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# DAILY TRUST

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## Business

Nigeria's consumer inflation rose to 12.3% in January from 12% the previous month **25**

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## FG probes Boko Haram members' execution

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

INSPECTOR General of Police Ogonna Onovo has been ordered by the Federal Government to investigate the extra-judicial killing of members of the Boko Haram religious sect during its uprising in Maiduguri and other towns last year, Minister of Police Affairs Ibrahim Yakubu Lame told the BBC Hausa Service on Monday night. The instruction of the government was necessary.

“IG will work on that document to ensure that those captured in the Al-Jazeera footage are identified and punished

tated by the video footage broadcast by the Qatar-based Al-Jazeera Television recently, which showed Nigerian Mobile Policemen extra judicially executing scores of Boko Haram captives during the clashes in Maiduguri last July.

The minister said, “I saw the video clips and members of the Federal **Continued on page 5**



FROM left: Chairman, Technical Committee on Privatisation, Professor Taiwo Oshipitan, Director General, Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE), Dr. Christopher Anyanwu and member of the technical committee of the BPE Engineer Emmanuel Amadi, during the financial bid opening on NITEL in Abuja yesterday.

# Chinese firm gets NITEL for \$2.5bn

By Yunus Abdulhamid

NEW Generation Telecommunications Limited, a consortium led by China's second largest telecoms firm China Unicom (Hong Kong) Ltd was yesterday declared the preferred bidder of the Nigeria Telecommunications Limited (NITEL) after it bid \$2.5 billion (N373 billion) during the second round of the bid opening in Abuja. In the first round, the firm had bid \$333 million (N50 billion), but drastically

upped it in the second round. Apart from China Unicom, New Generation Consortium is made up of an indigenous telecoms firm, GiCell Wireless Limited, as well as Minerva Group based in the United Arab Emirates.

The bid was for 75% of the old state telephone monopoly, which has however been left moribund for many years since the coming of mobile phone companies into Nigeria in 2001. New Generation's bid also came with a bank draft of 30% of the bid price. The acquisition does not include NITEL's

debt obligations, estimated to be in billions of naira. Director General of the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE), which organized the bid, Dr Christopher Anyanwu, announced federal government's commitment to pay the debts from the transaction's proceeds.

The nearest bid to the preferred bidder's was \$956 million (N142.4 billion) by Omen International Limited (BVI), which earned for it the position of reserve bidder. The result was **Continued on page 5**

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# Bus crashes into primary school, kills two

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Dutse

A commercial bus driver yesterday crashed into a primary school in Andaza town, Kiyawa Local Government Area of Jigawa State, killing two pupils and injuring others. Aggrieved youths immediately set the vehicle ablaze.

Our correspondent gathered

in Andaza town yesterday that Sa'adiyyah Uba and another girl were killed while Shehu Ibrahim and Naja'atu Na-Barno sustained fractures on their legs. Others affected include Tababa Sani, Shafa'atu Barau and one other girl. They are currently receiving treatment at the Dutse General Hospital.

A witness, Mallam Shehu

Ibrahim, told Daily Trust that the driver was coming from Kiyawa town when he ran into the pupils while avoiding a truck. Shehu, the school's duty master, said, "The bus was following a truck which I stopped to allow the pupils that were on break to cross the road. After realising that he could not control the bus from hitting the truck from behind, the driver

decided to avert the accident by following the right hand side of the truck and ran into the children".

"I narrowly escaped death because the overzealous driver would have killed me if not because I quickly jumped from the main road when I saw him coming towards us on high speed," he added. Our correspondent further

learned that the driver involved was later pursued and stopped a kilometre from the scene of the accident by a motorist.

Police Public Relations Officer ASP Abdul Jinjiri confirmed the death of the two primary school pupils, saying the driver involved was arrested later by the police. He added that investigation was in progress.

PIC: AFOLABI SOTUNDE

## Sultan cautions on religious extremism

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

SULTAN of Sokoto Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar has said that Islam abhors religious extremism, noting that extremism and the unity of the Muslims were currently the basic challenges facing Islam and Muslims. "Islam is a religion of peace and extremism gives Islam a bad name", he said when the League of Chief Imams and Alfas from the South West, Edo and Delta States paid him a courtesy visit in his palace yesterday.

The sultan stressed the need for Muslims in Nigeria to unite and speak with one voice towards enhancing the unity of the country. He enjoined Nigerians, irrespective of their religions, to continue to pray fervently for themselves, leaders and the country and urged them to pray for the quick recovery of President Umaru Yar'adua.

The sultan promised to continue to consult with leaders on all religious issues and others affecting the unity of the country.

Leader of the delegation, Sheikh Mustapha Ajisafe, commended the sultan for his efforts towards uniting Muslims in the country. He also expressed appreciation to the sultan for his donation of N2 million for the purchase of a power generating plant for the Egba Muslim community's ultra modern central Mosque.



ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan (fifth from left) with other ECOWAS Heads of State before their summit in Abuja, yesterday.

## Military averts fresh crisis in Jos

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

ONE person was wounded yesterday as another crisis erupted at Rusau Village/Farin Gada area of Jos North Local Government Area of Plateau State.

The victim, Bello Yusuf, who spoke with our correspondent in Jos, said they were on their way to the Rusau burial ground to bury an infant when some youths barricaded their way. "The youths who were carrying sticks told us

that they had banned the burial of corpses in the Rusau area, but we told them that the burial ground belongs to Muslims, and we resisted when they insisted that we would not go ahead with the burial", he said. "We were only two when we proceeded with the burial, because it was an infant, we decided to go on a motorcycle while the rest agreed to join us after they had parked their cars at a safe place since we heard that they were stopping Muslims from conduct-

ing their burial", he added.

He further said there were two mobile police officers stationed in the area adding, "When they started attacking us, the mobile police officers did not do anything, then I was holding a digger which we intended to use in digging the grave. One of the youths was struggling to collect the digger from my hand when someone hit me with something on my head, I fell down, but before the rest could reach I stood up and ran away". The

incident generated tension at the near-by Farin Gada market where people closed their shops and ran for safety.

Assistant Director and Public Relations Officer, 3rd Armoured Division, Nigerian Army, Lieutenant Colonel Galadima Shekari who confirmed the incident in a telephone interview said details of the incident were yet to reach his desk at the time of filing this report but said that soldiers had contained the situation.

## Sheriff swears in Abba Aji's son as commissioner

From Isa Umar Gusau, Maiduguri

BORNO State Governor Ali Modu Sheriff yesterday swore in Nasiru Abba Aji, son of the late Maiduguri based Islamic scholar, Sheikh Muhammad Abba Aji, as Commissioner for Religious Affairs in his cabinet.

The governor also swore in Hajiya Hauwa Mai Musa and assigned her to the Ministry of Women Affairs.

Nasiru Abba Aji, who is in his early 40s, was until his appointment, a lecturer in the Department of Mass Communication, University of Maiduguri. He was caretaker chairman of Jere Local Government under the ANPP before he became the party's chairmanship flag bearer in the 2004 council polls. He however lost to the opposition, PDP's candidate. He was crossed over to the PDP a few years.

## Oshiomhole pleads over fracas

From Vincent Egunyanga, Benin

EDO State Governor Adams Oshiomhole has appealed to soldiers in the state not to revenge the killing of two of their colleagues by mobile policemen in Benin last Thursday, promising that the state government would not abandon the families of the dead soldiers.

The governor made the pledge during a condolence visit to the families of the two soldiers yesterday.

Expressing his condolences to the families of Corporal Sunday Salami and Private Sani Samaila, Comrade Oshiomhole described the death of the two men as unfortunate and avoidable.

He noted that the soldiers died in the service of the nation, pointing out that government would bear the cost of the education of their children to the university level.

The governor urged the families to take solace in the fact that the will of God cannot be questioned, while praying to God to strengthen them in this period of grief.

Oshiomhole appealed to soldiers at the Ekehuan Barracks to the soldiers' death as an act of God and forget about retaliatory action.

He made the appeal dur-

ing an address to the soldiers who mounted a parade for him shortly after paying condolence visit to the families of the two slain soldiers.

The governor said, "I appreciate very much what the military has helped to achieve by way of peace and security of the state.

All of us are very appreciative of the joint military police patrol that has been in place. It is a pity that these two soldiers who were involved in this effort died the way they did. We all share the pain and grief of the terrible incident and to appeal that all of us as believers, we believe that whatever has happened is God's will".

PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE



EFCC Chairman Mrs. Farida Waziri (left) with FCT Minister, Senator Mohamed Adamu Aliero, during the opening of the G6 Security Summit at the FCT High Court Complex, Maitama, Abuja, yesterday.

## Mantu: Ajibola's report baseless

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

FORMER Deputy Senate President Senator Ibrahim Mantu said yesterday that the Prince Bola Ajibola Panel report has clearly exhibited what Plateau State Governor David Jonah Jang wants to implement in the state.

The Ajibola report, which indicted the Hausa community in the Nov 2008 crisis in Jos, said political leaders like the ex-lawmaker, Mantu, should be investigated for their utterances.

"Everybody knows that Hausa Community did not make any submission to the panel because right from the committee's inception, it elaborately indicated that justice would not be done to all parties involved. So this recommendation is baseless," Mantu told the Voice of Nigeria.

He accused Governor Jang of getting Ajibola to produce a document that serves his parochial interest.

Mantu said they will do everything possible to ensure peace is returned in the state through the committee constituted by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan under the leadership of former Plateau State governor Chief Solomon Lar.

Mantu said they will do everything possible to ensure peace is returned in the state through the committee constituted by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan under the leadership of former Plateau State governor Chief Solomon Lar.

## Niger opposition threatens war if mediation fails

By Aisha Umar

THE opposition in Niger Republic will be forced to go to war if President Mamadou Tandja does not cooperate with the ECOWAS commission to find a lasting solution to the political impasse in the country.

Former Prime minister of Niger Republic and the Speaker of Coordination of Democratic Forces for the Republic (CFDR) of Niger Amadon Boubouan Cisse said this yesterday in an interview with journalists after the 37th summit of the ECOWAS heads of state and government held in Abuja.

He said the mediation team led by former Nigeria President Abdulsalami Abubakar has come up with final resolution on the political situation in Niger and has handed over to ECOWAS during the summit.

He said the final resolution pointed out that an interim government should take up power in Niger for one year to put up reconciliation government which should organise election.

He expressed optimism that President Tandja would hand over because since all foreign aid to Niger Republic has stopped so Tandja will run out of resources and hand over.

# Ajibola: Media Trust not cause of Nov 2008 Jos crisis

By Andrew Agbese, Jos

THE judicial commission of inquiry set up to investigate the November 2008 crisis in Jos has put a lie to the claim that Media Trust caused the 2008 Jos unrest through its publications.

In the report which is still awaiting official endorsement to be made public, the commission said the publications complained about came after the crisis and could not have caused the November 2008 Jos unrest. Media Trust was in some of the memos submitted to the commission, accused of causing the 2008 Jos crisis through its publications.

"After a careful perusal and review of the evidence, the commission found that the publications complained about as being a cause of the unrest were made after the occurrence of the unrest. With this in view, it cannot be said that these publications... caused the unrest of 28th November 2008."

But without any complaint received on any report carried by any of the publications in the Media Trust stable, the commission in its recommendation, went ahead to advise the publishers and editors of Media Trust "to learn to adhere to the professional ethics of journalism which is to be fair and balanced in reporting any

news event and stop appealing to ethnic and religious sentiments."

But all the four memos submitted to the commission which included that of Dr. Charles Kopkama Gonyok, Sunday Kasuwa Bwoi, the Plateau Indigenous Development Association and others did not make allegation on any news report by Media Trust centred around an article written by a columnist; Bala Muhammad, titled "Dear son of the soil" and an advertorial by the Coalition of Jasawa elders, published in the January 30, 2009 edition of Daily Trust.

But the commission in its recommendation and without

any exhibit presented to it that questioned the news reportage of Media Trust, went ahead to advice on how the Media Trust should report news events.

In the report, the commission also claimed that the Weekly Trust edition of Saturday December 6, 2008 in which the piece by Bala Muhammad published pictures of "naked women and men depicting Plateau people as uncivilized and another picture depicting Plateau people as poverty stricken and sitting in front of thatched roofed huts with tattered clothes." However, no such pictures ever appeared in the said edition.

## Jonathan warns coup plotters in W/Africa

By Aisha Umar

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan yesterday said the West African sub region is confronted with a number of undemocratic efforts at democratic change where democracy is trampled upon with impunity.

He spoke at the 37th summit of ECOWAS heads of state and government held yesterday in Abuja, where Nigeria retained its chairmanship of the sub regional

organisation. Jonathan said no place exists in the region for such rape on the rights and dignity of the people, adding that West Africa won't be a comfort zone for political misadventures.

He also expressed concern over the "new unholy alliance between drug trafficking and terrorism, which we most collectively arise to address at this incipient stages."

"I call on your excellencies to take full advantage of this summit to explore ways and means of har-

nessing our collective energy and in partnership with international community to stem this ugly tide" he said.

He said "it is also my sincere hope that the construction of the joint Border Posts (JBP) which hopefully facilitate free movement along our land border will finally commence in 2010".

In his speech the outgoing President of ECOWAS Mohammed Ibn Chambas thanked Member States for allowing him serve,

adding that with the support of the region he is now appointed as the Secretary General of Brussels-based Secretariat of the 79-group of African, Caribbean and Pacific Group (ACP).

In his speech the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for West Africa, Said Djinnit said the issue of drug trafficking and organized crime, concerns related to governance, rule of law and unconstitutional changes of power should be tackled.

## Yar'adua: Senate denies giving FEC ultimatum

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Turaki Hassan

THE Senate yesterday denied giving the Federal Executive Council any ultimatum to declare ailing President Umaru Musa Yar'adua permanently incapacitated and unfit to rule. The position of the upper legislative chamber was in response to a report in a newspaper that Sena-

tors gave FEC 48 hours within which to write to it that President Yar'adua was unfit to govern the country or it will proceed to impeach the president. Senator Umaru Dahiru (PDP) said the newspaper publication was a breach of his rights and privileges as a Senator for anyone to insinuate that the Senate had given FEC ultimatum.

"To the best of my knowledge

I don't know when any issue of impeachment of Mr. President was discussed. I believe my privilege has been breached," he said.

However, Senator Bala Mohammed (ANPP, Bauchi South) who was quoted in the story denied making the statement accredited to him. He said as a Senator, "I know my limit, I know my privileges. I will never as a person infringe on the privilege and

right of any distinguished Senator let alone an institution that I respect so much."

Ruling on the matter Senate president David Mark said, "Senate had unanimously taken a decision that we believed and we still believe and we believe till tomorrow that it is in the best interest of this country. We will not do things that do not fall within our purview.

# Northern Union sets 10-point agenda for Jonathan

By Muideen Olaniyi

THE Northern Union (NU) yesterday listed 10 key economic and political development areas for Acting President Goodluck Jonathan to concentrate on.

Chairman of NU Elders Council Dr Abubakar Olusola Saraki, who addressed newsmen after the union's meeting in Abuja, listed the areas to include electoral reform, post-amnesty programme, power sector, ongoing dredging of the River Niger

and an accent to the bill for the formation of the Hydro-electric Power Producing Areas Commission (HYPPADEC).

Other issues which the union wants Jonathan to focus on are strengthening of anti-corruption agencies, exploration of hydrocarbons in the North, completion of Ajaokuta Steel complex project, revival of refineries and the development of the solid minerals sector.

Saraki hailed the decision of the National Assembly that empowered

Jonathan, saying it was in line with the position of NU and South-South leaders' joint communiqué.

Saraki however appealed to all stakeholders in Nigeria, including politicians to keep the polity calm and exercise utmost restraint in public statements, reports and comments.

On Yar'adua, he said "We believe that our President (Umaru Musa Yar'adua) is still coming back. We believe that he is not feeling well but anybody can fall sick. As far

as he is still coming back and as far as he is alive; we pray he is alive and gets well. He (Jonathan) has to continue to act."

He said the Constitution imposed on Nigerians by the military did not provide for the office of Acting President; a situation he added called for a 'civilian Constitution' by the people and for the people.

He said the country will continue to face difficulty with the current Constitution until it is amended, citing the loopholes in the 1999 Constitution.



CONSTRUCTION work on the Okokomaiko/CMS light train project in progress beside the National Theatre, Lagos, yesterday.

PIC: NAN

## Senate gets 3-day ultimatum over Yar'adua

By Atika Balal

ABUJA based Lawyer, Festus Keyamo has given the Senate President three days to comply with Section 144 (4) (b), (2), (3) of the 1999 constitution to appoint a medical panel that will ascertain the health status of the President Umaru Musa Yar'adua and report back to him and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Keyamo, in a letter written to the Senate President, said the Federal Executive Council (FEC) has already complied with section 144(1) (a) of the Constitution and has declared President Yar'adua incapable of discharging the functions of

his office.

He said the council passed a resolution accepting the resolution of both Houses of the National Assembly which made Goodluck Jonathan the Acting President at its meeting which held on February 10.

He said in a situation whereby the panel is unable to see the President it would be ascertain that he is not healthy enough to see

tor and the doctors can file in their report as such.

Keyamo said failure on the part of the Senate President to act will make him institute a suit against him in the court of law.

## Foreign loans: Muhtar, Bankole call for accountability

By Nasidi A. Yahaya

MINISTER of Finance Mansur Muhtar and Speaker of the House of Representatives Dimeji Bankole yesterday stressed the need for the governments at all level to ensure transparency and accountability in the use of foreign loans.

They also advocated necessary measures to reduce the spate of foreign loans obtained by governments at all levels.

Speaking at a two-day public hearing organised by an ad-hoc committee on the investigation into foreign loans obtained by both fed-

eral and state governments, Muhtar said Nigeria's domestic debt stood at N3.228 trillion, while its foreign debt stock stood at \$3.947 billion as at December 2009.

He said the debt stock excludes the amount owed local contractors including N6 billion verified outstanding for two years and N30 billion unverified amount computed for the period under review.

He however explained that out of several loans considered and negotiated and processed between 2007 and 2009, "only \$1,831.6 billion became effective during the period".

Bankole, who was represented

by his deputy Rep Usman Bayero Nafada, stressed the need for the ministry and Debt Management Office and other relevant agencies to ensure accountability and transparency in the procedure and process of obtaining foreign loans at levels in order to avoid the country running into another foreign debt trap.

Speaking earlier, chairman of the committee, Rep Emeka Ihedioha (PDP, Imo State), said the hearing was conducted to correct failings evident in the procedure undertaken by both the federal and state governments in obtaining foreign loans.

## Police make headway on journalist murder

By Misbahu Bashir

THE police in Abuja said they hope to trace the killers of the Efenji Efenji, a former reporter with the Independent Television (AIT), who was killed on Valentine's Day.

The FCT Police Public Relations Officer SP Moshood Jimoh said some suspects have been arrested in connection with the killing and are helping the

police with information.

"We are making progress on the matter," he added.

Efenji was reportedly stabbed to death by a gang of undisclosed people at Cortland Garden in Karu Abuja on Valentine Day last weekend.

He was said to have gone to the garden with his family and was attacked by a gang some minutes after 10pm.

## Jonathan urged to open up on Yar'adua

By Abbas Jimoh

THE National Conscience Party (NCP) yesterday in Abuja advised Acting President Goodluck Jonathan to immediately get across to President Umaru Yar'adua and tell Nigerians his condition.

National Secretary NCP Mam Yunusa Tanko told Daily Trust that if there is nothing amiss between Acting President Jonathan and President Yar'adua, he (Jonathan) should have informed Nigerians what is

happening to his boss after 80 days of his absence.

"We are becoming worried that nobody can tell us the state of the health of the president of the Federal Republic of Nigeria," he said.

"We are demanding that Acting President Goodluck Jonathan tell us what is the situation of his boss, wherever the president is he should go and see him and tell us what is happening to our president, nobody should stop him," Tanko said.

## Yar'adua: Reps fail to submit report

By Nasidi A. Yahaya

THE five member House delegation that went to Saudi Arabia to visit ailing President Umaru Yar'adua but returned without seeing him yesterday failed to submit their report before the House of Representatives.

The House's delegation included Reps Baba Shehu Agaie (PDP, Niger State), Mohammed Ali Ndume (ANPP, Borno State), Patrick Ikhariale (PDP, Edo State), Moruf Fatai (AC, Lagos State) and Jibril Adamu (PDP, Kaduna State).

Although the delegation did not see the Nigerian leader, it was due to submit its 'report' on the floor of the House yesterday, but failed to do so.

But the report submission was neither on

yesterday's Order Paper (the House's schedule) and therefore was not announced during the plenary session.

The leader of the delegation Rep Baba Shehu Agaie (PDP, Niger State) snubbed the newsmen.

However, a member of the delegation, Rep Ndume told reporters that the report was not laid before the House because it was not endorsed by all members of the delegation.

He said it would be presented to the House on Thursday for deliberation and input by the members.

He confirmed that the delegation did not see the President but they were received by his wife Hajiya Turai Yar'adua as well as his doctors and Nigerian ambassador in Saudi Arabia.



PHOTO: FELIX ONIGBINDE

FROM left: Deputy Chairman, House Committee on Public Accounts Uche Ekwunife with House of Representatives members Stanley Ohajuru and Labaran Dambatta during the committee meeting with NIPOST in Abuja yesterday.

## FG probes Boko Haram

Continued from page 1

Executive Council during our meeting have seen it and immediately, Inspector General of Police was instructed to investigate the matter and ensure the speedy prosecution of the men involved."

Lame said "the committee constituted by President Umaru Musa Yar'adua under the Chief of Defense Staff to investigate the case earlier within two weeks, has produced its findings." He added that the IG will work on that document to ensure that those captured in the Al-Jazeera footage are identified and punished, including other culprits who perpetrated the act.

It could be recalled that the House of Representatives had last week ordered its committees on Police Affairs to probe the issue and report back to the House as soon as possible.

## Netherlands disgusted by summary executions in Nigeria

THE Dutch government has reacted with disgust at media reports about summary executions which took place in the Nigerian city of Jos last month.

Hundreds of people were killed in rioting last month between different religious groups in the city. Nigerian soldiers or police are believed to be behind the killings.

The reaction of the Dutch minister followed the publication of video footage by Sahara Reporters, showing armed men wearing military clothing putting a civilian face-down on the ground. He is shot several times. Next to him lay several more bodies.

Dutch Foreign Minister Maxime Verhagen says, "I am disgusted by the images of summary executions which according to Radio Netherlands Worldwide were carried out by Nigerian soldiers and police in the north Nigerian city of Jos. I have asked the Dutch embassy in Nigeria to investigate the exact circumstances of the incidents."

Last week, a Nigerian rights group, Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP), asked the International Criminal Court (ICC) to investigate the allegations of the unlawful killing of at least 326 people during the clashes.

ICC has acknowledged the communication with the rights group and is considering legal action.

## NACA inaugurates public sensitisation committee

By Onimisi Alao

THE National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA) has inaugurated an advisory body of media chiefs and practitioners to help in the agency's task of effectively reaching out to the masses with its services and programmes.

Members of the body, called NACA Media Advisory Committee, include the Head of Corporate

Communications Unit of NACA, Mr Sam Archibong; the Editor of *Daily Trust*, Malam Mahmud Jega; and Head of Theatre Arts of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Professor Steve Abah.

Others are Moji Makanjuola (NTA), Godwin Odenije (Radio Nigeria), Waziri Adio (Think Tank), Chukwuma Muanya (Guardian), Franca Ofili (NAN), Somto Okey (ITV), Olaide

Akanni (Journalists Against AIDS), and Regina Eche-Fali (NACA). Toyin Aderibigbe, also of NACA, is the secretary of the Committee.

"We are pursuing core issues that are critical for the masses; by your help we can reach the Nigerian public with these issues effectively," the Director General of the Agency, Professor John Idoko said yesterday while inaugurating the

committee at the Agency's headquarters in Abuja.

The chairman of the committee, veteran broadcaster and media chief, Jimmy Atte, who is the chairman of the Committee thanked the NACA management for the opportunity to serve the nation through the committee and promised that the Committee would make the best of the opportunity.

## Chinese firm gets NITEL for \$2.5bn

Continued from page 1

announced by the acting chairman of the Technical Committee of the National Council on Privatisation, Prof. Taiwo Osupitan.

The bid opening, which was broadcast live by the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria and the Nigeria Television Authority (NTA), featured five companies after Globacom was declared disqualified for not following the rules specified by BPE.

Following the advice of the Nigerian Telecommunications Commission (NCC), BPE had announced at a pre-sale conference of NITEL held last month that all existing telecom operators in Nigeria with GSM license wouldn't be allowed to buy M-TEL alongside NITEL, as that would cripple competition in the industry. Glo didn't adhere to this rule, the NCP ruled.

The transaction is now awaiting final approval of the NCP, which is chaired by the Vice President.

An elated team leader of the New Generation Telecoms Consortium, Usman Abubakar Gumi,

said Nigerians should prepare for a new dawn in the Nigeria telecoms industry. He said his technical partner Unicom China has an estimated 250 million subscriber base with over 500,000 base stations.

He said NITEL's 600 base stations is mere child's play compared to Unicom China's. He said, "We are committed and are going to pay within the stipulated time set aside by the BPE. Our bid was not hypothetical but real. We know NITEL is worth more than that."

Telecom giant MTN Nigeria had bid \$25 million (N4billion) for SAT-3. It refused to alter the bid in the second round, which made it to eventually lose out to the bid by New Gen Consortium for the whole of NITEL and its components. Other bidders were Brymedia Consortium (\$551 million) and AFZI/Spectrum Consortium (\$376 million).

This effort marks the fifth time the federal government is trying to sell NITEL. After a botched sale under controversial circumstances during the Obasanjo administration, NITEL was sold

to Transcorp Plc for \$500 million (N63 billion) with a commitment to the federal government to turn its fortunes around within a year or face revocation. NITEL's fortunes however after Transcorp's takeover.

Following the non performance of Transcorp after one year, the federal government invoked the Share Sale and Purchase Agreement (SSPA), calling on the company to step down as core investor for a new one to be selected. The 51% shares to be given to the new core investor would be contributed by the federal government and Transcorp. This took place in December, 2007.

In July of 2008, the BPE, with the approval of the National Council on Privatisation (NCP) appointed BNP Paribas to provide advisory services towards the search for a new core investor. According to the BPE, the transaction was to be completed in February, 2009.

But that was not to happen. A consortium of banks including UBA, Union bank, Intercontinental and Wema Bank, among

others, had claimed ownership of NITEL upon hearing of plans to sell it to out to a new owner. The group said Transcorp borrowed about N75 billion from it to finance the NITEL purchase, which was yet to be paid back. The federal government last year paid back the loan after a final revocation of Transcorp's holding.

The staff of NITEL and MTEL are currently owed salaries of over 20 months but the BPE boss promised they would be paid from the proceeds.

The journey to privatise NITEL has been a long and arduous one. It started in 2000. It was stopped in 2002 when ILL, the core investor failed to pay the \$1.317 billion it offered. In 2003, Pentascope was appointed by government to run a three year contract to prepare the sleeping giant for sale but this failed following alleged embezzlement and incompetence. In 2006, Orascom of Egypt offered \$256.53 million but this was rejected by the federal government on the grounds that it was far below NITEL's market value, before the coming of Transcorp on November 14, 2006.

## Irate youths burn Fulani houses in Barikin Ladi

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

SOME irate youths reportedly burnt down Fulani houses in Sauchi village of Barikin Ladi,

Plateau State.

Malam Muhammad Tahir told BBC Hausa Service yesterday that they were rearing their animals when the youths invaded

their village and burnt down their houses along with their belongings.

He said they ran to a nearby village, Ligere, and informed sol-

diers who are mounted in the area but the security personnel arrived the scene after the damage had already been done.

When a police officer was

contacted, he said he was not in town but as soon as he gets back to the city they will investigate the genesis of the fresh crisis and find a lasting solution.

# Jos refugees afraid to return home

By Habeeb I. Pindiga, with agency report

ABOUT 15,400 people who fled the violence in Jos are still at various makeshift refugee camps three weeks later, and many do not plan to return to their destroyed homes for fear of further attacks.

According to IRIN news agency, around 6,900 displaced people are in makeshift camps in and around the Plateau State capital, while another 8,500 have fled to neighbouring Bauchi State, where the authorities are providing them water and food.

"We don't have anywhere to go because our homes and what we possessed have been burnt. I don't

think many of us want to go back and rebuild our homes because we think they will just be destroyed again," Sada Bilyaminu, who is displaced at Gangare secondary school in Jos, told IRIN. "Even if we intend to go back to our homes we don't have the money to rebuild them," he said. "We are in a dilemma. We can't go back to our homes and at the same time we can't stay here for the rest of our lives. We have to find places to stay."

Most of the Jos displaced are sheltering in mosques, schools, churches and military barracks. None of these facilities has adequate toilets or running water, making sanitation the biggest worry, said

head of Nigeria Red Cross in Jos, Awwalu Mohammed.

The refugees, he said, "are left with no option but to defecate in the open which poses serious health risks to them, especially to children."

The Nigerian Red Cross, Médecins Sans Frontières, the National Emergency Management Agency and National Refugee Commission are providing relief materials to the displaced, alongside local NGOs the Stefanus Foundation and Jama'atu Nasril Islam. But the Red Cross's official said despite this help, conditions are "miserable" and there is not enough food, water or medicine to meet

people's needs.

Mark Lipdo, programme coordinator of the Stefanus Foundation, told IRIN: "People are left to use whatever they can find around them for shelter and lavatories. There are no tents in the camps and some IDPs (refugees) sleep in the open despite the cold weather."

Some 600 refugees sleep in Farin Gada primary school in Jos North, vacating the premises in the morning so children can attend class, said Lipdo.

"Many of us sleep in the open with no mattresses, beddings or blankets despite the cold, due to the shortage of classrooms," said Halliru Musa.

## Chairman explains reconstruction of Bukuru market

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

THE Chairman of Jos South Local Government Area Da Moses Dalyop has reiterated the commitment to build six blocks of 20 shops each at the Bukuru main market which was burnt down during the recent crisis in Jos.

Mr Moses Dalyop told newsmen yesterday in Jos that the shops belonged to the local government and the traders use them as tenants and the council had already awarded the contract and given adequate notice to the traders to vacate the shops to enable the reconstruction take place.

"Da Moses said the council had no intention to witch-hunt anyone except to bring the required development in the area and appealed to the traders to give them their maximum cooperation to develop the market for the growth of their businesses.

## 10 in court over Bauchi religious crisis

From Mohammed Abubakar, Bauchi

TEN people were arraigned before the Bauchi Magistrate's Court 4 yesterday for allegedly instigating the December Kala kato religious crisis in Zango area of the state capital in which 38 died and property worth millions of naira destroyed.

Police prosecutor, Hamidu Adamu, while presenting the case before Chief Magistrate Adamu Kafin Madaki said the suspects, Hadiza Zakari and nine others, were alleged to be the instigators of the crisis.

He said Habiba Zakari was arrested in Malumfashi Local Government Area of Katsina State where she escaped to after the crisis in Zango.

But in her defence, Habiba Zakari, the principal suspect, pleaded not guilty to the charge, saying she was at the enclave of the leader of the Kala Koto, Malla Allaram Badamasi, to give him some medication during the crisis but had nothing in connection to what happened.

"I was scared when the crisis erupted and ran to Malunfashi leaving my children behind. I later learnt that they were with the police. The police came to Malumfashi and deceived me that I should come for my children which was the reason I followed them not knowing that I will be arrested", she said.

The Chief Magistrate, Adamu Kafin Madaki, adjourned the case to March 4, 2010 and ordered that the suspects be remanded in the prison custody.



OFFICERS and men of Gombe Police Command at a lecture delivered by the AIG Zone three, Mr. Oliver Osochukwu (seated front row, fifth from left), during his visit to the command headquarters yesterday.

## Pilgrims ignorant of hajj –NAHCO

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Dutse

CHAIRMAN of the National Hajj Commission Alhaji Muhammad Usman Bello yesterday said majority of Nigeria's intending pilgrims are ignorant of the basic knowledge of performing the hajj.

Bello, who spoke in Dutse, Jigawa state, when he visited Governor Sule Lamido, said NAHCO had concluded arrangements to make pre-hajj training compulsory.

"The commission has noticed with dismay that majority of Nigerians are ignorant of the basic knowledge of hajj, hence, the need to train and educate them on the basic rules and guidelines for performing hajj even before going to the holy land for the annual event," he said.

He added that the commission would

also include feeding of pilgrims in the hajj package, saying NAHCO had succeeded in addressing the problems of early airlift and logistics.

He added that this year, the commission would concentrate on the issues of hajj saving scheme and training of intending pilgrims, saying guidelines and electronic data base would be introduced in that respect by NAHCO.

