Nigeria, the Monetary Policy Committee has decided that henceforth the lending rates obtainable in all Deposit Money Banks (DMBs) be made public to guide business decisions. Consequently, find below the applicable rates for each of the DMBs as at 19/03/2010. The rates will be published every Wednesday in some selected National Newspapers. The rates will also be available on the website of the Central Bank of Nigeria.

Average Deposit and Lending Rates as at 19-03-2010

S/N	NAME OF BANK	Deposit			Lending Rate									
		Demand Deposit	Savings Deposit	Time Deposit	Agriculture		Mining & Quarrying		Oil & Gas		Manufacturing		Real Estate & Const	
		Ave.Int Rate	Ave.Int Rate	Ave.Int Rate	Prime	Max.	Prime	Max.	Prime	Max.	Prime	Max.	Prime	Max.
1	Access Bank	0.2	3.5	6.9	17.00	24.00	17.50	24.00	17.50	24.00	17.00	24.00	19.00	24.00
2	Afribank Nigeria	0.50	3.00	7.50	18.00	23.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00
3	Diamond Bank	0.70	2.90	10.50	14.00	19.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	23.00
4	Ecobank Nigeria	0.01	2.00	5.50	n/a	n/a	18.00	22.00	19.00	22.00	14.00	20.00	18.00	21.50
5	Equitorial Trust Bank	2.00	6.00	9.75	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00
6	Fidelity Bank	2	4.00	8.00	19.00	23.00	19.00	23.00	19.00	23.00	19.00	23.00	19.00	23.00
7	First Bank of Nigeria	-	3.00	1.40	8.00	22.00	22.00	24.25	22.00	24.25	22.00	24.25	22.00	23.25
8	FCMB	0.18	1.90	6.50	17.00	22.00	17.00	23.50	17.00	23.50	17.00	22.50	17.00	23.00
9	FINBANK	0.25	3.00	7.08	14.00	24.75	21.00	24.00	21.00	24.00	21.00	24.00	21.00	24.50
10	Guaranty Trust Bank	n/a	2.25	2.5-5	16.00	17.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	19.00	22.00	19.00	22.00
11	Stanbic IBTC Bank	0.98	2.20	9.44	18.00	22.00	17.00	22.00	17.00	20.00	17.00	22.00	17.00	22.00
12	Intercontinental Bank	0	0.50	7.86	22.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	-	-	22.00	25.00
13	Citi Bank Nigeria	0.75	1.50	3.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00
14	Oceanic Bank	0.25	3.00	2-7.5	21.00	27.00	22.00	27.00	22.00	27.00	16.50	27.00	18.00	27.00
15	Bank PHB	0.55	1.45	11.80	5.00	24.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00
16	Skye Bank	2.00	3.00	5.00	14.00	14.00	20.00	22.00	20.00	22.00	20.00	22.00	20.00	22.00
17	Spring Bank	0	1.50	5.78	21.00	24.00	21.00	24.00	21.00	24.00	21.00	24.00	21.00	24.00
18	Standard Chartered Bank	0.50	3.00	4.00	17.00	21.00	17.00	21.00	17.00	21.00	17.00	21.00	17.00	21.00
19	Sterling Bank	0.50	4.50	8.00	14.00	18.00	16.00	20.00	16.00	20.00	16.00	19.00	16.00	20.00
20	Union Bank	1.5	3.00	5.5-6.5	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00
21	United Bank for Africa	0.77	2.10	10.92	8.00	24.00	21.00	24.00	15.50	24.00	15.50	24.00	15.50	24.00
22	Unity Bank	1.00	4.5	2-12.5	9.00	9.00	26.25	28.25	26.25	28.25	26.25	28.25	26.25	28.25
23	Wema Bank	1.00	3.00	8.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00
24	Zenith Bank	0-3	0-3	5.00	16.00	22.00	16.00	22.00	16.00	22.00	16.00	22.00	13.00	22.00

S/N	NAME OF BANK	Deposit			Lending Rate									
		Demand Deposit	Savings Deposit	Time Deposit	General Comm.		Mortgage		Transp. & Comm.		Fin. & Ins.		Govt.	
		Ave.Int Rate	Ave.Int Rate	Ave.Int Rate	Prime	Max.	Prime	Max.	Prime	Max.	Prime	Max.	Prime	Max.
1	Access Bank	0.2	3.5	6.9	18.00	24.00	14.00	24.00	18.00	24.00	20.00	24.00	19.00	24.00
2	Afribank Nigeria	0.50	3.00	7.50	19.00	25.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	25.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00
3	Diamond Bank	0.70	2.90	10.50	20.00	24.00	20.00	23.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	23.00	20.00	23.00
4	Ecobank Nigeria	0.01	2.00	5.50	18.00	25.00	16.00	22.00	18.00	25.00	16.00	22.00	18.00	20.00
5	Equitorial Trust Bank	2.00	6.00	9.75	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00
6	Fidelity Bank	2	4.00	8.00	19.00	23.00	19.00	23.00	19.00	23.00	19.00	23.00	19.00	23.00
7	First Bank of Nigeria	-	3.00	1.40	22.00	24.25	22.00	24.25	22.00	24.50	22.00	24.25	22.00	23.25
8	FCMB	0.18	1.90	6.50	17.00	26.50	17.00	22.50	17.00	22.00	17.00	23.00	17.00	23.00
9	FINBANK	0.25	3.00	7.08	21.00	26.00	21.00	24.00	21.00	24.00	18.00	25.00	21.00	25.00
10	Guaranty Trust Bank	n/a	2.25	2.5-5	20.00	22.00	20.00	22.00	20.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	17.00	22.00
11	Stanbic IBTC Bank	0.98	2.20	9.44	17.00	22.00	17.00	24.00	17.00	22.00	17.00	19.00	17.00	20.00
12	Intercontinental Bank	0	0.50	7.86	22.00	28.00	9.50	9.50	18.00	25.00	22.00	28.00	22.00	25.00
13	Citi Bank Nigeria	0.75	1.50	3.00	18.00	22.00	-	-	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	-	-
14	Oceanic Bank	0.25	3.00	2-7.5	22.50	27.00	17.00	25.00	21.00	27.00	21.00	27.00	22.00	27.00
15	Bank PHB	0.55	1.45	11.80	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00
16	Skye Bank	2.00	3.00	5.00	20.00	22.00	20.00	22.00	20.00	22.00	20.00	22.00	20.00	22.00
17	Spring Bank	0	1.50	5.78	21.00	24.00	21.00	24.00	21.00	24.00	21.00	24.00	21.00	24.00
18	Standard Chartered Bank	0.50	3.00	4.00	17.00	21.00	17.00	21.00	17.00	21.00	17.00	21.00	17.00	21.00
19	Sterling Bank	0.50	4.50	8.00	16.00	21.00	16.00	21.00	16.00	20.00	16.00	20.00	16.00	18.00
20	Union Bank	1.5	3.00	5.5-6.5	18.00	25.00	-	-	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00
21	United Bank for Africa	0.77	2.10	10.92	21.00	24.00	15.50	24.00	15.50	24.00	15.50	24.00	15.50	24.00
22	Unity Bank	1.00	4.5	2-12.5	26.25	28.25	26.25	28.25	26.25	28.25	26.25	28.25	26.25	28.25
23	Wema Bank	1.00	3.00	8.00	18.00	23.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	23.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00
24	Zenith Bank	0-3	0-3	5.00	19.00	22.00	17.50	22.00	17.00	22.00	12.00	20.00	19.00	22.00

These are the interest rates banks charge the public on loans and advances. It reflects the cost of borrowings and also includes all charges and commissions levied by banks.

(Signed)
Management

DIGEST

Walnuts could prevent prostate cancer, research finds

WALNUTS could be the answer to preventing prostate cancer, new research has indicated.

Experiments showed that eating a diet rich in walnuts reduced the size and growth rate of prostate cancer in mice. Scientists believe that the secret lies in walnuts' ability to reduce levels of endothelin, a substance that increases inflammation of blood vessels.

Researchers from the University of California Davis decided to test the benefits of eating walnuts because people who suffer prostate cancer are known to have higher levels of endothelin.

They found that mice which were fed on walnuts developed prostate cancers around 50 per cent smaller than a control group which were given soya bean oil instead.

Dr Paul Davis, who headed the study, said: "Walnuts should be part of a prostate-healthy diet.

"They should be part of a balanced diet that includes lots of fruits and vegetables."

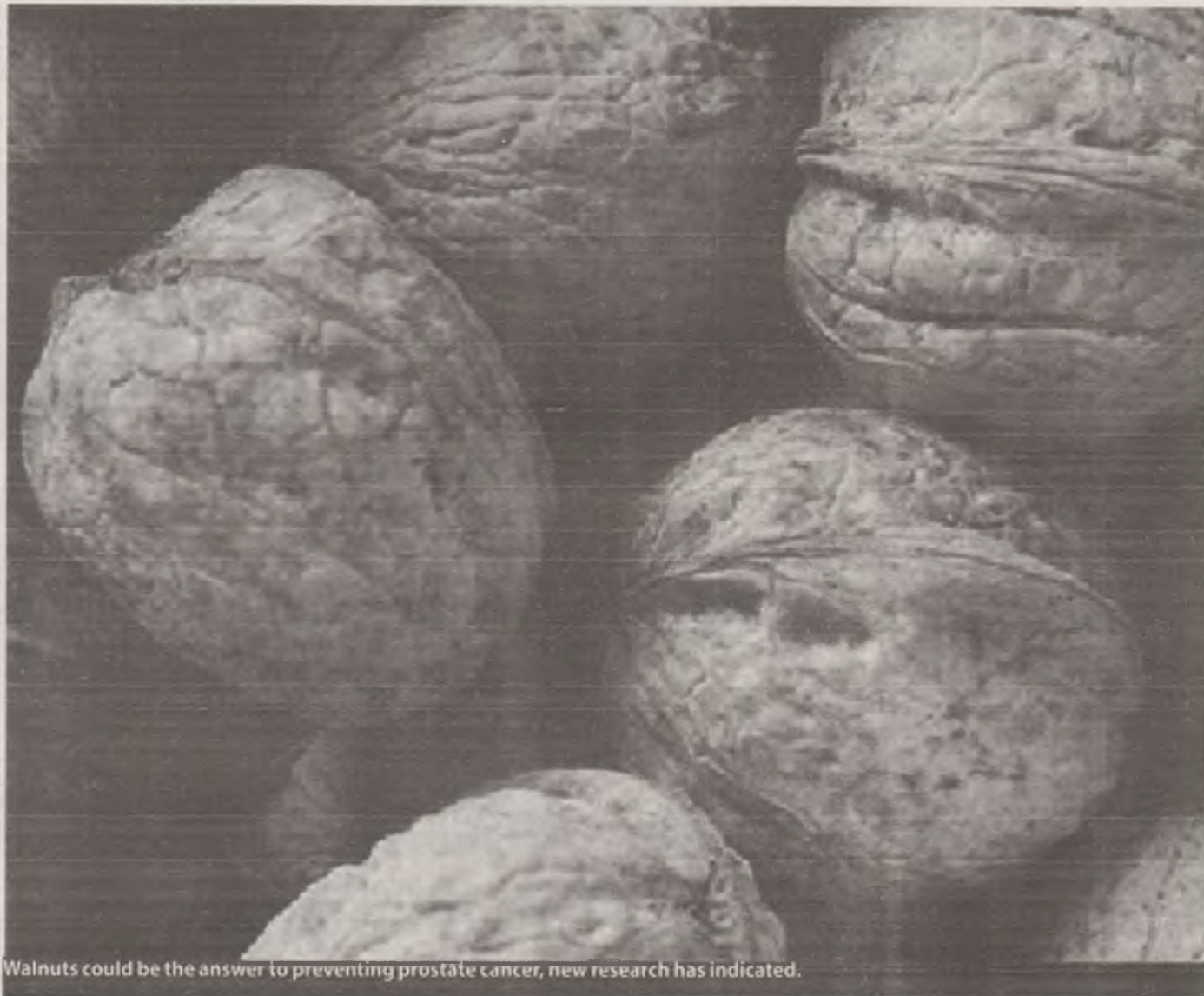
The researchers deliberately chose to feed the animals the equivalent of about a handful of actual nuts each day rather than a supplement-like extract.

"We decided to use whole walnuts in the diet because when a single component of a food linked to cancer prevention has been tested as a supplement, that food's cancer-preventive effects disappear in most cases," said Dr Davis.

Around 35,000 men in the UK are diagnosed with prostate cancer each year and 10,000 die from the condition.

Although susceptibility may be partly inherited, experts believe the disease is strongly linked to environmental factors such as diet.

Walnuts are packed with health-giving substances including omega-3 fatty acids, an inflammation-fighting form of vitamin E, polyphenol plant com-



Walnuts could be the answer to preventing prostate cancer, new research has indicated.

pounds and antioxidants.

The new findings were presented to the 239th National Meeting of the American Chemical Society in San Francisco.

Helen Rippon, head of research management at The Prostate Cancer Charity, said: "This new research, which is yet to be fully peer-reviewed, does provide new

clues about the development of prostate cancer and how a man's diet might help prevent the disease by regulating their hormone levels and the way that genes work."

Injection could cure phobias

FEAR of spiders, sharks, snakes, heights and other phobias could be cured by a simple injection which prevents people from learning to be afraid, claim scientists.

A team of researchers have found that the brain may be able to be 're-programmed' to overcome some of our most basic fears.

Scientists claim that because fear is a learned habit, they could be able to switch off the part of the brain that generates those emotions with a simple jab.

Early tests showed that goldfish given a dose of the drug lidocaine were unable to be scared.

Researchers in Japan say the

findings, published in BioMed Central's open access journal, Behavioural and Brain Functions, would be a relief for people who suffer chronic phobias that effect their everyday lives.