Responding, Lamido described sponsoring pilgrims to Saudi Arabia by governments as an abuse of public trust reposed in leaders by the public, just as he said Jigawa State had banned allocation of favour hajj seats to individuals by government.

"As a good leader, you should not send your wife, children and or relatives to hajj with public funds. I think this is an abuse

of the trust reposed in you by the public. In Jigawa, we have banned such since the inception of the present administration", the governor said.

He added that hajj being part of Islam deserves due regard from leaders, as according to him, "if hajj was taken care of adequately under military regime, there is no way it should not be effective under a democratic government. If the military government that had no mandate of the public could handle the exercise with seriousness, I have seen no reason why politicians that have the mandate of the electorate should not handle it better."

He assured that the state would support the commission and the Pilgrims Welfare Board to ensure a successful hajj exercise in the future.

## Police parade five over ritual killing

From Isiaka Wakili & Sam Egwu, Lokoja

THE police in Kogi State have arrested five suspects in connection with the killing of one Nathaniel Kyambe. The deceased was said to have been abducted from

Gboko in Benue State and taken for a money making ritual at Aloji in Ofu Local Government Area of Kogi State.

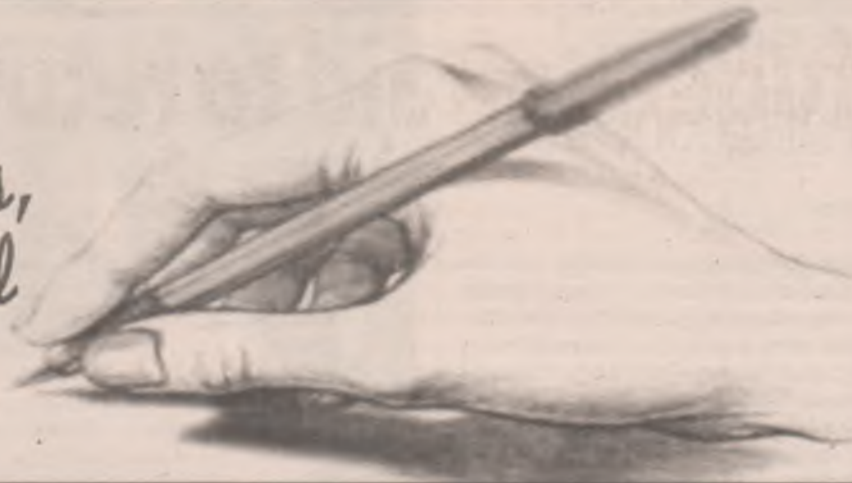
The Kogi State Acting Commissioner of Police Magaji Abdullahi disclosed this Monday while parading the suspects

in Lokoja.

The commissioner said five of the seven suspected killers were arrested in Benue and Kogi States on a tip-off. The suspects are Shagari Yakubu, Joseph Aruwa, Nyaver Apera, Chambe Ambe and Danjuma Adaji, while Oju

Ajayi and Yashi Giwa are said to have disappeared with the butchered body of the victim. In a similar development, the command at the weekend arrested two suspects in connection with the theft of electrical cables at Koto-Karfe area of the state.

To Our  
Esteemed Readers,  
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## POLICY ON PUBLICATION OF ADVERTORIALS, PETITIONS AND RELATED MATERIALS



Media Trust Limited

**M**edia Trust Limited, publishers of Daily Trust, Weekly Trust, Sunday Trust and Aminiya newspapers take very seriously its responsibility to the public to publish all points of view, including those we do not share. We think this is the function of an independent, liberal newspaper dedicated to the pursuit of the common good. We are also conscious of the fact that it is a shortsighted business policy for a newspaper to shut out a particular point of view for its own reason or due to pressure from powerful institutions and advertisers.

But we are also aware that professional agitators can use the pages on newspapers to malign governments, companies and individuals on spurious grounds.

Caught between our desire to give voice to the concerns of the voiceless and to protect public officers and institutions from unfair and demoralizing attacks, we have been forced to develop a more stringent policy for the placement of advertorials, petitions and other related materials in the pages of our newspapers.

**The new policy is depicted hereunder**

1. The writer(s) of such advertorials must not be anonymous but people who can stand by what they say, with their full names and address.
2. If there is any accusation against any person or organization, such writer(s) must substantiate the claims with evidence which can stand before a Court of Law. For example, if they claim that a contract was inflated, they must show Media Trust, relevant documents to back this up.
3. The placement must be fully paid for, before it is carried.
4. The author(s) should be

prepared to accept corrections or alterations made by us but the corrected version would be shown to the author(s), before publishing.

5. The publishers have the right to reject any piece considered to be libelous, containing assertions without supporting facts and figures to prove the authenticity of such claims.
6. In the alternative, we are prepared to enter into an indemnity agreement with those who place such advertorial which will put the onus of proof squarely on them.
7. Media Trust employees that collect such materials have been instructed to contact the Advert Manager, who will also consult further with the relevant superior officers to analyze the piece before placement is made.
8. If the publishers of Daily Trust, Weekly Trust, Sunday Trust and Aminiya newspapers reject any material regarded as unprintable based on the above consideration, they will not enter into any correspondence with the author(s).

Finally, we wish to assure our readers that we will not shy away from publishing fair and balanced criticisms of any government or individuals, which is in the nature of free exchange of ideas.

This, we will continue to do in our free opinion columns and with advertorials where some readers feel strongly enough to pay for them.

We thank you for your support and assure you that we will do our best to keep your trust.

Signed:  
MANAGEMENT

## NSCDC commandant seeks media cooperation

From Sadeeq Aliyu, Gusau

THE new Commandant of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps in Zamfara State Ezekiel Chucks Obadin has solicited the cooperation of journalists in the state. Mr. Obadin who spoke with newsmen in Gusau yesterday expressed confidence that the support of the media would assist him in performing his duties. The commandant also said he would bring to bear the experience he gathered in other states he had earlier served to ensure that the state was rid of criminals. He assured that government's installations and property would be adequately protected by the anti vandals unit of the command.

## Bindawa dies at 66

From Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

THE Commissioner representing Kaduna and Katsina States in the Federal Civil Service Commission (FCSC) Ambassador Ibrahim Mua'zu Bindawa died Monday at the age of 66. He died at the National Hospital, Abuja after a protracted illness, leaving behind two wives and 19 children.

He was buried Monday evening at Gidan Dawa graveyard in Katsina after a funeral prayer led by the Chief Imam of the Katsina-Central Mosque, Imam Muhammadu Lawal.

Among those who attended his burial were the Katsina State Deputy Governor, Surajo Umar Damari, some members of the State Executive Council, legislators, local government chairmen as well as the district head of Bindawa. Among the sympathisers at his Kofar Kaura residence were former Governor Saidu Barda, ex NSO boss, Ambassador Zakari Ibrahim (Talban Katsina) and the former Secretary to the State Government, Alhaji Isah Katsina.

Late Ibrahim Bindawa was a seasoned administrator who rose to the position of Permanent Secretary in the state civil service. Late Bindawa was appointed Secretary to the military government in 1989 and later appointed to serve as the Nigerian Ambassador to Netherlands from 1990 to 1995.

## Katsina govt condoles family, FCSC over Bindawa

From Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

THE Katsina State government yesterday condoled the Bindawa family and the Federal Civil Service Commission (FCSC) over the death of its Commissioner representing Kaduna and Katsina States, Ambassador Ibrahim Mu'azu Bindawa.

The Deputy governor Alhaji Surajo Umar Damari on behalf of the governor described Bindawa's death as a loss to the state and the country. He said Bindawa was a seasoned administrator who sacrificed his life to the service of humanity. He prayed God to give the family the fortitude to bear the loss and prayed for the repose of his soul in Aljannar Firdausi.



MINISTER of Finance Mansur Muhtar (left) with Director General, Debt Management Office, Abraham Nwanko, at the opening of a public hearing on foreign loans by state governments at the National Assembly yesterday.

## Borno pensioners threaten to petition EFCC

From Sharafa Dauda, Maiduguri

THE Borno State chapter of the Nigerian Union of Pensioners has said that if by the expiration of the current verification exercise and payment of parts of their pension arrears, the state government does not pay them their entitlements, it would invite the Economic and Financial Crimes

Commission (EFCC) to address what it called 'fraudulent practices' in the state Ministry of Finance.

Comrade Yusuf Suya, Chairman of the union, who spoke with our correspondent yesterday in Maiduguri, said the verification exercise which commenced on January 31 is expected to

end on March 31.

"The administration of Governor Ali Modu Sheriff should off-set the arrears and correct the mistakes of past governments by providing accurate information on pensioners in the state. It should make possible the payment of our arrears which is about N415million. There is also the 150 percent arrears which accumulated from the increase during the General Abdulsalami Abubakar regime. It is from the Abdulsalami arrears that the state government approved N44million out of N83million, leaving a balance of N39million," he said.

He added that all pensioners who

collected their 142 percent arrears between November 2007 and January 2008, were instructed to present for verification, their pay books and most pensioners had complied with that directive because the records had been compiled and handed over to the state governor. He added that from the compilation, two percent of the amount was excluded to provide for persons who were unable to come forward for the exercise.

Commending the effectiveness of the verification and payment committee, Comrade Suya said, "We want to use this opportunity to assure government that there are no fake pensioners in the state."

## VC urges Jonathan on agriculture

From Kehinde Akinyemi, Abeokuta

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan has been urged to prioritize the funding of the agriculture sector. The Vice Chancellor of the University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (UNAAB) Ogun State Prof. Oluwafemi Olaiya Balogun who addressed newsmen yesterday in Abeokuta ahead of the 17th convocation and awards ceremony of the institution slated for tomorrow,

said agriculture still remained the sector that could bail the country from its current economic problems.

"There is need to fund all the sectors in the country adequately. Let the institution that has the wherewithal to bring respite to the economy be encouraged and be patronized," he said.

Balogun urged the three-tiers of government to emulate the 'graduate farmers' scheme of the univer-

sity, noting that since the scheme began, there had been tremendous improvement in the provision of food for the university community.

"After the training, we gave them loans which are interest free. Only recently, another 12 out of 30 were shortlisted for another batch," he added. On the convocation ceremony, the vice chancellor said the President of Liberia, Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, is to be conferred with an honorary degree.

## NYSC members sue DG, others over cult membership

From Sharafa Dauda and Yahaya Ibrahim, Maiduguri

THREE National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) members posted to Borno State have sued the Director General of the NYSC Brigadier-General Maharazu Tsiga for demobilizing and expelling them from the orientation camp and the scheme on allegation that they were members of a secret cult.

The Director-General had through the Borno State NYSC Director Habibu Kurawa expelled the corps members at the last orientation camp in November 2009 on

the ground that they belonged to a secret cult.

Other respondents include the Borno State Coordinator of the NYSC Habibu Kurawa, Chairman of the State NYSC Governing Board Ali Abatcha and Dominic Bamgboye, the Camp Coordinator.

In a suit filed on behalf of the corps members by their counsel, Anayo Adibe, before a Borno State High Court in Maiduguri, the corps members, Precious Adibor with registration number BO/09C/0338, Tochukwu Nwobu, BO/09C/0348 and Mene Ejenor Preve, BO/09C/0320, sought relief that their expulsion were based on

mere suspicion of belonging to a secret cult and is a gross violation of their rights 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 Nigeria, 2004; and Section 34 and 36 of the 1999 constitution.

The corps members also want an order compelling the respondents to reinstate them to the 2009 Batch 'C' NYSC Scheme and to be posted to their places of primary assignments and to pay up their monthly

allowances from November, 2009 till date. Barrister Adibe said despite two correspondences to the Presidency on the issue, the NYSC authorities had refused to reinstate the corps members even though the Presidency replied the counsel, stating that it had instructed the Minister of Youth Development Akinlabi Oluwakanni to take over the matter, nothing had been done. The application for the interim order urging the court to reinstate the corps members as well as to effect service of the court process on the State Coordinator as the agent of the Director General comes up on February 22, 2010 after it was adjourned yesterday.

# Nigeria eyes Indian military hardware

By Habeeb I. Pindiga, with agency report

NIGERIA is considering buying military equipment from Indian companies in an effort to modernise the nation's armed forces, Defence Minister Godwin Abbe said in New Delhi yesterday.

"We are looking at everything," Abbe told the *Indo-Asian News Service* at the 6th International Land and Naval Defense Systems Exhibition (DefExpo India 2010), which opened yesterday in

the Indian capital. "I am here on the invitation of the government of India to appreciate the level of development in this country in terms of military science and production capabilities," the minister said, according to IANS. "I have seen quite a lot. I believe we have wide windows for cooperation. There is a lot that can be matured."

He, however, refused to go into specifics, saying it was early days for that.

Responding to a question, Abbe said there was the possibil-

ity of Indian companies setting up manufacturing facilities in Nigeria to serve the needs of Nigeria and other African nations.

"We have MoUs in a wide range of areas. It is now time to give life to these, particularly in the area of defence. We have to see what is of value for us in the mid and long terms," Abbe said. "As for manufacturing, we have to see what is in the interest of both our countries."

An official for the Indian aircraft maker Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd said: "He (Abbe) asked

us searching questions about the various roles the Dhruv can be employed in for civilian and military roles. He was particularly impressed by the fact that 90 Dhruvs are flying, largely with the armed forces and that another 160 are on order."

Indian High Commissioner to Nigeria Mahesh Sachdev said, "The minister holds India in very high esteem and this visit is intended as an exploratory effort. We will see how to take it forward from here."

## Anambra: Akunyili urges PDP stakeholders to ceasefire

By Atika Balal

MINISTER of Information and Communications, Professor Dora Akunyili, has urged the Anambra State Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) stakeholders to call a ceasefire and work towards building a stronger party structure.

Akunyili, who made this call at the stakeholders meeting in Abuja, called on them to stop apportioning blames that will hinder a reconciliation process and work towards building a stronger force that will guarantee their success at the forthcoming local government elections.

Also speaking at the meeting, PDP South East Zonal Chairman Chief Olisa Metu advised all stakeholders to rally round their governorship candidate 'Chukwuma Soludo' and render him necessary support in whatever decision he makes.

He also emphasized the need for discipline in the party, stating that it is the bedrock of any political party.

The reconciliatory committee set up to bring all members of the party to a united front will be inaugurated within a week.

## Senate moves to remove EFCC from presidency

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Turaki Hassan

THE Senate has commenced reading for the third time a bill seeking to remove the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) from the presidency.

Considering the report of its joint committees on Judiciary,

Human Rights and Legal matters and Drugs, Narcotics and Financial Crimes, the Senate also resolved to streamline the commission's jurisdiction with that of the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) in order to reduce the areas of overlap.

The Senate wants the EFCC to prosecute and specialize in the

criminal activities of short-term political office holders, while the ICPC prosecutes and specialises in the criminal activities of long-term career civil servants.

When passed, the bill will also guarantee the tenure of office for deployed officers for a particular period unless the commission decides otherwise for specified reasons. "This has become necessary

following the detrimental practice of the police recalling its officers unilaterally from the EFCC especially in cases where officers have received specialised training and sometimes trying to substitute new officers. This practice is subject to serious abuses and may compromise the commission's independence." Senate had adjourned debate on the bill to today.

## Experts fault tax holiday for mining investors

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

SOME professionals in the Nigerian mining sector yesterday condemned the government effort to provide a three-year free tax in the name of attracting foreign investors who would want the exploration of the country's untapped mineral resources.

Mines and Steel Development minister Mrs. Diezani Alison-Madueke in South Africa was quoted as saying in speech read by the permanent secretary that Nigeria was ready to grant three years tax-free for interested foreign investors in mining.

"Companies Profits Tax reduced from 35% to 30%, Capital Gains Tax reduced from 35% to 10%, Increase of the initial and Annual Capital allowances from 20% and 10% to 30% and 20% respectively; 3 year tax holiday for new mining companies," the minister said.

Reacting to the statement the Head of department of Geology Department, Ahmadu Bello Zaria Dr. Umar Adamu Danbatta said both government and the public stand to lose a lot if implemented.

He said the tax holiday will only help the investors not the host country, saying, "The tax holiday has not succeeded in other countries like Mongolia. The danger is that this may eventually cause environmental damage, and social problems. They can decide to over produce and slow production after the holiday."

Professor Keitha Dunstan of the Bond University Australia who was one of the presenters and spoke on "Governance" stated that Tax-holiday is not an appropriate way of attracting foreign investors. Nigeria should not do that mistake.

She advised that "Government should be careful on how to negotiate with mining companies."

## TMG denies releasing Ekiti re-run results

By Abbas Jimoh

THE Transition Monitoring Group (TMG) yesterday in Abuja denied releasing the result for the April 2009 Ekiti State governorship election re-run before it was officially released.

Reacting to allegation that the group released the Ekiti re-run results and that it is being funded by the European Union (EU) to antagonize the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), TMG chairman,

Comrade Moshood Eru-bami, said the allegations were false and baseless.

"We wish to vehemently debunk the allegation levelled against the TMG by INEC as contained in an interview with the first Vice President, Nigeria Bar Association (NBA) and Chairman INEC Anambra Elections Monitoring and Observations Board (AEMOB), Barrister Akaraiwe in a national daily that the "TMG released election results in Ekiti State before it was officially released."

He said that the first election result in Ekiti State on April 25, 2009 was not released by INEC because of the Ido-Osi debacle and that the excuse that the outcome of Oye result where election did not take place then may have effect on the overall result of the election, adding that the Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) in Ekiti State can testify that TMG did not release any result and that it carried out its assignment meritoriously and professionally.

### Invitation for Expression of Interest to supply goods and services for the UNDP



The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Nigeria is calling for Expression of Interest from registered manufacturers/service providers to supply of the following goods and services:

#### GOODS:

- The supply and installation of modular carpets for the UN House.
- The supply and installation of CCTVs.
- The supply of IT related products – Long Term Arrangement
- The supply of stationery – Long Term Arrangement

#### SERVICES

- The provision of security services.
- The provision of Audit Services.
- The provision of Insurance Coverage for the UN House, Abuja.

All companies/service providers interested are requested to download the pre-qualification application from the UNDP Website: <http://procurement-notice.undp.org/index.cfm> or <http://www.ng.undp.org/procurement.shtml>. If a company specializes in more than one category it should complete application form for each category separately. The closing date to return a duly completed pre-qualification application form is 2 March 2010.

Please note that UNDP Nigeria reserves the right to accept or reject any application without providing any reason thereof. Only the pre-qualified vendors would be invited to participate in the Invitation to Bid and/or the Request for Proposals. Any unsolicited attempt to influence UNDP internal selection process in favour of a particular vendor will result in immediate disqualification.

Nothing in this EOI shall be taken to form a binding legal contract. The potential subsequent procurement will be governed by the rules and regulations of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).



## NIGERIAN NUCLEAR REGULATORY AUTHORITY

### A. REGISTRATION & RENEWAL OF LICENCES INVOLVING USE OF IONIZING RADIATION

1. The Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority (NNRA) wishes to remind all users of ionizing radiation in the country to renew their authorization for the year 2010 with the NNRA as is required in sections 4 and 6 of the Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Act of 1995. For the avoidance of doubt, the affected activities include: possession, production/manufacture, processing/transformation, purchase/sale, import/export, handling, use, transfer, assignment, land and marine transport, storage and disposal of any radioactive or nuclear material, radioactive waste, as well as prescribed substances and any apparatus emitting ionizing radiation.

2. Any premise used for storing a radioactive source or where activities or equipment therein emit ionizing radiation is also to be licensed. This includes:

- i. Hospitals and Diagnostic Centres with X-ray machines, Fluoroscopy machines, CT scanners;
- ii. Nuclear Medicine Clinics using open radioactive sources;
- iii. Radiotherapy Centres with Cobalt-60 machines or Cesium-137 Brachytherapy machines or LINAC;
- iv. Airports, Seaports and Inland terminals with X-ray Scanners, Factories and Production Plants using nuclear gauges;
- v. Nuclear Well-logging companies;
- vi. Industrial Radiography companies;
- vii. Mining of Uranium or other radioactive ores;
- viii. Sale and distribution of radioactive materials;
- ix. Research and Development involving radioactive sources;
- x. Radioactive Waste Management Facility.

3. Operation of Nuclear Reactor, Industrial Irradiation Facility, Accelerators and Neutron Generators.

4. Activities involving the disposal of radioactive waste, decommissioning or rehabilitation of installations connected with sources of ionizing radiation and radioactive waste.

5. Unauthorized involvement with any or all of the above is illegal and violators shall be duly prosecuted. Additionally, all unauthorized sources shall be confiscated while facilities and operations will be closed down.

### B. ACCREDITATION OF RADIATION PROTECTION SERVICE PROVIDERS

The NNRA also wishes to inform all Radiation Protection Service Providers that accreditation is mandatory as in Sections 4 and 6 of the Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Act of 1995 for:

- i. Personnel Dosimetry Services (Internal and External);
- ii. Calibration and Engineering Services;
- iii. Environmental Radiation Monitoring;
- iv. Quality Assurance/Quality Control Services;
- v. Radiation Protection Training;
- vi. Radioactive Waste Disposal, Decommissioning or Rehabilitation of Installations connected with sources of Ionizing Radiation; and
- vii. Any activity in the realm of Radiation Protection service.

C. All persons involved in the activities listed above are required to immediately contact:

**The Director-General/CEO,  
Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority,  
Plot 564/565 Airport Road,  
Independence Avenue,  
P. M. B. 559, Garki,  
Central Area,  
Abuja.**

Telephone: 09 6701153, Fax: 09 4618630

Email: official@nnra.gov.ng, dg@nnra.gov.ng  
Website: www.nnra.gov.ng

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the vacant position of **Chief Security Officer** in a dynamic manufacturing company.

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- Establish and maintain contact with relevant government security agencies.
- Advice management on security matters.
- Carry out such other jobs as may from time to time be assigned by Management.
- Inspect and sign all shift security reports prepared by the security contractor.
- Liaise with the contractor to control and regulate in coming and out going visitors and goods.
- Inspect and sign all gate registers being maintained by the security contractor i.e. Visitors' entry permit, Gate passes, Dispatches, Vehicles etc.
- Prepare regular reports on agreed format.
- Hold regular meetings with the contractor to review the security situation and implement management decisions.
- Organize regular security checks of uniforms, batons, whistles and equipments provided either by the Company or Contractor.

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The person required to fill this position must possess the following:-

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### Working Experience

Should be at least the rank of retired Captain in the Nigerian army with considerable work experience and have the capacity to lead and get result.

Fluency in Hausa Language is an advantage.

### Age

Not below 35.

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### METHOD OF APPLICATION

Interested applicants should apply in writing to:

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Katsina House,  
Plot 80, Ralph Sodeinde Street,  
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Applications accompanied with relevant CVs and credentials must be received within two weeks of this advert.

**Only short listed candidates will be acknowledged.**

# Online Reactions

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



ACTING President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan

## Jonathan bans congratulatory adverts, solidarity visits

YES, Well done! Mr Acting President.

**Ali Makaddas**  
[amakaddassl@yahoo.com](mailto:amakaddassl@yahoo.com)

Nigerians faith is hanging in the balance. Mr. Acting President, please lead for the progress of our beloved country, Nigeria.

**Ahmad Saeed Ibrahim**  
[asibrahim06707@yahoo.com](mailto:asibrahim06707@yahoo.com)

## Trust's columnists and the Jos crises

I am glad someone had the time to send a rejoinder on the article on some Daily Trust columnists. They made it seem like a warfare between Muslims and Christians, with the Muslims at the receiving end. If they had used the same vigor to condemn Hausa-Fulani or Muslims who killed Christians in Kano, Kaduna or Sokoto in the past, maybe we would never have had a Muslim vs Christian 'war' in Jos.

But the truth of the matter is that, you do not have to be a Christian or Muslim to know that killing another human being is bad. It is good that the columnists cried foul over the killings in Jos, but they hyped things and made everyone jittery, and I must commend the sincerity of some Daily Trust columnists who have proven over time that they're professionals. If Daily Trust must serve as an alternative voice of reason against parochialism, they need more objective writers.

**Felix Abrahams Obi**  
[halal3k@yahoo.com](mailto:halal3k@yahoo.com)

# Ogbulafor can't see Yar'adua

THE House of Reps delegation could not see Yar'Adua, his party chairman could not see him, the governors too could not see him because as we heard earlier from Senator Abba-Aji, clearance needed to be obtained from the

Saudi authorities. Now. But the Saudi envoy in Nigeria is saying that is not true. This is always the case when you try to cover one lie with another, you end up erecting a mountain of lies. Could it be true then, that Yar'Adua's

signature on the supplementary budget was actually forged since the man is inaccessible? Maybe the House, the PDP chairman, the governors and other interested groups who desire to see Yar'Adua should try a unique

Nigerian way, they should go back to Saudi with a few Ghana-must-go bags! I guarantee that they will see the man. After all, nothing goes for nothing!

**Pita**  
[justpita@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:justpita@yahoo.co.uk)

# Jos crisis 2008: Ajibola panel indicts Hausa

IF the Ajibola commission had recommended the contrary, I would have been surprised. Right from the inauguration of the commission, every right thinking Nigerian knew that the commission would not be fair to the Hausa/Fulani community. Mr. Ajibola, now that you have done Jang's bidding, why don't you go ahead and prosecute the so-called culprits you mentioned in your report? Ajibola, who is a onetime Minister of Justice, a former Nigerian Ambassador should not have produced this kind of report.

**Jibrin Sa'eed**  
[isaedisaeed@yahoo.com](mailto:isaedisaeed@yahoo.com)

This report is counterproductive. It should focus on assessing the antecedents and consequences of the violence. It should have also been published much earlier than now. It occurred in 2008 violence for God's sake.

**Dr. Adam Abba-Aji**  
[ajidungus@gmail.com](mailto:ajidungus@gmail.com)

That is good to hear. I think with these kind of recommendations by the committee, it will be better for the Hausa people to leave Jos entirely.

**Zainab Umar**  
[zilyganga@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:zilyganga@yahoo.co.uk)

The report is exactly what the Plateau State government wanted. Ajibola has allowed himself to be used, thereby soiling his past record and the good name he made in this country. I am sure, this would be the last assignment, the former jurist will undertake. It is a sad and disappointing end for Ajibola.

**Ahmed Mohammed**  
[ahmediya2005@yahoo.com](mailto:ahmediya2005@yahoo.com)

It is a well known fact that the Hausa/Fulani people are to



PRINCE Bola Ajibola

blame. The former Governor of Bauchi State, Muazu, attended a missionary secondary in Plateau, the current one, Yuguda attended primary and secondary schools in Jos. Let it be known that Plateau is the most friendly state in Nigeria. The panel said it all.

**Chief Nelson Johnson**  
[gm@yahoo.com](mailto:gm@yahoo.com)

No one is surprised with the outcome, it was predicted before the committee began its work. Besides, Ajibola is a typical Nigerian elite, this is the kind of job retired public officers who desperately want to remain relevant do. We are still watching.

**Abdu Isa Kofarmata**  
[kmatagigi@yahoo.com](mailto:kmatagigi@yahoo.com)

We agree that the problem is that of ethnicity, but what have we done to address it, nothing. The governor should have been impeached a long time ago. If people were punished in 2008, the 2010 crisis would not have occurred. Let us solve some of the problems in the country by creating jobs for youths. May God help us.

**Rakiya B**

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

This report is the position of the government, Jos master plan, blaming Hausa Fulani for the crisis, blaming former President Ibrahim Babangida for creating Jos North and all. The panel was only used to rubber stamp the government's position.

It is hard to believe that Ajibola could be used to settle political scores, because all those to be investigated are the political enemies of the governor.

**Jaafar Othman**  
[jaf.othman@yahoo.co](mailto:jaf.othman@yahoo.co)

It is quite unfortunate, but we thank God that Nigerians no longer have confidence in these kind of panels. It is a shame that a former Chief Judge can be influenced by a governor. Why don't we use the recommendations of the Amnesty International that worked during the crisis. Please ICC should intervene.

**Usman Ahmed Danbaba**  
[danbaba1986@yahoo.com](mailto:danbaba1986@yahoo.com)

That report is totally bias and useless. I am really disgusted by the kangaroo report. I am a Chris-

tian and an indigene of Plateau State and feel we should speak the truth and try to find a solution to the problem, not to ignite it. See the last crisis in which people were maimed and killed. Today, industries are not being established in the state, and all the existing ones have been closed. The Ajibola report should be compared with other previous reports and let the truth be told.

**Usman Thomas**  
[bigboi9@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bigboi9@hotmail.co.uk)

Is it surprising that the commission did what Jang set it up to do? It only confirmed the initial fear that the Ajibola panel would be bias. Whether here, or in the hereafter, Jang and his cohorts must answer for their crimes against humanity.

**Adam Khalifa**  
[silversun509@yahoo.com](mailto:silversun509@yahoo.com)

I just can't imagine how they arrived at this conclusion. Maybe the final report will come out with something different because there is no justice or equity in this report.

**Timchan**  
[nuhunimlan@yahoo.com](mailto:nuhunimlan@yahoo.com)

Prince Ajibola is just a rubber stamp. What happened in Jos is a clear case of genocide and Jonah Jang cannot deny it. Plateau State must therefore be split and added to Kaduna, Bauchi and Nasarawa States.

**Sallau Samaila**  
[salawuishot@hotmail.com](mailto:salawuishot@hotmail.com)

This is the truth and people should not run away from it. It is either Hausa vs Jukun, Hausa vs Tiv or Hausa vs Yoruba in Lagos etc. Those guilty should be dealt with once and for all.

**Rakiya**  
[raksdan@yahoo.com](mailto:raksdan@yahoo.com)

# Rep insists Jang had a hand in Jos crisis

HOW can a House of Reps member come out to accuse his governor, without any concrete proof? Is this Rep saying Justice Ajibola, who is a Muslim did not investigate the issue properly? A justice at the World Court was wrong in arriving at what everyone knows has been the antics of Hausa/Fulani in Jos? For heaven's sake, why are people so callous and malicious? Why should this mem-

ber ever think that the evil perpetuated will never be uncovered?

I hope Jonathan does not only get to the root of this matter, but ensures that all culprits are brought to book, no matter their position in Nigeria.

**Kurgo**  
[dun.kurgo1964@googlemail.com](mailto:dun.kurgo1964@googlemail.com)

Samaila Mohammed's reaction to this unofficial Ajibola report is

akin to Mantu's reaction on the Hausa service of the VOA this morning. If they went to court to stop the Ajibola commission, they did not tell us if they were able to obtain an injunction. These utterances by Mohammed and Mantu are like Ajibola predicted, capable of inciting the public.

**Ladan Gindiri**  
[ladangindiri@yahoo.com](mailto:ladangindiri@yahoo.com)

Take him to court if you like. God will bring anyone that has no regards for human life to book and very soon too. Now, I have no doubt in my mind that our so called leaders are the ones causing problems for us in this country and all this is because there is no free and fair election in Nigeria.

**Aji Isuwa Suleiman**  
[suleimanaji@yahoo.com](mailto:suleimanaji@yahoo.com)



By Kabiru Danladi Lawanti

## On *Trust's* columnists and the Jos crises

Reading George Omonya's controversial piece on the above subject matter, first on our forum, the Trust Writers Forum and later published at the back page of the Daily Trust (Wednesday, February 10, 2010), I had to respond to him and pray that the management of *Daily Trust* would offer me the privilege to reach out to the millions who had the chance to read Omonya's article, not, I must add, with the intention of defending the Trust columnists, but to straighten some distorted facts. Mr Omonya is not new to our forum and for sometimes he was one of its few controversial contributors. I could remember, sometimes in 2008, I had to stand firm and insist that he should not be blocked, as the Trust Forum is open for everybody to express his views. Many in the forum believed that Mr Omonya was out to cause trouble by his sometimes incisive and often abusive articles, which he claims to be objective. I was once forced to respond to him rather harshly when he also came with similar article, immediately after the 2008 Bauchi crisis.

One good thing about the word objectivity is its ambiguity; therefore it became one of the few English words that defy a single definition. That is why

“I was once forced to respond to him rather harshly when he also came with similar article, immediately after the 2008 Bauchi crisis”

communication scholars, like Professor Emeritus Walter Lippmann, Richard F Taflinger and many others believe that achieving objectivity is an impossible task for a journalist. One of the reasons cited by the scholars was, among others, our cultural background, including religion, culture, family and environment. That is why Mr Omonya's has not surprise me, knowing him well. It is very easy for people like Mr Omonya, whose concept of objectivity was to remain silent on whatever atrocities committed against Muslim, Hausa/Fulani, because, for him they deserve to be treated as such. It is equally very easy for him to see Palestinians, whose lands were occupied, whose women are raped daily by an occupying Israel Armed Forces, their children killed, accused of being terrorists, whenever they have a chance of inflicting injury on the occupier.

The Nigerian situation, especially our media, which of course started from the South, is really pathetic. The Lagos/Ibadan axis press, which to Mr Omonya was an objective industry, was very suspicious of its neighbour, the North, remained the most 'un-objective' when reporting anything North, Hausa/Fulani or Islam. Secondly, since independence to date, the Nigerian media was dominated mainly by people whose sole aim was the promotion of ethnic, sectional and sometimes parochial interests and the Southern press was the biggest culprit here. I was not surprised when I met a

lady from the South-West, who for the first time crossed the River Niger to come to the North to pursue her degree in Mass Communication in ABU Zaria sometimes in 2000. The lady had the impression that the whole of Northern Nigeria was nothing but a collection of scattered villages characterised by mud houses and thatched roofs, with very primitive people pursuing flock of sheep and herds of cattle as they grazed the long grass. She knew nothing about the North, its culture and religious diversity. My point here is that, if she were to read Mass Communication, law, or political science, for instance, at the University of Ibadan or University of Lagos or even University of Nigeria, Nsukka, and find herself as public commentator in one of the Southern newspapers, she won't be different from those people we see daily castigating the North, the Hausa or Fulani or Islam because of her skewed world view, which starts and ends in her own axis.

Those of us who claim to know or love Nigeria, in fact know nothing about the country. I am not in support of promoting parochial or sectional interest, but the fact remains that we need to respect each other, our views - religious and cultural - if really we want to live as a nation and as Nigerians. So many people from the South say things about the North that ordinarily, they should not say. What the Ribadus, Tafawa Balewas, Danjumas, Babangidas, Gowons and the Sardaunas of old tolerated in the early days of Nigeria through to the early and late 90s would not be tolerated now. They were tolerant, because they knew their people, majority of whom were more concerned with what came from the broadcast media than newspapers, could not read papers to see the kind of abuse rained on those Northern leaders daily by the Lagos/Ibadan axis press before and after independence.

The Jos crisis, which my brother used in accusing *Daily Trust* columnists of bias was one of the few cases of how myopic we are and media bias and lack of conscience characteristic of the Lagos/Ibadan axis press, which is there for us to see. Understanding the feelings of the Trust columnists needs a person with a human mind and reasoning, who harbours no hatred for other sections to comprehend. It is very easy for a Southern columnist or reporter for instance to describe shari'ah in Zamfara with all sort of derogatory words you can think of like 'a raging fire', or easily describe a riot as genocide in Kano or Maiduguri and many like it, but would find it very difficult, even after watching the atrocities committed by human beings against their fellows, or even the corpses that were pulled out from the wells in Kuru Karama and other villages in the recent Jos mayhem as reported by *Aljazeera*, BBC and many human rights groups, as worthy of condemnation. In their eyes, these people deserved to be killed or chased out of the Plateau because they are "settlers".

This is not the first time such crises have occurred in Northern Nigeria.

Lawanti, wrote from Area 11, Garki, Abuja



By Tunde Asaju

## Support Madam Turai for President

I need to appeal to God to change the rules. You can't imagine how many marriages have crashed because a husband was unable to perform his conjugal duties. Things are changing and I think God should change the rules to make us happier. Nigeria has been doing the impossible and only the ungrateful would not acknowledge it. We have run a headless country for over two months and now we are running one outside the rules and but for the league of malcontents led by a grey-bearded killjoy and friends nobody is complaining. Nothing has changed since November 23. Rather than rock the boat, we should all be jostling for recognition in the Guinness Book of Records. That is where Soyinka, Falana and Bakare should direct their protests, not Abuja, Lagos, New York and London. The National Assembly should be probing the source of their air tickets and visa instead of imposing on us an acting president.

Political office is personal and nobody should think for a season that because they queued in the sun and the rain to vote, they still have rights. From the day that Iwu issued a certificate of return till he declares another pending election, nobody has rights or privileges. I challenge any common voter to provide evidence that he has been consulted since by his governor, chairman or representatives were sworn in?

So, I find it quite insulting that some people want Mr. President to transmit

“The National Assembly should be probing the source of their air tickets and visa instead of imposing on us an acting president”

a letter just because he's gone on medical evacuation. How many of them have given notice that they are going to be sick? As governor of Katsina State, Mr. President was known to have disappeared for six consecutive months, without making a national headline. The state continued to run and economically too, because money, which should have been used to fuel official cars were saved. Ask the Lagos State House of Assembly how much *Aktion* Governor Fashola spends on fuel in a month and you get my drift.

Nigerians should be grateful, after all, having served Katsina dutifully for eight long and uninterrupted years, Mr. President was looking forward to his term on campus where lecturers naturally decide when to shut down or teach when Obasanjo went there to recruit him. Before then Madam Turaya was looking forward to the coveted second honeymoon since all the children have grown and married. Mr President is a private person who gave up his natural right to four wives to cling unto one and only Madam Turaya can declare him incapacitated. It is she who marries a man that knows when he is incapacitated and until so

declared Oga is up and doing.

This is the trouble when you join I-too-know people with us northern feudal serfs. No wonder they want three republics in one. But I can't see any sense in making somebody acting president when he is not an actor?

I am totally disavowed to this acting thing. If not that the Saudi is yet to deliver my free ticket, I would have emigrated to Jeddah on the day Saint Michael Aondoakaa was removed as justice minister in favour of one pounded-yam eating SAN. The entire acting thing is illegal, ultra vires, null

“Until Iwu pronounces a vacancy, this country is safely in the hands of the Yar'aduas and if anyone thinks otherwise, they are wrong”

and void and those who succumbed to it will suffer when Madam recovers the mandate. Until Iwu pronounces a vacancy, this country is safely in the hands of the Yar'aduas and if anyone thinks otherwise, they are wrong. The Yar'aduas, like Modu Sheriff have the right to an annual vacation to the moon provided Nigeria sells enough crude to pay Branson the fare.

The idea that governors supported the coup is also a crash demonstration of the lack of the interpretation of the law in the absence of Aondoakaa. Who is the Governors' Forum? Are they legal? If so, what is their quorum? Did they form a quorum? Did the super governors of Bauchi and Kebbi vote in support of their decision? If it can be proved that they did not vote, then there was no decision. The votes of those two equal two thirds of thirty-six in this matter. Those in doubt can ask Aondoakaa how five nations make the rules at the UN Security Council. And if, as some bad belles are clamouring, the NASS impeaches Mr. President, to the extent that Katsina legislators did not say 'yeah' that resolution shall be null and void and of no effect anywhere in this country for the next 18 months. If our foreign reserves deplete, should we blame governors who do not live in Abuja?

Who has the power to declare Oga incapacitated? Only Madam. Who should be the natural successor in case Madam declares Oga incapacitated? Who has read the mind of Oga except Madam? The answer lies with Madam Turaya. Who has seen Oga since he left Nigeria? Only Madam? Who has spoken to him day, night and morning? Only Madam? Who could interpret his gestures? Who could read his mind? Only Madam. Who is his natural (not imposed) running mate? Only Madam. Therefore, the equation where all the answers to all questions are one, let us abide by the answer and support Madam Turaya, sorry, I mean Turai Yar'adua as President.

(tundeasaju@yahoo.co.uk)



## Your Letters

### Whose side is Borno Integrity Group on?

I read your interesting article published in the *Daily Trust* of Wednesday, February 3, 2010 on the creation of more Emirates in Borno State. I am not picking any quarrel with the main body of the article as I am not a politician, nor do I belong to the traditional institution. However, as a concerned citizen, follower and subject of the state and traditional institution, I feel it necessary to comment on the article.

What is puzzling is whether the group is really supporting the intension of government to create more emirates and chiefdoms as they claimed, or indirectly criticizing it. I am not a student of English but was disturbed by the

last sentence of their article, which I quote in part: "...when our state is being governed by a no-nonsense and fearless governor that is determined to free our people from the antics of the ruling class in Borno and do things right for our people..."

The main crux of the issue at stake in the article is the word antics. Various editions of Oxford Advance Learners Dictionary and Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English gave the meaning of the word antic as ridiculous behaviour, behaviour which is silly and funny, strange or foolish behaviour that is usually regarded with disapproval which the public eventually grew tired of the act.

When you talk of the ruling class in this context and in fact in the Nigerian context, it is the government or the traditional institutions - emirs and chiefs. Drawing analogy from the foregoing, they are either saying that the behav-

our of government in this regard is ridiculous or that the traditional institutions in question should have no place in our contemporary society because of the behaviours the institution exhibits according to the word in question. In other words, people are subjected to these institutions of coercion and suppression which eventually keep them in perpetual hardship. Is the group now then urging the government that it should further establish these institutions to the rural core to make it easier to coerce or are they telling the government the opposite?

However, one is not inciting but that government and the public should beware of such groups in smearing the image of government and or our respected traditional institutions, as in this case.

Umar M. Chara, *Pompomari Housing Estate, Maiduguri.*

## Text us on 08 131 8000 30

### 2001 sai Goodluck!

GO ahead Goodluck Jonathan; we know you can do better. By giving Goodluck the mandate to act as president, peace has returned to Nigerians. 2011 here we come. SAGIR Aliyu, *Funtua, Katsina state, 08061601674.*

### Burning question

WHY can't the excess crude oil money be used to repair our refineries, instead of sharing the proceeds among those that would certainly apply them wrongly? INDO, *Kano, 07036109736.*

### Talk of saving Buhari

ONE hopes all this brouhaha over Buhari being the perfect driver come 2011 is not a ploy to drag the gentleman into committing political harakiri. Buhari is the ideal leader, but his right hand men have so many questions to answer as far as Nigeria's democratic process is concerned. They have bastardised the whole structure in such a way that it'll take

Buhari more than a spanner to fix. The general will no doubt require a chisel, hammer & filter to fix things right. The question is, can he? SALISU Aso, *Suleja, Niger State, 08069743517.*

### Yar'adua's undoing

THE greatest mistake Yar'adua did was the order he gave security forces to crush Boko Haram. Those summary executions are enough to provoke God. IMB, *08099495893.*

### Congrats Ajibola

YOU have done well. What a legal luminary! You should have applied principle of fair hearing though. ADAMU Mohammad, *Dambo Road, Maiduguri, 08060853461.*

### Does he deserve that?

A man who sold part of his country to Cameroon will not find it hard to sell his conscience to Jonah. HAMZA M. Birnin Kebbi, *08022407077.*

### Too much good luck may be bad

IF I'm to be a boss of any sort in this country, I won't appoint a Goodluck Jonathan as my deputy. From deputy governor to governor to vice president and now acting president, who knows, may be president down the road. What manner of good luck is that! ORDUEN Imenger, *Makurdi, 07032538050.*

### Keep searching

I'M looking for a needle in a haystack: Hon Fatahi of Kano Municipal City constituency. We have not heard from him since the election. BADR Mairaba, *Kano, 08069017887.*

### My advice to Sanusi Abubakar

I think your "columnist" should take up a job at Jigawa Times. H Bayero, *FCT, 08062121885.*



By Ene Ede

## Time ripe for a female Vice President

SOME call it a trial, others a challenge. Yet a few more call it the outcome of a tragic and terrible leadership and systemic failure. The situation in which we find ourselves can best be described as the search for positive change; we need and can be provided by the conscience of the nation-mothers of goodwill.

As we move out of this crossroads in the history of our nation, women, persons with disabilities, the aged, youths and men of goodwill must take action to halt our movement to a bad pass, or a dead end.

Whether it is orchestrated, accidental or part of the learning process, we must act now, to save Nigeria.

Excursion into global history, and especially into black history, has shown that the vulnerable groups have displayed great courage in changing their history and that of their communities and nations.

Women should take another look at how those great Founding Mothers of our nation, such as Chief Funmi-layo Ransome-Kuti, Chief Margaret Ekpo, Hajiya Gambo Sawaba, and a host of first-generation human rights activists, would have responded to today's situation in our country.

The communique issued at the end the emergency meeting of the Nigerian Governors' Forum Thursday February 4, coming back-to-back with the Professor Dora Akunyili's courageous memo, is an indication that the value-enhancing input of women is being hampered.

The natural, trauma-healing, unbiased arbiter and impartial judge, managerial, mediation, gift of women must be brought to bear on our situation in Nigeria.

As special guest at the 2010 7th Media Trust Annual Lecture, Global Amazon, Mrs. Winnie Madzizkizela-Mandela declared: "It's the women's century" she said, urging us women to take control of our environment to the advantage of humanity.

Our young Ghanaian parliamentarian, Representative Samia Nkrumah also demonstrated this conviction by sharing with us the fresh perspectives every good woman adds to governance.

Reasons why we must speak now:

Firstly, to save the nation from stagnation and rescue Nigeria from the hands of political jobbers who have no passion for anything but selfish ambitions.

Secondly, to save and secure the future generations to come and put Nigeria back on the path of honour in addition to honouring President Yar'adua and family and stand in the gap to shield Nigeria from the scorn resulting from global image-bashing.

Another reason is to provide alternative support structure and participate actively, thereby putting Nigeria on the path to sustainable development and give a new sense of direction.

In trying to address these issues, we hereby propose:

- That in the emerging governance-leadership equation - A woman of repute, tested, tried and trusted by majority be made Vice-President

- Acting President Goodluck Jonathan be given a vice that will support him take Nigeria to the top. Amb. Sarah Jibril is the natural choice: she has been the most genuine and consistent contender to the presidency; a true bridge-religious, generational (age) social, gender or ethnic. She has integrity, open records. Proven loyalty, patriotic and understands the needs of Nigeria and Nigerians. More so, she is a good but silent diplomat.

As Nigeria, one of the 189 UN members that signed the Accord on the Beijing Platform of Action, heads for New York for the Beijing + 15 Assessment Conference in less than 20 days, the current situation provides a golden opportunity for us to review and recommit ourselves to increasing the level of implementation of our commitment to that global pact.

We remain of course, abysmally low and are lagging behind in all respects of the 12 Critical Areas of the Beijing Plan for Action, at less than 10 per cent of the 30 per cent set 15 years ago.

The time for tangible, concrete action is NOW!

Ede is the Executive Director, Equity Advocates, National Centre for Women Development, Abuja.

## DAILY TRUST

## EDITORIAL

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## The Anambra governorship election

The people of Anambra State went to the polls on Saturday February 6th 2010 and elected Mr. Peter Obi, the incumbent Governor, of All Peoples Grand Alliance (APGA), who scored 97,843 votes, to beat his main challengers' 60,240 votes (Dr Chris Ngige of Action Congress) and 59,355 votes (Professor Charles Soludo of Peoples Democratic Party.)

The election was generally adjudged by observers to be free and fair. It was reported as the first time in the over ten years of Nigeria's democratic journey that the voters in the state had the opportunity to cast their votes and chose a new governor with little rancour.

The entire country paid attention to the developments in the state up till the election and release of result not just because it would represent a marker for the approaching general elections.

Nigerians equally waited to see how the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) would manage the election and the role that the security agencies especially the Nigerian Police would play in it. Fortunately, INEC and the security agencies conducted themselves fairly well though, not untypically, without complainants from some aspirants and their supporters. These centred on less credible voter register, which some of the aspirants claimed deliberately disenfranchised their supporters, hence their defeat.

There were also concerns on the huge security presence (about 20,000 police personnel) on such a very civic occasion.

Though there were no reports of the usual police brutality or complicity in aiding and abetting any form of electoral irregularity, we think that the less heavy presence of them in future elections the better for our democracy.

If in all elections, such a large number of security operatives would have to be deployed in a single state, it is unlikely that during general elections, the nation would have sufficient number to deploy to all parts of the country. Nigerians must take the lead in ensuring the attitudinal reformation needed to conduct elections without rancour and any form of manipulation or violence that often are responsible for the fear of security lapses and breakdown of law and order which inform the deployment of security personnel to election duty.

The complaints of credible voter register must also be addressed by INEC given the fact that similar complaints were raised during the governorship re-run election in Ekiti State last year. As we approach the general elections, it is necessary that voter register verification and updating are commenced immediately in order to address the likely problems of mixed registers and other pitfalls in the coming elections.

There is no way a free, fair and credible election can be realized without a comprehensive voter register. INEC should make it a matter of priority to refine the voter register which was last updated before the 2007 elections. Apart from obvious mix ups that were reported, there is also the problem of updating the register with those Nigerians that have attained the age of 18 while those who have died are deregistered. The issue of logistics is also very pertinent as several polling booths could not be supplied with appropriate voting materials when due, which led to extension of voting period in several parts of Anambra State. INEC must try to get all the logistics right as a confidence-building measure in the build-up to the next general elections.

The government should reconstitute INEC board in accordance with the provisions of the constitution so that the commission get its acts together in preparation for the enormous tasks ahead. The present situation whereby the Commission does have the required number of members to form a quorum is not healthy, especially when placed against the backdrop of the Lagos High Court ruling on the eve of the Anambra elections. We congratulate the people of Anambra state for the successful election and hope that future elections in not just the state but the nation as a whole would inspire such confidence in the people.

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## Jonathan needs more than good luck

Acting President Goodluck Jonathan dramatically took Yar'adua's chair to preside over the affairs of the Nigerian State. No need saying it, the National Assembly, especially the Senate gave us and the world, a jolting surprise decision on the way forward from Nigeria's wedged political future, following the absence of President Yar'adua for too long without a formal handover. Goodluck Jonathan has filled the vacuum and is steadily stabilizing his grip on power now, charting a course for his tenure.

Significant is the groundswell of support from all the different parts of Nigeria, specifically the support of the North for Jonathan, a Christian southerner, the first from oil-producing Niger Delta to lead Nigeria. It is seen as a good omen that the North supported and in deed led the clamour for the respect of the constitution through which Goodluck became Acting President. It is the "audacity of good luck"

The anxiety of the people for the survival of Nigeria is underscored by the recent visit of Eminent Elders' Group with former Head of State Yakubu Gowon, former President Shehu Shagari, former Interim Head of State Ernest Shonekan, former Vice President Alex Ekwueme, former Chief Justice of Nigeria, Alfa Belgore, former Governor of Plateau State and former National Chairman PDP Chief Solomon Lar, former Minister of Defence, TY Danjuma; former Minister Information, Prof. Jerry Gana, Senators Jonathan Zwingina, and Isaiah Balat; Chief Edwin Clark, NCC chairman, Malam Ahmed Joda; former Central Bank of Nigeria governor, Malam Adamu Ciroma, and Mrs Christy Silas, among others.

The times pose a challenge. Nigeria is at the lowest ebb of its life as a nation, and at the crossroads. The economy is going through a recession with oil prices declining. There is an energy crisis that has defied remedies from past regimes and in the midst of all its endowment, indicators point to Nigeria as among the poorest in the world. The people are up to their foreheads, filled with anger and frustration. And things can get worse!

But in the emergence of Goodluck Jonathan, the country has a hope and an opportunity. Things could change dramatically for the better. Nigeria has always had this lucky streak of tottering at the edge of the abyss but staggering back miraculously. This is more than mere good luck - God loves Nigeria.

If Goodluck Jonathan releases himself to be the man of the moment, he can change Nigeria's doomed destiny. Yes he can. The eminent elders told Goodluck Jonathan to deliver results for the benefit of the people, and so anxious are Nigerians that Goodluck Jonathan does not have the time to warm up.

There is the long term electoral reform that Nigerians badly hope for, on which Justice Muhammad Uwais has written a splendid proposal. Nigerians want Goodluck Jonathan to fast track the reforms. He has already got off on the good foot by giving an early nod to the outcome of the recent election to the post of Governor of Anambra State, congratulating the winner of the election Peter Obi,

### Timawus Mathias

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

even as his party the Peoples Democratic Party lost in it. It was a rarity that was like cleansing tonic. The threat to democracy has always been the struggle of the ruling party to make a clean sweep of all the elections even if through clear fraud. It is to the point that the ruling party has no internal democracy, instead, a team of fixers anoint candidates and go on to install through devised means and abuse of the electoral process. Although President Yar'adua was a product of this flawed process, he acknowledged so and offered the reforms.

Goodluck Jonathan is a product of the Nigerian constitution being applied to the letter of the law. He is

resource support has spent close to 300 times this amount and is still in the doldrums. Dadin Kowa Dam in Gombe has trapped 800 cubic meters of water while Kiri dam in Adamawa also has 800 cubic meters of water - both dams for well over 30 years now. The Bambuna dam in Sierra Leone has a little over 400 cubic meters of water only is delivering 50MW!

Goodluck Jonathan needs to face the power supply crisis in Nigeria by exposing the monumental corruption that has taken place in the effort to deal with the problem since 1999, and chart a new course with measures that bring instant relief. Change is possible if Jonathan moves quickly to secure private sector participation, including encouragement for states who have potential for hydro-generation. Gombe and Adamawa hydropower potential can be harnessed and

Jonathan's biggest challenge is corruption, and Nigeria's institutionalized corruption is largely responsible for the inability of successive regimes to meet the aspirations of the people

legally and incontrovertibly, the leader of Nigeria. This is a significant advantage, underlining the legitimacy of a Goodluck Jonathan regime, which really means that Nigeria can afford an immediate clean slate start with himself as the reform's first.

Jonathan's biggest challenge is corruption, and Nigeria's institutionalized corruption is largely responsible for the inability of successive regimes to meet the aspirations of the people. The Acting President will be at the end of his wits to function in the atmosphere of this corruption and most certainly cannot begin to make impact. Nothing can start unless Goodluck Jonathan by word and deed assures Nigerians that it is no longer business as usual.

Nigeria's most pressing problem is power supply. Any improvement in this sector is the people's yearning of the moment. The country's energy is the most expensive in the world due largely to corruption and the high inflation of infrastructure costs.

Before the political crisis got to this head, President Yar'adua had promised to declare a state of emergency on electricity. He reneged several times but finally resolved to provide Nigeria 6000MW of electricity and after expending billions of naira from special purpose funds, Nigeria is still having to suffocate under a paltry 2500 - 3000MW, much less than the requirement of Lagos alone. Say it boldly, the money did not buy what it was supposed to, and therefore remains literally stolen.

Same time as Minister of Power was announcing that Nigeria's supply had plummeted further to less than 3MW; Sierra Leone was celebrating its attainment of a modest 50MW from its first dam, the Bambuna Dam. The dam on the Seli River trapped only 428 cubic meters of water and cost less than \$300m. Nigeria with its massive

promptly delivered. Time is of crucial significance.

Much of corruption in the Yar'adua era has been less visible as was the case during Obasanjo's regime. It has been specified to budgeted funds - recall Professor Sam Aluko's classification of theft of public funds as being either from the economy or from the budget. Nigeria is where Government is unable to build and provide infrastructure, yet individuals who serve in it make filthy personal openly flaunted wealth. Without dealing with corruption and operating within the ambience of good corporate governance, Goodluck Jonathan can be considered "dead on arrival".

Many observers link corruption to all our national woes and note that countries with less corruption witness little or insignificant breach of law and order, and national security. Without corruption, a lingering crisis like religious violence of Muslims and Christians, and Muslim sects and one another can not be tackled. In Plateau State, those who were responsible for the 2008 occurrence went scot free, shielded by their corrupt sponsors. It is clear that efforts are being made to cover up the real truth about the most recent incident in Plateau, in which so many innocent citizens were killed. It does not make sense that those arrested are being tried out of the Jos, to the extent that the crime 'terrorism' was coined ostensibly to exclude Plateau State Government which was undermined in the crisis from rightfully prosecuting the suspects. This was the hot potato Goodluck Jonathan was dealing with just before his elevation to Acting President, and should really do the right thing on the principal findings on the issue to enable the ordinary citizens of Plateau who truly want to live, to enjoy their lives of harmonious and peaceful existence.



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# INTERNATIONAL

## EU renews sanctions on Zimbabwe for another year

THE European Union yesterday renewed its sanctions against Zimbabwe for another year, citing a lack of progress in implementing the country's power-sharing agreement.

"In view of the situation in Zimbabwe, in particular the lack of progress in the implementation of the Global Political Agreement signed in September 2008, the restrictive measures... should be

extended for a further period of 12 months," the 27 EU nations agreed in a decision published in the bloc's official journal.

President Robert Mugabe and his erstwhile rival Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai formed a unity government nearly a year ago, aiming to end political unrest targeting mainly supporters of the premier's Movement for Democratic Change (MDC).

Last September the EU sent a delegation to Zimbabwe, and found that benchmarks for reforms have not been met. Hence the decision to maintain the travel bans and assets freezes which were first introduced in 2002 on Mugabe and some 100 of his cohorts.

However the names of some individuals and countries were removed from the list after the investigation downgraded their

links with the main players.

Lutz Guellner, spokesman for EU foreign affairs chief Catherine Ashton, stressed that the sanctions remained under review. The EU stands ready "to revisit them if the current political situation improves," he told AFP. The aim is not to keep the status quo, he stressed.

Relations between Zimbabwe and the European Union were

strained nearly 10 years ago by a series of elections marred by violence and widespread allegations of human rights abuses by Mugabe's government. The decision was made through the formal announcement in the EU's official journal to prevent the sanctions expiring. EU foreign ministers will discuss the situation more fully when they meet in Brussels next week, said Guellner.

### US senator calls for solution to DR Congo problem

AN influential US senator said the international community should be instrumental in solving the problem of Rwandan Hutu rebels in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Speaking in the eastern town of Goma, Richard Durbin, number two in the Senate's Democrat majority, told AFP: "The question of FDLR (the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda) should be resolved both by the Congolese government, Rwandan government and the international community."

The Illinois senator, who is close to President Barack Obama, suggested that Rwanda should publish the names of FDLR fighters accused of violating human rights.

"Opportunity should be given to people who were not involved in horrific crimes to go back to Rwanda.

There are some who have already been back to Rwanda. They live quite well, because they were not involved in horrific crimes," Durbin said.

The number of Hutu rebels is put at less than 5,000 in the east of the former Zaire where they moved after the 1994 genocide in Rwanda which mainly targeted the Tutsi minority in that country. Some of them took an active part in the genocide.

The FDLR rebels are also accused of having committed atrocities against the civilian population in the east of the DRC in recent years.

Durbin, who arrived Monday in Goma, capital of the Nord-Kivu province bordering on Rwanda, visited a camp for displaced persons near the town.

He also went to a private hospital in Goma catering for victims of sexual violence and had talks with officials of the United Nations Mission in the DRC (MONUC). Durbin, accompanied by Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown, left Goma yesterday.

### Togo leader calls for peaceful elections

TOGO'S President Faure Gnassingbe has urged the people of the small West African nation to ensure that the March 4 presidential election is not marred by violence as was the case in the past.

"We must avoid at all costs to create fresh tension in the upcoming election which, instead, should allow the nation of Togo to make a new qualitative leap towards reconciliation and unity," Gnassingbe said in a yesterday night televised address on the eve of the start of electoral campaigning. The campaigning runs through March 2.

Presidential elections in Togo have always been disputed and followed by violence. Between 100 and 800 people were killed in demonstrations 2005 that followed the vote in which Gnassingbe was first elected.

Gnassingbe is seeking re-election after succeeding his father Gnassingbe Eyadema, who died in February 2005 after 38 years in power.

"We must allow our people to go through this sensitive election period smoothly and free of violence.

This is the only way we can consolidate our final break with the past cycles of violence that often characterised our electoral process," Gnassingbe said.

He expressed the hope that the electorate after the polls will "rejoice" at having cast their ballots in peace and under strict democratic rules.

"As we all know, people have shown their democratic maturity, making the 2007 parliamentary vote a success hailed by politicians and the international community," said Gnassingbe. Seven candidates are listed for the vote.



PRESIDENT Faure Gnassingbe

## International

## Dubai seeks global dragnet for Hamas slaying

DUBAI police appealed for an international manhunt yesterday after releasing names and photos of an alleged 11-member European hit squad accused of stalking and killing a Hamas commander last month in a plot that mixed cold precision with spy caper disguises such as fake beards and wigs.

The case — as presented by

Dubai authorities — rings of clockwork espionage and detailed planning that included suspects riding the same elevator as Mahmoud al-Mabhouh before he was slain in an ambush-style attack in a luxury hotel room that took no more than 10 minutes.

But questions emerged about the suspect list, which Dubai authorities listed as six British,

three Irish and one each from France and Germany.

Ireland said the three alleged Irish citizens on the wanted list do not exist. In Germany, officials said the passport number given by Dubai for the lone German suspect is either incomplete or wrong.

Other elements also challenged Dubai's narrative, includ-

ing how investigators pieced together the evidence pointing to an alleged European assassin team. Or why such an apparently well-planned operation would forget about Dubai's wide-ranging security cameras.

Dubai police gave no further details after a stunning news conference Monday to blame the slaying on a team of 10 men and one

woman carrying passports from Britain, Ireland, France and Germany.

Officials outside Dubai, however, said at least two Palestinians linked to the case were in Dubai custody, leaving Hamas and its Palestinian rivals trading bitter accusations. Meanwhile, doubts were raised about some suspects' identities.



ACTIVISTS of the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party raise their hands during a march in the support of President Asif Ali Zardari in Karachi yesterday.

## Iran rejects US military dictatorship comments

IRAN'S foreign minister hit back yesterday against US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's warning that the Islamic republic is becoming a military dictatorship. Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki retorted that it is the United States that has become a military dictator-

ship, pointing to its wars in Vietnam through Iraq and Afghanistan. He criticized Clinton's Mideast tour, which took her to Saudi Arabia on Monday, saying it was "overflowing with contradictions and incorrect actions."

"Those who have been the very symbol of military

dictatorship over the past decades, since the Vietnam War until now, see everyone else in the same way," Mottaki said at a press conference with his Turkish counterpart, Ahmet Davutoglu.

Mottaki repeated Iran's stance that its nuclear program is peaceful and "absolutely legitimate."

...warns world powers against sanctions

PRESIDENT Mahmoud Ahmadinejad warned yesterday that world powers would regret any moves to slap new sanctions on Iran, while stressing Tehran was still ready for a UN-brokered nuclear fuel deal. Ahmadine-

jad's latest salvo came as US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton toured the Gulf to earn backing for possible sanctions against Iran for defiantly pursuing its nuclear programme. He also said that Washington was "inca-

pable" of creating a consensus against Iran. "If anybody seeks to create problems for Iran, our response will not be like before," the hardline Iranian president told a packed news conference in the capital Tehran.

## Alh. Bashir Iliyasu Bags Award



The Institute of Company and Commercial Accountants of Nigeria in its recent investiture of new Governing Council Members conferred on Alh. Bashir Iliyasu (right) the Proficiency in Accountancy Profession Award in recognition of his contributions to Company Accounting in Nigeria.

# International

## Myanmar sentences 4 activists as UN envoy visits

**MILITARY-RULED** Myanmar sentenced four activists to prison terms with hard labor on the same day a U.N. envoy arrived to assess progress on human rights in the country, the opposition said yesterday.

The four women were arrested last October after being accused of offering Buddhist monks alms that included religious literature, said Nyan Win, spokesman for the opposition party headed by detained Nobel Peace prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi. The women used to hold prayer services at Yangon's Shwedagon pagoda for Suu Kyi's release. They were sentenced Monday to two years imprisonment with hard labor, Nyan Win said.

The judgment came as special U.N. envoy Tomas Ojea Quintana arrived for a five-day visit to evaluate progress on reform. "Human rights abuses in the country continue unabated even during the visit of the human rights envoy," Nyan Win said.

Amnesty International, a London-based human rights organization, on Tuesday also blasted the junta's human rights record, calling on the regime to halt repression of ethnic minority activists before forthcoming national and local elections.

## India condemns Maoist attack that killed 25

INDIA'S home minister yesterday condemned an attack by Maoist rebels that killed 24 police officers and a student, the latest brazen raid in a campaign of insurgent violence.

About 20 rebels on motorcycles and in cars launched the assault on a police camp in West Bengal state's Midnapore district at about 5:00 pm (1130 GMT) Monday, killing officers in a hail of gunfire, looting weapons and detonating landmines that started fires. It came as a security offensive is under way in several Maoist-infested states aimed at flushing the outlawed insurgents out of their strongholds.

Police said Tuesday that eight more bodies had been pulled from the charred remains of the security centre, 200 kilometres (125 miles) west of the state capital Kolkata.



**ANOMA Fonseka, center, wife of the Sri Lanka's defeated presidential candidate, Gen. Sarath Fonseka, participates in a protest demanding his immediate release in Colombo, yesterday.**

## Sri Lanka's opposition appeals defeat in court

SRI Lanka's jailed and defeated opposition presidential candidate appealed to the country's highest court yesterday to overturn the results of last month's election, a lawmaker said.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa secured a wide victory over his former army chief and main rival Sarath Fonseka in the Jan. 26 election, according to official results. But the opposition claims the poll was marred by widespread fraud and has rejected the result.