Prof Masayuki Yoshida, of the University of Hiroshima, said the results of his research were exciting.

"One day, our irrational phobias could become a thing of the past," he said.

"Imagine if your fear of spiders, heights or flying could be cured with a simple injection - our research suggests that one day this could be a reality."

Prof Yoshida studied the cerebellum, which was thought to be

involved with the development of fears, in goldfish and humans.

Using classical conditioning, Prof Masayuki Yoshida taught goldfish to become afraid of a light flashed in their eyes.

Prof Yoshida said: "By administering a low voltage electric shock every time a light was shone, the fish were taught to associate the light with being shocked, which slowed their hearts the typical fish reaction to a fright.

"As you would expect, the goldfish we used in our study soon became afraid of the flash of light because, whether or not we actually gave them a shock, they had quickly learned to expect one. "Fear was demonstrated by their heart beats

decreasing, in a similar way to how our heart rate increases when someone gives us a fright."

The researchers then injected the goldfish with a common local anaesthetic called lidocaine and repeated the tests again.

Prof Yoshida said that when the fish were given a dose of the drug they did not show the same fear when a light was shone in their eyes. "We discovered that fish that had first been injected in the cerebellum with lidocaine had stable heart rates and showed no fear when the light was shone they were unable to learn to become afraid," he said.

Prof Yoshida said that because the brains of goldfish were simi-

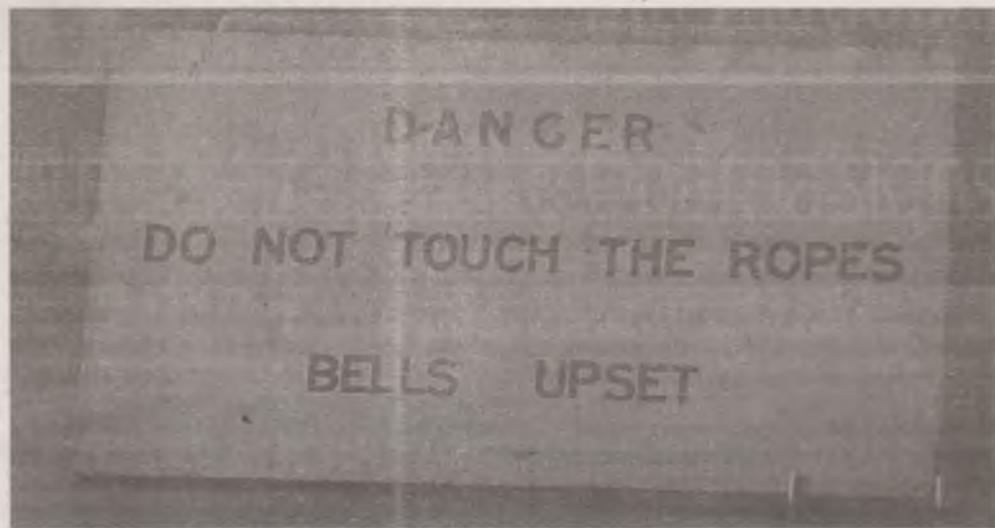
lar to those of mammals, including humans, it was hoped that with further study it may soon be possible to understand more about the biological and chemical processes that cause us to become afraid.

For the goldfish, the effect of lidocaine was only temporary fearless fish return to being frightened fish as soon as the anaesthetic has worn off.

Nevertheless, one day, our irrational phobias could become a thing of the past, he said.

Prof Yoshida said humans can also be "trained" to become afraid, and in fact, simple classical conditioning rooted in our childhood and early development can explain many of our behaviours.

Sign Language



Our bells are very sensitive
 Photo location: Lincoln Cathedral, Lincoln, by Marissa Tabbada
 Culled from telegraph.co.uk

EASY CROSSWORDS

Solve this special crossword just as you would a regular crossword, except that the words are written into the diagram **DIAGONALLY**, either downward or upward, but always from left to right. The answers to the definitions for 30-Downward and 43-Upward have been entered to start you off. You will not form words reading across or down. Half the boxes have been shaded to help you follow the paths of the diagonals.

17

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| UPWARD | 43. Decorated with feathers | 13. Medical record, hyp. wd. |
| 1. Salon need | 45. Conclusion | 14. Buttercup's kin |
| 4. With finesse | 47. Wedding present | 15. Monarch's privilege |
| 8. Pink hue | 48. Slabber | 16. — film |
| 10. Role for Claire Danes | 49. Deli buy | 18. Generally: 3 wds. |
| 12. Capital near the Salt River | 50. Bird-beak area | 19. Alanis Morissette hit |
| 14. Last words? | 51. Basic table? | 21. Prepare fish, in a way |
| 16. Fendal landholding | 52. Repose | 22. Celtic soothsayer |
| 17. Southern pod | 53. Mayberry boy | 24. Cake, to a dieter? |
| 19. Holiday visitor: hyp. wd. | 54. Military men, collectively | 25. Talk big |
| 20. Fitting reward, once | 56. Went back (on) | 26. Glamorous accessory |
| 22. Morning choice | 58. Some collectibles | 27. State, say |
| 23. Flat piece of paper? | 59. Direct | 28. Loki, e.g. |
| 25. Angler's item | 60. Yard sight | 29. Noted Blanc |
| 26. Busted (in) | 61. Roguish | 30. Austin Powers, for one |
| 28. Get the picture | | 32. Word with "board" |
| 29. Certain prayer groups | DOWNWARD | 35. Gifts of sorts |
| 31. Caper | 1. Detonate: 2 wds. | 38. Extinguishers |
| 32. Cheat: slang | 2. Poetic preposition | 39. Scoreches |
| 33. Sleeveless robe | 3. Wool product | 41. Audience response |
| 34. Eliminated | 4. Heard | 42. Butts in |
| 35. Possible curfew | 5. Wafted | 43. Tongue twister star? |
| 36. P.R. pro, briefly | 6. 54, to Nero | 44. Placed |
| 37. Sean Lennon's middle name | 7. Noble's servant | 46. Abandon (French 101) |
| 38. Sine — non | 8. Marked down, maybe | 47. Teaching |
| 39. Come together | 9. Equate | 49. Links score |
| 40. Active from dawn to dusk | 10. Mint — | 51. Mention |
| | 11. Met section | 55. Morse-code character |
| | 12. Dating-site draws, for short | 57. Japanese treat |

Solution to Easy Crosswords

16



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.

113

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

Solution to Sudoku 112

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

News Extra

Secret Service called in as Twitter users demand 'a bullet to Barack Obama's head'

• Republicans in 12 states vow to sue over healthcare reforms

The bitter backlash against President Barack Obama's sweeping health reforms has begun.

The Secret Service has been called in to investigate assassination threats against the president on Twitter as angry Americans made their stand against the reforms, which have been likened to civil rights legislation for the 21st century.

'ASSASSINATION! America, we survived the Assassinations and Lincoln & Kennedy. We'll surely get over a bullet to Barack Obama's head,' wrote one user who identified himself as 'authentic African American' and conservative blogger Solly Forrell.

Shortly after, Forrell posted a message that actively called for someone with 'a clear shot' to kill Mr Obama.

'The next American with a Clear Shot should drop Obama like a bad habit. 4get Blacks or his claims to b[e] Black. Turn on Barack Obama,' he wrote.

Another user, identified by ABC News as Jay Martin, wrote: 'You Should be Assassinated!! @Barack Obama.'

He added chillingly: 'If I lived in DC. I'd shoot him myself.'

The Secret Service told ABC that the threats are being investigated.

'We respect the right of free speech, but in such instances we have a right and an obligation to ask questions and determine intent,' a spokesperson said.

The threats came as Republican lawyers in 12 states vowed to repeal the bill guaranteeing all Americans access to medical care.

Mr Obama was expected to sign the sweeping health reforms



BARACK Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, and senior staff applaud as the health reform bill is passed

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

THE President will sign the first bill passed by the House today.

The smaller 'fixes' bill - agreed to make the final draft more palatable to rebels - will go back to the Senate to be agreed before written into law.

Some reforms will come into force within months.

These include a ban on insurance companies dropping people when they get sick or refusing to cover children with pre-

existing conditions. Others will not be implemented until 2014, such as a law for all Americans to have health insurance or face cash fines.

From 2013, families with an income above £150,000 must pay an additional 3.8 per cent on their investment income to help pay for the changes.

Over the next ten years, the legislation will cut the federal deficit by £92 billion and cost £626 billion.

into law yesterday - but his victory is already facing an angry revolt.

Republican lawyers in the 12 states including Florida, Texas, Washington, Utah and Pennsylvania

are to base a lawsuit on claims that the bill infringes on states' rights, Florida's Attorney General said Monday night.

But the White House was

defiant as Mr Obama celebrated a victory that has been likened to civil rights legislation for the 21st century.

Press secretary Robert Gibbs

Monday dismissed the question of whether the administration thinks the legal challenge will succeed with a curt two words: 'We don't'.

And he made it clear that the Obama administration - which has already staked its political credibility on the reforms - would fight to keep them in place.

'If people want to campaign on taking tax cuts away from small businesses, taking assistance away from seniors getting prescription drugs, and a mother knowing that [her] child can't be discriminated against by an insurance company... then we'll have a robust campaign on that,' he said.

After the U.S. House of Representatives passed the landmark bill in a cliffhanger vote, the jubilant President declared, 'This is what change looks like' - a reference to his campaign mantra.

Supporters compared the vote on Sunday night to the enactment of civil rights laws in the 1950s and 1960s.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi paid tribute to the 'extraordinary leadership and vision' of Mr Obama for making healthcare the defining issue of his presidency.

'This is the civil rights act of the 21st century,' added Congressman Jim Clyburn, the top-ranking black member of the house.

A clearly relieved Mr Obama said the victory came 'after nearly 100 years of talk and frustration'.

'We proved we are a people capable of doing big things and tackling our biggest challenges,' he added. Mr Obama also revealed it was a cancer patient's letter that inspired him to fight.

In it, Natoma Canfield, 50, described her struggle to pay escalating medical insurance bills.

All the president's emails

In a unique experiment in democratic transparency, Barack Obama - a BlackBerry owner, and the first American president to use email while in office - has agreed to copy G2 in on his otherwise highly confidential electronic communications. Each week, we present a selection from recent days:

To: Benjamin Netanyahu <b.netanyahu@pmo.gov.il>
Subject: Re: v embarrassing situation

Bibi - honestly, don't worry about it. I get called a lot of things,

most of them worse than "anti-semitic", but as long as you know my support for Israel remains steadfast, it doesn't matter what your brother-in-law says. As I've told people here, it's perfectly pos-

sible for two countries to maintain their strong bonds of affection even when one of those countries is really, really pissed off with the other one. It's just like a marriage. A troubled, dysfunctional marriage. Best, Barack

To: Hillary Clinton <secretary@whitehouse.gov>

Subject: Re: Peace talks, etc
Nice work - The Israeli govt seems to be in full climbdown mode, so keep up the tough talk, and we'll see if we can't wring some substantive concessions out of them ahead of the talks. Do you think it would be too much to ask

Netanyahu to come out in support of healthcare reform? It's a shame to waste his contrition. B

To: Nancy Pelosi <speaker@house.gov>
Subject: Re: the magic number 216

Tell your wavering congressmen that my Mr Nice Guy approach has exactly 12 hours left to run. The first guy to cave in gets an airport named after him; the next one gets a bridge. After that they get locked in a room with Rahm for an hour. He's standing by in a towel, with a cattle prod. It's not technically torture - we

checked. BHO

To: Benjamin Netanyahu <b.netanyahu@pmo.gov.il>
Subject: Re: Re: v embarrassing situation

When I said I'd been called worse things than anti-semitic, I didn't mean to imply that it isn't a terrible thing to be called. In fact, maybe it is the worst thing I've been called. Yes, it's definitely the worst thing. Where do you stand on taxing employer-sponsored health plans, btw?

Barack

Culled from guardian.co.uk

News Extra



NO need for greed: A rare photo of bearded and reclusive genius Dr Grigory Perelman

An impoverished Russian who has been called the world's cleverest man Monday said he does not need a \$1 million prize awarded by a prestigious American institute for solving one of the most intractable problems in mathematics.

Dr Grigory Perelman prefers

to live as a recluse in his grim cockroach-infested flat in St Petersburg.

Told about the financial prize for solving the Poincare Conjecture which had confounded mathematicians for a century, he said through his closed front door: 'I don't need anything. I have all I want.'

World's cleverest man turns down \$1 million prize

...After solving one of mathematics' greatest puzzles

The bearded genius, aged 44, was named last week as winner of the \$1 million prize by the Clay Mathematics Institute in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Four years ago, after posting his solution on the web, he failed to turn up to receive his prestigious Fields Medal from the International Mathematical Union in Madrid.

At the time he stated: 'I'm not interested in money or fame. I don't want to be on display like an animal in a zoo.'

'I'm not a hero of mathematics. I'm not even that successful, that is why I don't want to have everybody looking at me.'

Neighbour Vera Petrovna said: 'I was once in his flat and I was astounded. He only has a table, a stool and a bed with a dirty mattress which was left by previous owners - alcoholics who sold the flat to him.'

I'm not interested in money or fame. I don't want to be on display like an animal in a zoo

then a researcher at the Steklov Institute of Mathematics in St. Petersburg, began posting papers online suggesting he had solved the Poincare Conjecture, one of seven major mathematical puzzles for which the Clay Institute is offering \$1 million each.

Rigorous tests proved he was correct.

The topological conundrum essentially states that any three-dimensional space without holes in it is equivalent to a stretched sphere.

The puzzle was more than 100 years old when Perelman solved it - and can help determine the shape of the universe.

After 2003 Perelman gave up his job at the Steklov Institute. Friends have been reported as saying he has resigned from mathematics altogether - finding the subject too painful to discuss.