Lawyers for Fonseka, who was arrested last week after the government said he was planning a coup, have asked the Supreme Court to annul the results of the vote, said Tissa Attanayake, an opposition lawmaker. The appeal cites alleged government involvement in vote-rigging, use of state resources on behalf of Rajapaksa and other violations. It was not clear when the court would consider the case.

The campaign between

Rajapaksa and Fonseka was a bitter one.

The two were allies when they worked together to defeat the Tamil Tiger rebels last year, but fell out after the war.

Fonseka denies plotting to stage a coup, and the opposition says he was arrested because he dared to challenge Rajapaksa. The dispute has spilled over onto the streets and even into the Buddhist temples of the island nation off the southern coast of India.

For the Sinhalese Buddhist clergy, both Rajapaksa and Fonseka are considered heroes for defeating the Tigers and ushering in a period of peace. The country's top Buddhist monks have urged Rajapaksa to release Fonseka immediately.

Yesterday, thousands of opposition supporters paraded in Colombo demanding Fonseka's freedom and accusing the government of undermining democracy.

## Taliban's top military commander captured

THE Taliban's top military commander has been arrested in a joint CIA-Pakistani operation in Pakistan in a major victory against the insurgents as U.S. troops push into their heartland in southern Afghanistan, officials said yesterday.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, the group's No. 2 leader behind Afghan Taliban founder Mullah Mohammad Omar and a close associate of Osama bin Laden, was captured in the southern Pakistani port city of Karachi, two Pakistani intelligence officers and a senior US official said. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release such sensitive information.

One Pakistani officer said Baradar was arrested 10 days ago with the assistance of the United States and "was talking" to his interrogators.

Baradar is the most senior Afghan Taliban leader arrested since the beginning of the Afghan war in 2001 following the September 11 terror attacks in the United States.

His capture represents a significant success for the administration of President Barack Obama, which has vowed to kill or seize Taliban and al-Qaida leaders in Afghanistan and Pakistan. It follows the ramping up of CIA missile strikes against militant targets along the border between the two countries that have reportedly killed many midlevel commanders.

It was unclear how Baradar was tracked down. Pakistan's spy agency has been accused in the past of protecting top Taliban leaders believed sheltering in the country, frustrating Washington. Moving against Baradar could signal that Islamabad increasingly views the Afghan Taliban, or at least some of its members, as fair game. There was also speculation that the arrest could be related in some way to a new push by the United States and its NATO allies to negotiate with moderate Afghan Taliban leaders as a way to end the eight-year war in Afghanistan.



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Application forms for all programmes are completed online at College website: [www.yabatech.edu.ng](http://www.yabatech.edu.ng) on payment of the sum of ten thousand naira (N10,000.00) only at any branch of Zenith Bank. In addition, candidates must ensure that their academic transcripts of the NCE, ND, etc reach the Office of the Director, TTTP, Yaba College of Technology.

For further enquiries, applicants may contact the Director, TTTP or call 01-8760114.

The deadline for submission is four weeks from the date of this publication.

Signed

**Biekoroma C. Amapakabo**

Registrar



## Yaba College of Technology

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### INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR EDUCATION TRUST FUND (ETF) SPECIAL INTERVENTION PROJECTS

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- Contract YCT/YABA/ETF-SI /10/03A - Supply of Books of various titles and authors, E-Books, Audio Visual and Multi media Equipment, and Journals of various titles (local) into the College library
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#### 2. PRE-QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

- Only contractor/suppliers/Consultants that have proven capability, relevant experience and good track record will be considered for pre-qualification to tender.
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- Company Tax Clearance Certificates for the last three (3) years.
- Evidence of registration with professional bodies (Applicable to Consultants)
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- Evidence of financial strength, credit worthiness and readiness to instruct bankers to supply financial information on the company as may be required.
- Evidence of community and social responsibility (if any)
- A sworn affidavit indicating that all documents submitted are genuine and verifiable
- A sworn affidavit that none of the directors has been convicted in any country for any criminal offence, including fraud or financial impropriety.
- Bidders should accordingly include in their bid, a sworn affidavit indicating whether any officer of Yaba College of Technology is a former or present director, shareholder or has any pecuniary interest in the company
- For Lot 01, only contractor that have constructed not less than 5 (five) storey building need apply

#### 3. SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

Bound pre-qualification documents in wax-sealed envelope with "Pre-qualification as Contractor / Supplier/Consultants as the case may be written at the top left hand corner should be hand-delivered not later than 12noon on Friday, March 5, 2010 to:

The Registrar  
Yaba College of Technology  
Yaba-Lagos

#### 4. OPENING OF PRE-QUALIFICATION BIDDERS

Pre-qualification envelopes will be opened at 12.30 p.m. Friday, March 5, 2010 and interested members of the public especially the intending contractors/suppliers/consultants are hereby invited.

#### 5. NOTIFICATION OF PRE-QUALIFIED BIDDERS

Names of pre-qualified contractors/suppliers/Consultants will be displayed on notice board on Wednesday, March 10, 2010 by 12 noon.

#### 6. COLLECTION OF TENDER

Pre-qualified contractors/suppliers/Consultants should note that they will be required to pay a non-refundable fee of One hundred thousand naira (N100,000.00) for Lot 01 as processing of tender fee, twenty-five thousand naira only (N25,000.00) for one of other contracts or fifty thousand naira only (N50,000.00) for two contracts and one hundred thousand naira only (N100,000.00) for three or more contracts.

Tender documents for supplies and construction projects will be collected at the Physical Planning Unit, while Pre-qualified Consultants will be required to submit technical and financial proposals for consideration.

#### PLEASE NOTE

- That by the submission of pre-qualification documents, Yaba College of Technology is neither committed nor obliged to award any contract to any contractor/supplier or agent.
- That this advertisement for invitation to pre-qualification shall not be construed as a commitment on the part of College, nor shall entitle any contractor/supplier/consultant to make any claims whatsoever and/or seek any indemnity from Yaba College of Technology.
- That due diligence would be followed as all documents submitted would be verified and the past executed works and contractor's offices shall be visited. Any discrepancies found would disqualify the contractor

Signed

**Biekoroma C. Amapakabo**  
Registrar & Secretary to Council

## International

### Brazil wraps up Carnival parades

BRAZIL wrapped up its spectacular Carnival parades early yesterday, winding down colourful festivities that this year were tarnished by controversy over a child samba queen and crime.

Rio de Janeiro, the focus of the partying with 730,000 Brazilian and foreign visitors, saw off the last of the processions in its purpose-built Sambodromo stadium throughout the night.

The three days of parades in the city attracted Madonna and a clutch of other international celebrities, including Paris Hilton and actors Hugh Jackman and Gerard Butler.

For most of Brazil, it was another superlative Carnival season with imaginative floats featuring everything from Moses atop a Bible to Batman skiing and a Michael Jackson impersonator accompanied by extraterrestrials.

One of the most talked-about aspects of the Rio shows was the inclusion of the youngest samba queen ever: a seven-year-old girl who controversially filled the sexually charged role despite protests from child welfare groups.

The girl, Julia Lira, broke down in tears and had to be comforted by her father, who headed the Viradouro school she danced for, as her parade started amid a glare of cameras.

Wearing a modest outfit unlike the scant bikinis of her adult rivals, she made it to the end, but was mostly hidden from view by a scrum of photographers and cameraman.

"She was a bit surprised" by all the attention, her mother, Monica Lira, explained to reporters.

Viradouro was generally seen lagging behind other schools that put on a better overall show in terms of floats and execution.

Many Brazilians said they were impressed in particular with the Unidos de Tijuca school, which Sunday overnight deployed the Batman on skis, Spider-Man and other superheroes as well as the surprisingly convincing Michael Jackson lookalike. The final night saw parades that included sci-fi robots and, in a nod to Brazil hosting the 2014 World Cup, a football-themed number with a dancing player and a samba queen wearing a soccer bra.



UKRAINE'S outgoing President Viktor Yushchenko speaks during a news conference in Kiev, Ukraine, yesterday.

### Departing president warns Ukraine is turning East

DEPARTING Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko says the policies of his newly elected successor risk turning Ukraine back into a Kremlin vassal state.

Yushchenko made some of his harshest statements at a news conference yesterday against President-elect Viktor Yanukovich, nine days before he is due to leave office.

He says Yanukovich's plans are degrading to the nation and the European course it has pursued since Yushchenko took office in 2005.

He lambasted Yanukovich's plans to give Russia a stake in Ukraine's natural gas pipelines and to extend the lease Russia has on a Black Sea naval base. Yanukovich says in response that he will pursue a balanced and pragmatic foreign policy.

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Applications are hereby invited from interested and suitably qualified candidates for the vacant position of the Polytechnic Librarian.

#### 1. DUTIES

The Polytechnic Librarian is a Principal Officer responsible to the Rector for the administration of the Polytechnic Library, and coordinating library services of the academic units of the Institution which covers five colleges and 38 departments as well as providing library services to the Polytechnic community.

#### 2. QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants must possess at least Master's degree in Library Science from a recognised University with at least 15 years post qualification cognate work experience or Ph.D with 12 years post qualification cognate work experience. Membership of relevant professional body is mandatory.

Further more, applicants must have evidence of contribution to knowledge through research and publications in reputable academic journals. As the services of the library are being computerised, computer literacy and familiarity with computerised library operation will be added advantage.

#### 3. REMUNERATION

The position attracts a salary of CONTISS 15 (N2, 232, 199 - N 2,875,791) per annum. The entry point depends on experience of the candidate. Other allowances are as applicable in all Federal Polytechnics in Nigeria.

#### 4. TENURE

Successful candidate would be appointed for an initial period of five years and may be renewed for another final term of five years and no more.

#### 5. METHOD OF APPLICATION

Applicants are to forward 15 copies of their applications and curriculum vitae, attaching photocopies of relevant credentials. They are also to request their three named referees to send reports on them.

Applications and referees reports should be clearly marked on the top left hand cover of the envelope "Application for the post of Polytechnic Librarian" and addressed to the Registrar, Kaduna Polytechnic, Central Administration, P.M.B 2021, Kaduna NOT LATER THAN SIX WEEKS from the date of this advertisement.

Only shortlisted candidates would be acknowledged and invited for interview.

**MAMOON A. ABUBAKAR**  
Registrar



## BWARI AREA COUNCIL, FCT

P.M.B. 5032, Wuse, Abuja

OUR REF: BAC/ADM/1460/1/010/L.02

DATE: 17/02/2010

### TENDER INVITATION

Tender is hereby invited from reputable companies and contractors registered with Bwari Area Council, FCT, for the execution of the following jobs:

#### A) Rural Electrification:

1. Supply of 1No Brand New 500KVA/11/0.415KV and 1N0 300KVA/11/0.415KV Transformers for Installation at Kubwa
2. Supply of 1No. Brand New 500KVA/33/0.415KV Transformer for Installation at Kogo.
3. Supply of 1No.Brand New 500KVA/11/0.415KV for Installation in Bwari Town

#### B) Rural Road:

1. Rehabilitation of Bwari – Igu – Kawu Road, Phase I, measuring 7km in length, to include Grading, Filling, Compaction Works, as well as the Construction of Concrete Culverts.

#### C) Rural Water Scheme:

1. Drilling and Development of Solar Powered Motorized Boreholes at Dutsen Sagwari Primary Healthcare Centre, including the Construction of 20m<sup>2</sup> Elevated Tank on a 9m Steel Tower.
2. Drilling and Development of Solar Powered Motorized Boreholes at Kuduru Primary Healthcare Centre, including the Construction of 20m<sup>2</sup> Elevated Tank on a 9M Steel Tower.

#### COLLECTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS:

Tender Documents are available in the Office of the Chairman, Tenders Board, Bwari Area Council, Council Secretariat, Bwari – Abuja, FCT.

Companies and Contractors are enjoined to collect the following tender details:

- a) Drawing (where necessary)
- b) Unpriced Bills of Quantities
- c) Structural Engineer's Details and Specifications

Contractors/Companies are also enjoined to visit and inspect the site before the submission of their tender.

#### REQUIREMENTS:

The following documents should be submitted along with the Tender:

- i. Evidence of Registration with Corporate Affairs Commission
- ii. Evidence of Registration with Bwari Area Council
- iii. Payment of Non-Refundable Tender Fees of N15,000.00 per Lot made in Bank Draft payable to Bwari Area Council
- iv. Recent Tax Clearance Certificate(s)
- v. List of Similar Jobs handled in the last three years including locations
- vi. Evidence of Financial Capability

#### SUBMISSION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS:

Tender Documents should be returned not later than two (2) weeks from the date of this publication (i.e. 02/03/2010) to the Office of the Chairman, Tenders Board, Bwari Area Council, Council Secretariat, Bwari, Abuja – FCT; in sealed brown envelop marked at the top right hand corner, the title of the job.

Please, tenderers are to note that, the Area Council is neither bound to accept/choose the highest or lowest tender nor give reason(s) for the rejection of any tender.

Signed:  
Tenders Board.

## FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRE, JALINGO

### (Office of the Medical Director)

Federal Medical Centre, announces its nationwide interview on Clinical Staff scheduled to hold on 2nd to 3rd March, 2010 by 10.00 am daily in the Conference Hall of the Federal Medical Centre, Jalingo.

Short listed candidates are as follows:-

#### MEDICAL DOCTORS

S/NO	NAME	STATE
1.	Dr. Machunga D. Keras	Plateau
2.	Dr. Nyam J. Chuwang	"
3.	Dr. Robinson U. Ugwuang	Enugu
4.	Dr. Timothy Samaila	Taraba
5.	Dr. Francis I. Sawa	"
6.	Dr. Onowa V. Edache	Benue
7.	Dr. Ovanza E. Onimisi	Kogi
8.	Dr. Ekundare M. A	Osun
9.	Dr. Pius S. Meshach	Gombe
10.	Dr. Uthman K.A	Osun
11.	Dr. Iliya Friday G	Plateau
12.	Dr. Tolulope O. Akinniyi	Ondo
13.	Dr. Iliya Paul Amaza	Borno
14.	Dr. Timothy Y. Umoru	"
15.	Dr. Kadri Kazim A.	Kwara
16.	Dr. Nwafor I. Victor	Anambra
17.	Dr. Ridwan A. Salawu	"
18.	Dr. Sanni K. Adeyinka	"
19.	Dr. Ojiako I.S.	Abia
20.	Dr. Odiansino Odebiya	Kogi
21.	Dr. Low Edwin Dabaji	Taraba
22.	Dr. Ameh Abel Abu	Benue
23.	Dr. Okolo M. Nkechi	Ebonyi
24.	Dr. Robinson U. Ugwuang	Enugu
25.	Dr. Uche A. Azuka	"
26.	Dr. Oladap O. Joseph	Ondo
27.	Dr. Ogeleka Pascay	Delta
28.	Dr. Ajagbe S. Olushola	Osun
30.	Dr. Kennedy O. Ikebueze	Imo
31.	Dr. Oshuagwu A. Emeka	"
32.	Dr. Shember T. Gabriel	Benue
33.	Dr. Omokeke B. Gbenga	Ondo
34.	Dr. Elyathamen Robert	Katsina
35.	Dr. Oko Rosemary	Benue
36.	Dr. Otaru Peter	Kogi
37.	Dr. Okoye Clifford	Anambra
38.	Dr. Nkem Paschal	Imo
39.	Dr. Oguh Lawan	"
40.	Dr. Oyagbemi A. Abkaha	"
41.	Dr. Anyebe S. Simon	Benue
42.	Dr. Morah C. David	Anambra
43.	Dr. Ajani Ayomikun	Oyo
44.	Dr. Osungwu Emeka	"
45.	Dr. Uwajeh A. R.	Delta
46.	Dr. Elach I. Cornelius	Benue
47.	Dr. Kassim A. Moukudi	Kogi
48.	Dr. Okoli Chibueze K.	Enugu
49.	Dr. Nwogu C. Magnus	Imo
50.	Dr. Tijo Kenneth M.	Taraba
51.	Dr. Arubi Eke Agama	Benue
52.	Dr. Dike B. Orji	Abia
53.	Dr. Zorto D. Philip	Taraba
54.	Dr. Daniel Mesak	Gombe
55.	Dr. Ekeria Emmanuel I.	Edo
56.	Dr. Samuel Chima Ikeji	"
57.	Dr. Okafo Chinedu O.	Aambra
58.	Dr. Obande B. Onyilo	Benue
59.	Dr. Ambitidus S.F.	Plateau
60.	Dr. Kehinde H. Olugbo	Osun
61.	Dr. Nwogu Chidimma M.	"
62.	Dr. Okoye Francis	Anambra
63.	Dr. Okwo Benard O.	CrossRiver
64.	Dr. Otokpa C. Otokpa	Benue
65.	Dr. Joel D. Bala	Taraba
66.	Dr. Oyawale Olusola	Oyo
67.	Dr. Lucky Inanoremhe	Edo
68.	Dr. Udeoso U. Chukwu	Abia
69.	Dr. Boli Elias Billambu	Adamawa

#### PHARMACISTS

S/NO	NAME	STATE
1.	Dilibe R. Uzuegbunam	Enugu
2.	Udegbunam C.A.	Plateau
3.	Ugwu M. Chigozie	Enugu
4.	Victor Rimven Daniel	Plateau
5.	Alhassan Okutepa	Kogi
6.	Patrick Paul Pama	Kaduna
7.	Uronnachi Emmanuel	Ebonyi
8.	Isiboro Okhai	Edo
9.	Emeka Chukwudi P.E	Enugu
10.	Gotom Sunday	Plateau
11.	Ali Patrick Ponzing	Plateau
12.	Nyam Denis Ayetop	Taraba
13.	Yahya Zwaden Sulei	Kaduna
14.	Deshi Yohanna Daniel	Taraba

15.	Igbueze Dominic	Anambra
16.	Uwere Ogenyi	Kaduna
17.	Bello Martins Idachaba	Kogi
18.	Vitalis Enyinnaya	Imo
19.	Nwunji Reuben	Taraba
20.	Iyonyisa Sarah Yua	Benue
21.	Peter Emmanuel	Nasarawa
22.	Manga Ephraim E.	Nasarawa
23.	Enwereuzo Grace	"
24.	Nduakwu Felicitas	"

#### PHARMACY TECHNICIANS

S/NO	NAME	STATE
1.	Gurgir Oliver	Taraba
2.	Mazniterah Shonzeviran	"
3.	Adamu Musa	"
4.	Mrs Sarah N. Fanka	"
5.	Utaka Ekwe	Cross River
6.	Rabiu Abdullahi Gwarzo	Kano
7.	Benjamin Y. Fwanyil	Plateau
8.	Ephraim Okechukwu Ibe.	Anambra
9.	Liatu N. Yohanna	Taraba

#### MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENTIST

S/NO	NAME	STATE
1.	Akpan King Joseph	Akwa-Ibom
2.	Yahya Usman L.	Taraba
3.	Moh'd Babangida Nuhu	"
4.	Solomon A. Chibolu	Delta
5.	Umaru Fredrick F.	Taraba
6.	Achu Etta Takim	Cross River
7.	Idume Ogbonna N	Ebonyi
8.	Onovoh Betty Oge	Enugu
9.	Anyaegbu Nneka P.	Anambra
10.	Kareh Markus	Taraba
11.	Egbonu Chinelo N.	Anambra
12.	Jonathan Olatayo	Oyo
13.	Ogeniyi Solomon C.	Enugu
14.	Okang Leo Odama	Cross River
15.	Ozioko Fabian C.	Enugu
16.	Ajomale Adeola S.	Osun
17.	Abubakar Waziri	Borno
18.	Suleiman Mazadu	Taraba
19.	Musa Emmanuel Ibrahim	"
20.	Wakil Yaga	Borno
21.	Solomon Chibogu	Delta
22.	Ayuba Sunday Buru	Kaduna
23.	Kazeem Gbadegesiri	Osun
24.	Eze Chinedu G.	Enugu
25.	Ameh Mathew Joel	Benue
26.	Agbecha Ayu	"
27.	Iorhen Nyam A.	Taraba
28.	Ezra Hannatu	"
29.	Goje Jehu I	Kaduna
30.	Ekele James	Kogi
31.	Awopetu Olayemi T.	Oyo
32.	Mikailu Saidu	Taraba
33.	Okoye Agatha Obiageli	Anambra
34.	Idehen Omosefe Juliet	Edo
35.	Gwottson Fom Davou	Plateau
36.	Ahmmmed Maisamari	Gombe
37.	Nathaniel Ambrose	Taraba
38.	Obiesie Ifeyinwa Veronica	Anambra
39.	Eric Shagari Lortyer	Taraba
40.	Kalu A. Kalu	Abia
41.	Jonathan O. Peter	Abia
42.	Adesokan Olusewan	Oyo
43.	Lovelyn Pter	Taraba
44.	Ugwu Simon	Enugu
45.	Elochukwu Blessing	Enugu
46.	Okolie Paulinus N.	Imo
47.	Ma'aji Abba Bashir	Borno
48.	Luka Joseph	Adamawa
49.	Bobmanuel C. Echeonwu	Abia
50.	Mustapha Barga L.	Taraba
51.	Richard Samuel O.	Imo
52.	Martin O. Joseph	Delta
53.	Mgbeasiri Alexo	Imo
54.	Okoli Polinus N.	Imo
55.	Idakwo B. Ufeli	"
56.	Israel Ogbe	Benue
57.	Uwanta Vitalis o.	Enugu
58.	Oyudoro Emmanuel	Imo
59.	Edward Isaac Usman	Borno
60.	Alaede Rosemary c.	Abia
61.	Nwogwu I.	"

62.	Okpe O.J.	Benue
63.	Uzokwe O.P.	Anambra
64.	Etuk A. Moses	Akwa-Ibom
65.	Augusta Anonye	"
66.	Oyema Ngozie Blessing	Enugu

#### MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIANS

S/NO	NAME	STATE
1.	Michael B. Tam	Taraba
2.	Abdu Yuguda	"
3.	Ngwip Godwill	"
4.	Timothy Mbankwen K.	"
5.	Irayang S. Amon	"
6.	Adeyongo Ezra	"
7.	Jatau Abubakar Yamma	"
8.	Elizabeth Ada I.	Benue
9.	Batholomew Dzaki	"
10.	Paul Otah Nkechi	Abia
11.	Silvanus Sangtum	Plateau
12.	Akindigh A. Member	Benue
13.	Abbas Sani	"
14.	Keziah Yusuf Shallangwa	"
15.	Moses S. Ephraim	"
16.	Keziah Haruna	Taraba
17.	Grace Alphonus	Borno
18.	Kande Katso	Taraba
19.	Pelle Yohanna Banyam	Taraba
20.	Hassan Aliyu	"

#### PHYSIOTHERAPY DEPARTMENT

S/NO	NAME	STATE
1.	Oyigbo N. Emeka	Enugu
2.	Nuvalga D. Garpiya	Taraba
3.	Jacob John	"
4.	Rebecca B. Bitrus	"

#### RADIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

S/NO	NAME	STATE
1.	Anna A. Maiyaki	Kaduna
2.	Michael Tabitha	"
3.	Ote A. Akpa	Cross River
4.	Aisha Gbetei	Adamawa

#### NURSING SERVICES DEPARTMENT

S/NO	NAME	STATE
1.	Tani Usman	Delta
2.	Habiba Suleiman	"
3.	Ruqayyah Othman S.	"
4.	Aliyu Hadiza	"
5.	Rahab John	"
6.	Hauwau A. Abubakar	"
7.	Ahmad Saidu N.	"
8.	Idakwo O. Susan	Kogi
9.	Ubong J. Egpa	Akwa-Ibom
10.	Jannet M. Ankange	Benue
11.	Sarah U. Kodom	"
12.	Igbeyongo Nyuseer	"
13.	Mohammed Audu	Borno
14.	Usman A. Samaila	Taraba
15.	Bature Peter S.	Plateau
16.	Cecilia Akongbe	Oyo
17.	Fadipe Theresa F	Lagos
18.	Musa R. Butso	Taraba
19.	Roseline Samuel Y.	Kogi
20.	Ngode O. Zebedee	Taraba
21.	Mohammed Zainab Dauda	Adamawa
22.	Elizabeth Yomi	Kogi
23.	Pascal David	Taraba
24.	Awn Agnes	"
25.	Lebi bethuel	Adamawa
26.	Jonathan Enoch	Taraba
27.	Babawa Elizabeth A.	Oyo
28.	Ali Mohammed Balewo	Yobe
29.	Eko Akpobome Stella	Delta
30.	Nwabueze Grace Chinyere	Enugu
31.	Hauwa Bakari	Taraba
32.	Luka Juanya Yohanna	"
33.	Ashu Nyajon	"
34.	Robert Jonathan	"
35.	Josephine Nwadi	Imo
36.	Adamu Namirhyel	Borno
37.	Sani Shafu	Yobe
38.	Ajiya Ezekiel	Borno
39.	Ujjiatlor Friday Fredrick	Niger
40.	Adayi Benjamin	Kogi
41.	Ochu Theresa Ofie	Cross River

42.	Isaac James	Akwa-Ibom
43.	Yohanna Ali	Borno
44.	Gamboro Bitrus Adi	Taraba
45.	Samuel M. Gadzama	Borno
46.	Filgona Filibus	Taraba
47.	Bridget Ada Nweke	Enugu
48.	Asur Salihu	Borno
49.	Oyeonu Roselin	Imo
50.	Amina Ibrahim M.	Yobe
51.	Miss. Asabe Manzo	Adamawa
52.	Dauda Bitrus	Kaduna
53.	Hassan Dalhatu	Borno
54.	Wasiu Alabi	Osun
55.	Jenniffa Talla	Taraba
56.	Beatrice Jatau	Taraba
57.	Kufoye Dorcas Amos	Gombe
58.	Samuel Aondona	Taraba
59.	Aaron Juliana	Benue
60.	Chidubem M. Malachi	Abia
61.	Umaru Musa	Borno
62.	Tiukan Janet	Benue
63.	Ali Abubakar Baba	Yobe
64.	Julius Martina K.	Nasarawa
65.	Salamatu Christopher	Plateau
66.	Keziah Patrick	Adamawa
67.	Solomon Emmanuel	Taraba
68.	Punanimam D. Yerima	Taraba
69.	Lamaru Raphael	Adamawa
70.	Elizabeth Okenwa	Abia
71.	Adaku Dike Frances	"
72.	Bathoia Yakubu	Adamawa
73.	Lami Umar Saleh	"
74.	Lelaba D. Davis	Taraba
75.	Bassey Victoria	"
76.	Hauwa Kulu Danjuma	Taraba
77.	Adon Alhamdu	Adamawa
78.	Ama Marshall	Cross River
79.	Janeth Bulus Jibrin	Kaduna
80.	Janeth Mairiga	Taraba
81.	Evangelin J. Lawrence	"
82.	Solomon S. Bwala	Borno
83.	Edith Ogbonna	Enugu
84.	Lureno Bino	Adamawa
85.	Elisha Mazadu	Bauchi
86.	Soniya Sambo	Taraba
87.	Ada John	Benue
88.	Geogina C. Okorie I	Enugu
89.	Sarah Emmanuel	Kaduna
90.	Chikar Philimon Dangana	"
91.	Nwosu Chidozie O.	Abia
92.	Ify Danba Mbanaso	Imo
93.	Aksom Justine	Adamawa
94.	Jalija Ibrin	Kogi
95.	Alije James Ogeh	Benue
96.	Barah Ivoline S	Taraba
97.	Jummai P. Maiyaki	"
98.	Umaru Adi Fwechi	"
99.	Maureen I. Okoye	Anambra
100.	Baba D. Adamah	Taraba
101.	Rose Markus Tuh	"
102.	James Emelda	"
103.	Hasley K. Adams	"
104.	Habiba A. Saidu	"
105.	Shehu Abdullahi	"
106.	Hanatu Ahmed	Plateau
107.	Saleh Innocent	Taraba
108.	Nuhu Agudu	"
109.	Dorcas A. Ilufoye	Gombe
110.	Pilla S. Paul	Benue
111.	Atuba Joseph	"
112.	Injo T. Samuel	"
113.	Isa Stephen	Taraba
114.	Peter A. Enare	Cross River
115.	Punanimam C. Gagbanyi	Taraba
116.	Beatrice Jatau	"
117.	Asongo Grace Mhide	Benue
118.	Nancy D. Akile	"
119.	Esther Ele-ojo	"
120.	Jijingi Alfred M.	Taraba
121.	Esther A. Mamza	Borno
122.	Garba Ibrahim	"
123.	Apollo Nyang	Taraba
124.	Justia Musa	"
125.	Yemisi R. Amos	Kogi
126.	Roseline D. Amoga	Taraba
127.	Washi Hassan	"

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128. Concilia O. Osuogwu	Imo	174. Beatrice Dabon	"	221. Onoja Joy Theresa	"	10. Adejo Ladi Joy	Benue
129. Uche S. Okeke	Anambra	175. Jummai P. Maiyaki	"	222. Ginger Dorcas H.	"	11. Skebra Baka Useni	Taraba
130. Fasilat B Mohammed	Kwara	176. Rosemary E. A.	Benue	223. Enock Amos Sanda	Taraba	12. Finiau Ayameto	Imo
131. Sunday O. Ogah	Cross River	177. Obo Loveth	Edo	224. Ibekna Anulika O.	Imo	13. Mark Malachi Ogboche	Benue
132. Dameri K.T. Zadok	damawa	178. Theresa Obibuogu	"	225. Ndam Boniface	Plateau	14. Salman A. Oluwatoyin	Kwara
133. Hadiza A. Pitiko	Taraba	179. Williams Garba	Taraba	226. Anthnoia Uchehara	Imo	15. Abdullahi Babayo	Gombe
134. Binta Garba	damawa	180. Indo A. Garba	"	227. John Badama	Taraba	16. Comfort D. Mshelia	Borno
135. Timothy Ngege	Taraba	181. Grace Umar Bashir	Adamawa	228. Timothy T. Aondona	Benue	17. Zirburi Y. Mamza	"
136. Dorothy Anthony Mamman	"	182. Grace Linus	"	229. Agui Nor lorataga	"	18. Adekunle T. Elizabeth	Kogi
137. Deborah Awa	Benue	183. Agah Gabriel	Benue	230. Mrs. Angela Akpiti	"	19. Adebisi Abdullateef	Osun
138. Japhet Ishaya	damawa	184. Irimiya Ibrahim	Adamawa	231. Wammi Huda	Taraba	20. Michael W. Gadzama	Bofrno
139. Abe Shishi Wando	Taraba	185. Jecinta Ihembo	Taraba	232. Hauwa Hassan	Yobe	21. Bitrus Joshua	"
140. Atabani Ali	"	186. Benjamin Abiodun	Kwara	233. Bakare Aduke O.	Kogi	22. Pheetamid D. Duniya	Taraba
141. Patience James	"	187. Patience Unyo Iduh	Kogi	234. Habiba M. Zubairu	Taraba	23. Ezra Kadiri	"
142. David Linus	"	189. Benjamin Adamu	Gombe	235. Samaila Joshua Aji	"	24. Titi Polycarp	"
143. Idris Ali	"	190. Daniel Twon Nundugh	Taraba	236. Ruth Raymond Kefas	Borno	25. Adekunle Abosede	Ogun
144. Comfort Barnabas	"	191. Ruth Jumvu	"	237. Wadiyanu Chida M	"	26. Adeboyejo Ademola Stephen	"
145. Wilfred Simon	"	192. Akila Kashinye Bello	"	238. Mrs Gloria Udenji	"	27. Joseph Yarima Umar	Adamawa
146. Alice Udoh Akpan	Akwa-ibom	193. Olabode Bose	Oyo	239. Solomon Emanicha	Taraba	28. Adamu Adams Mohammed	Taraba
147. Blessing Udeh	Kogi	194. Hauwa Hassan	Yobe	240. Jahula Sani Jibir	"		
148. Simon G. Luka Manga	Taraba	195. Adama Yakubu	Borno	241. Oded Nyame	"		
149. Mary Orako Ire	Benue	196. Daniel Akpese	Taraba	242. Okereafor Akudo	Imo		
150. Wakwagh Iordzua I.	"	197. Abubakar Jibrin Jibrin	"	243. Abednego D. Titus	Taraba		
151. Mercy Ornyim	Enugu	198. Dapar Ezekiel Dasen	Plateau	244. Mrs. Lilly J. Jamba	Taraba		
152. Janet A. Okewole	Oyo	199. Adeshiyun O. Mary	Oyo	245. Baba Mildred Bisallah	Taraba		
153. Veronica A. Alao	Ondo	200. Zidani Jovan Wazakani	Adamawa	246. Samaila Haruna	Taraba		
154. Charity Dauda	Taraba	201. Wetkur Plansat Albert	Plateau	247. Tani Mamman	"		
155. Suzana Markus	Kaduna	202. Jonathan Scout Goje	Gombe	248. Usman Ezra	"		
156. Tsojon Paul Daniel	Taraba	203. Achika Simon Ityosu	Benue	249. Samson B. Maigandi	Gombe		
157. Tivkaa Janet	Benue	204. Okaye Maureeu I.	Anmbra	250. Salami Aisha Bhongcey	Taraba		
158. Grace Ojo	Kogi	205. Grace Anyebe	Benue	251. Idris Yahaya	"		
159. Agnes Joseph	Taraba	206. Zainab Babaji	Adamawa	252. Jibril Sa'ad	"		
160. Patience N. Samson	Imo	207. Estha Isaac Taku	Taraba	253. Bello Bakari	"		
161. Bisallah Bambur Baba	Taraba	208. Atalia Philip	"				
162. Goninter John Mamman	"	209. Njoku Nwakaeyo	Abia				
163. Bisallah M. Kayinu	"	210. Victoria Sadiq	Benue				
164. Kevinson Kawuji Shehu	"	211. Raji G. Wakiss	Taraba				
165. Nwadike Mary Jane Chinansokwu Imo	"	212. Mrs. Judith I. Iya	Taraba				
166. Samaila Haruna	Taraba	213. Wadzani Askaranda	Borno				
167. Isa Gladys	"	214. Aboh Thomas Agabi	Cross River				
168. Augustine R. Karanta	"	215. Tsaga Yusuf Lydia	Taraba				
169. Pascaline David	"	216. Tsarian M. Gideon	"				
170. Judith Romanus	"	217. Ashikabe Friday U	Cross River				
171. Ibrahim Moh'd Gwaza	Borno	218. Bem ortil	Benue				
172. Pande Tabitha M.	Benue	219. Nyagba Philomena	"				
173. Grace Sebi	Taraba	220. Donald T. Agenke	"				

**MEDICAL RECORDS DEPARTMENT (JUNIOR)**

S/NO	NAME	STATE
1.	Beddumi John	Taraba
2.	Rejoice Wycliff	"
3.	Moh'd Abubakar Hamza	"
4.	Livinus Sati Wandarah	"
5.	Lawan Musa Abubakar	"
6.	Weeti N. Martins	"
7.	Marthias Burema M.	"
8.	Emmanuel Munip	"
9.	Darius David	"
10.	Izzatu Aliyu Bacci	"
11.	Ibrahim Tanko	"
12.	Isuwana Alison Khani	"
13.	Bapum Henry Pero	Taraba
14.	Fukadi F. Moses Waru	Adamawa
15.	Mohammed Mansur	Taraba
16.	Mohammed Adamu	"
17.	Smart M. Sule	"

**MEDICAL RECORDS DEPARTMENT (SENIOR)**

S/NO	NAME	STATE
1.	David Peter	Adamawa
2.	Gappeng Daniel	Taraba
3.	Mohammed Aliyu Jibo	"
4.	Paul Ojoma	Kogi
5.	Bainanjah S.J.	Taraba
6.	Bathy Ayuba	Adamawa
7.	Adeleye A. John	Kwara
8.	Apaa Boniface	Benue
9.	Ezra Zidi	Taraba

Signed:  
Management.