'We are trying to get rid of cockroaches in our block, but they hide in his flat.'

It was in 2003 that Perelman,

Bizarre... Bizarre... Bizarre



A six-year-old boy displays his hands and feet at a hospital in Shenyang, China. The boy, who has 15 fingers and 16 toes, was scheduled for surgery yesterday to remove the extra fingers and toes



A teenager astonished medics when he walked into casualty with a 10-inch knife sticking right through his skull after a row over computer games. Xiao Wei, 16, of Mishazi town, northeast China's Jilin province, had the knife sticking out of his left temple, leaving only the handle outside, and emerging 1cm from his right temple, piercing through his entire head. Inset: Doctors prepare to remove the blade

With over

51 million
bits

DAILY TRUST

is reaching more people worldwide.

Trust Kreativ



Log on to:

www.dailytrust.com

For more enquiries, Call Hassan on 08035288123 or send an email to onlineadverts@dailytrust.com

PROPERTY

property@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 07041632079

Kogi to build 2 new markets

THE Kogi State Government is to construct two new modern markets in Lokoja to complement the existing International Market located in the state capital.

Mr. Mohammed Sule, the State Commissioner for Environment and Physical Development, who disclosed this on Sunday in Lokoja, said that the two markets, one of which would be sited in Ganaja and the other in Dogondaji areas of

Lokoja, were expected to accommodate traders who could not secure stalls at the International Market.

The Commissioner said that construction work on the projects would commence soon, adding that trading activities would henceforth, be restricted to markets and shops.

He, therefore, gave street traders in Nataco, Ganaja Junction, Felele Market, Old market and Post office areas one week

to vacate the areas.

Sule described as unfortunate, the March 9 accident at Felele Market, which claimed several lives and destroyed about 19 vehicles, saying, "we do not want that to happen again."

"Because we did not have a standard market before now, people resorted to selling everywhere they found space, even along the highways, but that is going to change now. (NAN)

Kwara Assembly to investigate road project

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

THE Speaker Kwara State House of Assembly, Alhaji Babatunde Mohammed has directed house committee on Works and Transport to visit the on-going Kpada-Patigi road to ascertain the quality of work done on the project.

The Speaker however instructed the committee should report its findings to the House on the Second of next month for further deliberation on the issue.

The directive followed the explanation presented on the road by a member representing Patigi, Alhaji Dauda Taoheed Makun on the condition of the road.

Alhaji Taoheed-Makun explained that the people of the area acknowledged various

developmental programmes embarked upon by the present Administration in the area including the rural electrification project and the construction of road.

The lawmakers however, expressed reservation by the people on the slow pace of work by the contractor on the road and stated that only five kilometre stretch out of the fifty kilometre stretch had so far been tarred.

Alhaji Dauda-Makun, appealed to the House to intervene in the interest of the masses.



A private building on a land meant for the National Board for Technical Education, near INEC Maitama, Abuja

President urges surveyors to honor agreements

By Nasir Imam

PRESIDENT of the Nigerian Institute of Quantity Surveyors (NIQS), Okereke-Onyeri has said that he wants all members engaged in a dispute since 2008 over elections into a new executive to honour all agreements as honourable men.

The NIQS President, who spoke in Abuja, insisted that all his actions throughout the crisis were guided by the laws of the land, which are superior to the constitution of the institute.

Peace had reigned within the professionals until the institute's last yearly general meeting held in Kaduna in October 2008, where elections were held to fill vacant positions except that of the president and his predecessor.

But concerned stakeholders alleged that because some people contested and lost the elections, they had headed for the court to

annul the process, accusing the president of instigating them because he did not want to work with those who actually won the elections.

However, they alleged that the president unilaterally suspended the council because some elections were being challenged in court, and instead, appointed 13 un-elected people into an expanded interim council, contrary to the provisions of its constitution.

The Shonubi group further alleged that the un-elected council members were now suspending/expelling elected officials whose elections were not in contention and perpetrating other unconstitutional actions.

Though the parties reached an out-of-court settlement following the intervention of some prominent individuals, the move failed to put an end to the internal crisis as some decried the final draft of the consent judgment, alleging it

to be far from their general resolution.

Reacting, NIQS president tagged all the allegations as a ruse; alleging that the group was not concerned as supposed, but was out to frustrate his government.

He claimed he had always acted on side of the law, having drawn all his actions from the consent judgment that all the parties agreed to and was ratified by an extra-ordinary general meeting of the institute.

The NIQS chief said the issue at play was on morality, adding that if those crying foul are doing so against the institute, the honorable thing for them to do was to quit.

He said that part of the provisions of the consent judgment was that the institute should audit the account of the last council, which was presented in Kaduna, while all those who ran for elections should form the expanded executive council.

Land disputes: Share community raises fresh alarm

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

THE people of Share community in Ifelodun Local government in Southern Senatorial district of Kwara State has raised fresh alarm over an alleged attempts by their neighbouring community, Tsaragi to ethnicize the resolved boundary disputes between the two communities by the State Government.

The Share community, an Igbomina Yoruba speaking community in the Southern part of and Tsaragi, a Nupe speaking community of Edu Local Government both in Kwara State share boundary with almost common social and environmental relationship for decades.

It would be recalled that boundary disputes between the two communities led to communal several clashes among which were that of Sunday and Monday, November 2&3, 2008 that left lives and properties worth millions of Naira lost in the clash.

Kwara State Government afterwards set up an arbitration panel, which white paper on the resolution of the crisis was issued.

In a statement signed by the National President and National Secretary of the Share Descendants Union (SDU), Professor Suleiman Jamiu and Comrade S.O Ajayi respectively, copy made available to Daily Trust thanked, "The state government in resolving the dispute for not tinkering

with the boundary of the two local governments of Edu and Ifelodun. The government brought out the boundary lines based on the 1976 description of the two LGAs".

Reacting to the rejoinder, an home-based member of the Tsaragi community under Tsaragi Emirate Development Association (TEDA) who pleaded anonymity who aligned with the said publication however but urged the state government to return to the law of boundary settlement in line with the law that established the state.

He said, "What we are after is the peace and tranquility embedded in the state and by large to the communities. We have come a long way living as brothers and sister and i don't see any way we can be separated."

Property



property@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 07041632079

EYE ON ABUJA

WITH Umar Shuaibu
umarshuaibu1@yahoo.com

The ineffective FCT Land Use and Allocation Committee (III)

THE FCT Administration of ex-minister Adamu Aliero published the approved and revised guidelines of its mass housing programme not more than a month ago. The guidelines are product of thorough and long term exercise by the authority in order to correct the previous lapses, at the same time curb the past abuses of the mass housing programme, where large chunks of land were given to single organizations at the expense of many others. Categorically, it was stated that for the City and the satellite towns, the maximum sizes for mass housing plots are 10Ha and 20Ha respectively. It is horrible to state that the same minister that approved the guidelines violated them as they are being published for the compliance of the general public. Mass housing allocations far in excess of the approved maximum sizes have already flooded

the Abuja property markets for sale.

It should also be recalled that not long ago the FCTA also publicized hundreds of fraudulent allocations that took place during previous administrations. That revelation also was the product of a methodical exercise by some dedicated staff committed to sanitizing the system not any politician at the top. These frauds were inputted into the systems, such that any transaction concerning these plots that requires the verification of the FCTA, the authority usually confirms their authenticity prior to the discovery. It was therefore recommended and the minister consented that should the owners come forward with the charge of being misled by the authority, their allocations be formalize after satisfying certain requirements. These are for the fear of losing any possible litigation from the

aggrieved parties. It is sad to note that almost all of these plots have now been re-allocated by Aliero to others in violation of that genuine observation.

A very important observation is that the ownerships of all the earlier quoted allocations picked at random and overwhelming others flying the streets now for sale originates from Kebbi State. If members of the LUAC that are civil servants kept mum due to some of their reasons, it should not be applicable to those that are representing our various professional organizations, like the NITP, NIESV, NBA, NUJ and NEG. What it implies is whatever allocations now emanating from the FCTA is in consonance with their professional ethics. If the inclusion of the professional bodies representatives does not ensure the necessary check and balance in the system then the reason for that

is defeated. On specific reference, we remember the vehement complaints from the Nigerian Institute of Estate Surveyors when the initial membership of the committee does not include their representative as stated in section 3(a) of the LUA.

Among his reasons for the astronomical land fees increase in Abuja, the former FCT minister Aliero in a TV program said it is also to stop allottees from short changing the government by selling at a cut throat prices just at the door step immediately after plots are allocated at no cost. It is expected for Aliero to champion the prevention of that attitude, not aiding and in a mind-boggling manner what he himself publicly declared a crime. These violations are evidence of gross insincerity in the motive behind that most unintelligent land fees increase in the history of Abuja.

Because the lower ranking staff have the knowledge of the clandestine activities of the leadership what would then stop them from indulging in theirs? This should lead us to the big question, on whether the probe going on in the AGIS should only be limited to the fees collectors leaving out those that engage in fraud and bypass of due process in the allocation. For the avoidance of doubt we demand that what we have mentioned and all other similar cases be subjected to scrutiny and external probe while further plots allocation stopped, at least for the maintenance of sanity in the continuous development of the city, for a stitch in time saves nine.

A special committee must be set up to review all the allocations made by the Aliero administration, most especially the mass housing. The mass housing allocations discovered to be made in violation of requirements is to be revoked while individuals and organizations discovered to own more than one plot be made to retain only one as required by law and forfeit the rest. Also, fraudulent allocations while claiming a state where one does not belong is to be cancelled, and the perpetrators made to face the wrath of the law for forgery.

The LUAC must be allowed to function devoid of interference from the office of the minister. While the minister has privilege to approve or reject the committee's recommendation, the members most especially the professional bodies' representatives have their integrity to protect in the eyes of the public. Lessons learnt from the Aliero minister-ship where almost all the recommendations of the LUAC are rejected, and fresh ones inserted, requires that members should have the knowledge of what they have recommended for the sake of differentiating with the list sent to the land department for the actual allocation. And the professional bodies given representation in the committee must be vocal when they discover that all is not well in the system. Above all the Abuja Minister-ship must not be termed as goldmine for making money through plots acquisition.

Concluded

FCTA investigates 'fraudulent' mass housing companies

By Nasir Imam

ALLEGATIONS of impropriety in the mass housing scheme by some of companies are now being investigated by the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA).

Special Assistant to the former FCT Minister of State in charge of Administration and Strategy, Mr. Ndubuisi Osuji, told counsel to one of the Brazilian investors in the scheme, Barrister Okechukwu Amalu recently, that the minister of state's office was investigating allegations of sale of land and illegal construction on the plot of land allocated for the construction of cheap houses under the mass housing

scheme.

Osuji said the FCT administration frowns at the violation of the mass housing guidelines by developers, pointing out that any of the developers found to have circumvented the guidelines stood the risk of having the allocation revoked.

He warned that the plots of land allocated to private developers were strictly for the construction of cheap and affordable houses for the ordinary Nigerian and not to be sold by the developers, adding that under the mass housing guidelines, the private developers are expected to construct the houses for sell and forward the names of the beneficiaries to the FCTA for the issuing of certificates of

occupancy.

Barrister Amalu had alleged in a petition to the minister that some Nigerian board members of a Brazilian construction company have violated the mass housing guidelines by dividing a plot of land at Wumba district of Abuja and selling to individuals who have gone ahead to construct substandard houses at the site without due approval from the Development Control Department of the FCT administration.

Amalu said unless urgent action was taken to check such illegal activity, many well meaning foreign investors would be discouraged from doing business with Nigeria.



TRADERS in Bukuru market before it was burnt

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that item 2 of publication made at page 59 and 50 of the *Daily Trust* dated 5/3/2010 and 17/3/2010 by one MR. HAFIZU YAHAYA SHANTALI on behalf of the family of LATE YAHAYA SHANTALI claiming ownership of the land referred to as DADI GOMA FARM situated at Gwamba in Bagudo Local Government of Kebbi State is misleading and untrue. The farm was neither a gift nor sold to claimant's father. (2) Claimants are therefore advised to desist from laying any legitimate claim to the said land (3) members of the public should please exercise caution in dealing with anybody over the said land.

Signed

Alh. Usman Maigari Gwamba
on behalf of Maigari Gwamba Family

Property



property@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 07041632079

Bukuru New Market construction stalled

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

MARKET is a particular place where people buy and sell goods from trader's artisans and other business partners for the wellbeing of the people and development of the economy.

Markets and motor parks are controlled by local government councils as provided in the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria.

Plateau State is one of the 36 states in Nigeria that has hundreds of markets but due to the incessant crises that kept recurring in the state some of these markets were affected by the crises especially in Jos North and Jos South Local Government Areas.

Bukuru Market is one of the oldest markets in the state where the inhabitant's who were members of Plateau State Traders and Artisans Association were facing tough times with the Jos South Local Government over the intention of the council to reconstruct and build new market in Bukuru.

The Council is making effort to justify its good intention of building new modern market that will be provided with infrastructures like security and good market stalls but there is dividing line between the traders and the council because the traders saw the action of the council as the aim of cleansing Hausa Community who claimed to be the majority of traders in the market from the Market.

Chairman of the Traders Alhaji Umaru Mango traced the history of the market he said the market was built in 1930 over 70 years and Hausa community were the first inhabitants of the markets followed by Yoruba and Igbo, adding that they paid taxes and revenue due to the local government as provided in the tenancy agreement between the traders and Jos South Local Government Area.

He alleged that because of the Plateau state government ethnic agenda of cleansing the Hausas from the area they decided to sack them from the market because of they are Hausa Fulani.

He said they were not aware of the council intention to relocate the market they only heard about it over the radio without notice.

Alhaji Umaru Mango said after they heard the announcement over the Radio then three Das later, the secretary of the council Mr Ishaya M Gadu invited them for a meeting on 1st February 2010 two weeks after the market was burnt

down during the recent Jos Crises through a letter no JSLG/s/off/25/vol1 dated 1st February 2010 by 2pm at the Chairman's office.

Chairman said the meeting was presided over by the Vice Chairman of the Local Government Mr Joseph Nyam Danboyi and he told them about the local government intention to demolish the Market and built another one without relocating them to any other place.

Alhaji Umaru said he told them that he thought they will commiserate with them over the unfortunate incident that led to the burnt of their three markets at Kugiya, Main Market and Kara with a view to assist them in other to alleviate their sufferings but they will not agree if they will go ahead to demolish the market.

He alleged that the Council technically intended to sack them from the market and to heighten the tension and increase the sufferings of their members which violated their fundamental human rights to live where ever they want as enshrined in the constitution.

Defending the council action Jos South local Government Chairman Da Moses Dalyop council intended to re-construct the Bukuru Main market in other develop the market and makes it more secured for the benefit of the inhabitants. Moses Dalyop reiterated their commitment to build a six block of twenty Shops each in Bukuru Main Market that was burnt down during the recent crises that affected Jos and environs.

Chairman said "the shops in the market belongs to the local Government the traders are in the shops as tenants and the council had already awarded the contract and they gave adequate notice to the traders to vacate their shops in other to build modern shops for them that will be locked in the evening and open in the morning in other to provide them with adequate security of their properties before the January 17 crises"

Chairman said before they embark on the Project unfortunate crises affected the state and even the market was burnt down during the crises adding that "we held three different meetings with the traders and we told them their intention to clear the debris and remove some dilapidated shops not that we want to demolish their shops but we will clear the debris before we embark on the projects and we all agree everybody left the

meeting smiling"

He said the council allocated a temporary place for the traders to stay and continue with their business pending the completion of the construction of the new Bukuru Modern Mar-

ket adding that when the building of the new market is completed the traders that have shops in the Market will be the first to be allocated with shops.

Da Moses said the council has no intention to witch-

hunt anybody except to bring the required development in the area and appeal to the traders to give them their maximum cooperation to develop the market for the growth of their business.

Many people that spoke

to Daily Trust said it's not a wise decision for the council to go ahead with the project now considering the fact that it's just after the 17 January crises there were confusion, tension and fear all over the town.



The World is interested in results, not efforts.

FOCUS On Success With MEX!

Keep the BIG picture in view and give your career or business the much needed boost by participating in the management **express** event for March, 2010

Management Express (MEX) is a network of young to mid-level career and business professionals interested in networking and capacity building

MEX events feature high profile speakers from the UK.

British Council endorsed certificates to be awarded to participants.

speaker:

Jimi Ogunnusi; visiting lecturer at the Bristol Business School, University of West of England.

Breakfast Meeting: "Getting the Best from your Employees: A Practitioners Perspective"

- * Leadership and Management
- * Emotional Intelligence
- * Power
- * Motivation
- * Performance Management Techniques

Forum: "Strategic Advice to new Businesses in their critical early years"

* Tickets available at the venue.

For enquires call: 0706 686 9204

Breakfast Meeting
N10,000
Forum
N2,000

Wed. 24 March - Lagos

Breakfast meeting: 9:00am - 11:00am

Solina Hotel,
Bankole Oki Road, Ikoyi, Lagos

Forum: 12:00noon - 2:00pm

Agip Hall of the Museum Centre, Onikas, Lagos

Thur. 25 March - Abuja

Breakfast meeting: 9:30am - 11:30am

Garara Hall, Old Rockview Hotel,
Wuse 2, Abuja

Forum: 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Gurara Hall, Old Rockview Hotel,
Wuse 2, Abuja

Sat. 27 March - Kano

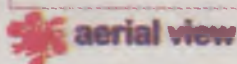
Breakfast meeting: 9:00am - 11:00am

Horizon Hotel, 5, Court House Close,
Off Miller Road, Bompai, Kano

Forum: 12:00noon - 2:00pm

Horizon Hotel, 5, Court House Close,
Off Miller Road, Bompai, Kano

www.britishcouncil.org/africa





KANO STATE GOVERNMENT

In collaboration with

ASSOCIATION FOR AFRICAN WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT

INVITES THE GENERAL PUBLIC

To The

Foundation Laying Ceremony of proposed

University of Medicine and Science, Bichi

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

Scheduled as follows:

Date: Thursday 25th March 2010/9th Rabi'ul Thani 1431AH

VENUE: Proposed Site of University of Medicine, Bichi, Bichi Local Government Area

Time: - 9:00am prompt

Chief Host:

Chairman, Bichi Local Government Council, Alh. Lawan Shehu Bichi

Royal Father of the Day

The Emir of Kano, H.H. Alh. (Dr.) Ado Bayero CFR, LL.D, JP,

Build ^{With} Style ...go for

IBALEX PRODUCTS

Check out our wide range

Ceramic Walls & Floor Tiles, Vitrified Tiles
Sanitary Wares, Marbles, Granites, Grouts & Adhesive

Special Offer!
(on specific items) •
**Buy 1sq.m
& get 1sq.m
FREE!**

Showrooms Open MONDAY - FRIDAY 8.30AM - 5.30PM • SATURDAY 8.30AM - 1.30PM

INL IBALEX NIG. LIMITED

<p>LAGOS HEAD OFFICE Plot 407/413, Apapa/Oshodi Expressway, Ilanmaja, Lagos. Tel: 01-4522171, 4523615, 4522979, 08034021072, 08034021074 E-mail: ibalex@karimco.cc Website: www.ibalex.com</p>	<p>VICTORIA ISLAND 120, Akin Adesola Street, Victoria Island, Lagos. Tel: 01-4617766, 4617767, 08033013288 E-mail: ibalex@karimco.cc</p>	<p>ABUJA Plot 1501, Burbun Street, A-S, Off Adetokunbo Ademola Crescent Off Ahmadu Bello Way, Wuse, Phase 2, Abuja Tel: 09-7014900 E-mail: manager@ibalex.com</p>
---	---	--



Olumo Rock, Abeokuta



Silverbird Galleria, Abuja



Bank of Industry, Marina



Penninsula Hotel, Lekki, Lagos



Novotel Hotel, Port Harcourt

Our Works Speak for Us



Lagoon Hospital, Lagos



NNPC Ikoyi, Lagos



Cocoa House, Ibadan



Central Bank of Nigeria Head-Quarters, Abuja



River State Secretariat, Port Harcourt

We've executed various projects that have become statements in innovative engineering solutions and services in the Elevator and Escalator industry. This we do in partnership with **KONE** of Finland, the technology leader worldwide in the elevator business.

Kresta Laurel Limited

...engineered to excel

Head Office:

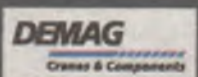
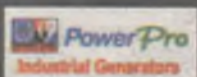
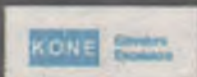
376, Ikorodu Road, Maryland, P. O. Box 14977, Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria. Tel: 01-2710345-6, 0805-500-8474, 0805-500-8476, E-mail: kresta@krestalaurel.com. Website: www.krestalaurel.com

Abuja Office:

Plot 253, Independence Road, Central Business District, Abuja, Nigeria. Tel: 0805 500 8504, E-mail: abuja@krestalaurel.com

Port Harcourt Office:

234, Woji Road, GRA Phase 11, Port Harcourt, River State, Nigeria. Tel/Fax: + 084-885402, 0805 500 8542, E-mail: portharcourt@krestalaurel.com



CITY NEWS



HOTLINES: 0803-3493-462 & 0703-8927-513
email: citynews@dailytrust.com

Policemen shoot banker on both legs

By Abubakar Yakubu

PIC: ABUBAKAR YAKUBU

THE chief credit control officer of Think Microfinance Bank was yesterday morning shot on his two legs by policemen at Central Area Abuja.

Mr Pius Effiong was rushed to the Surgery Theatre of Asokoro General Hospital, where doctors were battling to remove the bullets that pierced through and bone and tissue in both legs.

Before he was wheeled into the theatre, Effiong said his neighbour at Gwarinpa as usual dropped him close to the Ecumenical Centre, which is close to his office at Lagos House.

"The time was 7 am and as I was trekking to my office, I heard sporadic gun fire, which caused pandemonium in the area and made us run for cover," he said.

He said in the panic, he fell and broke his hand and as he got up to go, a police car with two officers in mufti pulled beside him and the occupants dragged him into the car.

"I was surprised when another police van came and the occupants were told that I am one of the robbers and before I knew it, a policeman dragged me from the vehicle and shot me on my two legs," he said.

According to him, after the officer shot him, a search was done on his person and when they realised he was a bank official, they were arguing between themselves on what to do, before a policeman suggested he be taken to the hospital.

Our reporter learnt that the



THE banker, Pius Effiong, waiting for surgery yesterday.

victim was conveyed to the hospital in a Hilux van with registration number FG 790 SO3.

One of the victim's colleagues said they were attending a meeting in which the victim was supposed to be in, when the receptionist of their office rushed in to report that Asokoro General Hospital's officials phoned to say Effiong has been dumped in

their place with bullet wounds by policemen.

"We quickly rushed there and also noticed that three bullet injured policemen were also brought into the same hospital," the Effiong's colleague said.

He said two of the policemen were arguing among themselves and people around them realised that the shoot out was caused by

an anti-robbery team from Police Force Headquarters which shot at them from FCT command due to mistaken identity.

The three policemen admitted were in the afternoon removed to an undisclosed hospital by some policemen.

Reacting on the banker's health, Head of Surgery in Asokoro General Hospital, Dr Sule Ahmed,

said his condition is stable.

He said he sustained multiple fractures on his hand and was shot in the two lower parts of his limbs, adding that his recovery period might take about three months and entail a lot of money.

Also reacting, FCT Police Command's Spokesman, Jimoh Moshood, told the press that the banker was hit by stray bullets.

...As robbers shoot FRCN staff at Gwagwalada

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

DAREDEVIL armed robbers Wednesday night shot and wounded the marketing manager of the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN), Gwagwalada Station, Malam Musa Yahaya.

Our reporter learnt that the robbers numbering three attacked the manager at gun point around Gwagwalada Phase I Street and snatched his vehicle.

The victim, while narrating the incident from his hospital bed, said the incident happened at about 10.30 pm when he was conveying his sister-in-law to her house in his Toyota Corolla car with registration number EG 546 ABJ, (2004 Model).

He said when he parked at Phase I, three young men approached him and one of them pointed a gun at him, before shooting his leg.

"After shooting my left leg, the pulled me and my sister-in-laws out of the car and zoomed off, after which I discovered myself in the hospital," he said.

He disclosed that vital documents and an undisclosed amount of money were taken by the robbers.

When contacted, the Gwagwalada Divisional Police Officer, Mr. Charles Mozie, confirmed the robbery incident and said one suspect has been arrested in connection with the robbery incident, while investigation is still ongoing to trace the destination of the stolen vehicle.

Gwamna's murder: Police appeals court's ruling

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

DISATISFIED with last week's court ruling discharging the suspended vice-chairman of Kwali council, Alhaji Adamu Saidu Ashara from the murder of his boss, the police prosecutor has filed an appeal against the High Court's judgment.

The court had on March 15 discharged Ashara on the ground that the prosecution had failed to establish a prima facie case against him.

The prosecution counsel, Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama had filed the appeal challenging the judgment of the court on

the ground that the prosecution evidences during the trial were enough to convict the accused.

Gadzama, in a notice of appeal made available to news men, said the lower court erred in law when it held that the accused had no case to answer and accordingly discharged the first accused.

"Evidences adduced by the prosecution against the accused in respect of the offences of criminal conspiracy to commit culpable homicide and criminal intimidation were enough for the court to require some explanations

from the accused," Gadzama said.

He contented that no case submission can only be upheld where a prima facie case has not been made out against the accused in respect of any of the offences charged.

According to him, the material evidence that implicated the accused in the offences of conspiracy to commit culpable homicide and criminal intimidation were not discredited during the cross examination.

The prosecution counsel therefore urged the court to set aside the judgment of the lower court in its entirety.

Man denies stealing N.2m with ATM card

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A youngster yesterday in court denied stealing an ATM card belonging to a customer of Skye Bank and using the card to steal N257,000 from the customer's account.

Adedayo Juwon of Biaji, Kubwa, Abuja was accused of stealing the ATM and withdrawing the said amount.

Police prosecutor, Monday Akor, informed the court that on March 19, one Ukwuwunne Stella of Skye Bank Plc, Maitama branch, reported to the police

that the accused withdrew N257,000 from a customer's account using a stolen ATM card.

"The accused used to be an employee of the same bank and was in charge of ATM cards," the prosecutor added.

"The offence committed is contrary to Section 289 of the

Penal Code Law," the prosecutor said.

When the charge was read to the accused, he denied it and asked for bail.

Chief Magistrate Ademuyiwa Oyeyipo granted the accused bail in the sum of N200,000 with a reliable surety in like sum, who must

produce evidence of three years tax clearance paid to the FCT.

He also ruled that the surety must show evidence of means of livelihood and swear to an affidavit to produce the accused in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to April 14 for hearing.

Security guards remanded over theft

By Usman A. Bello

TWO security guards, Danladi Akaka (21) and Nandom Wakil (26), were on Friday remanded in prison custody by an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly stealing money belonging to Oronsaye Margret.

The accused persons with Joseph E. Ajah and Okan Godfrey (both at large) were arraigned on four-court charge of joint act, shop breaking, mischief and theft, all contrary to Sections 79, 348, 327 and 288 of the Penal Code Law.

Prosecutor Adamu Abdullahi informed the court that on March

15, Oronsaye Margret reported to the police that the accused persons attached to a building broke into her office safe valued at N150,000 and made away with N855,700.

He said during police investigations, the accused could not give satisfactory account of where they were when the incident happened.