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Engr. Iniobong Louisa Usoro, MNSE

As the  
**11<sup>th</sup> PRESIDENT**  
of The Association

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Air Chief Marshal  
Paul Dike CFR, DSS, psc(+) fwc  
Chief of Defence Staff

Venue: Abuja Sheraton Hotel & Towers  
Date: Thursday 18th February, 2010  
Time: 10:00am

**RSVP**

Engr. Valerie Agberagba, FNSE  
Chairman, Investiture Planning Committee  
0805 4502 165, 0803 3111 596

Engr. Uchenwa Ujam, MNSE  
General Secretary, APWEN  
08033420974, 07036115636



## STATEMENT ISSUED BY SENATOR UDOMA UDO UDOMA, CHAIRMAN OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

### 1. Introduction

My attention has been drawn to a letter dated the 4th day of February 2010 written by the chairman of the Senate Committee on the Capital Market, Senator Ganiyu Solomon to the Hon. Minister of State, Finance, Mr. Remi Babalola. In that letter, which, to my surprise, was widely circulated to the press, Senator Solomon demands that the Hon Minister direct me to resign from the chairmanship of the Securities and Exchange Commission as a result of a conflict of interest, or, in the alternative, that I should resign from the boards of the companies on which I serve. I am quite honestly puzzled by the letter which was delivered to the Minister whilst I was on an official trip to Malaysia for meetings with the Securities Regulatory Authorities of that country, as part of our repositioning agenda for SEC.

### 2. Meeting with Senator Ganiyu Solomon

I am puzzled by the letter because I had no indication whatsoever that Senator Ganiyu Solomon had any problem with my holding appointments on the boards of public limited liability companies. About a week before I travelled I received an invitation from Senator Solomon to meet with himself and his deputy in Abuja to discuss matters of mutual interest. Unfortunately the date he indicated was not convenient for me and I called him to say so. I offered, instead, to visit him in his house in Lagos which he accepted. Much of the discussion at the meeting was to do with strengthening the collaboration between SEC and the Capital Market Committee of the Senate. In that regard, I pointed out that since I was not an executive chairman, and visited Abuja only when we had board meetings, the principal person he would have to deal with would be the Director General (D.G.) and I promised to arrange a meeting with the new D.G. for that purpose. I raised the issue of my recent appointment as chairman of UAC of Nigeria Plc, and reminded him that I had been on the board of the company prior to my appointment as chairman of SEC and had declared it, as required by law. The meeting ended with no outstanding issue and I informed him that I would be travelling out of the country. His letter therefore takes me completely by surprise.

### 3. The issue of conflict

I would like now to examine the issue of conflict. When I was initially informed that I was being considered for appointment as the part time chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission I asked for time to consult and think about it before accepting. One of the things I needed time to examine was whether the appointment would be consistent with my other commitments. Having carefully examined the provisions of the Investment and Securities Act it was clear to me that the appointment was not inconsistent with my existing board appointments. What section 11 of the Act required me to do was to declare them and not participate in any decision involving any of them. My investigation also revealed that this was an established practice. Indeed, my immediate predecessor as chairman of SEC and I served on the same board whilst he was the chairman of SEC. Had it been otherwise I would have declined the offer to be the chairman of SEC. Having accepted the offer, my name was sent to the Senate and I was screened, and cleared, by the Capital Market Committee, headed by the same Senator Ganiyu Solomon. At my screening I presented to that Committee my curriculum vitae clearly showing that I was serving on the boards of UAC of Nigeria Plc, Linkage Assurance Plc. and Unilever Plc., as well as being a partner in the commercial law firm of Udo Udoma & Belo-Osagie. Under the circumstances, it is difficult to understand Senator Solomon's claim that he was not aware that I was already serving on those boards before my appointment as chairman of SEC in June 2008.

### 4. International Practice

I must confess that prior to this controversy I had not checked the international practice with regard to a part time member of the Securities Regulator serving on boards of quoted companies. I have just come from Malaysia, and in discussions with the chairman of their Securities Commission I raised the issue. She confirmed that in Malaysia part time members of the Commission do serve on boards of quoted companies but they are thinking of introducing rules restricting them to only companies on which they were serving prior to their appointment. She remarked that it would be most unfair to approach reputable individuals whose experience was needed by the Commission to serve as part time board members, and then to ask them to give up their existing commitments for an unpaid national assignment. Just as in Nigeria, part time commissioners in Malaysia only receive sitting allowances, and no salary. It has also been confirmed to me that in many other countries, such as Thailand, the part time members also serve on the boards of quoted companies. However, full time members are generally restricted from accepting any other appointments except in other regulatory agencies.

### 5. Summary & Conclusion

Even though the current law, and practice, in Nigeria permit it, it would appear that there may be some people who feel uncomfortable with a member of the Board of SEC, the apex regulator of the capital market, having an interest in any company, or enterprise, directly or indirectly regulated by SEC. However, the experience of other countries suggests that it would be very difficult to find any persons who have relevant experience in the capital market to serve on the board of SEC, on a part time basis, who will not have such interests. Indeed, invariably, any person with capital market experience will have a conflict. The solution for those who feel that the existence of such a potential conflict is unacceptable in Nigeria might well be to adopt the United States model where SEC Commissioners are all full time. This will require an amendment of the Investment and Securities Act. These are all matters for debate, and Senator Ganiyu Solomon, as the Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Capital Market could play a role in helping to lead that debate. However, it is wrong and in very bad taste, for Senator Solomon to seek to bring to public ridicule a person who has done nothing wrong: a person who simply responded to an invitation to serve his country within the terms of the existing law, and practice.

Finally, it is erroneous and totally misleading for Senator Solomon to seek to equate my conduct with that of the Director General and chief executive of the Nigerian Stock Exchange, who was rightfully queried for accepting to serve on the board of a quoted company whilst a full time executive of the primary regulator of the capital market. The more appropriate comparison should have been with my good friend and highly respected businessman, Oba Otudeko, who, as the non-executive president of the Stock Exchange, the primary regulator of the capital market, served as non-executive director of First Bank of Nigeria Plc.

**SENATOR UDOMA UDO UDOMA**

Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> February 2010

# BUSINESS

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FARMERS and traders waiting for boats to cross to a nearby farms in Niger State

**BRIEF**

## Nigeria's inflation rises to 12.3% in January

NIGERIA'S consumer inflation rose to 12.3 percent year-on-year in January from 12 percent the previous month, highlighting the central bank's challenge in getting it back to its target of single digits.

Growth in food prices, which form the bulk of the inflation index basket in Africa's most populous country, rose to 14 percent year-on-year from 13.6 percent in December, the National Bureau for Statistics said yesterday.

Central Bank Governor Lamido Sanusi said last week monetary policy in sub-Saharan Africa's second-biggest economy would target single-digit inflation.

The monetary policy committee, which is due to meet in early March, has held its benchmark interest rate at 6 percent since July, using other means to add liquidity and combat rising inflation (Reuters)

## 'Free trade cripples food production in Africa'

By Nasir Imam

DESPITE good intentions, the push to privatize government functions and insistence upon "free trade" that is too often unfair has caused declining food production, increased poverty and hunger crisis for millions of people in many African nations, according to a new study.

Market reforms that began in the mid-1980s and were supposed to aid economic growth have actually backfired in some of the poorest nations in the world, and just in recent years led to multiple food riots, scientists report yesterday in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, a professional journal.

"Many of these reforms were designed to make countries more efficient, and seen as a solution to failing schools, hospitals and other infrastructure," said Laurence Becker, an associate professor of geosciences at Oregon State University.

"But they sometimes eliminated critical support systems for poor farmers who had no car, no land security, made

\$1 a day and had their life savings of \$600 hidden under a mattress", the researcher said. He said these people were then asked to compete with some of the most efficient agricultural systems in the world, "and they simply couldn't do it."

Becker said: "With tariff barriers removed, less expensive imported food flooded into countries, some of which at one point were nearly self-sufficient in agriculture. Many people quit farming and abandoned systems that had worked in their cultures for centuries."

These forces have undercut food production for 25 years, the researchers concluded.

They came to a head in early 2008 when the price of rice - a staple in several African nations - doubled in one year for consumers who spent much of their income solely on food. Food riots, political and economic disruption ensued.

The study was done by researchers from OSU, the University of California at Los Angeles and Macalester College. It was based on household and market surveys and national production data.

There are no simple or obvious solu-

tions, Becker said, but developed nations and organizations such as the World Bank or International Monetary Fund need to better recognize that approaches which can be effective in more advanced economies don't readily translate to less developed nations.

Many people in African nations, Becker said, farm local land communally, as they have been doing for generations, without title to it or expensive equipment - and have developed systems that may not be advanced, but are functional. They are often not prepared to compete with multinational corporations or sophisticated trade systems. The loss of local agricultural production puts them at the mercy of sudden spikes in food costs around the world. And some of the farmers they compete with in the U.S., East Asia and other nations receive crop supports or subsidies of various types, while they are told they must embrace completely free trade with no assistance.

"A truly free market does not exist in this world", Becker said. "We don't have one, but we tell hungry people in Africa that they are supposed to."

### Trust Index

Inflation	→ 12.3%
GDP	→ 6.90%
Budget	→ N3.1tr
External Reserves Acct	→ \$42.3bn
Excess Crude Acct	→ \$4.2bn
Poverty Ratio	→ 54.4%
Interest Ratio	→ 6%
Banks	→ 24
Oil Price	→ \$72 a barrel
Power Supply	→ 2,700MW
Oil output per day	→ 1.9mbd

CBN

2/12/2010

**CBN EXCHANGE RATES**

	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)
CFA	0.2897	0.2997	0.3097
DANISH KRONER	26.8799	26.971	27.062
EURO	200.1899	200.8681	201.5462
POUNDS STERLING	230.5512	231.3322	232.1132
RIYAL	39.36	39.4934	39.6267
SDR	226.2265	226.9929	227.7592
SWISS FRANC	136.5655	137.0281	137.4907
US DOLLAR	147.6	148.1	148.6
WAUA	226.801	227.5693	228.3376
YEN	1.6378	1.6434	1.6489

**BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES**

BUYING	
DOLLAR.....	N150
EURO.....	N205
POUNDS.....	N242
SELLING	
DOLLAR.....	N152
EURO.....	N209
POUNDS.....	N244

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

**Stock Market Index**

Date: Tuesday, February 16, 2010

Index: 23,061.41

Deals: 7,362

Volume: 318,504,834

Value: N 2,006,764,172.43

Cap.: N 5,554,398,557,585.21

## Business

# 450bn debt: FG asks NNPC to settle states, LGs

By Hamisu Muhammad

The federal government has asked the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation to settle the portion of the states and local governments from the N450 billion debt it owes the Federation Account.

Minister of state for Finance Remi Babalola said since NNPC does not have enough to pay all, "we are recommending that they should settle the states and local governments first."

"What we have asked them (NNPC) to do is to settle the one that belongs to state and

local government first before the federal government", he said.

The minister said discussion is still on with the NNPC on how to settle the debt.

The Minister said the NNPC was made to acknowledge its debt.

The Minister said: "It is a fact that NNPC as at today don't have the cash flow to pay the money. There is no doubt in my mind about that."

"We don't have any problem with the NNPC, you only have a problem with the debtor when it did not agree that it is owing,

but when the debtor agrees, there is no debate about that."

He said the only question now is how are they are going to pay. "The problem now is about their cash flow challenges, how will they be able to pay back the money is what they are looking for now", the Minister said.

## Automobile technicians urged to embrace mechatronics

By Sunday Williams

AUTOMOBILE technicians, training centres, tertiary institutions and auto practitioners have been urged to take advantage of the new trade test 111, 11 and 1 curriculum for automobile mechatronics to improve their efficiency to double their efforts in acquiring additional diagnostic machines.

Minister of state for commerce and industry Humphrey Abah said this yesterday in Abuja at the launch of the curriculum for automobile mechatronics apprenticeship programme (Informal sector), designed by National Automotive Centre (NAC) in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Labour & productivity.

The minister said that technological changes around the world cannot be ignored and the country cannot afford to remain static otherwise her mechanics would soon be out of job while vehicles will remain unpaired.

He said most auto technicians in Nigeria belong to informal sector, adding that there is urgent need for them to be exposed to elements of mechatronics to enable them repair the new generation vehicles.

He said the benefit of the newly developed curriculum for automobile mechatronics to the Nigerian auto industry in particular and to the National economy has a multiplier effects.



MANAGER, Bond Settlement, Central Securities Clearing Systems (CSCS) Victor Okereke (left), Executive Director, Operations & Resources, Oceanic Bank International plc Mrs. Mofoluke Dosumu (middle) and Director, Market Development, Debt Management Office (DMO) Patience Oniha at the interactive session of Primary Dealer/Market Makers (PDMM) of the DMO held at Oceanic Capital in Lagos, yesterday.

## Institute inaugurates policy group for industrial growth

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

AFRICAN Institute for Applied Economics (AIAE) has inaugurated a Policy Think Group (PTG) to analyse topical policy issues in the Nigerian economy.

The intent is to advance evidence based decision making by stakeholders including government, private sector, civil society and the entire development community with the objective of rendering sound analytical perspectives that can inform and guide public discourse of industrial, financial and other economic policy matters.

A statement issued by the AIAE spokesman Sola Oluwadare said that the Group at its maiden meeting in Enugu recently had a brainstorming session on the challenges and implications of federal government proposal budget for 2010.

The statement added that PTG deliberated on key issues including rationality for assumptions and targets, linkages of resource allocation priorities of the

government, fiscal balance, adequacy of budget documentation, balance of capital-recurrent allocations, alignment of allocations to service delivery and alignment and global best fiscal and budget management principles and practices.

He said: "Policy Think Group is an independent think platform constituted by experts and practitioners, whose primary motivation is to contribute ideas for the common good. Though the Group is facilitated by the African Institute for Applied Economics, the opinions of individual members of the Group and the entire Group do not necessarily reflect official policy of the African Institute for Applied Economics."

"The essence of the session was to contribute ideas and inputs for the current budget review-and-appropriation process being undertaken by the National Assembly. In addition, the session was aimed at providing analysis to inform stakeholders that are engaged in public debate on the budget proposal."

## Ebgogah lauds NNPC's initiative to end fuel scarcity

By Hamisu Muhammad

THE Special Adviser to the President on Petroleum Matters Dr. Emmanuel Ebgogah has commended the efforts of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) on its initiative to restore normalcy of fuel supply to filling stations across the nation.

Addressing members of the special Task force (NNPC War Room) in Abuja, Ebgogah noted that the sudden disappearance of queues from filling stations revealed the readiness of the Corporation to transform into a commercial Company that could compete with other operators in the downstream sector.

A statement from the NNPC spokesman Dr. Levi Ajuonuma said Dr. Ebgogah reminded the corporation that for the common man on the

street, NNPC is assessed when there is fuel in filling stations. He urged the NNPC War room to sustain their laudable efforts.

"I am very impressed with the NNPC War Room even though other people would not understand what you are talking about when you talk about War Room but they have explained to me their modus operandi and they also told me that they have acquired tracking software to monitor the movement of vessels," Dr. Ebgogah said.

He said with the acquisition of the tracking information software, the incidences of bunkering and sharp practices would be minimized, saying that the Federal Government would now take a bold step to implement the deregulation policy to put an end to the sufferings being experienced by people.

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## Star Feature

# Gratuities: Will Kogi p

Last week, a one-week screening exercise was conducted by the Kogi State Pensions Board, to ascertain the number of pensioners across the state. In the three senatorial districts of the state, pensioners trooped out for the exercise. Our correspondent made it to some screening centres and captured the mood of these retirees.

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

**L**AST week, a one-week screening exercise was conducted by the Kogi State Pensions Board, to ascertain the number of pensioners across the state. In the three senatorial districts of the state, pensioners trooped out for the exercise. Those who could not make it, owing to ill-health in some cases, were represented by relations. Our correspondent made it to some screening centres and captured the mood of these retirees.

Mr Nathaniel Kabinu retired from the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources in 1998. He had always longed to go into large scale farming after retirement, but this, for him, has remained a mirage because his gratuity is yet to be paid.

"Our government has not realised that many of us, the retirees, are still highly productive. We have the potential to contribute to the growth of the economy. Prior to my retirement, I was into farming now. I would have loved to go

into large scale farming if I had been paid my gratuity. Farming is what I know how to do best. I need my gratuity now to survive", asserted Kabinu.

**M**r Richard Timothy, who retired from the State Ministry of Information in 2008, says retirement has not been a blessing, wondering why the aged are abandoned, while the youths are being empowered by the government.

"We are suffering in silence. It is unfortunate for us to have been treated like this. For us to be registered for the screening, we had to pay N100 each for the form. We need our gratuities on time. Since I retired, I have not got my gratuity. Some will tell you they get it in bits monthly. I have children in school, and it has been pretty difficult to finance their education. The aged also need empowerment. The only way we could be empowered is for the government to pay our gratuities, so that we could lay hands on some businesses to sustain ourselves".

Adamu Ndako, a journalist, attended the screening on behalf of his uncle, who retired from the Ministry of Finance, as a deputy director three years ago. For Adamu, his retirement life is being toyed with by the state authorities.

"My uncle left service in 2007 and has not been paid his gratuity which amounts to N1.5 million. He doesn't have a house of his own and most of his children are out of job. Life after retirement has been hellish for the old man. Is it a crime to be a retiree? Adamu asked.

**L**awrence Olusegun, a 2001 retiree of the Printing Department of the State Ministry of Information and Culture, has resorted to "God's service" as succour for the dashed hope of collecting his gratuity. "I am now a minister of God. If not for God's intervention, it would have been a bitter experience for me and my family".

81-year-old Saliu Egbeja, a retiree, says he is not among the Kogi army of gratuity victims, because in 1984 when



OFTEN times pensioners live a life of begging and lamenting.

he left service, Kogi was under the old Kwara State, "and I was paid my gratuity less than two years after my retirement. I pity my colleagues who are yet to be paid their gratuities. The situation was better in those days. It is nowadays that many of those

at the helm of affairs, regard retirees as mere dead woods".

**M**rs Usalutu Olajumo, a widow, said, "I retired from the ministry of agric in 1993. I was paid some part of my gratuity five years ago. It is being rumoured that some people at the helms of affairs have diverted money meant for the payment of our gratuities. We are yet to confirm this anyway".

**M**r Dickson Ogudu, is Secretary of the Nigeria Union of Pensioners, Kogi State Chapter, and claims that at present, an average of N10.5 billion stands against the state government in pensioners' favour as gratuities. He says

“ My uncle left service in 2007 and has not been paid his gratuity which amounts to N1.5 million. He doesn't have a house of his own and most of his children are out of job. Life after retirement has been hellish for the old man. Is it a crime to be a retiree? Adamu asked.

# Pensioners ever smile?



PIC: BBC

retirement. The gratuity is the only problem. A pensioner who is receiving N20, 000 monthly as pension, and is owed over twenty million naira as gratuity, what is the sense in that?"

Ogudu says it has become imperative for the government to opt for a bank loan, in view of the usual excuse that the allocation from the Federal Government is insufficient to pay gratuities.

"We dialogued with the governor last December, and he promised to respond to our yearnings shortly after the New Year. We have been pressurising him, by seeking the assistance of traditional rulers and other prominent people, to help us broker peace. If the allocation from the federal government is not enough to pay our gratuities, the governor should reach out to any of the friendly banks and borrow money, as it is done in some other states. We assure him that the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) will not go after him for borrowing to pay our gratuities. No state today has been able to pay pensioners' gratuities without going for bank loans. If he does this, he would sleep with his two eyes closed, pensioners would rest, and there would be no rancour anywhere. Except this is done, I can't see any solution in sight", he said.

The Chairman of the State Pensions Board, Mr Abdurrahman Badamasiyu, gives the number of pensioners as 5,000, and attributes the non-payment of gratuities to the backlog of the problems inherited from

the past administrations in the state.

"As at the last voucher, we have over 5,000 pensioners in the state. What we are witnessing now is an accumulation of non-payment which the present administration inherited. The incumbent governor is making frantic efforts to clear pensioners' gratuities. Last year, the government spent about N3 billion to upset the liability, and over 50 percent of it was implemented. This year also, the same amount has been voted for the same purpose. The government has even made some preliminary arrangements, whereby it could increase the gratuity payment every month, so that it could achieve that N3 billion at the end of December. When that is done, by next year, we should have been able to clear everything before the tenure of the present administration elapses", he anticipated.

Badamasiyu however noted that by the end of last year, the gratuity debt was exactly N3.7 billion as against the N10.5 claimed by the pensions union, arguing that gratuity fund was not diverted as widely speculated.

"On a monthly basis, the governor releases millions of naira for pension payment. N96 million was released to pay the pension last month. The government too would have loved to pay pensioners' gratuities in bulk, because it would have eased the administrative process and helped to check so many hiccups in the management of pension and

gratuity funds. But in a situation where funds are not available, we make do with the little we have. To pay gratuities on a monthly basis, we receive N9.5 million. For it to get across to all our pensioners, we allocated N3.5 million to the Eastern Senatorial District, N2.5 million to the Western Senatorial District and N2 million to the Central Senatorial District, and the remaining N1.5 million is held at the centre for any request. For instance, pensioners could come and collapse in the office or they may have a special problem. The list is there, the pension's union and the Ministry of Finance supervise the payment. The problem we have is that the money is too little compared to the debt. If we are talking about almost N4 billion debt and we get N9.5 million in a month, definitely, pensioners must complain of diversion. But there is nothing like that", he explained.

The Commissioner for Finance, Mr Stephen Olorunfemi, forecloses the possibility of the government resorting to borrowing to offset the pensioners' gratuities, pointing out that "the government pays substantial amounts of money every month to take care of gratuities and pensions, pending when a final solution is found to offset the outstanding debts inherited from his predecessors. The governor will not resort to borrowing as he has vowed that none of his projects or programmes will be financed through borrowing. They should just exercise more patience, as the government continues to find a lasting solution to their plights".

though the government promised the state pensioners N20,000 monthly, the non-payment of gratuities is harming them. In fact, there is no pension in Kogi State that is being paid. We are oppressed and aggrieved. It is unthinkable that many of those who retired in 1993 have not been paid their gratuities. In 2004, Governor Ibrahim Idris was kind enough to be the first governor in our country to harmonise pensioners. We were almost demanding him for an apology then. Other states came to borrow a leaf from us, to emulate the magic used to make the governor harmonise us. After the harmonisation, the monthly pension was N6, 000,

but today, no pensioner gets below N10, 000 monthly. The harmonisation gave us a ray of hope, but today, our hopes are dashed by the non-payment

of our gratuities. The monthly payment of our pensions is going on smoothly. In fact, pensioners now begin to be paid the following month after

“The Chairman of the State Pensions Board, Mr Abdurrahman Badamasiyu, gives the number of pensioners as 5,000, and attributes the non-payment of gratuities to the backlog of the problems inherited from the past administrations in the state.”

## Business/Maritime

# NIMASA beams search light into deep sea

From Adelanwa Bamgboye, Lagos

THE Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) has beamed its search light into the deep sea to find out if there were more vessels that have been washed away by storm.

Director General (DG) Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) Temisan Omatseye said this Monday in Lagos while addressing newsmen on the discovery of

ten ships that were washed ashore by storm.

He said the regional maritime rescue coordination center of the NIMASA received distressed signals at about 0000hrs of Sunday February 14, emanated from 10 vessels that were affected by storm at the Lagos breakwaters.

He said that the storm resulted into a strong line stroll and subsequent rough sea and strong winds, thereby making the vessels to drift from the Lagos anchorage into

light house Beach spread over a stretch of 5 nautical miles to the West of Lagos Harbour West mole.

Omatseye said that the Management of NIMASA has commissioned its Rescue Team to go further into the Sea to ascertain if there are other vessels affected.

He said: "Furthermore, we wish to bring to your notice that we are mobilizing, push/anchor handling tugs to salvage these drifting/capsized vessels to a port of safe refuge.

"We will also conduct an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) to determine any form of possible pollution arising from this event to enable us mobilize necessary pollution containment apparatus."

He said this incident emphasizes the need for stringent Port State and Flag State measures to be embarked upon by the Agency. "Marine Notices shall be issued to stakeholders as appropriate", he said.

## Customs agent backs cargo tracking note

From Adelanwa Bamgboye, Lagos

THE Cargo Tracking Note (CTN) is fast becoming a welcome development as stakeholders are now throwing their weights behind the new system.

Former National President, Association of Nigerian Licensed Customs Agents (ANLCA) Alhaji Inua Mohammed told Journalists in Lagos that the CTN is a welcomed development in Nigeria because of its security and economic benefits.

He said: "The Cargo Tracking Note is an international cargo verification solution and procedure which has long been operational in other countries of the world.

Several countries in Europe, Asia, the Middle East and even the United States implemented the CTN because of its numerous security and economic advantage.

The introduction of the CTN is long overdue in Nigeria and it is in the best interest of the security and economic well being of this country."

He said the system will enable the effective tracking of all Nigeria-bound cargo for proper customs declaration. He added that the CTN will help to check the influx of counterfeit and dangerous goods into the country.

On the anxiety that the system will be an additional burden on importers by increasing the cost of doing business at the nation's ports, the ANLCA chief stated that neither will the system increase freight charges nor will importers or exporter pay additional cost to ship their goods.

Also supporting the move by the federal government to introduce the CTN is the National Association of Government Approved Freight Forwarders (NAGAFF).

Founder and Chairman Board of Trustees of NAGAFF Dr Boniface Aniebonam called on the critics of the system to tailor their criticisms from an informed perspective.

He said: "Our perspective is quite clear. There is this concept among Nigerians that once there is a pronouncement by government, nobody bothers to know what it is all about.

They join the bandwagon to condemn the intentions of government.

CTN is a global trend, it is not a Nigeria innovation."



(L-R) Yahaya Ibrahim, Executive Director, Premium Pension Limited and Mrs Paulina Haruna, Perm Sec Kaduna State Pension Bureau, Representing the Kaduna State Head of Service at the Retiree Forum organized by Premium Pension Limited in Kaduna, recently.

## Starzs commissions cabotage vessel

From Adelanwa Bamgboye, Lagos

A Cabotage vessel fully-owned by an indigenous shipping company, Starzs Investment Company Limited and registered under the Nigerian flag was commissioned at the weekend in Onne, Rivers State.

The newly-built vessel christened MV Osayame, a 3211 ASD tug boat, has a five-year contract with Total Exploration and Production Nigeria Limited.

Rivers State Deputy Governor Engineer Tele Ikuru who commissioned the vessel on behalf of the State Governor Honorable Rotimi Amaechi commended Starzs Investment for its initiative and its fulfilment of the local content initiative. Minister of Transport Alhaji Ibrahim Isa Bio who was represented by the General Manager Eastern Zone of the Nigerian Ports Authority Mr. Sotonye Etomi described the acquisition of the new vessel as a boost to cabotage opera-

tion. He said it was a deliberate policy of government to encourage ship ownership by Nigerians.

He said that Starzs Maritime has contributed to the development of a vibrant national shipping industry that will facilitate and drive lasting economic development and transformation in the country.

Chairman of Starzs Maritime Investments Company Limited Engineer Greg Ogbeifun said the vessel was constructed by Damen Shipyard in South Africa.

"Damen Shipyard concluded construction and actually delivered the vessel to us in Cape Town on 9th October 2009.

"The vessel is to service a five-year contract we have with Total", Ogbeifun said. He said that his company's effort is geared towards supporting the cabotage regime and the Local Content Initiative.

He said that the acquisition of the vessel was wholly financed by the First Bank Nigeria Plc.

## Legal firm to draft regulations for freight forwarders

From Adelanwa Bamgboye, Lagos

LEADING legal services firm, Paul Usoro and Co. (PUC) has been engaged by the Council for Regulation Freight Forwarding in Nigeria (CRFFN) to draft a new set of regulations that will define the qualifications that must be attained by prospective freight forwarders before they can be registered.

Registrar/CEO of CRFFN Sir Mike Jukwe disclosed this on Monday in Lagos during a courtesy call on the Executive Secretary/Chief Executive Officer of Nigerian Shippers Council.

He said PUC will also draft a set of guidelines that will help in the effective administration of the Council and aid its task of inducing professionalism in the freight forwarding business.

The CRFFN boss also disclosed that in addition to the ongoing registration exercise of freight forwarders which commenced this month, the Council has opened Zonal offices in Kano and Port Har-

court which will be called Freight Forwarders Houses.

He said the Lagos office in Victoria Island will be the Freight Forwarders Headquarters.

While pledging the Council's commitment to carrying along all practitioners in the task of regulating freight forwarding practice in the country, Jukwe said CRFFN will make objectivity, professionalism and fairness its watchwords.

The Executive Secretary/CEO of Nigerian Shippers Council Captain Adamu Biu tasked the Registrar of CRFFN to ensure that all relevant stakeholders are effectively carried along in the Council's activities.

"I urge you to ensure that no one is left behind and also charge you to consult widely with relevant persons since nobody has a monopoly of wisdom", Biu said.

Biu also charged the Registrar to reconcile all aggrieved freight forwarders with the hope of ensuring that all freight forwarders have a sense of belonging in the Council.

## Business/International



A Kenyan detective checks a packet of cocaine on display as an exhibit before a court session in Kenya's capital, Nairobi.

# \$1 bn cocaine passed through W/Africa to Europe

THE United Nations has estimated that \$1 billion worth of cocaine destined to Europe from Latin America passed through West Africa in 2008.

The world body said West African drug trafficking is having a "very significant" impact on the region's economies but local responses have been contradictory as the flow of money is seen as "better than nothing" by some.

UN said the \$1 billion figure is

higher than or comparable to the gross domestic product of a handful of nations in the region.

The trade has spooked European nations trying to stem drugs flowing onto their markets.

But concerns are also rising over the impact a drugs trade of this value is having in West Africa as analysts say it is leading to a spike in money laundering, crime and corruption in a region in need of stability and investment.

"There is a contradictory message coming from these countries," Antonio Maria Costa, executive director of the U.N.'s Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC), said late on Monday. "On the one hand you cannot build the societies using illegal money. On the other hand, these are countries not greatly appreciated by foreign investors, with mass unemployment, mass poverty. Therefore these resources coming in are bet-

ter than nothing," he added.

Costa was speaking on the sidelines of a meeting of seven nations seeking to map out a response to the drug trade, which is increasingly seen as having a direct impact on, rather than just passing through, a patchwork of poor and unstable nations.

Real estate, tourism and casinos in the region are being used to launder vast sums of money, experts say. (Reuters)

## Zuma says nationalisation not S/African govt policy

NATIONALISATION of South Africa's mines and other economic sectors is not government policy, President Jacob Zuma said yesterday.

The ruling ANC's militant Youth League has called for the nationalisation of mines, worrying some investors in Africa's biggest economy.

South Africa is the world's biggest platinum producer and the world's number three gold producer. Although the influence of mining on gross domes-

tic product has declined, particularly as gold reserves become exhausted, the sector remains one of the country's major employers.

"We reiterate that nationalisation is not government policy," Zuma said in parliament in a reply to debate on his state-of-the-nation address last week.

He said the government could not stop ANC Youth League leader Julius Malema and other political formations from debating nationalisation.

"This is a democracy. He (Malema) has views, the ANC Youth League always has views. Debate the views of Malema and don't confuse a debate raised to policy of government," Zuma said to applause.

The nationalisation debate is likely to muddy the waters further in South Africa's mining sector, where investors are grappling with the uncertainty of a recession, job cuts and impending high power tariff increases. (Reuters)



SOUTH Africa's President Jacob Zuma (R) arrives for the opening of Parliament in Cape Town February 11, 2010.

## W/Bank's loans to Morocco to hit \$2.4bn

THE World Bank plans to double loans to Morocco to \$2.4 billion through 2013 to support the country's efforts to reduce mass poverty and spur growth, Moroccan government and bank officials said yesterday.

"The World Bank will increase its loans to Morocco to \$600 million per year for the 2010-2013 period from \$300 million annually in the previous years as a signal of the credibility of its development programme and reforms," Economic Affairs Minister Nizar Baraka said.

In a presentation of government strategy to reporters, Baraka and World Bank officials said the government aimed in the next few years to improve governance, expand access to basic services like drinking water, implement financial reforms and boost the competitiveness of small businesses in cities and rural areas.

"Improving democracy and good governance are the key for a balanced and sustainable development," Baraka said.

malizing relations with the investment community.

Most of the remaining debt will likely be cancelled when Liberia reaches the HIPC completion point, either through the HIPC program or under World Bank and African Development programs, the IMF has said.

The World Bank and the IMF launched HIPC in 1996 to provide a framework in which creditors can provide debt relief to the world's poorest and most heavily indebted countries. (Reuters)

## 'Liberia on track to clear foreign debt'

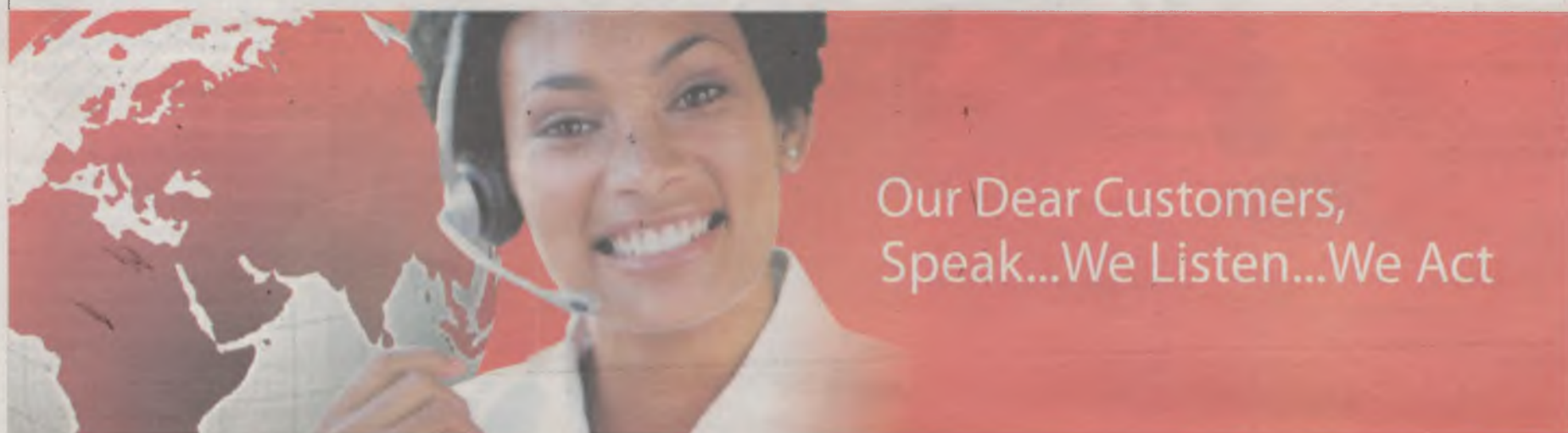
LIBERIA is on track to clear much of its remaining \$1.7 billion in foreign debt under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative by the end of this year, an IMF official said yesterday.

"We are very confident that by the end of the year, Liberia will reach the HIPC completion point," said IMF First Deputy Managing Director John Lipsky, adding that it could be "much sooner."

Liberia, Africa's oldest independent republic, still recovering from a 1989-2003 civil war, was deemed eligible for the HIPC program in 2008 pending certain economic and structural reforms.

Lipsky said the government of President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf had since made strong advances in financial management and transparency in the mining and energy sectors that had put it on track for HIPC completion. Johnson-Sirleaf, the first woman to be elected president of an African country, took office in 2006 promising to rebuild the country and vowing zero tolerance for corruption. (Reuters)

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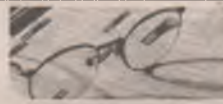


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# Business/Finance



## Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Monday, February 15, 2010

COMPANY Name	No of Deals	Quot. (N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
<b>2ND-TIER SECURITIES</b>				
CAPITAL OIL PLC	6	0.58	96,200	55,796.00
<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>101,200</b>	<b>66,746.00</b>
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>				
FTN COCOA PROCESSORS PLC	42	0.97	1,619,741	1,586,001.22
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	16	0.80	291,800	236,584.00
THE OKOMU OIL PALM COY PLC	1	21.62	1,000	20,540.00
PRESCO PLC	19	5.21	205,120	1,061,119.65
<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	<b>78</b>		<b>2,117,661</b>	<b>2,904,244.87</b>
<b>AIR SERVICES</b>				
AIRLINE SERV.& LOGISTICS PLC	10	3.19	119,150	374,503.10
NIG. AVIATION HANDLING COY PLC	256	8.50	1,960,499	16,806,424.58
<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	<b>266</b>		<b>2,079,649</b>	<b>17,180,927.68</b>
<b>AUTOMOBILE &amp; TYRE</b>				
DN TYRE & RUBBER PLC	31	0.50	9,628,847	4,814,423.50
R.T. BRISCOE (NIGERIA) PLC	26	5.69	288,933	1,655,166.51
<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	<b>57</b>		<b>9,917,780</b>	<b>6,469,590.01</b>
<b>BANKING</b>				
ACCESS BANK PLC	189	9.30	7,686,280	71,637,673.37
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	110	2.80	21,775,123	60,801,758.38
DIAMOND BANK PLC	122	8.62	5,193,047	45,190,738.12
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	25	4.73	381,472	1,804,362.56
F/CITY MONUMENT BANK PLC	81	9.65	4,008,774	38,631,390.75
FIDELITY BANK PLC	155	2.70	6,233,667	16,822,816.32
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	942	14.80	23,257,247	346,717,493.15
FINBANK PLC	146	0.77	24,827,148	19,190,280.30
GT BANK PLC	444	18.30	8,746,344	160,907,100.20
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	62	8.70	1,073,867	9,300,974.70
INTERCONTINENTAL BANK PLC	110	2.02	5,497,037	11,204,105.01
OCEANIC BANK INTER PLC	163	2.19	4,761,981	10,493,415.49
BANK PHB PLC	77	1.88	3,446,697	6,512,835.18
SKYE BANK PLC	236	7.85	17,854,948	138,195,836.18
SPRING BANK PLC	15	1.08	282,340	304,927.20
STERLING BANK PLC	94	1.92	10,220,345	20,025,836.44
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC	229	13.15	7,390,337	96,234,213.60
UNION BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	149	6.00	2,775,730	16,630,310.12
UNITY BANK PLC	29	1.01	2,683,710	2,692,643.56
WEMA BANK PLC	71	1.21	2,928,544	3,615,331.92
ZENITH BANK PLC	281	15.80	15,607,611	243,921,610.56
<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	<b>3,730</b>		<b>176,632,249</b>	<b>1,320,835,663.11</b>
<b>BUILDING MATERIALS</b>				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	70	16.01	1,803,673	28,862,021.56
BENUE CEMENT COMPANY PLC	41	50.01	846,267	42,327,521.86
CEMENT CO. OF NORTH NIG. PLC	24	15.65	327,462	5,122,813.56
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	44	34.20	1,172,018	40,476,366.99
<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	<b>179</b>		<b>4,149,420</b>	<b>116,788,723.97</b>
<b>CHEMICAL &amp; PAINTS</b>				
BERGER PAINTS NIGERIA PLC	2	3.36	8,013	28,205.76
CHEMICAL & ALLIED PROD. PLC	3	25.27	50,588	1,305,158.76
DN MEYER PLC	23	4.19	519,424	2,176,386.56
NIGERIAN-GERMAN CHEMICALS PLC	1	15.04	47	671.63
<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	<b>29</b>		<b>578,072</b>	<b>3,510,422.71</b>
<b>COMMERCIAL/SERVICES</b>				
AFROMEDIA PLC	2	0.55	10,500	5,565.00
COURTVILLE INVESTMENTS PLC	8	0.50	316,000	158,000.00
RED STAR EXPRESS PLC	19	2.52	918,656	2,245,857.80
<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	<b>29</b>		<b>1,245,156</b>	<b>2,409,422.80</b>
<b>COMP. &amp; OFFICE EQUIPMENT</b>				
NCR (NIGERIA) PLC	1	8.13	167	1,421.17
OMATEK VENTURES PLC	8	0.60	137,187	81,587.24
TRIPPLE GEE & COMPANY PLC	2	4.37	9,181	39,850.98
<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	<b>11</b>		<b>146,935</b>	<b>122,865.37</b>
<b>CONGLOMERATES</b>				
A. G. LEVENTIS (NIGERIA) PLC	7	2.99	32,758	98,187.20
JOHN HOLT PLC	1	9.28	66	582.12
PZ CUSSONS NIGERIA PLC	43	26.25	675,125	17,711,974.34
SCOA NIGERIA PLC	1	8.71	34	281.52
TRANSNATIONAL CORP. OF NIG. PLC	17	0.50	1,361,137	680,568.50
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	60	41.99	464,050	19,413,007.99
<b>UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>24.95</b>	<b>1,355,290</b>	<b>33,879,029.72</b>
<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	<b>227</b>		<b>3,888,460</b>	<b>71,783,631.39</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>				
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	74	5.55	1,137,355	6,111,164.72
G. CAPPA PLC	2	14.46	15	225.00
JULIUS BERGER NIGERIA PLC	15	28.50	81,888	2,244,942.84
MULTIVERSE RESOURCES PLC	11	0.50	1,095,000	547,500.00
ROADS NIGERIA PLC	1	3.46	29	105.27
<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	<b>103</b>		<b>2,314,297</b>	<b>8,903,937.83</b>
<b>F/BEVERAGES &amp; TOBACCO</b>				
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	10	30.60	10,740	343,946.20
BIG TREAT PLC	38	0.84	1,079,357	928,548.35
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	105	14.97	1,517,724	22,731,732.27
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	189	12.70	5,820,812	73,554,116.44
DANGOTE SUGAR REFINERY PLC	108	15.01	2,517,453	37,824,417.59
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	104	45.78	1,365,556	62,009,730.63
HONEYWELL FLOUR MILL PLC	9	6.12	115,600	682,460.00
NATIONAL SALT COY. NIG. PLC	44	6.50	915,849	5,947,894.07
NIGERIAN BOTTLING CO. Y PLC	27	27.10	82,122	2,239,738.21
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	46	268.00	115,630	31,058,024.59
NORTHERN NIG. FLOUR MILLS PLC	7	21.80	2,938	63,778.08

TANTALIZERS PLC	25	0.89	4,881,500	4,318,481.00
UTC NIGERIA PLC	13	0.75	751,601	557,852.03
<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	<b>725</b>		<b>19,176,882</b>	<b>242,260,719.46</b>
<b>HEALTHCARE</b>				
EVANS MEDICAL PLC	11	1.12	107,480	119,631.60
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	27	2.20	1,081,540	2,439,170.80
GLAXOSMITHKLINE CONS. NIG. PLC	42	26.41	268,985	7,136,138.14
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC	25	4.97	288,238	1,432,542.86
NEIMETH INTER. PHARM. PLC	12	1.42	119,314	165,170.88
<b>DIAGNOSTIC &amp; CLINICAL SERV. PLC</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>0.67</b>	<b>4,823,214</b>	<b>3,034,788.38</b>
<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	<b>191</b>		<b>6,688,771</b>	<b>14,327,442.66</b>
<b>HOTEL &amp; TOURISM</b>				
CAPITAL HOTEL PLC	3	2.45	225,107	545,512.15
IKEJA HOTEL PLC	32	1.48	1,034,051	1,526,180.42
<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	<b>35</b>		<b>1,259,158</b>	<b>2,071,692.57</b>
<b>IND./DOMESTIC PRODUCTS</b>				
ALUMACO PLC	1	17.50	82	1,363.66
B. O. C. GASES NIGERIA PLC	4	11.85	61,209	689,213.34
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIG. PLC	1	0.50	650	325.00
VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC	19	4.77	301,908	1,440,101.16
VONO PRODUCTS PLC	1	0.63	16	10.56
<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	<b>26</b>		<b>363,865</b>	<b>2,131,013.72</b>
<b>INFO. &amp; COMM. TECHNOLOGY</b>				
CHAMS PLC	34	0.77	3,232,633	2,482,851.03
IHS NIGERIA PLC	1	4.03	100	383.00
<b>MAS TELECOMMUNICATIONS NIG. PLC</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.50</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>4,500.00</b>
STARCOMMS PLC	39	2.27	1,429,871	3,199,986.62
<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	<b>76</b>		<b>4,671,604</b>	<b>5,687,720.65</b>
<b>INSURANCE</b>				
AFRICAN ALLIANCE INSUR. PLC	10	0.58	2,718,500	1,576,730.00
AICO INSURANCE PLC	175	1.07	14,697,469	15,942,273.90
CONTINENTAL REINSUR. PLC	6	0.95	456,000	438,200.00
CORNERSTONE INSUR. CO. PLC	31	0.51	3,514,000	1,776,766.21
CUSTODIAN & ALLIED INSUR. PLC	38	3.06	2,443,960	7,459,146.00
EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC	6	0.50	290,000	145,000.00
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	11	0.55	949,112	523,511.60
GUARANTY TRUST ASSUR. PLC	24	2.25	4,664,572	10,514,089.62
GUINEA INSURANCE PLC	2	0.50	50,000	25,000.00
CONSOLIDATED HALLMARK INSUR. PLC	3	0.50	48,500	24,250.00
INTERNATIONAL ENERGY INSUR. COY. PLC	24	0.58	2,490,427	1,394,289.73
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC	56	0.53	7,539,345	3,925,464.40
LAW UNION & ROCK INSUR. PLC	15	0.53	3,830,000	1,957,500.00
LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	2	0.50	100,000	50,000.00
MUTUAL BENEFITS ASSUR. PLC	7	0.64	528,950	338,528.00
N.E.M. INSURANCE CO. (NIG.) PLC	37	0.55	1,642,811	898,642.96
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC	17	0.73	922,064	673,646.72
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC	1	3.61	2,000	6,860.00
REGENCY ALLIANCE INSUR. COY. PLC	2	0.50	102,000	51,000.00
SOVEREIGN TRUST INSUR. PLC	8	0.50	1,026,000	513,000.00
STACO INSURANCE PLC	4	0.83	50,700	40,053.00
STANDARD ALLIANCE INSUR. PLC	55	0.58	6,678,852	3,779,575.38
UNIC INSURANCE PLC	12	0.76	1,130,467	861,214.92
UNIVERSAL INSUR. COY. PLC	12	0.50	573,000	285,500.00
INTERCONTINENTAL WAPIC INSUR. PLC	35	1.00	1,999,690	1,966,516.99
<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	<b>593</b>		<b>58,448,415</b>	<b>55,167,759.43</b>
<b>MEDIA</b>				
DAAR COMMUNICATIONS PLC	44	0.81	452,041	372,576.85
<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	<b>44</b>		<b>452,041</b>	<b>372,576.85</b>
<b>MORTGAGE COMPANIES</b>				
ASO SAVINGS AND LOAN PLC	28	0.65	1,269,050	812,471.50
RESORT SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	14	0.50	1,882,000	941,000.00
UNION HOMES SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	46	0.92	1,855,614	1,693,260.48
<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	<b>88</b>		<b>5,006,664</b>	<b>3,446,731.98</b>
<b>OTHER FINANCIAL INST.</b>				
CRUSADER NIGERIA PLC	17	0.92	544,627	514,570.57
NIGERIAN ENERGY SECTOR FUND	1	552.20	50	26,222.00
<b>ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0.64</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>19,800.00</b>
<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	<b>25</b>		<b>844,677</b>	<b>732,800.07</b>
<b>PACKAGING</b>				
AVON CROWN CAPS & CONTAINERS PLC	1	7.65	100	727.00
NIGERIAN BAG MANU. COY. PLC	194	2.30	4,041,005	9,485,491.78
NAMPACK NIGERIA PLC	2	6.99	316	2,101.40
POLY PRODUCTS (NIG.) PLC	1	4.23	66	265.32
<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	<b>198</b>		<b>4,041,487</b>	<b>9,488,585.50</b>
<b>PETROLEUM (MARKETING)</b>				
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC	48	38.06	150,462	5,735,956.04
BECO PETROLEUM PRODUCT PLC	11	2.25	47,206	101,020.84
MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC	4	69.79	1,133	80,434.93
CONOIL PLC	24	31.00	16,044	512,101.14
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC	43	6.30	741,203	4,435,688.00
<b>MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13.51</b>	<b>13,233</b>	<b>1,227,757.92</b>
OANDO PLC	7	93.99	1,127	105,926.73
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	23	142.50	50,193	7,286,485.38
<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	<b>167</b>		<b>1,020,621</b>	<b>19,465,370.98</b>
<b>PRINTING &amp; PUBLISHING</b>				
LONGMAN NIGERIA PLC	1	9.76	1,200	11,136.00
UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC	14	4.92	93,892	465,689.80
<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	<b>15</b>		<b>95,092</b>	<b>476,825.80</b>
<b>THE FOREIGN LISTINGS</b>				
ECOBANK TRANSNATIONAL INCORP.	29	15.80	469,230	7,403,628.03
<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	<b>29</b>		<b>469,230</b>	<b>7,403,628.03</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTALS</b>	<b>7,362</b>		<b>318,504,834</b>	<b>2,006,764,172.43</b>

### What is discretionary Account?

It is a securities account created when a client gives a partner, director or qualified portfolio manager authorization to select securities and execute trades on his behalf.

Google.com



# 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 12/02/2010. 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 12-02-2010

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	8-11	17.00	24.00	17.50	24.00	17.50	24.00	17.00	24.00	19.00	24.00
2	Afribank Nigeria	0.67	3.00	13.00	18.00	23.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00
3	Diamond Bank	0.65	3.00	12.70	14.00	19.00	20.00	25.00	20.00	25.00	20.00	25.00	20.00	25.00
4	Ecobank Nigeria	0.01	3.00	13.50	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	14.58	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00
6	Fidelity Bank	2.00	4.00	13.50	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	n/a	3.00	10.51	8.00	22.00	22.00	24.25	22.00	24.25	22.00	24.25	22.00	24.25
8	FCMB	0.13	2.19	12.00	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	12.25	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	3.50	12.21	16.00	17.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	19.00	22.00	19.00	22.00
11	Stanbic IBTC Bank	1.11	2.19	12.40	17.00	22.00	17.00	22.00	17.00	22.00	17.00	22.00	17.00	22.00
12	Intercontinental Bank	-	0.50	12.18	22.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	n/a	n/a	22.00	25.00
13	Citi Bank Nigeria	0.75	1.50	10.00	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	3-16	21.00	27.00	21.00	27.00	21.00	27.00	16.50	27.00	18.00	27.00
15	Bank PNB	0.60	1.50	10.20	4.00	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	13.36	14.00	14.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00
17	Spring Bank	-	3.00	10.80	19.00	22.00	19.00	22.00	19.00	22.00	19.00	22.00	19.00	22.00
18	Standard Chartered Bank	0.5	3	8.25	17.00	21.00	17.00	21.00	17.00	21.00	17.00	21.00	17.00	21.00
19	Sterling Bank	1.31	4.67	15.27	19.00	22.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	23.00	20.00	24.00
20	Union Bank	n/a	2	12.75	17.00	19.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00
21	United Bank for Africa	0.79	2.31	13.44	8.00	22.00	21.00	22.00	15.50	22.00	15.50	22.00	15.50	22.00
22	Unity Bank	1.00	4-5	3-15.75	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00
23	Wema Bank	2.00	3.00	12.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00
24	Zenith Bank	0-9	14.00	n/a	18.75	22.00	15.00	22.00	15.00	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	8-11	18.00	24.00	14.00	24.00	18.00	24.00	20.00	24.00	19.00	24.00
2	Afribank Nigeria	0.67	3.00	13.00	19.00	25.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	25.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00
3	Diamond Bank	0.85	3.00	12.70	20.00	25.00	20.00	25.00	20.00	25.00	20.00	25.00	20.00	25.00
4	Ecobank Nigeria	0.01	3.00	13.50	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	14.58	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00
6	Fidelity Bank	2.00	4.00	13.50	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	n/a	3.00	10.51	22.00	24.25	22.00	24.25	22.00	24.25	22.00	24.25	22.00	23.25
8	FCMB	0.13	2.19	12.00	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	12.25	21.00	28.00	21.00	24.00	21.00	24.00	18.00	25.00	21.00	25.00
10	Guaranty Trust Bank	n/a	3.50	12.21	20.00	22.00	20.00	22.00	20.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	17.00	22.00
11	Stanbic IBTC Bank	1.11	2.19	12.40	17.00	22.00	17.00	22.00	17.00	22.00	17.00	22.00	17.00	22.00
12	Intercontinental Bank	-	0.50	12.18	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	10.00	18.00	22.00	n/a	n/a	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	n/a	n/a
14	Oceanic Bank	0.25	3.00	3-16	19.00	27.00	17.00	24.00	15.00	27.00	21.00	30.00	21.00	27.00
15	Bank PNB	0.60	1.50	10.20	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	13.36	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00
17	Spring Bank	-	3.00	10.80	19.00	22.00	19.00	22.00	19.00	22.00	19.00	22.00	19.00	22.00
18	Standard Chartered Bank	0.5	3	8.25	17.00	21.00	17.00	21.00	17.00	21.00	17.00	21.00	17.00	21.00
19	Sterling Bank	1.31	4.67	15.27	20.00	25.00	20.00	25.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	22.00
20	Union Bank	n/a	2	12.75	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00
21	United Bank for Africa	0.79	2.31	13.44	21.00	22.00	15.50	22.00	15.50	22.00	15.50	22.00	21.00	22.00
22	Unity Bank	1.00	4-5	3-15.75	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00
23	Wema Bank	2.00	3.00	12.00	18.00	23.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	23.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00
24	Zenith Bank	0-9	14.00	n/a	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

# Will keeping your child's baby teeth save their life one day?

WHEN Kyran Bracken's six-year-old son, Charlie, loses his first milk tooth, the tooth fairy won't be getting a look in. Instead, the moment it comes out the tooth will be packaged up and sent to a lab in Cheshire for use in a future health emergency.

'None of us knows what is round the corner medically for our children, but as a parent, I want to do the best I can to protect their health,' explains Kyran.

The former England rugby union scrum half is referring to the fact that children's baby teeth are now known to be a source of stem cells - the body's 'master' cells which can turn into a host of other cells, including bone, fat and nerves.

Stem cells are already being used to treat leukaemia and other types of cancers and blood disorders. The hope is they will soon help treat nerve damage, repair cartilage and even cardiac tissue following heart attacks.

The Brackens believe Charlie's stem cells could possibly hold the key to his treatment should he ever become seriously ill - or even if he just lost a tooth.

'I had one of my teeth knocked out during a match back in 1992, and had years of problems with it - crowns fell off and plates fell out,' says Kyran. 'It was only last year when I had an implant fitted that it stopped being a problem.'

'But if something like that happens to one of my boys' - he and his wife Victoria have two other sons, Jack, four, and Lochlan, one - 'they might even be able to re-grow their own teeth

one day.

'I'm sure that in 20 years' time the possibilities of stem cells will be amazing, and collecting them when the children are young will prove to have been worth its weight in gold.'

Kyran, 35, heard about tooth stem cells from his sister Jane, 40, who, like their father, is a dentist.

'Jane did lots of research into the potential benefits of storing the cells, and she told me she'd decided to have them collected from her three sons' baby teeth in case of future need. She's my big sister and, if she approves, that's good enough for me.'

At present, stem cell therapy uses those found in bone marrow and babies' umbilical cords. Another potential source is human embryos, but this is highly controversial.

The cutting-edge discovery about tooth stem cells was made by chance in 2003 by Dr Songtao Shi, an American stem cell scientist and former paediatric dentist.

His six-year-old daughter decided she wanted him, rather than her mother, to pull out a wobbly tooth. When he glanced at the tooth, he noticed that the pulp - the soft tissue inside it - was still living.

Previously, no one had expected to find stem cells in baby teeth because these cells exist largely to repair the body - and baby teeth don't repair themselves as they fall out so quickly. In his laboratory, Dr Shi extracted cells from the pulp and found that in the right culture, some of the tooth cells started to grow.

As well as forming new bone



**COPING** Ruth used painkillers and hot water bottles throughout her teenage years to deal with the pain.

cells, the stem cells were also manipulated to form nerve and blood cells.

One advantage of this new

source is that extracting the stem cells is painless, because children naturally start losing their milk teeth around six or seven. Another

advantage is there's more than one opportunity to harvest baby teeth stem cells: if one tooth doesn't yield a good supply, the next one hopefully will.

The Brackens' teeth will be stored by BioEden, the only company in Britain to offer this service. Families have to register with the company in advance so that they can be sent a special kit.

'When the tooth falls out, it should immediately be put in the vial we send, which must then be filled with cold milk,' says Jim Curtis, managing director of Bioden.

'Milk is a nutrient-rich solution that helps the cells stay alive; if they were stored in water they would swell and burst like balloons.'

'The tooth needs to be kept cool, but not frozen, and reach our lab within 48 hours to enable us to extract live, healthy, viable cells. Clients contact us when the tooth is out, and we arrange a courier.'

Although there are only about 100 cells in a tooth, compared with millions in umbilical cord blood, Bioden claims its culture process means it can help the cells multiply naturally to one million - the minimum needed for cell therapy.

The advantage of using teeth stem cells over others is that you know how many stem cells you have to begin with,' says John Hunt, professor of clinical engineering at Liverpool University. 'They are also purer than those from cord blood, which are more complex cells.'

## Endometriosis, the life-wrecker doctors dismiss as period pain



**SAVING** up Kyran, pictured with his family in 2006, is preserving his children's baby teeth, which are a precious source of stem cells

SOMETIMES the pain was so bad Ruth Forwood, then aged just 12, would nearly pass out. 'It felt like someone was stabbing me inside,' she recalls. When she was 13, she went to

her (female) GP and was told this pain was 'part of being a woman' and to learn to 'get on with it'.

'At times I was unable to concentrate or function, and I often missed school,' Ruth says. Over the next ten years she took painkillers, used heat-patches and hot water bottles and did breathing exercises in order to try to cope.

Then, just over a year ago, Ruth, now 23, was looking up her symptoms on the Internet and up popped the word 'endometriosis'. The condition is caused when cells like the ones found in the lining of the womb grow elsewhere in the body, most commonly inside the pelvis and around the ovaries. It's not known why this happens.

During the monthly cycle, hormones stimulate these cells, causing them to grow, break down and bleed. Depending on where the cells are, this can lead to heavy and agonising periods.

If the rogue cells have no way of leaving the body, this can trigger pain, inflammation and the formation of scar tissue and cysts. In some cases, the affected organs, such as the ovaries and the nearby bowel, stick together, causing chronic pain and bowel symptoms. Women can suffer bladder problems, and sex can be uncomfortable too. Endometriosis can also cause infertility.

An estimated two million women and girls in Britain suffer from the condition, but a huge number - nearly 70 per

cent of these women - are misdiagnosed, according to the National Endometriosis Society. They're often told they have irritable bowel syndrome, or 'psychological pain', suggesting it's all in the mind. It takes, on average, eight years from first seeing a GP to getting a proper diagnosis, says the charity. And in the meantime, for many women, life simply falls apart.

'I felt a sickening dread when I read about endometriosis as all my symptoms fell into place,' says Ruth, a university student from Uxbridge, Middlesex. 'Right then I just knew I had it.' She had only vaguely heard of the condition before, and could hardly fathom that her years of problems had implications for her fertility.

She'd planned to become a teacher, then eventually start a family but 'suddenly my future seemed in jeopardy'. Ruth went to her GP, but once again she was told period pain was 'normal' and that she was 'too young' to have endometriosis, which is still regarded as a disease affecting women in their 30s and 40s. But she was insistent, so her GP referred her to a gynaecologist two months later.

'I didn't want to wait that long, so I decided to see a consultant privately,' says Ruth.

He suggested she had a 'hormone imbalance', and after an internal scan, which was clear, said he was 99 per cent certain she didn't have endometriosis. She left in tears.

### Sign Language



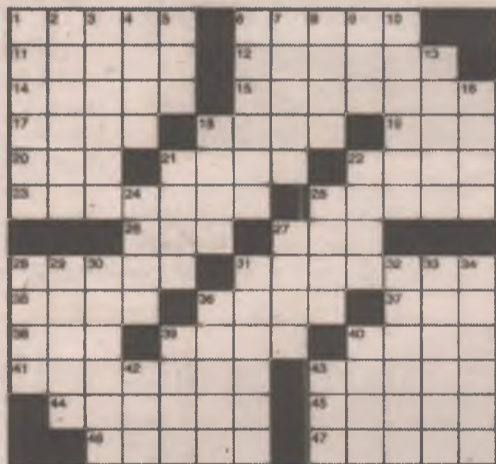
In short, "No Smoking."

Photo location: Hakone, Japan, by Frank McLarnon  
Culled from www.signspotting.com

## EASY CROSSWORDS

- ACROSS**
- Aroma
  - Actress Winfrey
  - On this date
  - Covered in trees
  - Get up
  - Cronkite and Koppel, e.g.
  - Procures
  - Put money (on)
  - \_\_\_ Paulo (Brazilian city)
  - Compass dir.
  - The girl's partner
  - Jack's partner
  - Evasive sorts
  - Columbus vessel
  - Witty person
  - Jewel
  - Newman Morley \_\_\_
  - Stops
  - Actress Moran
  - Frisky foal
  - Gun lobby (abbr.)
  - Recede
  - Gorge
  - Sailing vessel
  - Kinetic
- DOWN**
- Presented a play
  - Actress Rita \_\_\_
  - Reworked copy
  - Highlands gal
  - Cleanser ingredient
  - Possessors
  - Rhyme
  - sculptures
  - \_\_\_ Gras
  - Worship
  - Grass's color
  - Smells terrible
  - \_\_\_-go-round
  - makers
  - Tiers
  - Classified
  - Confines (2 wds.)
  - Distributed
  - 1916 hit song
  - Actress Gertrude
  - Receive, as news
  - Rock legend Hendrix
  - Dancer Verdon
  - Annoying thing
  - Dreidel
  - stakes
  - Appear
  - Ann \_\_\_\_, Michigan
  - Liar
  - Drenches
  - Sound sleeper?
  - Stockbroker
  - Glossy
  - Salesperson
  - Mirth
  - Undecorated
  - "\_\_\_ had enough!"
  - Movie studio

76



### Solution to Easy Crosswords

75

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

# 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.

88

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

### Solution to Sudoku 87

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

News Extra

# Senior Hamas leader killing suspects 'had British passports'

• Briton speaks as Ireland confirms none of the alleged Irish citizens in hit squad exist

**A** British man in Israel with the same name as an alleged member of a hit squad that assassinated a top Hamas militant in Dubai said his identity had been stolen.