When the charges were read, the accused persons pleaded not guilty and requested for bail, which was objected to by the prosecutor.

Magistrate Grace Oyamendan remanded the accused in prison custody and adjourned the case to March 26 for hearing.

Man arraigned over stolen number plate

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

THE police yesterday arraigned one Obijiofor Obiora before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly stealing a number plate belonging to Ilegogie David's wife.

Obiora was also accused of using two cars to block the woman's car and restraining her from moving her car out of the place she parked it.

Police prosecutor, Jeremiah Elijah, told the court that on March 17, one Ilegogie

David of the Federal Housing Authority, Lugbe, Abuja, reported to the police that the accused stole the rear number plate of her wife's Sienna car with registration number BL 193 BWR.

The prosecutor said that the complainant's wife parked her car at the front of the accused person's shop and returned to meet the rear number plate of the car stolen.

"The accused also used two of his cars to block the woman's car front and back, thereby restraining her from moving


the vehicle," the prosecutor said.

According to him, the offence committed is punishable under Section 287 of the Penal Code Law.

When the charge was read to the accused, he pleaded not guilty and requested for bail.

Magistrate Khadijat Mustapha granted the accused bail in the sum of N50,000 with a reasonable surety in like sum, who must reside within the jurisdiction of the court.

The case was adjourned to March 31 for hearing.



 JUD. CI
 FORM 2
 IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE /DISTRICT COURT OF
 F. C. T. ABUJA OF NIGERIA
 (Order 3 Rule 7)
 HEARING NOTICE

Surr No Cv/972/08

Between URATAF CONSTRUCTION LIMITED Plaintiff
 and
HON. MTA ICT & 2020 Defendant

To MILITARY VENTURES NIG LTD

the above-named SUIT

This cause will be transferred from the General Cause List to the Hearing Paper for DEFINITE DEFENCE The 25th day of March, 2010

at 9:00am o'clock in the forenoon, and will come on to be heard on that day if the business of the Court permits or otherwise on some adjournment day of which you will receive no further notice.

If either party desires to postpone the hearing he must apply to the court as soon as possible for that purpose, and if the application is based on any matter of fact, he must be prepared to give proof of those facts.

The parties are warned that at the hearing they are required to bring forward all the evidence by witnesses or by documents which each of them desires to rely on in support of his own case and in contradiction of that of his opponent. The proof will be required at the hearing, and not on a subsequent day, and parties failing to bring their evidence forward at the proper time may find themselves absolutely precluded from adducing it at all, or at least only allowed to do so on payment of substantial costs to the other side, and on such other terms as the Court thinks fit to impose.

Parties desirous to enforce the attendance of witnesses required. It is indispensable that the application should be made so as to allow time for reasonable notice to the witnesses required.

If the witness is required to bring books or papers, they must be particularized in the summons sufficiently to enable him to understand what is required.

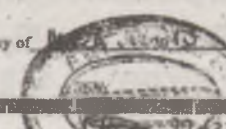
Any party summoning a witness through the Court, thereby becomes liable to pay such witness a reasonable sum of money to be fixed by the Court, for his expense and loss of time.


The Court may refuse to enforce the attendance of a witness unless such sum has been first deposited in the Court.

If either party desires to use in evidence at the hearing any book or document in the possession or power of the other party, he must give the other party reasonable notice in writing to produce it at the hearing, failing which he will not be allowed to give any secondary evidence of its contents.

Dated at Abuja this 22nd day of March, 2010

By order of the Court


 22/3/10



National Population Commission

The National Population Commission will conduct a National Workshop on the Housing component of the 2006 Census.

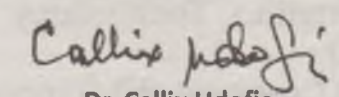
Date: Thursday, 25th March, 2010
 Venue: Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Centre, Abuja.
 Time: 10.00 a.m. prompt

Guest speaker: **Professor Sam Aluko**
 former Chairman,
 National Economic Intelligence Committee

Invited participants include: **Senator Hosea Ehinlowo**, Chairman, Senate Committee on National ID Card and Population and Honourable **James Baitachi**, Chairman, House Committee on Population. Others are representatives of Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Development Partners, Academia, Media, Civil Society Groups, Non-Governmental Organizations, Community and Faith-Based Organizations, the Organised Private Sector and Traditional Institutions.

Invitees are expected to be at the venue by 9.30 a.m.

National Population Commission... Providing Data for Planning!


Dr. Callix Udofia
 Director, Public Affairs
 For: Chairman, National Population Commission



**NATIONAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (NITDA)**

FEDERAL MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

28, Port Harcourt Crescent, Off Gimbiya Street, Area 11,
P.M.B 564, Garki, Abuja

TEL:09-3142925. FAX: 09-3142924

National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) hereby invites competent consultants and other service providers to apply to be pre-qualified to tender for Structural and Human Resource Management Audit.

STRUCTURAL AUDIT

SPECIFICATION OF WORK

- (i) Review the structure of the Agency at present and identify any gaps;
- (ii) Review the mandate of the Agency and propose an appropriate structure suitable to support the mandate of the Agency.

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONAL PROCESSES AUDIT

SPECIFICATION OF WORK

- (i) Undertake departmental and staff job description, job analysis, and job evaluation (for the purposes of staff placement and remuneration)
- (ii) Develop a staff handbook and conditions of service (including issues of Career projection, capacity building);
- (iii) Analyze the operations and governance of the Agency.

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- (i) Profile of the company;
- (ii) Relevant projects executed;
- (iii) Technical personnel in the project;
- (iv) Evidence of registration with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC);
- (v) Evidence of registration with NITDA;
- (vi) Evidence of current tax clearance certificate for 3years;
- (vii) Relevant information concerning contacts e.g. telephone, e-mail address, website, e.t.c of the company.

The entire document required should be submitted within 14 days from the date of the publication to the office of the:

Director-General/CEO
National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA),
28 Portharcourt Crescent, off Gimbiya Street, Area 11, Garki, Abuja.



**NATIONAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (NITDA)**

FEDERAL MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

28, Port Harcourt Crescent, Off Gimbiya Street, Area 11,
P.M.B 564, Garki, Abuja

TEL:09-3142925. FAX: 09-3142924

The National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) hereby invites competent consultants and other service providers to apply to be pre-qualified to tender for NITDA Computer Appreciation Courses.

COMPUTER APPRECIATION COURSE

SPECIFICATION OF WORK

(i) Acquiring Computer Skill

- Microsoft Windows
- Using Microsoft Word
- Microsoft Excel
- Microsoft Access
- Microsoft PowerPoint

(ii) IT and Society

(iii) IT Security Issues

(iv) IT in Legislation

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- (i) Profile of the company;
- (ii) Relevant projects executed;
- (iii) Technical personnel in the project;
- (iv) Evidence of registration with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC);
- (v) Evidence of registration with NITDA;
- (vi) Evidence of current tax clearance certificate for 3years;
- (vii) Relevant information concerning contacts e.g. telephone, e-mail address, website, e.t.c of the company.

The entire document required should be submitted within 14 days from the date of the publication to the office of the:

Director-General/CEO
National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA),
28 Portharcourt Crescent, off Gimbiya Street, Area 11, Garki, Abuja.

Inside Politics

Jos crises, failure of leadership – Haroun Audu

HAROUN Audu, an Hausa man and a Christian was born and brought up in Jos where his Hausa kinsmen have been up in arms with the local Berom people. In this interview, Audu, a lawyer, speaks on the many contentious issues. Excerpts:

By Suleiman M. Bisalla

YOU have lived in Jos for quite some time even though you are not from Plateau, what strikes you about the deterioration of the peace, which Jos is known for?

Fundamentally, the issue surrounding the recurrent violence in Jos, starting with the divisions in Jos North, reflect poor leadership on the part of the major contenders in the matter. There has been a failure on the part of traditional leaders, community leaders, and political leaders to give direction as to how contentious issues can be resolved within the context of a common agreement that living together is better than fighting one another. Again there is the inability of these leaders to eschew, or reduce the place of religion in these disagreements. The political leadership in this country must recognise that everything religion is personal to the believer.

Unfortunately for a lot of the political class in Nigeria, and that is what is playing out in Jos North, they will rather run to the umbrella of religion to win sympathy because that is what suits them.

YOU are an Hausa man and a Christian; and that you are living in Jos North where the Hausa-Fulani who are predominantly Muslims are fighting with the local tribes that are predominantly Christians. How do you find yourself in this saddle?

I always tell people when I am asked that I would like to declare my assets. I say I'm not from Plateau State. In the context of the word 'settler', I am a settler in Plateau State. But I'm a settler who can assert certain rights to the extent that I know that survival is about negotiations. I cannot force my way to receive what's not mind but if I so desire to have it, I will negotiate and make sure that other party sees my point of view on the basis of a win-win situation. I found the disagreements in parts of Jos largely superfluous because of the so called indigene trying to assert indigene's right and the so called settler trying to assert 'settler-ship' rights, if there is anything like that. I was born in Jos and so I can speak about the kind of leadership Jos North should have so that the people experience growth and progress in their businesses. I am not a fan of the PDP but I know that isolated instances in my home state of Kaduna where Makarfi was

such a fantastic governor showcased the fact that it is the person not the party that matters. What we have in Jos North is the determination of the dominant political party, the PDP, to want to have its way at all cost failing to take into account there is a substantial population within Jos North that is also a stakeholder that you cannot wish away. They have rights; they have stakes, and in fact the stake they hold is in such a great number that after the creation of Jos North, one of the first executive chairmen was a so called settler and his win was as a result of the consensus that was build across several stakeholders including the Afizeres, the Anagutas, the Beroms and of course the settler elements.

But the PDP in its short-sighted wisdom thought in 2008 that the way to go was to promote largely isolationist tendency in terms of the candidates that will represent Jos North. That's one element that gave the impression of a deliberate attempt by the PDP to 'capture' Jos north at all cost, irrespective of the sentiments and emotions of the other stakeholders. We have seen even within the PDP how disagreements emerged because of this attitude. Our good friend Timothy Buba [Jos North council chairman] was perceived to be first, a candidate of the government; secondly, a relation of the government and thirdly, a relation of the paramount ruler [Gbond Gwom] who was foisted on the people.

I think at that point in time it should have been revealed to whoever is promoting that idea that the thing to do was to begin to build consensus around other issues of common interest so that the chairmanship is seen as just one of the so called cake that is available and open up opportunity for other stakeholders to also have a sense of belonging. But thank God we have seen how the courts tended to demonstrate that there was some underhand business. But I have issues with the inability of the other stakeholders to challenge that brazen emasculation of democracy.

I would have imagined that given the amount of evidence available to the other stakeholders regarding the manipulation of the elections, the way to go was the tribunal rather than calling out street urchins to come out and demonstrate.

Something that started in Jos North has spread to some parts of Jos South and even

beyond. What would you say was responsible?

Again we return to what I see as failure of leadership. January 17th, the undercurrents were there that something could happen in Jos North but we did not see beyond the few press conferences that were addressed by some 'minority' stakeholders. They could talk but they couldn't influence policy. We didn't see a proactive engagement of such revelations by the state government. I thought that the political leadership in Plateau State, the government ought to have stepped out. But for some reasons, I cannot understand why after the crisis of Nasarawa on Jan 17 and Congo Russia on Jan 19, we did not see the forceful presence of the governor of Plateau State to personally show up at the scene of disagreements to mobilise community leadership from the ward, the district to the local government and hold religious leaders and community leaders around those areas accountable.

Indeed the argument has been made and I think with substantial truth in it, that it took the arrival of then Vice President Goodluck Jonathan for the governor of Plateau State to visit some of the scenes. We know that when it happened in Jos North on Sunday 17th, again on Tuesday 19th, it became very bad around Congo Russia; Bukuru answered and then we had the tragedy of Kuru Karama. For some strange reasons again we did not see the governor showing empathy by visiting the places. It now created what we call a lacuna in law. We did not see the governor mobilising the political leadership and making the necessary statements that will build confidence. So once that failure became obvious, people thought there was no government. Now that is dangerous because anytime the authority gives an impression of having gone to sleep, you leave the state for all manner of charlatans to take over. And with profound sense of regrets we have seen how this has continue to throw up other challenges –Kuru Karma, Dogo Na Hauwa and recently, Riyom.

On Jang's performance

One of the things that is going for Jang is the notion widely believed by many people including myself that he has the commitment to work for the growth and development of Plateau State. From the word go, he is the kind of person that will not allow a deliberate misapplication or



HAROUN Audu

misappropriation of state resources, either to wrongful projects or personal gains. Since he became governor, we have seen how he set out his agenda to transform the urban centres and rural areas.

But we have also seen how some of these projects are taking very long. Well his aides have made the point that the projects are taking time because the quality is key, and we agree. I think clearly what we can say about him is that he is not a thief. I had course to discuss with him and he told me that he would like to be investigated. He said he has only one house in the whole world and that was the house I was talking to him.

How will you see what is happening in the context of the sort of advice or lack of it that he is getting from those close to him?

Jang has been governor in Gongola and Benue states and held high ranking military commands in the Airforce, therefore we imagine a personality with a cosmopolitan and open world view. We imagine a personality whose conduct and utterances will reflect a global world view. But lately, we have found out that perhaps out of frustration, and that is rather un-

sual or unfortunate, the governor has been reported to make statements that reflect a narrow world view. He was at the State House in Abuja and asked about the fact that some none Plateau state people are leaving the state in droves because of the crisis, his answer left a very sour after taste. I thought it was not true when somebody drew my attention and I was forced to look up the newspapers and I discovered he was quoted verbatim. But like I said it might be out of frustration because he cannot claim to know that Plateau State has always been a very cosmopolitan state. I thought it was a narrow view point for the chief executive of the state to make statements reflecting I don't care attitude. So almost immediately, one would have expected his advisers to rally round so that another statement can be issued to clarify his statement so as to build confidence and win the trust of people. Yes he might have said it but this is the context.