Melvyn Adam Mildiner said he was 'angry, upset and scared' over what he called a misidentification.

Dubai police listed the British national as one of six British men suspected of being part of an 11-man hit squad that killed Mahmoud al-Mabhouh in a luxury hotel in the Gulf emirate last month.

But Mr Mildiner, a resident of a town near Jerusalem, yesterday insisted he had nothing to do with the assassination and had never been to Dubai.

'I woke up this morning to a world of fun,' he said, after newspapers around the world splashed names and photos of the suspects distributed by Dubai.

'I am obviously angry, upset and scared - any number of things. And I'm looking into what I can do to try to sort things out and clear my name,' he said in a telephone interview.

'I don't know how this happened or who chose my name or why, but hopefully we'll find out soon.'

**A** photo of 'Melvyn Adam Mildiner' released by police in Dubai did not match a picture of the Israel-based Mildiner on his Twitter social networking page, though it had some similar features.

'It's not me. Which is one silver lining on this entire story because at least I can point to it and say, 'Look, that's not me. It's not the picture that I have in my passport, and it's not the picture that I have on my face that I walk around with every day', Mr Mildiner said.

'I have my passport. It is in my house, along with the passports of everybody else in my family, and there's no Dubai stamps in it because I've never been to Dubai,' he said.

Acknowledging that his name was uncommon, Mr Mildiner said: 'There's probably not many of us.'

He spoke out as Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs confirmed that none of the alleged



**ASSASSINATED:** Mahmoud al-Mabhouh

Irish citizens named as being part of the hit squad exist.

'We've been unable to find any record of Irish passports having been issued with details corresponding to the details published today in a number of UAE newspapers,' the Department said today.

'We are in ongoing contact with UAE authorities to try and ascertain the exact facts of the case.'

'To date we've received no evidence that any Irish people were involved.'

The 11-strong gang - some wearing fake beards and wigs - who disguised themselves as tourists with tennis clothes and rackets in a highly orchestrated murder.

They are believed to have fled the emirate after the killing and are now on the run. Dubai's attorney general, Essam al-Hemaydan, said international arrest warrants have been issued.

They arrived on separate flights and spent less than a day in the emirate, tracking their victim to his five-star residence, the al-Bustan Rotana, near the airport before ambushing and suffocating him.

It was earlier alleged he was electrocuted before being murdered.

Dubai's chief of police, Lieutenant General Dhahi Khalfan Tamim, last night named six British and three Irish nationals among the killers.

'We have no doubts that it was

11 people holding these passport, and we regret that they used the travel documents of friendly countries,' he said.

The other members of the gang were carrying French and German passports.

Within two hours of the attack on Mahmoud al-Mabhouh on January 20, the assassins fled Dubai, heading to airports in Europe and Asia.

It is believed that they were in the country for only 19 hours in all.

It is believed a request has been placed with Interpol for arrest warrants for the gang.

The Foreign Office this morning said it was 'seeking further information' and was hoping to put out a statement this afternoon.

The Home Office declined to comment, saying it was an ongoing investigation.

The Irish government said it was 'awaiting clarification'.

**T**here was no comment from Dubai-based diplomats from the countries linked to passports.

There are still questions over whether the passports were forged or stolen. Dubai police said they are working on the premise the passports are genuine.

Last night the Daily Mail confirmed that people with the same names and birthdates as those on the passports were all born in Britain.

Al-Mabhouh was found dead



**THAT'S not me:** Left, the passport photograph used by the alleged assassin pretending to be Briton Melvyn Mildiner. Right, the photograph used by a woman pretending to be an Irish citizen named Gail Folliard

in his hotel room without any injuries to his body, according to initial reports from Palestinian sources.

He had barricaded the door of his room with chairs, a standard precaution by a man who felt that Israeli intelligence had been after his life for 20 years.

But Lt Gen Tamim did not go as far as blaming Israel directly, saying it was possible that 'leaders of certain countries gave orders to their intelligence agents to kill' the Hamas man.

Outlining how he believed the assassination was carried out, he said it was a highly organised operation, carried out with advance knowledge of the victim's movements.

Forensic tests indicated al-Mabhouh died of suffocation, but examinations are continuing to establish other possible factors in his death - including the possibility of electrocution and torture.

**A**irport surveillance video of the alleged killers arriving on separate flights to Dubai the day before al-Mabhouh was found dead, were shown at a news conference yesterday.

The members of the hit-squad divided into teams - four surveillance teams and the execution squad who would actually carry out the assassination. Three of the execution squad were carry-

*Cont'd on page 38*

## TIMELINE OF EVENTS

January 19, 2010: Victim Mahmoud al-Mabhouh arrives in Dubai - mysteriously without his bodyguards. It is still not clear what he was doing in the country.

January 20: Shortly after midnight, the suspects are spotted on airport and hotel CCTV cameras arriving in Dubai.

They split into five teams - four surveillance, and one execution squad.

During the day several of the suspects are seen in the hotel disguised as tourists.

Like something out of a spy caper novel, they wear false beards and glasses and even dress up in sports gear with tennis racquets to fool any suspicious onlookers.

CCTV shows one entering a bathroom and emerging again in his disguise.

At one point they even get in to the same lift as Mabhouh to confirm the room he is in - room 230.

Peter Elvinger books the room down the hall - room 237. Some of the assassins take up position.

4.25p.m.: One of the suspects arrives at the Al-Bustan Rotana Hotel, where Mabhouh is staying.

8.24p.m. Mabhouh arrives back at the hotel.

8.27 p.m.: Gail and Kevin can be seen monitoring the hallway outside his room.

The killing, believed to have taken only ten minutes, takes place.

8.46p.m.: The alleged execution team are caught on CCTV apparently leaving the victim's room and walking out of the Al-Bustan Rotana Hotel after the hit is believed to have taken place.

8.47p.m.: Gail is seen stepping in to the lift and leaving the hotel

Within two hours, the entire team has fled the country to destinations in Europe and Asia.

## News Extra

## Senior Hamas leader killing suspects

Cont'd from page 37

ing British passports, one was carrying an Irish passport.

They used 'coded communication tools' to keep in contact.

CCTV footage shows the female member of the gang apparently wearing a dark wig, big hat and sunglasses to blend in with tourists.

Others in the hit squad were also seen on the film dressed as holidaymakers, wearing tennis clothes and carrying rackets and athletic bags.

The footage also showed the gang gathering in groups at the Al-Bustan Rotana Hotel.

All of the gang paid for their expenses in cash to avoid being traced.

Investigators saying that several members of the hit squad followed Al-Mabhouh to his room, even riding in the elevator with him to confirm his room number.

Then some of the team checked in to a room across the hall.

Four assassins then entered his room while he was out, using an electronic device to open the door, waiting to pounce when he returned.

The killing took just ten minutes.

The gang were careful not to disturb anything in the room and left the door locked from the inside to try to hide their actions, said Dubai police.

All of the suspects left the country within 19 hours of their arrival. Police said some went to Europe, some to Asia.

But there were clues, police said - the alleged assassins hired cars, and even apparently left fingerprints. And the CCTV footage was the most damning of all, police said.

'We have identified the suspects and will issue arrest warrants against them and will take legal action against anyone or any party which will prove to stand behind the murder,' Lt Gen Tamim said.

'Currently we do not have clear evidence that a specific apparatus has carried out the act,' he added. 'We are dealing with the passports as original unless it is proven otherwise. We are asking for the co-operation of the respective countries.'

Police said the ringleader is Peter Elvinger, 49, who holds a French passport.

They accused him of being the squad's logistical coordinator and the one who booked room 237 in Al Bustan Rotana, down the corridor from the victim's room - 230.

Yesterday police said that there was 'serious penetration into al-Mabhouh's security prior to his arrival' in Dubai, but that it



'STEPHEN Daniel Hodes (British)'



'PAUL John Keeley (British)'



'MICHAEL Barney (British)'



'JAMES Leonard Clarke (British)'



HOTEL CCTV shows men disguised as tennis-playing tourists conducting surveillance in the hotel just hours before al-Mabhouh was killed

appeared al-Mabhouh was travelling alone. Other reports suggested he was in Dubai to buy weapons for Hamas.

It is understood he entered Dubai on a false passport the day before his murder.

Hamas, the Palestinian Islam-

ist movement, denied al-Mabhouh - one of the founders of the group's military wing - was en route to Iran, one of the group's major backers.

Top Hamas figures have accused Israeli agents of killing him.

Lt Gen Tamim said Israeli involvement could not be ruled out.

'We do not rule out Mossad, but when we arrest those suspects we will know who masterminded it,' he said.

'If the law of the jungle is the

system for some countries, in the UAE it is rule of law that governs us, and if leaders of some countries give orders to their intelligence services to kill, this practice is rejected and is a crime in our laws, religion and Islamic traditions,' Gen Tamim said.

He added that the UAE would follow the proper legal procedures and work with Interpol to track down the perpetrators - 'even if it's some countries' leaders'.

In a statement released last month, Hamas acknowledged that al-Mabhouh was involved in the kidnapping and killing of two Israeli soldiers in 1989.

The organisation said that until his death, he had played a 'continuous role in supporting his brothers in the resistance inside the occupied homeland'.

The Al Bustan Rotana in Dubai is a luxury 275 room 5 star hotel, catering for business and leisure travellers. It has seven restaurants and cafes, a health club, two swimming pools, tennis courts and beach access.

It is located just minutes from Dubai International airport and close to the city's main shopping areas.

The British suspects are Melvyn Mildiner, Stephen Hodes, Paul Keeley, Jonathan Graham, James Clarke and Michael Barney.

Folliard, Evan Dennings and Kevin Daveron are the alleged Irish assassins.

Two Palestinian nationals, who are UAE residents, are also currently being detained by Dubai Police in connection to al-Mabhouh's murder. One of them has confessed that he provided logistic help, said Lt Gen Tamim.

He did not say whether any of the suspects have been formally charged by prosecutors in Dubai, one of seven semiautonomous emirates that make up the United Arab Emirates.

But local charges would be needed before the suspects could be added to the Interpol database or to begin any possible extradition efforts in the future.



ONE of the luxury rooms in the hotel, similar to the one in which the assassination was carried out

## News Extra



PRESIDENT Barack Obama on his BlackBerry

## All the president's emails: Sasha Obama; Robert Gates; the White House staff

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: Sasha Obama <nickjonasfan@yahoo.com>  
Subject: Re: Hillary

Sweetie, that was such a lovely thought of yours to send a little note to Hillary saying how pleased you were that Bill was out of the hospital in time for them to spend Valentine's Day together! I'm sure it'll be much appreciated. Now, just to explain about the Clintons, I'm not sure whether they actually will be spending Valentine's Day together, like your mom and me. But that's just because they're both very busy people, so sometimes it's hard for them to see each other as much as they'd like!

xx Dad

To: Sasha Obama <nickjonasfan@yahoo.com>  
Subject: Re: Re: Hillary

Yeah, that's a fair point – your mom and I are very busy people too. Look, I'll try to explain the difference sometime. Don't worry for now. xx

To: Robert Gates <secretary@defense.mil>  
Subject: Re: New CBS poll on Don't Ask Don't Tell etc

Wait, wait, what? A much larger proportion of Americans support "gay men and lesbians" serving openly in the military than "homosexuals" serving openly in the military? That's ridiculous. Sometimes I think half the people in this country need to check their homes for low-level carbon monoxide leakages. So do you think we could push this through with 100% Republican support if we said it was about "confirmed bachelors" and "ladies with close female companions"? Jeez. BHO

To: All White House Staff  
Subject: Snow closures

All — We seem to be through the worst of this now, and I'll expect everyone to be at work as usual from tomorrow morning. Meanwhile, though I'm sure we all had a good chuckle at Harry's joke about how a bit of snow was no worse than the Republicans when it came to paralyzing Capitol Hill – nice one Harry! – I'd also urge a return to the due seriousness of government.

Whoever threw a snowball at John McCain out of the East Wing window yesterday was out of order: he can only throw underarm, so he could hardly be expected to defend himself. I know it's hard to retain one's composure when every other GOP senator is claiming that the snow proves Al Gore was lying about global warming. But we need to set an example, and calm down. The Dalai Lama is visiting next week, which should help – the world's two calmest leaders under one roof

Warmly (!), Barack  
Culled from guardian.co.uk

# Airport body scanners may be breaking the law

## ...Human rights watchdog warns ministers

The use of body scanners at UK airports may be against the law, the human rights watchdog has warned ministers.

Scanners already in place at Heathrow and Manchester Airports may be breaking discrimination law as well as breaching passengers' rights to privacy, the Equality and Human Rights Commission said yesterday.

It has now written to Transport Secretary Lord Adonis to express its concerns.

The controversial scanners were introduced two weeks ago amid outrage among civil liberty campaigners who say that they are an invasion of privacy.

In the letter, the commission said it recognised the threat posed by terrorist activities but that it had concerns 'about the apparent absence of safeguards to ensure the body scanners are operated in a lawful, fair and non-discrim-

inatory manner'.

It added that it also had 'serious doubts that the decision to roll this (body scanning) out in all UK airports complies with the law'.

The scanners were introduced in the wake of a failed attempt by 23-year-old Nigerian Umar Farouk Abdul Mutallab to blow up a transatlantic jet on Christmas Day.

Airport bosses at Manchester and Heathrow said those selected for scanning are not being chosen on the basis of race, religion or ethnicity.

They will instead scan passengers if they raise the suspicion of security officers following a hand search or unsolved metal detection alarm.

They will also go through if explosive or vapour trace detection equipment causes an alarm to sound or if they request a private search prior to or after passing through the walk-through metal

detection equipment.

The commission's chairman, Trevor Phillips, said yesterday: 'The right to life is the ultimate human right and we support the Government's review of security policies.'

'State action like border checks, stop-and-search and full body scanning are undertaken for good reasons. But, without proper care, such policies can end up being applied in ways which do discriminate against vulnerable groups or harm good community relations.'

'National security policies are intended to protect our lives and our freedoms, but it would be the ultimate defeat if that protection destroyed our other liberties.'

Lord Adonis last week attempted to allay privacy fears over the scans and said that images from the scans are deleted 'immediately'.

Lord Adonis likened the scans to the current pat-down travellers are subject to at airport security gates.

'A pat-down search is a pretty intrusive procedure but people accept that because it is important that we do detect whether there are weapons or other powerful substances that people may be carrying,' he said.

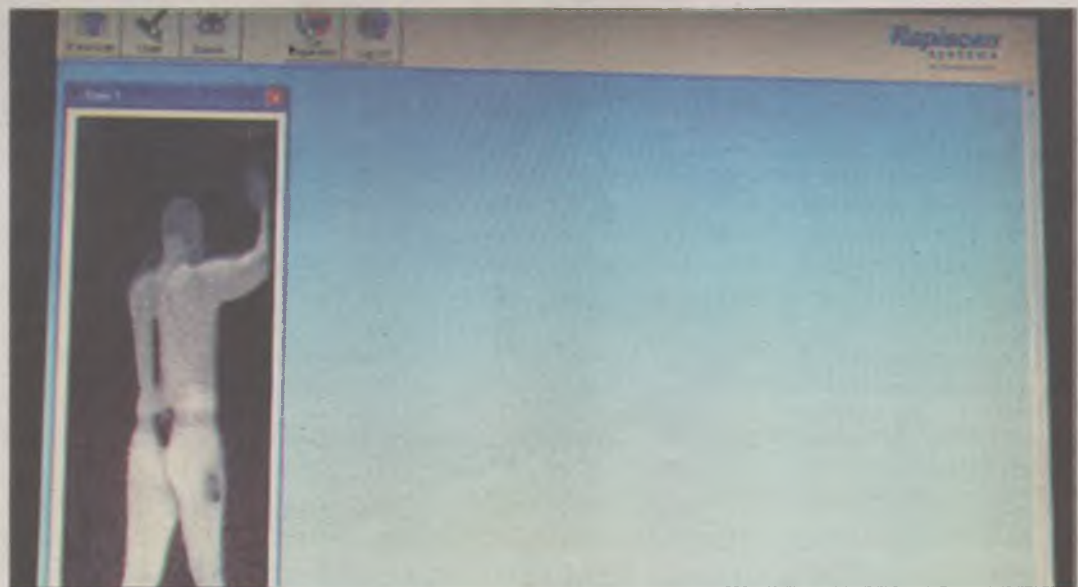
'A body scanner is in the same category - it is very important to stress that the images which are captured by body scanners are immediately deleted after the passenger has gone through the body scanner.'

'Staff are, of course, properly trained and supervised who manage the body scanners.'

Lord Adonis also stressed that passengers would not be selected 'on the basis of personal characteristics'.



THE image from the scanner is displayed on a computer screen, as seen below



# 9javaganza more kira kyauta a karshen sati



Kyauta  
kashi hamsin  
na abinda  
ka kashe\*

## more kira kyauta a karshen sati

daga yanzu har zuwa talatin da daya ga watan maris, kayi ta kira da layinka na etisalat zuwa ko wanne layi ka samu kashi hamsin na duk kudin da ka saka na wannan satin a karshen satin, za kayi ta samun kira kyauta sati bayan sati!

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## Varsity seeks govt's intervention on roads

From Kehinde Akinyemi, Abeokuta

THE Vice Chancellor of the University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (UNAAB), Ogun State, Prof. Oluwafemi Olaiya Balogun, is seeking the urgent intervention of the three tiers of government on the deplorable condition of road to her new Centre for Human Resources and Development (CENHURD) permanent site at Iberekodo/Opeji in Abeokuta

North local government area of the state.

Balogun who was briefing newsmen on the forthcoming 17th convocation ceremony at the permanent campus, Alabata, disclosed that arrangements were in top gear for the speedy completion of the new CENHURD section after the original owners of the former site at Isale Igbehin gave them eviction notice.

He disclosed that "consequently, we took the bull by the horn and began the

process of relocating our mini campus to a permanent site now christened CENHURD Village at the Iberekodo/Opeji axis of our University site. Barely one year after the matching order, we hope to commence full operations at the centre before the end of the first quarter of this year."

But, Balogun stressed that there was need to open up the road linking the site to the Permanent site, "therefore, we are

calling on the three-tiers of governments to assist in the construction of access road from the Alabata and Arakanga, Abeokuta ends of the axis to CENHURD Village. The roads are impassable for vehicles. We are looking forward to government urgent intervention, which we believe will also boost transportation of farm produce from the village to town especially because the villagers are predominantly peasant farmers."

SSS

## commissions ultra modern auditorium

By Benjamin Auta

THE new auditorium built for students of the Institute of Security Studies (ISS) is borne out of the fact that classrooms and lecture facilities were not enough for the students, says the Director General of the State Security Service, Afakriya Gadzama.

He made the statement during the auditorium commissioning of an ultra-modern complex which will serve as a lecture theatre, symposium and conferences at the ISS, in Abuja.

Mr. Gadzama, said that the decision to name it after the present National Security Adviser (NAS) major General Abdullahi Sarki Muktar, is to appreciate his immense contributions to the intelligence community in the country.

He added that the SSS will name similar institutions in the country after those that have contributed to the intelligence community that the trend will continue.

Responding, the NAS, Major General Abdullahi Sarki Muktar, who commissioned the auditorium, thanked the intelligence community for name the auditorium after him as her added that he will continue to serve the nation the best way he could do.



INTERIOR view of the office of Head of Service building, Federal Secretariat Complex, Abuja

## World Bank partners REDAN on housing delivery

By Mustapha Suleiman

THE National President and Chairman of Council of REDAN, Chief Olabode Afolayan, has disclosed that unavailability of accurate index as well as instability of government policies have been the major reasons why the World Bank is reluctant to invest in Nigeria's housing sector. He disclosed this at the inauguration of a ten-member caretaker committee of REDAN, Abuja Chapter at the weekend.

He added that to address these issues, the World Bank in partnership with the Real Estate Developers Association of Nigeria, REDAN, has set out the beginning of second

quarter of this year to train estate developers and policy makers in the housing sector on capacity development with core emphasis on how to reorganise the real estate sector. The training is free-of-charge.

Afolayan said that, "the association had talks concerning investment in the housing sector with the World bank at the just concluded International Housing Conference in Las Vegas, United States, but the bank cited, "unavailability of proper index with which to analyse our sector as well as inconsistencies in government policies as major issues to be addressed before it could invest."

He further said that although the world

body acknowledged the inherent potentials in the Nigerian housing sector, it would rather prefer to begin its investment foray into the sector by training stakeholders in the industry before advancing any direct investment.

In his words: "During the International Housing Show, we saw the latest technologies from other developed countries. Many property investors indicated interest in Nigeria. Because over there, places like Canada, Japan and even in the U.S, you discover that just about 20% of houses being built are new ones, what they do mostly is remodelling, and in Africa, particularly in Nigeria, we still need to build houses.

## Nasarawa stone crushers decry government's insensitivity

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

THE local miners of granite in Nasarawa State have decried what they called the state government's insensitivity to the plight of their communities which have been generating revenue for government purse.

The local miners at Aligaza, a community in Nasarawa-Eggon local government area which is home to the crushers of Ignou rocks, told our correspondent

during a stop over at the site that their community has not reaped anything from the revenue generated from the business.

Members of the Association of Aligaza Miners said the state government has not reciprocated the miners' commitment to paying taxes, through the provision of social services to the area.

Bala Haruna, a member of the association told Daily Trust that life in Aligaza is difficult without social provisions.

"We work here day and night, peeling our skins for government to take taxes for every penny we make here. However, the state government has no infrastructure in the community to justify the taxes that have been collected.

"Not even a borehole do we have here. Our people are suffering various forms of hardship because of lack of infrastructural provisions here. There are no roads, no water, and no electricity. In fact, the state government

does not know we exist. The government knows us only when it comes to paying of taxes, and the tax collectors don't miss this", said Halilu.

He appealed to the state governor, Aliyu Akwe Doma to consider the plight of the people by remembering Aligaza for development considering the enormous revenue the state gets from the granite business.

The state government recently stepped up income tax from five

percent to 10 percent to comply with the Income Tax Law 2004 of the federal government. The government said the decision was to step up funds for developmental projects. The organized labour in the state initially protested the new tax regime, saying political office holders in the state have not been paying taxes, just as it asked government to point at projects commissioned by the present administration to justify the newly introduced increment.



## EYE ON ABUJA

WITH Umar Shuaibu  
umarshuaibu1@yahoo.com



# Leadership for profit

By Umar Shuaibu

THIS administration's approach to sourcing fund for the provision of infrastructure is through an astronomical increase in land fees, at least prior to the reversal of that policy last week. The increased fees are to serve as the private equity for funding the service. This is an arrangement which success is tied to the honesty and transparency of the operators and is such that is bound to take a very long time before the benefits become evident. And that shall be when high rent charges have taken its toll out of the city residents. Even before the maturity of the arrangement and the infrastructure provided some categories of rents have increased from N800,000 to N1.5m/annum. Certificated plot of land size 1000m<sup>2</sup> sold for N8m in the less attractive location of Kubwa now attracts N18m when the increased fees of 10,000/m<sup>2</sup> is added. What it now means is that the increase in the fees is transferred to the end users who are the tenants not the developers. These consequences are among what we have cautioned in our edition titled "Increased Land Fees in Abuja without the Infrastructure I-III" from July 22nd to August 19th 2009, in which the administration refused to heed. Have we now not known better?

Elsewhere whatever goes up must come down, but here whatever goes up is bound to continue going higher. Going by our factor the astronomical rents already triggered off by the astronomical hike in the land fees can never be reversed despite the downward review in the fees. Or, does the administration have that capability? If it has can it sincerely enforce? The situation now is such that with a similar infrastructure and same quality of houses the rents in Abuja are higher than anywhere in the country, even that of Lagos.

It is one thing to be a leader and another for the leader to respect the feelings of the led. Being humans the leadership might have not foresaw some consequences. Genuine and constructive criticisms must be respected by leaders as suggestions for corrections and guide for the way forward not as a challenge to its authority. Unfortunately the present FCT Administration is so myopic of not reading the handwriting on the wall, not even considering the global trend that the failure of the real property finance was that triggered the on going global financial melt-down, despite all the hues and cries until the realities of the times forced it to rescind. Already the property finance component in the city is violently hit by the melt-down, the CBN intervention with the view to sanitizing our banking system, in addition to the land fees increase. The only option the administration is left with is to review the fees or extinguish the remaining gas left for property development. As far as we are concern the down-

ward review is not a gesture for any magnanimity.

It is a known fact that beside land availability the other major components that determine housing and real property prices and affordability are infrastructure, finance, building materials and labour. In the case of Abuja we must add very high demand consequent upon population pressure coupled with insincerity of our policy makers, where genuine reasons could be advanced but in practice taking the advantage of the opportunities created for personal benefits. Again the common man who cannot afford the services is left at the receiving end.

The stabilizing factor to making housing affordable to all and easing the common mans travails are the availability of land which is within the purview of the government by virtue of the land use act to be freely acquired for overriding public interest, and infrastructure which is to be made available from the tax payers fund. Unfortunately this FCTA is viewing the situation the other way round out of what we consider unintelligence, by using the land factor as a source of financing not only the roads but also other government social services. The land variable considered as the stabilizing factor is the one grossly misappropriated by most of the FCT Administrations.

If we could recall during the el-Rufai era we were told that plots would be made available to all that applied, such that making cool money out of plots speculations would be rendered unattractive. Have we not known better when at the end of that regime we saw that it was the same high echelon that misappropriated the juiciest plots in the city for the same speculation? And where goes the fund collected for recertification and those collected for the sale of government houses? Its whereabouts was not questioned until after the regimes tenure. The man should just shut up and stop deceiving himself trying to make people believe that he is accountable yet being cowardice of remaining outside the country.

But despite those atrocities indications are now revealing that the past is better than the present and the worst is yet to come. We have leadership succession in increasing degeneration, where the present is worse than the previous, with our leaders interested in what they can gain from the leadership rather than the actual service to the nation or humanity. The whereabouts of what is now being collected and the extent on the land misappropriation shall only be known when this administration leaves power just as the other previous cases, and then perhaps we would be talking of another Senate hearing with another minister running abroad.

umarshuaibu1@yahoo.com, www.writingonabuja.com

## Carpet coy harps on quality, standard

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

LUCKY Fibres Plc, maker of Nobel Carpets and Rugs has restated its commitment to the delivery of high quality products and standards.

Rohit Lonkar, General Manager for Lucky Fibres Plc, who stated this during the official flag off ceremony of the Campaign for Patronage of Made in Nigeria Products in the South West Zone in Lagos, said the development is imperative so as to maintain consumer trust and

loyalty in the new year

Nobel Carpets being one of the proudly Nigerian manufacturers of Carpet & Rugs represented the Nigerian Textile Manufacturers Association and sponsored the red carpet at the mega event inaugurated by Mr. Humphrey Enemakwu Abah, Minister of State for Commerce & Industry and accompanied by Executive directors of Osun, Ogun Ondo, Oyo, and Ekiti state.

The company showcased its large variety of product offering from domestic to corporate products and many

more such as wall to wall carpets, customised carpets for blue chip customers, centre rugs, prayer mats, door mats as well as branded carpets and rugs for two leading English Premiership Football Clubs, Manchester United and Arsenal.

According to Lonkar, the company has kept up with international standard in terms of quality to serve Nigerians and international Consumers, just as he reiterated the need for Nigerians to embrace made in Nigeria goods to boost the economy.

PIC: OLADIPUPO ODUNEWU



MR. Stephen Adebusuyi [in suite], Deputy Director of Research, CBN, Alhaji Farouk Suleiman, President/Chairman of Council, Association of Bureau De Change Operators of Nigeria [ABCON] and other guests at the official commissioning of ABCON HOUSE in Lagos at the weekend



### PUBLIC NOTICE

FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

#### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) OF THE PROPOSED GOLD EXPLORATION AND MINING PROJECT BY ROTEX CAPITAL LIMITED

In accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Act No. 86 of 1992, which makes it mandatory for proponents of all new major development activities to carry out Environmental Impact Assessment on their proposed projects, the Federal Ministry of Environment hereby announces a twenty-one (21) working days public notice for information and comments on the EIA report submitted Rotex capital Limited.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project will be executed in two phases (2), the phase one (I) will involve the exploratory activities, while phase two (II) will involve mining and drilling of exploratory holes in the gold deposit and basting to release the mineral as well as the shipping of vegetation, drilling of holes for the assessment of the quantity of the mineral deposit, blasting with low density explosive (dynamite), fragmentation and processing using coal as the source of energy.

#### THE DISPLAY CENTRES ARE:

- Kogi State Ministry of Environment, Lokoja, Kogi State.
- FMENV Office, Lokoja, Kogi State.
- FMENV Office, Games Village Surulere, Lagos.
- FMENV Office, Plot 444 Aguiyi Street, Maitama, Abuja.
- Headquarters of Kabba-Bunu Local Government Area, Kogi State

#### DURATION OF DISPLAY

Date: 17th February - 17th March, 2010

Time: 8:00 am - 4:00pm Daily

ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE PERMANENT SECRETARY, FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT ON OR BEFORE 17TH MARCH, 2010

SIGNED  
PERMANENT SECRETARY  
FOR: HONOURABLE MINISTER

## CITY NEWS



HOTLINES: 0803-3493-462 & 0703-8927-513  
email: citynews@dailytrust.com

# How student was killed at Nyanya

By Abubakar Yakubu

WHEN Abubakar Lukman, a 16-year-old brilliant student left his house at Asokoro for school at Junior Secondary School Nyanya 1, Abuja on February 4, little did his parents know they will never see him again.

Our reporter learnt that students of the secondary school normally resume from 12:30 pm and close at 5:30 pm during week days because they share compound with a primary school that has a larger number, which made the brilliant student to leave his house at 10 am.

On that day, Abubakar got to school safely, attended classes successfully and was on his way home at 5:32 pm when tragedy occurred.

A female student of the school said a gang of area boys that nor-

mally molest as well as rob students going home accosted Abubakar outside the school's premises and demanded for money.

"They forcefully collected his phone and disappeared with it leaving one of their members who searched the victim further and discovered that he had N100 hidden in his pant," the female student said.

She said the victim pleaded that the money was his transport fare back to Asokoro and held on to it but his assailant brought out a knife and stabbed him in the chest, before collecting the money.

Our reporter learnt that some policemen noticed the attack and immediately arrested the area boy, while the injured student held on to his bleeding chest and staggered to the Nyanya General Hospital, where he died.

A teacher at Junior Secondary School Nyanya 1 lamented that students of the school have constantly complained of molestations by a gang of area boys, who rob them of handsets, money and at times sexually harass female students.

"We had to intimate the police of the problems and they have been quite helpful by sending plain clothes policemen to hang around to arrest the culprits," the teacher said.

She disclosed that some of the hoodlums were arrested in the past, while the rest fled until that faithful day.

When our reporter visited the school yesterday, the principal was not around but a senior teacher said after the incident happened that day, the principal immediately rushed to contact the victim's parent at Asokoro and have put meas-

ures in place to ensure that it never occurs again.

The teacher said the principal and herself rushed to the hospital when they had of the incident but met the student dead.

She lamented that the victim was a very humble person and dedicated to his lectures.

Another student of the school accused the wayward children of some policemen as been behind crime in the area.

"These children have formed themselves into a cult and now carry weapons around to intimidate students as well as to rob them of their belongings," the student said.

When contacted, the Divisional Police Officer of Nyanya said the main culprit has been arrested and the case transferred to the FCT criminal investigation department for detailed investigation.

## Man raises alarm after losing money to gamblers

By Usman A. Bello

A middle-aged man Monday caused a stir at Wuse Zone 6, Abuja, after he lost N2,000 to conmen that pretended to be gamblers near Wuse market.

An eyewitness, who gave his name as James, said the victim was attracted to the gamblers, when one of them shouted loudly and danced around saying he has won N5,000.

"While the man was amazed at the action of the supposed winner, other members of the gang persuaded him to join in the game," James said.

He said the confused man decided to play after much persuasion, adding that it was after he lost N2,000 that he realized that the jubilant person was a member of their gang.

The victim was seen appealing to the gamblers to give him back his money, while the gamblers in turn told him that gambling is a game of winners or losers.

Reacting, FCT Police Spokesperson, Mr Jimoh Moshood, a superintendent, said the police are doing their best to stop gambling activities in Wuse, adding that suspects have been arrested in the past and charged to court but they return after bail is granted to them.

The police spokesperson stated further that the police are doing their best to protect life/property in the territory and have surveillance teams patrolling the areas to arrest conmen.



PIC: ROMOKE W. AHMAD

RESIDENTS of Jikwoyi waiting for free medical treatment organised by 'Train a Child Network' recently.