This goes to the heart of your question: what quality of advice is Governor Jang getting, especially now that he is a governor in a civilian democracy where there are contending parties who by constitutional rights could voice their opposition and frustration.

Inside Politics

'Albishir will take over Yobe if he leaves ANPP'

From Isa Umar Gusau, Maiduguri

SENATOR Usman Albishir stands a chance of winning the 2011 governorship elections in Yobe state if he leaves the ruling All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) to contest on a different platform, Yobe's former commissioner of finance and key associate of Albishir, Alhaji Lawan Maigoroma has said.

Maigoroma who spoke to our correspondent on phone was reacting to a statement in yesterday's edition of *Daily Trust*, credited to a member of House of Representatives Goni Bukar Lawan, who said

Albishir "will be making a mistake" and will risk losing his status as political godfather if he leaves the ANPP.

The Albishir's associate however said: "even from the report, one can clearly see that speculations to the effect that Albishir is decamping to PDP are making the government and its followers to lose sleep. If leaving the ANPP is a mistake, what is their concern? They must be jittery. They know very well that Albishir has the support of the grassroots in Yobe and he was responsible for the success of the party since 1999 and 2007. Insha-Allah, he will win the elections."

Zamfara ANPP in court over defected lawmakers

From Sadeeq Aliyu, Gusau

THE All Nigeria Peoples Party [ANPP] in Zamfara state has asked the Federal High court in Gusau to order the Independent National Electoral Commission [INEC] to conduct bye-election for the seats of state legislators who decamped to PDP recently.

In a plea entered before the court, ANPP counsel Barrister Mohammed Sani Katu said they had earlier joined the 22 legislators in the matter but filed an application seeking the court to strike out their names because by virtue of section 109 of the 1999 constitution, they seized to be members of the state

Assembly since March, 3rd 2010 when they defected to PDP.

He said, in the circumstance, ANPP is only asking the court to compel INEC to conduct bye-election to fill the vacant seats left by the legislators. Counsel to the legislators Aminu Junaidu said he had not been served with the application.

Opposition groups demand withdrawal of INEC's election time tables

By Abbas Jimoh

THE federal government has been urged to reject the proposed two time tables released by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) for the coming 2011 general elections and commence the implementation of Justice Lawal Uwais Report with the removal of INEC chairman, Prof Maurice Iwu.

Opposition parties and groups including the

National Democratic Movement (NDM), Coalition of Democrats for Electoral reform (CODER), Alliance for Credible Election (ACE), Good Governance Group (3G) and Make Your Votes Count made the call yesterday in Abuja at the end of a one-day stakeholders conference on electoral reform.

The group said that INEC's release of proposed dates of elections depicts the contempt with which Iwu holds Nigerians and

its institutions, like the National Assembly which is in the middle of the amendments to the relevant electoral laws.

A communique signed by the representatives of the groups, Malam Sule Hamma (NDM), Ayo Opa-dokun (CODER), Emma Ezeazu (ACE) and Salihu Lukman (3G) also advised the National Assembly to hasten the amendment of the Electoral Act to avoid undermining the electoral reform process.

Southern Borno urges Jonathan on ministerial appointment

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

THE Southern Borno 2011 Group has called on the Acting President, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan to consider a credible and qualified candidate from Southern Borno for ministerial appointment in the ongoing nomination process.

President of the group,

Alhaji Ibrahim Hassan, who made the call yesterday in Abuja told journalists that Southern Borno has always been marginalized in political appointments. He said the region only had a Minister of State under the leadership of Chief Olusegun Obasanjo.

While urging the Acting President to appoint educated and experienced peo-

ple in the new cabinet, the group made a case for Dr. Habu Mohammed, the Yarmiman Kida of Biu whom it said the people of southern Borno had zeroed on as a consensus nominee.

The group also advised the Acting President to remain focused and be guided by the principle of merit in his choice of ministers.

PUBLIC NOTICE

EXTERNAL AUDITORS REQUIRED

A regulatory body in the financial services sector of the Nigeria Economy is in search of reputable External Auditors with good track records in auditing to carry out the annual audit of its financial statements.

Interested firms are invited to submit a written proposal along with the following documents:

- Evidence of registration with Office of the Accountant General of Federation
- Evidence of incorporation with the Corporate Affairs Commission, CAC
- A brief corporate profile of firm indicating years of experience in providing these services
- Sample of clientele
- List of professional staff
- Evidence of tax payment and clearance
- VAT registration and evidence of remittances in the last one year

All documents must be forwarded in sealed envelopes marked "Proposal for External Audit Services" and addressed to:

The Advertiser,
P.M.B.457, Garki
Abuja

The deadline for submission of proposals is three weeks from the date of this publication.

TRUST CLASSIFIED

DESTINY SAVERS FOUNDATION

This is to inform the general public that the above named organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for the registration under part "C" of the Companies Allied Matters Act No. 1 of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. ENGR. CHUKWUDUBE ACHUFUSI
2. NKECHINYERE ACHUFUSI
3. MRS. REGINA ACHUFUSI
4. IFEOMA ACHUFUSI
5. SHAMMAH ACHUFUSI
6. JUBILEE ACHUFUSI

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. To render help to the needy (beggars, orphans, widows and less privileged).
2. To distribute food items, provisions and other essentials to the less privileged and prisoners.
3. To provide educational facilities, trainings and accommodations to the less privileged.

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 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
JOEL A. N. OKOLI, Esq.

AZUKA FOUNDATION

This is to inform the general public that the above named Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for the registration under part "C" of the Companies Allied Matters Act No. 1 of 1990.

The Trustees are:

1. Honourable (Chief) Chris Chukwubuzor Azuka
2. Humphrey Sunny Chuku Umeh
3. Chief John Udeagha
4. Pastor Onyeka Michael

Aims and objectives:

To promote the well being of the less-privileged youth morally, socially, educationally, e.t.c.

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 28 days of this publication.

Signed: Secretary

WISDOM AND RHEMA FAITH INTERNATIONAL 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. Gabriel Isreal
2. Grace Enoh Okoro
3. Nicholas Anthony Isreal
4. Mary Gabriel Isreal
5. Cyril Williams

Aims and objectives:

1. Propagation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
2. To train, license and ordain ministries for the expansion of the work of the ministry.

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. Edozo Victor

ASSOCIATION OF GOMBE STATE INDIGENE KANO STATE CHAPTER

The general public is hereby notified that the above named body has applied for registration to the corporate affairs commission under part c of the companies and allied matters decree of 1990:

The trustees are

1. ALH. IBRAHIM KAABO -CHAIRMAN
2. ALH. DANLADI ABDULLAHI -SEC
3. ALH. GAMBO ISARI
4. ALH. MOHD ALIYU
5. ALH. ABDULLAHI YAKUBU (HAKIMIN PANTANI)

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

1. To promote enhance and safeguard unity and cooperation between and among members of the association as well as people of Gombe and Kano State.

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the registrar General Corporate affairs commission, wuse zone 5 Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed
Abdullahi M. Inuwa Esq.

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

This is to notify the general public of the Loss of Original Re-Certification and Re-insurance of C of O Acknowledgement for Plot No. 1238

Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and Title Regularization Bill in Respect of Plot No 1238 in Wuse II, Abuja, Old File Number BO1225, new file Number AD10538 in the name of Alhaji Rambo M. Ngubdo dated 06/13/05.

If found please contact the nearest Police Station or AGIS.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of the Original Acknowledgement Letter with File No. OS 10315 in respect of Plot 347, located at Katampe, Abuja issued on 28/07/1993 measuring 690.30sqm belonging to Adeola Idowu Adedeji now sold to Mr. Eris Erhiganoma. All efforts made to trace it proved abortive. If found, please contact the undersigned or return to the nearest Police State. AGIS, FCDA and the general public to note please.

Barr. Imuetiyan Ifaluyi-Isibor
08035772543

EVERGREEN PEACE INITIATIVE

This is to inform the general public that the above named initiative has applied for registration to the Corporate Affairs Commission under part C of the Company and Allied Matters Act 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE

1. Mrs. Margaret Odey - Chairman
2. Mr. Hillary I. Odey - Member
3. Mr. Godwin Odey - Secretary
4. Mr. Elijah Odey - Member
5. Mr. Michael Idiku - Member
6. Mr. Justice N. Afibi - Member

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To support and foster peace during and after election and to encourage the establishment of platform for unity and understanding.
2. Containing the ingredient that will promote and support the political and economical interest of the 140m or more human being who constitute the Nigeria State today.

Any objective to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General Corporate Affairs Commission 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, PMB 198, Maitama Abuja within twenty eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed
Secretary

UNILAG CHEMICAL ENGINEERING ALUMNI FRIENDS ASSOCIATION RC: 26331

This is to notify the general public that the above named organization have applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission to change her name, Reconstitute her board of trustees and amend her constitution.

THE PROPOSED NEW NAME IS

UNILAG CHEMENG ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The new Board of trustees are as follows:

- MR. OLAWALE JOSE OGUNDANA - RETAINED
MR. AKEEM OLAWALE OGUNYELE - RETAINED
MR. ANTHONY UDECHUKWU OGBUIGWE - NEWLY APPOINTED
MRS. OLUREMI BOLANDEAYEMI - NEWLY APPOINTED
DR. DAVID STAN ARIBIKE - NEWLY APPOINTED
RESIGNED TRUSTEES

MR. OLAREWAJU OLADIMEJI ALAIN - RESIGNED
MR. OLUWATOYIN OLUKAYODE DADA - RESIGNED

AMENDMENT

To reflect the new name in all documents and amend the number of trustees and any other necessary changes.

Any objection to the following proposed changes should be forwarded to the Registrar General Corporate Affairs Commission, plot 420, Tigris Crescent Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of publication.

Signed:
Secretary

ORPHANS AND WOMEN SUPPORT FOUNDATION

This is to inform the general public that the above named Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Aisha Datti Abubakar | 2. Yaiwalli Ado Bayero |
| 3. Samira Sanda | 4. Hanifa Datti Abubakar |
| 5. Nabila Datti Abubakar | 6. Sakina Datti Abubakar |
| 7. Abbas Tijani Hashim | 8. Dr. Kabir Haruna Danja |
| 9. Mariya Tijani Hashim | 10. Zainab Ladan Bashir |

Aims and objectives:

1. To support the Orphan and widows in the society.
 2. To sensitize the people on the need to care for the orphans.
 3. To source basic material needs for human living and distribute to the orphan such as food, shelter, clothing etc.
- 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:
Aisha Datti Abubakar

AZHABUL KAHF GOLDEN FOUNDATION

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Foundation has applied to Corporate Affairs Commission for registration in accordance with Companies and Allied Matters Act NO. 1 of 1990 Part C.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Owokunle Olatubode Azeez - Chairman
2. Abdulazeez Olanrewaju Isiak - Secretary
3. Badiru Saheed - Financial Secretary
4. Adeleke AbdulAkeem - Welfare Director
5. Adebayo Nurudeen - Member
6. Saliu Ayoola Moshood - Member
7. Bolajoko Raifu - Member
8. Akolade Kazeem Akande - Member
9. Balogun Adegunsoye - Member

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. To strengthen brotherhood among Muslims.
2. Create avenue for brothers to discuss life challenging issues and to proffer solutions.
3. To educate, enlighten and propagate Islam etiquette to the larger world.
4. Rendering of humanitarian services
5. To participate actively in societal development in politics in line with Islamic injunction.
6. To participate in all legal business that can uplift the organization financially.

Any objection to this 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:
Owokunle Olatubode A.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as ADAMU JOSHUA now wish to be known as ADAMU JOSHUA AREWA. All former documents remain valid. Nigeria Defence Academy and the general public should take note.

I, formerly known as JOSEPH JEREMIAH NILE now wish to be known as JOSEPH JEREMIAH MAFUYAI. All former documents remain valid. University of Jos, Nigeria Law School, NYSC and the general public to take note.

I, formerly called MISS FAGBOHUNGBE REBECCA OMOLOLA, now wish to be called MRS FASEYI REBECCA OMOLOLA. All former documents remain valid. FRSC and public to take note.

I formerly known as SUMAYYA ABUBAKAR now wish to be known as MRS SUMAYYA AWWAL I. MAGASHI. All former documents remain valid. General public to note.

I, formerly known and addressed as MISS RINGSH BLESSING MOSES, now wish to be called as MRS CHOJI BLESSING. All former documents remain valid. CRUSADER PENSION GROUP LIFE and general public take note.

I formerly known as MISS ADAMA MUHAMMAD AHMAD wish to be addressed as MRS ADAMA MUHAMMAD USMAN. Former documents remain valid. NYSC and General Public to Note.

I formerly MISS ADOLPHUS UZOMA Now wish to be called as MRS IBEANU UZOMA. All former documents remain valid ECOBANK, ESUT and general public should take note

I formerly SAMAILA ABUBAKAR Now wish to be called as ISMAIL ABUBAKAR. All former documents remain valid general public should take note

I formerly MISS OLUWASEUN JOSEPHINE IYABODE OJESANMI. Now wish to be called as MRS OLUWASEUN JOSEPHINE IYABODE AKEREIE. All former documents remain valid general public should take note.

I, formerly known as AMINA ADAMU SALIHU, now wish to be called ZAINAB ADAMU SALIHU. All former documents remain valid. Nassarawa LEA and NTI Kano should take note.

I, formerly known as SUSAN AKUNNA OKAFOR, now wish to be addressed as MRS SUSAN AKUNNA IKEJI. All former documents remain valid. University of Calabar take note.

I, formerly called MISS SURAYYA MUKHTAR ATAMMA now wish to be called MRS SURAYYA MUKHTAR ATAMMA. All former documents remain valid. Bayero University Kano, NYSC and the public to note.

I, formerly VICTORIA DIGGA now MRS VICTORIA EZEKIEL ILIYA AHMADU. Former documents valid. UNIBUJA, NYSC and general public to take note.

I, formerly known as EDOBOR MABEL now wish to be known as MRS WILLIAMS UCHE LOVELYN. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as MRS OBIH ROSELINE NNEMDI now wish to be addressed as MRS NNEMDI ROSELINE UCHENNA-OBIH. All former documents remain valid. IMSU and general public please note.

I, formerly known as CHETUYA FOLLEY MASSAGUE now wish to be known as CHETUYA JOSEPH CHINEDU. All former documents remain valid. General public note.

TRUST CLASSIFIED

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

The general public is hereby notified of the Loss of Original offer of statutory right of occupancy No. MISC 102843 in respect of plot 2383 Maitama Abuja belonging to De Alpha Aluminum Ltd.

If found please contact the nearest police station or Abuja Geographic Information System.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of land title document belonging to Alhaji Mohammed Attahiru in respect of Plot No. 307 Cadastral Zone B05 Utako, Abuja. All efforts made to trace it proved abortive. If found, please return to Alhaji Ibrahim Mohammed of No. 17, Mississippi, Maitama, Abuja or the nearest Police Station, AGIS, FCDA and the general public to note please.

HOPE VISION FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT & HEALTHCARE INITIATIVE

This is to inform the general public that the above named Initiative has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Inemesit Akwa
2. David Edoho
3. Margaret Odiong

Aims and objectives:

1. To promote and support poverty alleviation through economic empowerment of youths, women and children especially the girl child.
2. To support facilitate and run systems that will promote provide standardized and material healthcare all levels.

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

ISAIAH BALAT 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. SENATOR ISAIAH CHAWAI BALAT
2. H.R.H. UFUWAI BONEI
3. ALHAJI IBRAHIM YARO
4. MRS LINDA SHEKARRI
5. MONSIGNOR MATTHEW HASSAN KUKAH
6. DR. ADDO YUSUF

THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES ARE:

1. TO SENSITIZE AND ENLIGHTEN THE PUBLIC ON THE SCOURGE OF HIV/AIDS AND TO SUPPLY DRUGS AND OTHER MATERIAL SUPPORTS TO PEOPLE AND GROUPS LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS
2. TO PROMOTE AND PROVIDE MATERIAL SUPPORT TO INSTITUTIONS FOR EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, INITIATE PROGRAMMES TO ENGENDER SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, POVERTY REDUCTION, YOUTHS AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

ANY OBJECTION TO THE REGISTRATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION PLOT 420 TIGRIS CRESCENT, OFF AGUIYI IRONSI STREET, MAITAMA ABUJA. WITHIN 28 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION.

SIGNED

ZAKARIA SOGFA ESQ
CALVARY CHAMBERS, ABUJA

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as MISS ROSE EKANEM now wish to be addressed as MRS ROSE EBITEMEKURO OKARA. All former documents remain valid, general public to note.

I, formerly known and called ZAKARI UMARU now wants to be addressed as ZAKARI UMARU KIGBU. All documents remain valid. The general public should take note.

I, formerly called IBRAHIM NAKANDE now wish to be called IBRAHIM RAMAT UMAR. All former documents remain valid. General public to note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as MISS HALIMA BADAMASI now wish to be called MRS HALIMA BADAMASI. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly CSP MOHAMMED IYA UMAR now wish to be called CSP. MOHAMMED MAHMUD UMAR. All former documents remain valid. Police Authority & Usman Danfodio University to take note.

I, formerly known as MISS COMFORT GWUSE YAAYA, now wish to be addressed as MRS. COMFORT GWUSE AUBIOROKOMA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as OTTEY MARCELES OLOUMA now wished to be known and addressed as OTTEY KELECHI HARRISON. All former documents remain valid. General Public take Notice.

I, formerly known as EDEGBO CHARITY IYE now to be known as MRS CHARITY MICHEAL SHAIBU. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public please note.

I, formerly known as MISS HAUWA YAKUBU now wish to be called MRS HAUWA ABUBAKAR. All former documents remain valid, general public to note.

To Our Esteemed Readers, Advertisers and Contributors

POLICY ON PUBLICATION OF ADVERTORIALS, PETITIONS AND RELATED MATERIALS

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

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

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

The new policy is depicted hereunder

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

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

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

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

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

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

Signed:
MANAGEMENT



SPORT

FIFA approves
NFF
statutes

Page 54



Mikel: Kanu, Utaka will feel Chelsea fury

By Ismaila Lere, with Agency reports

SUPER Eagles midfielder John Mikel Obi is blowing hot with fury, following two stumbling matches in the space of five days with his English Premiership side, Chelsea. The youngster is seeking a route to hope, revival and comfort as he travels with his team mates to Fratton Park to face troubled Portsmouth tonight.

Ironically, Mikel is set to take his anger out on two of his compatriots - Nwankwo Kanu and John Utaka. But it surely will not be an evening for the youngster to frivel with the Nigeria duo.

Kanu is still basking in the euphoria of his late match-winner against Hull City at the weekend and is banking on the same sprit to aid his beleaguered club out of relegation struggle.

However, Mikel has already fired the embers of discord, with a bold declaration that Chelsea need Wednesday's match more than any thing and has joined in the chorus from the crew and players at Stamford Bridge that 'beating Pompey is a must' for the squad.

Mikel conceded that there were basic errors in The Blues' 1-1 draw away to Blackburn Rovers on Sunday, which followed their exit from the UEFA Champions League at the hands of Jose Mourinho's Inter Milan.

However, the former Lyn Oslo of Norway star besieges Chelsea have the opportunity to right the wrongs when they take on Portsmouth at Fratton Park.

"I think the belief, mentality and everything is still there. In football sometimes you have a bad spell and we are having ours right now.

"We played a very good game in the first half on Sunday but in the



JOHN Obi Mikel

second we didn't fight well enough. We made the mistakes, so we have to repair it," said Mikel.

The 22-year-old insisted, however, that a recent team meeting with Chelsea owner, Roman Abramovich was not to read the riot act to the players but for the Russian billionaire to show his support.

"We are all professionals and

when things are not going well we mustn't be down. This is when we need everyone to show support and to be together; team, fans and coaching staff.

"Hopefully, we can put things right by the end of the season. It has been really, really difficult but the manager has been there for us and we all are sticking together.

"We have a game against Port-



NWANKWO Kanu

smouth and we have to go there and win," said the holding midfielder cum playmaker.

Mikel also took a look at last weekend's encounter at Ewood Park and says Chelsea lacked "fight" in their 1-1 draw at Blackburn Rovers.

He recalled that The Blues dropped their heads in the second-half. Mikel said: "We were in a good

position, 1-0 up, but we didn't continue to play well as we did in the first half when we had control.

"We had chances and we scored the goal but in the second half we just didn't fight well enough.

"You can't always play good football, sometimes you need to fight and we just did not do that well enough in the second half," said Mikel.

Court warns NPL against going ahead with election

By Orkula Shaagee

AN Abuja Federal High Court yesterday warned the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), the Nigeria Football League Limited (NFL) and other parties in the suit filed by Dr. Sam Sam Jaja not to undermine the powers of the court by proceeding with the stalled NPL election pending the determination of the case before it.

The Nigeria Premier League, through its Executive Secretary Al-Hassan Yakmut last week said

if given the go ahead by the Nigeria Football Federation it would conduct the election, regardless of the pending court cases.

But the Abuja Federal High Court presided over by Justice D.U Okorowo warned against that decision, even as it also obtained a written undertaking signed by counsel to the respondents, Patrick Okolo, barring the nation's football ruling body from carrying out its threat to sanction Jaja or any act that may be prejudicial to the plaintiff's right to contest the said election.

Jaja had challenged his purported disqualification which he insists is arbitrary, null and void. He also questioned the legality of the constitution of the electoral panel which he said was done without due regard for Article 11(c) 2 of the NPL Status which expressly recommended that the panel must have two lawyers of at least ten years standing, among other prayers.

Acting on the plea made by Chukwuemeka Okoro counsel to Jaja, for the court to protect his client from further infraction of his

rights, Justice Okorowo demanded that the respondents must not only observe the status quo pending the determination of the suit but also sign an undertaking to obey the orders of the court.

"I hereby rule that in view of the urgency of the matter the status quo be observed by all the parties and the matter be given an accelerated hearing," Justice Okorowo ruled.

Earlier counsel to Jaja, Chukwuemeka Okoro had informed the court of the NPL's stance to go ahead with election irrespective of

the decision of the court.

But Okolo counsel of NFF countered the submission which he said is a mere speculation and not backed by facts.

He was however forced to capitulate when a certified copy of newspaper reports confirming the position of the federation was tendered before the court.

The matter was adjourned to April 15, 2010 to enable counsel to the defendants file preliminary objection to the originating summons.

FIFA approves NFF statutes

By Orkula Shaagee

THE world football governing body, FIFA has approved the recent amendments made to the statutes of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) for use at the Federation's coming election in August.

The Federation announced in Abuja yesterday after its emergency meeting without giving details on the issue.

A member of the board, Chief Solomon Ogba told reporters that NFF General Secretary Chief Bolaji Ojo-Oba has been mandated to write a letter of appreciation to the world football governing body for approving the statutes which were endorsed at the NFF Extra-Ordinary Meeting late last year.

"Committee has asked General Secretary to write FIFA and express appreciation to the world football governing body for the final approval given to amendments to the NFF Statutes, which had been endorsed by the NFF Extra-Ordinary General Meeting of 29th December, 2009", Ogba stated.

Similarly, Ogba said Ojo-Oba was directed to write to FIFA conveying informing it of the on-goings concerning the elections of the Nigeria Premier League, particularly the use of regular courts to settle electoral disputes by stakeholders.

Tennis: Ndanusa assures on adequate security

PREPARATION for the African Junior Tennis Championship which holds between March 28 and April 12 in Abuja is on top gear.

The President of Nigeria Tennis Federation (NTF), Engr. Sani Ndanusa told sports journalist yesterday that Nigeria is ready to host the 33rd edition of the African cadet tennis tournament.

Speaking through his vice president, Mr. Yemi Awoseni, Ndanusa assured participants of adequate security during championship.

"The security arrangement for the championship has been put in place and the tournament venue have been secured by the security agents.

The crises in Jos, though has been effectively curtailed does not affect Lagos, Abuja and indeed any other city in Nigeria. As such, players and officials are assured of adequate security," he said.

The former sports minister declared that all 21 tennis courts, including 14 brand new playing surfaces, will be ready before the commencement of the championship, adding that Nigeria will be represented by 18 players, seven girls and eleven boys.

"The tournament would bring together the prominent youth players, officials and spectators from African, European and Asian continents to fraternise as one big family," he stated.

He also added that "the event is the biggest ever African Junior Tennis Championships to be staged in the sub-region of West Africa for the very first time."



KYLE Lowry of the Houston Rockets puts up a shot between Hakim Warrick and Derrick Rose of the Chicago Bulls at the United Center on Sunday in Chicago, Illinois, United States.

Basketball: Nigeria not qualified to host Africa - Skambo

By David Ngobua

EVEN as most Nigerian basketball stakeholders are still in pains over the failure of the country to win the hosting right for the 2011 Africa Nations basketball Championship, former D'Tigers star player, Pastor Skambo Morrison has said Nigeria is not qualified to host the 2011 Championship.

Last Saturday, Federation of International Basketball Association, FIBA Africa, awarded the hosting right to Ivory Coast after the Nigeria Basketball Federation, NBBF, honourably bowed out of the race citing the recent dissolution of the federal cabinet as one of the reasons for that decision to withdraw.

The country was unable to provide financial guarantee in the tune of 1.5million euro

which FIBA Africa demanded from countries that were bidding for the hosting right.

Speaking to Trustsports yesterday in Abuja, the former basketball star said Nigeria had nothing on ground to warrant her bidding for such a major Championship.

He said it is a pity that why a country like Angola is thinking of hosting the whole world, Nigeria which claims to be the giant of Africa could not clinch the hosting right for a continental Championship.

Skambo who captained Nigerian junior team before he went out to feature prominently in the senior national team said the country lacks the necessary facilities for hosting such a Championship as he maintained that even for the poorly organized League in the country, there

are no adequate facilities.

"We do not qualified to even bid to host the continental Championship. Even if we were awarded the hosting right, where are the facilities? We are talking about a continental championship that requires modern facilities. Apart from Nestle Milo and Ahmadu Bello University which boast of wooden basketball courts, where else can we find such facilities?", he asked.

He said that successive leaderships of the Nigeria basketball federation did not do anything in terms of developing the facilities which would make it easy for the country to be awarded such a hosting right.

The former international therefore urged the present leadership of the NBBF to leave a lasting legacy by ensuring that ultra-modern basketball facili-

ties are constructed across the country.

"If we insist that we deserve the hosting right for the 2011 Africa Championship, let us ask salient questions and be sincere with ourselves. Where are the facilities?. Do we have enough wooden basketball courts? What about ultra-modern projectors and cameras? Does it mean we wanted to just collect the hosting right and then embark on another fire brigade exercise?"

Skambo maintained that the time to begin preparation for another bid is now and it should start with provision of the necessary facilities.

He added: "Let us humble ourselves and begin preparations in earnest. If we want to host future Championships, we must start building the needed facilities now".

Kawu tips Eagles to overrun Niger

HOME-BASED Super Eagles will overrun their Niger Republic counterparts on Sunday if they are allowed to prepare for the match without distractions, a Kano state government official has said.

Alhaji Ahmad Muhammad, Special Adviser to the Kano State Governor on Sports Development, who said this yesterday in Abuja, said the team has all it takes to overcome all opposition.

The Nigerian team face their Nigerian counterparts in the second leg match of their 2011

African Nations Championship (CHAN) first qualifying round pairing.

The match against the Mena of Niger is billed for the Sani Abacha Stadium in Kano on Sunday, March 28, 2010.

The visitors are holding a 2-0 advantage from the first leg match played in Niamey about 10 days ago.

"I know that the team can do it, given the calibre of players in camp right now, and the capability of the technical crew.

"The team has also been training hard for the game since they returned from Niamey," he said.

The Special Adviser said the team was also having in its favour the support of both the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) and the government and people of Kano state.

"We know that the NFF, led by Alhaji Sani Lulu, believes in one Nigeria and our sports-loving governor in Kano state, Malam Ibrahim Shekarau, is also a true Nigerian.

"That is why the NFF took the match to Kano, and that is also why the governor has given all necessary support to Nigerian teams, especially the Super Eagles," he said.

Muhammad then assured all Nigerians that the people of Kano will come out en masse to give total support to the home-based Eagles with a view to ensure total victory at the end of the match.

He said the team would, given total support, succeed in its task of winning the game comfortably, despite fears about the weather.

Cech back for Chelsea

CHELSEA goalkeeper Petr Cech is fit to return for tonight's Premier League game at bottom club Portsmouth but defender Branislav Ivanovic will be sidelined for a month, manager Carlo Ancelotti told reporters yesterday.

The Italian also said Ashley Cole was back in light training after breaking his left ankle at Everton at the start of February and he expected the England defender to return to the first team before the end of the season.

Czech Republic keeper Cech has been out since he was carried off on a stretcher with a calf injury in the Champions League last-16 first leg match at Inter Milan on Feb. 24.

Third-choice keeper Ross Turnbull, who has played the last three games, will drop to the

Chelsea, who have 65 points from 30 matches, have a game in hand on Manchester United

bench against Portsmouth. Ancelotti also said he expected second-choice Henrique Hilario to be fit again for Saturday's home game against Aston Villa.

Serbia defender Ivanovic, who has played at full back for most of the season, limped off with knee ligament damage midway through Sunday's 1-1 draw at Blackburn Rovers.

"Ivanovic is an important player for us," Ancelotti said. "He is out for one month but we hope to recover him before this period."

"Fortunately we have Yuri Zhirkov recovered so we can put Paulo Ferreira at right back and Zhirkov at left back."

Chelsea, who have 65 points from 30 matches, have a game in hand on Manchester United and can move within one point of the Premier League leaders by winning tonight.

"The mood was not good after the Blackburn game because when we don't win we are disappointed," said Ancelotti, who believes a points tally of 86 will win the title.

"But we have a possibility to come back (strong) tomorrow."



AC Milan's playmaker Ronaldinho competes for the ball with Gianluca Grava of Napoli during their Serie A match at the San Siro stadium on Sunday. The Italian championship races down to a three-way battle between Inter, AC Milan and AS Roma.

Serie A title down to a 3-way fight

ALL of a sudden there's a three-way fight for the Serie A title. AC Milan trails leader Inter Milan by just one point and AS Roma is only four points back. With nine rounds remaining, it hasn't been this close in the Italian league in eight years.

"It's not easy to make predictions. It's an unusual season," Milan coach Leonardo said. "(Milan) has a lot of desire, Roma has had a good run of positive results and is trying to keep going, but Inter still has the ball in its hands."

With nine rounds remaining back in 2001-02, it was even closer with only two points separating the top three teams and Juventus ending up edging Roma by one point for the title, with Inter finishing two points back.

Inter hosts last-place Livorno in Wednesday's midweek round, Milan visits Parma and Roma plays at Bologna.

Inter playmaker Wesley Sneijder is likely to sit out against Livorno due to a minor muscle

problem, especially with two key matches to follow—Inter visits Roma on Saturday, then hosts CSKA Moscow in the opening leg of the Champions League quarter-finals four days later.

Livorno coach Serse Cosmi's job is on the line after a 3-0 loss to Atalanta last weekend.

Milan has more injury problems after forward Alexandre Pato was diagnosed with a muscle tear in his leg that will keep him out at least a month. Last week, defender Alessandro Nesta and David Beckham each had surgery.

Milan forward Marco Borriello has also had a series of physical problems, prompting Leonardo to recall 36-year-old striker Filippo Inzaghi to the starting lineup after a five-month absence for Milan's 1-1 draw with Napoli last weekend. Inzaghi scored a 26th-minute equalizer.

Will Inzaghi have another five months on the bench before he starts again?

"I hope not," he said. "I'm going to train with the same dedication

that I always do and hopefully persuade the coach to play me. Otherwise, I'll wait for my turn like always. The good of Milan comes before everything else."

"At the beginning of the season, nobody would have bet on us to fight for the title down to the end."

In Leonardo's first year in charge, Milan had a difficult start to the season, as did Roma, which quickly replaced coach Luciano Spalletti with Claudio Ranieri, who now has Roma playing the most consistent football in Italy.

"The comeback is possible. Inter's the favorite but we believe in ourselves," Norway defender John Arne Riise said. "It's key for us to win in Bologna so we can play all of our cards against Inter."

"There are nine rounds to go and each one is going to be a final for us. I don't think Inter will be affected by the Champions League, they've got a sufficient squad to fight on every front. But we've got to believe in ourselves anyway."

Spurs close in on Sandro signing

TOTTENHAM Hotspur are set to sign Brazil midfielder Sandro from Internacional, the English Premier League side said yesterday.

All that appears to stand between the 21-year-old's arrival at the north London club next season is a work permit and a successful medical after Spurs announced they'd done a deal with Internacional.

"We are delighted to announce that we have reached agreement with Internacional for the transfer of Sandro to the club, subject to the player passing a medical examination," said a statement on www.tottenham-hotspur.com, Tottenham's official website.

"The Brazil international will join up with our squad following the conclusion of Internacional's Copa Libertadores campaign this summer."

Spurs manager Harry Redknapp had said earlier Tuesday the club were closing in on Sandro.

"The chairman (Daniel Levy) has been dealing with it," Redknapp said. "I got a phone call this morning from the chairman saying that he thought we were close to doing it."

"Hopefully it will get done now and it will be a good signing."

Redknapp added: "He is an outstanding young player. He is on the verge of the Brazilian team. He has already played for Brazil and captained the Under-18s, 19s and 21s."

"He is strong. He looks a very, very good player so I am looking forward to getting him here."

Sandro will not automatically qualify for a British work permit because he has played just once for Brazil, in their World Cup qualifier against Chile.

Tottenham, who face London rivals Fulham in an FA Cup quarter-final replay on Wednesday, are currently fourth in the English top flight and pushing for a place in next season's Champions League.



SANDRO

I still admire Tiger, says Nadal

RAFAEL Nadal still admires scandal-hit golfer Tiger Woods and believes the media were wrong to publish details of the American world number one's private life.

"The first thing I think (about the Woods issue) is that society is in a bad way," the Spanish world number four said in an interview with Marca sports daily published yesterday.

"Starting with the sports

media, we have to judge Tiger as an athlete.

"His private life is his business and nobody else's. I still admire him because he is an exemplary athlete."

After going into self-imposed exile following revelations about his extra-marital affairs, Woods will return at next month's U.S. Masters, the opening major of the year and an event he has won four times.

"It's funny because a lot of the people who criticised him now want him to come back because sport in general needs him," Nadal said.

Mallorca-born Nadal returned from a six week injury layoff to reach the Indian Wells semi-finals last week but said he was unsure if he was back to his best level following his knee problems.

"I don't know, I need to keep improving," the six-times grand

slam winner said.

"I need to play consecutive matches and play knowing that nothing will happen to me if I push myself to the limit."

"Subconsciously I have more fear now and I don't know if the limit I am setting is the real one, the one from before."

After suffering from physical problems throughout his career, Nadal said he would give anything to be injury free.

THE WEDNESDAY COLUMN

Mohammed Haruna

ndajika@yahoo.com

Yar'adua: A war for crude power

News, as even the layman knows, is the staple of newspapers. These days, however, you are likely to learn nearly as much about goings-on in our dear country by going through the political advertisements that inundate our newspapers as you will by reading the news columns.

By now not a few regular, possibly even the occasional, newspaper readers may have noticed the long running campaign against the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, (CBN), Malam Sanusi Lamido Sanusi, by a self-styled Renaissance Professionals (RP). For months now the group has published one, and occasionally two, full page adverts in at least three national dailies each day calling for the sack of the governor for incompetence and other sundry offences.

Until the recent elevation of Vice-President Goodluck Jonathan as Acting President by legislative fiat, the primary objective of RP seemed to have been to swing public opinion against the banking reforms Lamido had embarked upon no sooner than he replaced Professor Chukwuma Charles Soludo late last year. In this objective the group does not seem to have achieved much.

With Jonathan as acting president, the group may have reckoned they now have more receptive ears than they could ever hope to get from President Umaru Yar'adua who, in the first place, gave Lamido the job in spite of every obstacle – and they were many – those apparently behind RP threw in Lamido's way; its more recent adverts have shifted from appealing to public opinion to appealing directly to the acting president to sack the governor.

If the online February edition of the *Economic Confidential* newsletter is to be believed, the RP may soon achieve this objective. "Any moment from now," the newsletter said, "acting President of Nigeria and Commander-in-Chief, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, may succumb to pressure into sacking some top military and intelligence officers from Northern Nigeria through a deliberate smear campaign on suspicious loyalty."

The pressure which the newsletter said was being mounted by "powerful groups of politicians and ethnic leaders from the South through some selected media and blog outlets," was not, it said, limited to only sacking military and intelligence officers from the North. The leadership of the CBN and Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) were also in the sights of the groups.

Since the publication of the newsletter, the National Security Adviser, Major-General Sarki Mukhtar, has been sacked, but has been replaced by another northerner and a veteran of the intelligence profession, Lieutenant-General Aliyu Mohammed.

General Mohammed's appointment was somewhat surprising not least because, first, he has never disavowed his well-known presidential ambition, and second, Mukhtar took over from him less than three years ago. In this sense it is unlikely that if others speculated by the *Economic Confidential* to be in the line of fire get Jonathan's boot he will replace them by fellow northerners.

The newsletter's speculation may in the end turn out to be true. If it does it would be proof positive that the jostling for power in the wake of the crisis created by the

ill-health of President Yar'adua is happening much more through political adverts than was hitherto the case. More importantly, it would suggest that it is about anything but principles

In other words, political actors recently seem to find in political advertisement an effective weapon of propaganda as the news column.

Commonsense suggests that they couldn't be more wrong if only because far more people read news than care to read adverts. Fewer still believe the adverts than believe the news.

That, however, has not deterred those involved in spending millions of Naira to push their cases through adverts. Part of the explanation could be the sponsors have deep pockets. It could, in some cases, also be that the sponsors have official backing.

This, I suspect, is the case with a spate of adverts by some individuals and faceless groups that seem to be fighting a losing battle against Jonathan in his now open bid to take over the presidency from an ailing Yar'adua.

This month alone I have counted no less than nine adverts by such individuals and groups. Arguably the most prominent of these was the full page advert in several newspapers by the veteran politician, Alhaji Tanko Yakasai,

which described last week's dissolution of the Federal Executive Council by the acting president as "illegal."

Regardless of the merit of his position Yakasai deserves respect for at least having the courage of his conviction by not hiding behind any faceless group to fight Yar'adua's war. You can hardly say the same about adverts that have been sponsored by what look like fly-by-night operations like Save Womanhood Group and Save Nigeria Coalition which has apparently been created to serve as a counterpoise to the Save Nigeria Group led by Nobel Literature Laureate, Wole Soyinka.

However, even though the pro-Yar'adua group seem, by and large, to be using guerrilla tactics to fight their war, they are not losing the war because the pro-Jonathan group are on any higher moral ground. Far from it. This much is obvious from the fact that the group is not bothered by the fact that their principal has been elevated to his acting presidency through what is clearly a constitutional sleight-of-hand.

It is also obvious from the fact that at a time Yar'adua's wife, Turai, is being pilloried left, right and centre, as a power-hungry woman, quite justifiably so in my view at least, no one is saying anything about the danger that Jonathan's wife, Patience, may be even more grasping as First Lady, considering her somewhat unsavoury antecedent as the First Lady of Bayelsa State who was implicated in money laundering abroad.

The point of all this is that what we have had on our hands since we got saddled with an ailing president is not a war of principles as the Jonathan group would have us believe. What we have is simply the good old war for crude power. In the end it makes little or no difference to the ordinary folks who wins or loses the war.

“Political actors recently seem to find in political advertisement an effective weapon of propaganda as the news column”



PRESIDENT Umaru Yar'adua

SPORTS REPORT



CARLO Ancelotti

Ancelotti: I will be Chelsea coach next season

Carlo Ancelotti says he will still be Chelsea manager next season even if he fails to win a title with the club this year.

Chelsea is still in contention for the Premier League and FA Cup but has been eliminated from the Champions League and has slipped to third in the English standings after taking

just four points from three games.

Ancelotti acknowledged after last week's 1-0 loss to Inter Milan that he was under pressure but told Italian newspaper La Stampa that the Blues will do well in the remainder of the season.

Even so, Ancelotti says his "future will definitely be at Chelsea next year" independent of results.



JOLEON Lescott

Lescott may be out for season

Manchester City defender Joleon Lescott could miss the rest of the season because of a hamstring injury, another potential blow to England's World Cup roster.

Lescott was hurt during warmups for Sunday's Premier League match at Fulham, and City says he will be out of action for up to six weeks.

Lescott has already missed 12 games this season following surgery to remove a piece of bone from his foot. City's Premier League finale is May 9.

England already is missing midfielder David Beckham (torn Achilles' tendon). Left back Ashley Cole hopes to recover from a broken foot before England's opener against the U.S. on June 12.