## Traffic flow: SECDA collaborates with FRSC, VIO, Police

By Doris Afornta West

THE Self Employed Commercial Drivers Association (SECDA) has joined up with the Directorate of Road Traffic Services, Federal Road Safety Commission and Nigeria Police to ensure ease flow of traffic around Berger roundabout in Abuja.

Our reporter learnt that SECDA released 40 of its road marshals on Monday to boost the manpower needed by the police to ensure that motorists do not stop arbitrarily on the road but at designated bus stops.

SECDA's Chairman, Chief Ugwu Kenneth Ezeh, expressed satisfaction with the collaboration and performance of the team

in ensuring free flow of traffic at Berger roundabout, adding that their first outing was a huge success.

Chief Ezeh commended SECDA drivers for adhering to the new arrangements of stopping at designated bus stop. He appealed to passengers to co-operate with the enforcement team by trekking short distances to the

designated bus stops instead of waiting by the road and decried the earlier obstructions caused along Berger roundabout.

According to him, there are numbers of dark spots that have been identified where SECDA can give manpower support to relevant agencies to ensure free flow of traffic in FCT.

## Corrigendum

In our publication of January 29, 2010, page 52, we mistakenly carried the headline 'Court strikes out contempt charge against AIPDC, AMMC' instead of 'Court adjourns contempt charge against AIPDC, AMMC to Feb 24'.

We regret the error.  
—Signed: Editor

## Mechanic charged with breach of trust

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

THE police Monday arraigned a 26-year-old auto-mechanic before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly selling an industrial weaving machine that he hired from Mr. Alaba Christian.

The mechanic, James Orij Emel of Lugbe Zone 9, Abuja, was accused of hiring the machine from the complainant in October 2009 with the promise of remitting to her N800 weekly.

Police prosecutor Paul Anigbo told the court that on February 9, 2010, one Mrs. Alaba Christian of Lugbe Zone 6, Abuja, reported to the police that the accused sold the machine he hired from her.

"During police investigations, it was discovered that the accused sold the said machine to one Mrs. Hajarat Shaibu at N30,000, thereby committing an offence punishable under Section 312 of the Penal Code Law," the prosecutor stated.

He further stated that the accused dishonestly converted the money accruing from the sale of the weaving machine to his personal use.

When the charge was read to the accused, he pleaded not guilty and requested for bail.

After the plea, the prosecutor asked the court for a hearing date to enable the police bring evidence and witnesses to court.

Magistrate Bashar Attahiru Alkali granted the accused bail in the sum of N50,000 with one reliable surety in like sum, who must reside within the jurisdiction of the court.

The case was adjourned to March 1 for hearing.

# Three students deny assault charge

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

THREE students Monday in court denied criminally assaulting one Justina Kingsley of Gosa village, Abuja.

The accused persons, Aisha John, Helen Sunday and John Mogaji, all of Gosa village, Abuja, were alleged to have jointly assaulted the complainant on

February 12, 2010.

Police prosecutor Paul Anigbo had earlier told the court that on February 12, 2010, one Justina Kingsley reported to the police that the accused persons jointly locked her up in the bathroom, where she was taking her bath.

"They jointly locked her inside the bathroom and went away but she forced her way out and was

beaten by the accused persons without reasons," the prosecutor added.

The prosecutor stated further that the offences the accused persons committed are punishable under Sections 79 and 265 of the Penal Code Law.

When the two-count charge was read to the accused persons, all of them pleaded not guilty and requested for bail, which was not

objected to by the prosecutor.

In his ruling, Magistrate Aminu Abdullahi granted each of the accused persons bail in the sum of N30,000 with a reliable surety in like sums, who must reside within the court's jurisdiction and swear to affidavits to produce them in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to March 3 for hearing.

PIC: ROMOKE W. AHMAD



AN accident scene along Abuja-Lokoja road last Friday.

## Artisan in court over negligence

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A 34-year-old artisan Monday appeared before an Abuja magistrate court for his alleged inability to explain what happened to a block moulding machine given to him by Mr. Samuel Emesowum.

Pius Jacob of Gosa village was reported to have received the said machine on January 31, 2010 with the promise to help the complainant mount it in the premises of his block moulding industry.

Police prosecutor Yilkudi Dungji informed the court that on February 10, 2010,

one Mr. Samuel Emesowum of Plot 140, Lugbe new extension, Abuja, reported to the police that the accused could not account for the whereabouts of his machine.

"The complainant entrusted his block moulding machine valued at N150,000 in the accused person's care on an agreement that he would help him mount it in his block industry," the prosecutor stated.

He went further to state that the accused intentionally refused to mount the said machine, adding that, instead, he reported to him that the machine has been

stolen by unknown persons.

The prosecutor told the court that the offence the accused committed is punishable under Section 140 of the Penal Code Law.

When the one-count charge was read to the accused, he denied the allegation and requested for bail.

Magistrate Khadijat Mustapha granted the accused bail in the sum of N20,000 with two reasonable sureties in like sums, who must live within the court's jurisdiction and swear to affidavits to produce the accused in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to March 18 for hearing.

## Man to appeal divorce case over wife's pregnancy

By Romoke W. Ahmad

A middle-aged man, who was separated from his wife in October 2009 on the ground of maltreatment yesterday returned to the same Customary Court to collect the case proceedings so that he can appeal the ruling because of his ex-wife's pregnancy.

Mr. Jonas Onwukwe while speaking to our reporter on the issue said he wants to appeal the ruling so as to have custody of the two children the court granted his ex-wife during the separation.

"I am appealing the case because I discovered that my ex-wife was pregnant before she left my house and that can affect my children," he said.

According to him, his ex-wife now lives with the same man she called her uncle while she was with him.

When asked if he is responsible for the pregnancy, Jonas said he cannot answer the question because he suspects his wife filed for divorce because of the pregnancy.

It would be recalled Jonas filed for divorce against her husband on the ground of maltreatment while the husband also accused her of having extra marital affairs with someone she calls her uncle.

During the trial, Jonas presented his wife's phone that contained text messages from the man.

Judge Hauwa Yilwa in the trial, granted the woman's divorce request.

# Area 10 traders want abandoned projects completed

By Ben Atonko

TRADERS at Area 10 business area in Abuja (popularly called UTC) are not happy with the way a construction firm has abandoned a car park project it was given to do since 2005.

The traders complained that the abandoned project is adversely affecting their businesses as motorists have no easy access to their shops because of barricades.

They therefore appealed to the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Minister, Alhaji Adamu Aliero to step into the matter and order the construction company to either finish the work or reassign it to a more competent contractor.

The grouse of the traders who operate in Lozumba Commercial Complex (Plot 2009 Cadastral Zone A1), Nobel Complex (Plot 2100 Cadastral Zone A1), UTC Building and Union Bank Building (Plot 2100 Cadastral Zone A1) is that their premises have been barricaded in such a way that motorists are denied access.

According to a trader, the barricade has sent away a good number of customers who patronised them, thereby crippling their business and causing them untold hardship.

They are particularly unhappy that while their businesses are not doing well, government's agents continuously come to collect taxes and levies.

According to the traders, they had at different times written the FCT minister to look into this matter but without positive result.

Our reporter learnt that the problem faced by the traders stems from a project awarded by the FCT Administration to D and B Construction Company in 2005.

D and B firm was given a contract to build a multi-level car park on the obstructed premises on a Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) arrangement with the Abuja Investments Property Development Company Limited.

The project was to be completed in December 2006 but the firm abandoned the project shortly after starting work, thereby leaving the place overgrown with weeds and repleted with rodents that constantly stray into the adjoining shops causing embarrassment and discomfort to the occupants.

When this reporter visited D and B to find out why things are the way they

are, the managing director was not available and was said to have travelled to Kano.

The reporter left behind his contact details to hear from the company and nobody contacted him.

A staff of the company who declined being named told this reporter that the company had been facing financial crisis, adding that their bank refused to give the firm money.

An estate expert, Mr Emeka Onu said what they (traders) want is for the works to be completed or the barricade removed so that motorists can have access to their premises.

"Why would the company bid for a project of this kind in the first place when it has not got the muscle to do the job," he wondered.

Efforts to get the Managing Director of the Abuja Investments Company Limited, Dr Abdu Mukhtar were unsuccessful. When our reporter visited, he was said to be unavailable. He equally failed to respond to the text message sent to him through his cellular phone.

But in a newspaper report in November last year, Mukhtar was quoted as saying that D and B had failed in meeting its side of the contract agreements. He promised that the contract would be revoked and rewarded to a competent firm that would do the job. With this vow though, nothing has been done to change the situation.

A former staff of Abuja Investments Company Limited who spoke on condition of anonymity said it is not only the UTC project that has been moribund.

He said many things the Nasir el-Rufai administration had planned could not come to fruition because those who took over were either ignorant or simply ignored them.

"Go to Area 3, it is the same thing," he said adding "many things are just left uncompleted. And every day, you hear they are initiating new projects. There is something wrong with the Abuja Investments Company Limited."

"The transport sector is gradually dying. Companies that were to supply additional buses did not do so. The ones on the road quench suddenly and leave commuters by the road side."

The Director of Development Control, Mr Yahaya Yusuf was equally not in office when this reporter visited. But the lady who said she is the Public Relations Officer (PRO) of the

office, Mrs Jossie Mudasiru said Development Control has nothing to do with the matter.

According to her, the office is only interested in construction works that are in progress.

It was contemplated that the multi-level car park would be a revenue yield-

ing venture for both the contractors and the local authorities. It was to give more room for vehicles and make the place beautiful.

All this has been thrown into the waste bin of the complacent by Abuja Investments Company Limited and the defaulting contractors.



THE abandoned car park project at Area 10, yesterday.



## ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTANTS OF NIGERIA

(FOUNDED IN 1979 AND CHARTERED BY DECREE 76 OF 1993 NEW CAP A26, LFN, 2004)

### PUBLIC NOTICE

## 2010 Mandatory Continuing Professional Development (MCPD) Programme

Pursuant to rule 14 (10) of the Association of National Accountants of Nigeria, Rules 1995, the 1st session of 2010 Mandatory Continuing Professional Development (MCPD) Programme will hold as follows:

**Date:** Monday 22nd - Thursday 25th February, 2010.

**Venue:** Banquet Hall, Brown and Brown Centre, Independence Layout, Enugu, Enugu State.

**Course Fee:** N20,000.00 (Twenty Thousand Naira Only) per participant. The fee is to cover Course Materials, Souvenir Bags and Lunch only.

**PERSONAL CHEQUES ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.**

**For Whom:** It is compulsory for every member of the Association to attend at least once a year, whether in practice or not.

**There is no exemption.** Although this Session is particularly meant for members in South South and South East Zones, which includes the States of Enugu, Anambra, Ebonyi, Abia, Imo, Delta, Akwa -Ibom, Cross River, Rivers, Bayelsa and Edo, members from other States who wish to attend this session at Enugu are permitted to do so.

Please note that registration would commence from **10.00am** on Monday 22nd February, 2010 at the venue.

Wishing you safe journey as you come.

**Terkaa Iyorhyer Gemade, B.Sc(Hon), MBA, FCNA**  
 Registrar/Chief Executive  
 18th January, 2010  
 Email: info@anan.org.ng  
 Website: www.anan.org.ng

BlueBell



**THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF NIGERIA**  
(Established by Act of Parliament No. 15 of 1965)

## May 2010 Professional Examinations

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) was established by an Act of Parliament No. 15 of 1965.

**Purpose** - To, among other things, determine what standards of knowledge and skill are to be attained by persons seeking to become members of the accountancy profession and to raise those standards from time to time as circumstances may permit.

**Status** - The Institute is the largest professional accountancy body in Africa and the only one in Nigeria recognized by the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC). It has certified about 28,000 Chartered Accountants who are engaged in wealth creation in various sectors of the economy.

**Vision** - To be the leading global professional body.

**Mission** - To produce world-class Chartered Accountants and continuously enhance their high ethical standards and technical competence in the public interest.

**The Examination** - The Professional Examinations of the Institute are held in May and November each year. In line with new IFAC requirements, the Council of the Institute has reviewed and approved a new syllabus, which takes effect from May 2010 diet. The new syllabus can be downloaded from the Institute's website.

**Eligibility** - Open to registered students. Other interested persons should visit the Institute's website for guidelines for registration.

**Transition Arrangement** - There is a transition arrangement for Students registered under the old scheme spanning the next three examination diets from May 2010 to May 2011 (For details of conversion from the old to the new syllabus, visit the Institute's website).

**Date of the Examinations** - Tuesday, May 18 - Thursday, May 20, 2010. For detailed Time-table, visit the Institute's website

**Examination Centres** - There are various centres all over Nigeria and in London. Check the centre nearest to you on the Institute's website.

**Registration Period** - Tuesday, February 16 and Saturday, May 8, 2010.

**Mode of Registration for the Examination** - Candidates must register on line for the examination. For details, visit the Institute's website.

**Payment centres** - The following are the banks to which examination fees are to be paid, visit the Institute website for their branches.

- Fidelity Bank Plc
- First City Monument Bank Plc
- Skye Bank Plc
- Stanbic IBTC Bank Plc
- Union Bank Nigeria Plc
- United Bank for Africa Plc
- Wema Bank Plc
- Zenith Bank Plc.

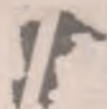
### EXAMINATION FEES FOR MAY 2010

LEVELS	AMOUNT			
	4 PAPERS	3 PAPERS	2 PAPERS	1 PAPER
FOUNDATION	-	17,000	15,000	14,000
INTERMEDIATE	23,750	21,250	18,750	16,250
P.E. I	32,500	28,750	25,000	21,250
P.E. II	36,250	31,875	27,500	23,125
P.E. III	-	-	-	25,025

**Institute's Websites** - [www.ican-ngr.org](http://www.ican-ngr.org)  
- [www.icanexamsonline.org/professional/](http://www.icanexamsonline.org/professional/)

**O. A. Adepate**, B.Sc, MBA, FCA  
Registrar/Chief Executive

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**KATSINA STATE FADAMA COORDINATION OFFICE**  
**OF KATSINA STATE AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (KTARDA)**  
P.M.B 2006 KATSINA

### REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Country - Nigeria  
State/Beneficiary - Katsina State  
Name of Project - Fadama III Project  
Project I.D - P096572  
Credit No. - 4494 - UNI

The Federal Government of Nigeria has received a Credit from World Bank (WB) towards funding Fadama III Project. Part of the proceeds has been on lent to Katsina State Government. The State Government has allocated a part of the Credit and its own funds (counterpart funds) for implementing community level sub-projects and activities in Baure, Daura, Ma'adua, Ingawa, Mani, Bindawa, Katsina, Kaita, Kurfi, Batagarawa, Charanchi, Rimi, Kankia, Dutsinma, Matazu, Kankara, Faskari, Sabuwa, Bakori and Kafur Local Government Areas. It is intended that this funds will be applied to eligible payment of Advisory Services/Inputs Support. The component which has its goal as:-

- Provision of Advisory Services/Inputs in response to demand of Fadama Users.
- Establishment of linkages between Fadama Users, Inputs Suppliers and marketers to overcome major constraints on increased productivity of their Fadama enterprises and increase incomes.
- General training, learning events, and others activities to promote the sharing of knowledge.

These will be achieved through Demand Responsive Advisory Services to be provided by a wide range of service providers.

The following broad categories of advisory services activities are envisaged under the project among other:

- Evaluators of advisory services activities proposals submitted to Fadama Community Associations (FCAs) by Advisory Service Providers (ASPs).
- Service Providers of advisory services to user groups in Fadama Community Associations (FCAs).
- Service providers for design or appraisal of cross-FCA Advisory Service Activities (ASA) proposals.
- Service providers to implement cross-FCAs in connection with affected FCAs/SFCO.
- Service providers for training services, training materials and linkages.
- Service providers on small rural community own infrastructures.
- Service providers on (Agro-allied) inputs supply.
- Service providers on small scale rural entrepreneurial assets supply.

While the following specific categories are also envisaged.

- Food crop production (Commercial production).
- Specialised horticultural crops and fruits tree production (Seedling production).
- Crops protection (IPM).
- Environmental Management.
- Environmental surveys.
- Livestock production (Large ruminants, veterinary care and livestock and fish feeds).
- Fish production (aquaculture) (fingerling production).
- Specialized production (wildlife domestication).
- Agro-forestry production (seedling production).
- Soil and water conservation.
- Irrigation (water management and water conveyance system).
- Input supply linkages/machinery/equipments.
- Marketing (marketing information) (Prices).
- Credit/Saving supply linkages and management.
- Business/enterprise development and management, record-keeping and accounting.
- Management and leadership for groups and associations.
- Conflict management and resolution.
- Agricultural risk management.
- Nutritional health.

C Specialists are to register as service providers for water resource infrastructures, agro-processing and marketing installation.

The Katsina state Fadama III Coordination Office now invite-eligible Service Providers/inputs or asset suppliers to express their interests in providing the services/assets itemized above. Interested Service Providers/Suppliers should provide information indicating name of service provider/supplier, address, experience and field of interest that they are qualified to perform (brochures description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, Availability of appropriate skills among staff e.t.c). Service Providers/Suppliers may associate to enhance their qualifications.

Service Providers and suppliers will be registered in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank guidelines. Selection and employment of consultant by World Bank.

Interested Service Providers/Suppliers may obtain further information at the address below during the office hours (9:00 am - 3:30 pm, Monday to Thursday, 9:00 am - 12:30 pm Friday).

Expression of interest (EOI) should be delivered to the address below. Two weeks from the date of this advertisement.

#### Note

All eligible service providers/suppliers are expected to register. Registration is free for all categories of service providers/suppliers. Applicants should attach evidence of registration with Corporate Affairs Commission. No service provider/supplier is allowed to register in more than two (2) categories.

State Project Coordinator,  
Katsina State Fadama Coordination Office,  
Katsina State Agricultural and Rural Development Authority (KTARDA),  
P.M.B 2006,  
Km 4 Kano Road,  
Katsina.  
Tel: 08065498765  
Attention: Training and Technical Officer.

Signed  
Magaji Abubakar  
State Project Coordinator

# Inside Politics

## Jostle for VP's position unnecessary – Unity Forum

By Sule Lazarus

THE chairman of Unity Forum, Alhaji Musa Maigida Abdu has declared as unnecessary the lobby by some politicians, including serving governors from the north for the position of Vice President under the acting presidency of Goodluck Jonathan.

Reports had it that there is intense lobbying and jostling for the position of Acting Vice President since Jonathan has been elevated to act as president.

In a statement in Abuja yesterday, Abdu said it was regrettable that the jostle for the Vice President slot was now taking toll on the cohesion of the Federal Executive Council and the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

According to him, it was uncommon to have Acting President and Acting Vice President at the same time in a country, adding that "instead of government putting heads together to work out the way forward on how to solve the myriad of problems, energy is being dissipated on who rules and who becomes vice president."

He maintained that it was an irony for people to think of getting Acting Vice President under Acting President. "The irony of it all is that it is very uncommon to have Acting Vice President and Acting President in a country."

The chairman said "the confirmation of Acting President as President should be the main issue, adding that the earlier the country has someone in the saddle to ensure a free and fair election come 2011, settle Niger Delta debacle, power generation, unemployment in the land the better."

Speaking on the application of the doctrine of necessity by the senate in empowering Jonathan as acting president, he said Nigerians must accept the action as an interim arrangement to stabilize the polity pending the when a final decision would be taken on the matter.

He believes, however, that the onus of solving the logjam was for the Federal Executive Council to promptly inform the National Assembly whether or not the President is capable of piloting the affairs of the state so that section 145 of the 1999 constitution should be applied.

## 2011: Northern Turks seek 'generational change'

By Fidelis Mac Leva

AS the Yar'adua Presidency appears to be winding down, progressive elements from Northern Nigeria comprising academics, professionals, businessmen, civil society and even student movements have resolved to seize the initiative ahead of 2011 and install a new president who, according to them "would do Nigeria proud."

Daily Trust learnt that the group called Northern Turks which will soon launch its activities described the presidency the ailing Umaru Yar'adua as 'embarrassing' and not a 'fair representation of what the north had to offer'. It therefore seeks to find a replacement from among the youth 'rather than recycling form

among the old guards'.

The group is therefore pushing for three likely candidates, namely, former Bauchi State Governor Ahmed Adamu Muazu, former FTC Minister Nasir Ahmed el-Rufai and former EFCC Chairman, Nuhu Ribadu, a member of the group who does not want his name in print for now told a group of journalists in Abuja yesterday.

The Turks argued that "Muazu transformed Bauchi State with infrastructure that is unmatched in the entire North while el-Rufai on the other hand, brought about significant reforms in the administration of the Federal Capital Territory and also headed the Public Service Reforms. For Nuhu Ribadu, they argued that the way he fought the war on corruption

gave Nigeria enormous credibility."

They advised Acting President Goodluck Jonathan to 'complete his tenure and pave the way for the emergence of a new President come 2011', hoping that he would 'tacitly endorse a Young Turk without sacrificing merit on the altar of political convenience'.

"The North has more than 80 million people, many of whom are well educated professionals, tried and tested in various public offices. Why must we recycle the same old cargoes over and over again?" asked the source.

The Turks also believe the next President must be reform minded, with high levels of energy, creativity and someone that will be attractive to other regions.

## 2011: I'm not interested for now – Imo Speaker

From John Kennedy Uzoma, Owerri

SPEAKER Imo State House of Assembly Chief Good Luck Nanah Opiah has denied a statement credited to him that he was preparing to launch his campaign for a certain political position in the next general election.

Opiah, in a statement issued in Owerri by his Chief Press Secretary Mr. Kelechi Mejuobi today,

said that he had not in any political gathering disclosed his willingness to run for any election.

He said, at the moment, he is determined to complete the four years mandate given to him by the people of Ohaji/Egbema in 2007, adding that he would consult his God for direction when he is through with that. He said he had always looked unto God for political direction.

Opiah also said that his duty as a lawmaker is to ensure that House of Assembly passes bills motions that will impact positively on the lives of the people.

It was speculated that the speaker was scheming to go to the Federal House of Representatives but of recent, he was said to be planning his re-election for the third time into the state assembly.



GENERAL Muhammadu Buhari

## Defection: Buhari exercised his right – Kano ANPP

From Lawan Danjuma Adamu, Kano

THE exit of General Muhammadu Buhari from the All Nigeria Peoples Party's (ANPP) was an exercise of his right to freely associate or dissociate from any organization, the chairman Kano State Chapter of the ANPP Alhaji Sani Hashim Hotoro has said.

Alhaji Hashim made the remarks while addressing a press conference at the secretariat of the Kano State chapter of the Nigeria Union of Journalists yesterday.

The chairman said ANPP recognizes the right of its individual members to take decision and Buhari as an elder of the party equally enjoyed such right.

"If one of our elders has taken a decision to step aside, we cannot change that decision. All we need to do is to accept it as an act of God," he said, stressing that Buhari remains a man of honour and integrity in the eyes of the Kano ANPP.

On the presidential aspiration of the Kano State governor, Malam Ibrahim Shekarau, the chairman confirmed that he has the backing of the ANPP Kano.

"As far as we are concerned, Malam Ibrahim Shekarau will

be presented to the convention as a candidate representing Kano State to be nominated as ANPP's presidential candidate.

Similarly, Alhaji Hashim expressed optimism that the party will win the 2011 elections due to "the current break up in the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)". He said the rate at which PDP is breaking into pieces, "it coast is getting clearer for the ANPP to win the presidency in 2011."

He also allayed fears that the ANPP may face difficulties because of the number of aspirants that are gunning for the governorship position in Kano, saying the party's consensus mechanism will take care of the situation.

Earlier, Alhaji Hashim said the leadership of the party was at the NUJ secretariat to familiarize its newly inaugurated executive members with "the state council and to register the party's appreciation for the professional and unbiased manner the party's congress was reported by journalists operating in the state. The officials were received by chairman of the Kano council of the NUJ Alhaji Is'maila Ammai Maizara and other officials of the council.

## PDP appoints Nasiha acting party chairman in Kebbi

THE National Working Committee of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has approved the appointment of Alhaji Suleiman Nasiha as the acting chairman of the Kebbi State chapter of the party.

A statement signed by the PDP National Secretary, Alhaji Abubakar Baraje and made available to the press in Birnin Kebbi on yesterday, stated that the appointment would bring to an end the leadership tussle within the party.

In his remarks, Nasiha appealed to party loyalists to support him in running the party, adding: "We need to close ranks and work for the best interest of the PDP and the state."

"My immediate priority is to bring peace and understanding within the political party to attain greater heights," he said.

The former Chairman, Alhaji Kasimu Baura, was appointed Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice before his death. (NAN)

# Inside Politics

## The good and ugly sides of Jigawa LG polls

LAST Saturday, voters in Jigawa State came out to elect chairmen and councillors for 27 local governments. The ruling PDP cleared the polls amid boycott and allegations of irregularities. Our Jigawa correspondent reports the many sides of the election.

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Dutse

THE much-awaited local government elections in Jigawa State have come and gone, and as widely expected, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has won the entire chairmanship and councillorship positions, conceding only one councillorship seat to the opposition. But even as the ruling party basks in the euphoria of this total victory, certain issues relating to the conduct of the polls leave opposition politicians gasping for the actual meaning of democracy.

In fact many opposition parties including major ones like the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) and the Action Congress (AC) had boycotted the polls after alleging that the process was devoid of credibility.

However, one good aspect of the election is the fact that it was devoid of violence. No life was lost. Except in few local governments where minor clashes occurred, the election went smoothly even though it was characterised by low turnout and some irregularities. In Hadejia, a bloody clash was said to have been averted by security agents. In fact, generally, there was no report of crisis during the exercise.

But *Daily Trust* observed that certain irregularities ranging from snatching of ballot boxes, shortage of election materials and underage voting marred the elections. Our correspondent observed that the most affected local government include Hadejia, Mallam-Madori, Babura, Ringim, Maigatari, Buji, Birnin-Kudu and Jahun and Kafin-Hausa.

Also, though elections went smoothly in local governments like Roni, Gwiwa, Kazaure, Guri, Gwaram, Gagarawa, Gumel, Auyo, Kirikasamma, Birniwa, Dutse, Kiyawa, and Yankwashi local governments, they were characterised by poor turnout.

Our Correspondent also observed a severe delay in the distribution of election materials to some polling units which led to the late commencement of election in the affected units. *Daily Trust* also observed that voters were left stranded at various polling units; they could not cast their votes because the exercise was closed early, even though it started late.

At some local governments visited by *Daily Trust*, under-age voters were seen casting their votes. This was more prevalent in Ringim, Babura and Taura local governments. It was learnt that minors were allowed to cast their votes at Junior Arabic Secondary School, Ringim as well as Katutu Pilot Primary School also in Ringim local government. Similar incidence was recorded in Babura Local Government where the underage were allowed to vote at some polling units.

In Hadejia and Mallam-Madori local governments, our correspondent gathered that ballot boxes were evacuated from polling units as early as 10:30 am leaving behind thousands of electorates stranded at the polling units without casting their votes.

Most of the polling units were also empty in Mallam-Madori Local Government when our correspondent visited the area around 11am. One voter, Mal-

lam Ibrahim Musa told *Daily Trust* that election was closed as early as 11am as the electoral officers did not stay longer to enable people cast their votes.

Mallam Ibrahim alleged that ballot boxes were evacuated from the polling units before many people could vote, saying "we were only told that election was over. There was no sign of crisis when the electoral officers closed for the day and no genuine reason was given for the early closure".

Alhaji Aminu Abus, a renowned chieftain of the DPP in Hadejia also alleged that enough time was not given to voters to exercise their franchise.

He further alleged that, "ballot papers and other election materials were sent to polling units a day ahead of the election making it possible for some people to thump print before the Election Day. We have witnessed such in Hadejia local government where some electoral officers and agents were caught with thump printed ballot papers hidden under their trousers".

"Police and some prominent PDP members in the area snatched boxes in some polling units. This disrupted the election. Ballot boxes were also smashed at other polling units. PDP members had deliberately created chaos during the election to enable them rig," he alleged.

The renowned politician also told *Daily Trust* that, "I was arrested seven times between last Thursday and Saturday by the police. First, I was invited by the AIG Zone One, Alhaji Abubakar Sardauna and later by the Police in Hadejia Local Government".

The national Chairman of the Peoples Salvation Party (PSP), Dr. Junaidu Muhammad, who went round some emirates during the elections, told *Daily Trust* in Hadejia that the elections were marred by irregularities.

Dr. Junaidu particularly blamed the Police for causing chaos in some pol-

“I was arrested seven times between last Thursday and Saturday by the police. First, I was invited by the AIG Zone One, Alhaji Abubakar Sardauna and later by the Police in Hadejia Local Government”.



GOVERNOR Sule Lamido

ing units in Hadejia, which according to him led to disruption of the poll. He thus advocated for abrogation of the states' Independent Electoral Commission (JSIEC).

"As long as SIEC remains under the state governments, there will never be free and fair election at the local government level. And once the local government elections would not be free and fair, election at all other levels will never be fair," he said.

Contrary to Abu and Dr. Junaidu's views, the state commissioner of education, Professor Ruqayyah Ahmad Rufa'i described the poll as free, fair and objective. Professor Ruqayyah told this reporter in Ringim that JSIEC has done a lot of home work for the smooth conduct of the election.

"I have been in Kyarma and Dabi wards as well as some wards within Ringim town, and I have not witnessed any problem. In fact I don't think Jigawa State had ever conducted such a smooth election before. Voters came out in mass, cast their votes peacefully and went back to their homes without any hindrance," said Professor Ruqayyah.

Also speaking on a similar note, Nigeria's Ambassador to Turkey, Alhaji Abdullhamid Hassan Mallam-Madori said: "There is no way you can conduct election and the opposition will not say you are fair. Therefore the ruling party shouldn't expect the opposition to praise it for conducting peaceful election. But God the Almighty knows we have done our best to ensure peaceful election".

Abdullhamid said it is a known fact that only the PDP toured all the 27 local governments campaigning for votes during the election. He was therefore of the opinion that the victory recorded by the

PDP was not by chance because it did a good home work ahead of the election.

Speaking to *Daily Trust*, Police Public Relation Officer ASP Abdul Jiniri confirmed that two additional units of mobile police were deployed to Hadejia local government as re-enforcement from police command, Dutse.

The Police spokesman denied allegations that police were used to cause chaos in Hadejia Local Government, noting that "Police only protected lives and properties and ensured that guidelines were duly followed by the electorate".

ASP Jiniri stated that the units were sent to the area to ensure maximum security during the election. He stressed that "there was no report of violence and that no one was arrested by the police in all the 27 local governments".

Commenting on the alleged irregularities, chairman of the Jigawa State Independent Electoral Commission Alhaji Alili Galadima told *Daily Trust* at the palace of the Emir of Gumel that the election was conducted smoothly and there was no complaints of shortage of election materials.

He added that materials were sent to polling units on time. "I only received complaints from Dutse and Babura local governments and they were rectified immediately. In fact, the successes recorded in this election for outweigh the failure, hence, the election can be generally classified as fair and objective".

The electoral chief also disputed the allegation of underage voting, saying "electoral officers were trained and the list of the voters was with them, and I am sure they would never allow any underage to vote since his/her name was not in the list. Therefore whoever you saw casting his/her vote was entitled to vote".

But another ugly side of the election is the fact that the ANPP and the AC had boycotted the election as they early threatened. While the ANPP boycotted the election right from the beginning, the Action Congress (AC) and seven other political parties including the Alliance for Democratic (AD), Congress for Democratic Change (CDC), Labour Party (LP), Mass Movement Party (MMP), National Movement for Progress Party (NMPP), African Liberation Party (ALP) and Peoples Progress Party (PPP) went to court to stop the conduct of the election.

Although five out of the seven political parties settled their grievances with the JSIEC out of court, the Labour Party and Congress for Democratic Change are still in court. AC on the other hand headed for Appeal Court, Kaduna after a state High Court in Birnin-Kudu dismissed the case it filed against the SIEC seeking for the stoppage of the election.

SIEC Chairman said that 33 political parties participated in the election, but opposition said those parties were sponsored by the state government to give the election some semblance of credibility.

In view of the claims and counter claims regarding the credibility or otherwise of the Jigawa council polls, many observers have been asking whether the election is a reflection of the general elections to come in 2011.

# TRUST CLASSIFIED

## Obituary

The death has occurred of Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) **JOHN BARDE**. ASP John Barde served at Kubwa Police Station Abuja. He died on 26<sup>th</sup> of April 2009 after a brief illness.

He survived by a wife and eight children:-

Mrs Hanatu John- Wife  
David John- Son  
Edward John- Son  
Solomon John- Son  
Grace John- Daughter  
Esther John- Daughter  
Mercy John- Daughter  
Victoria John- Daughter  
Cynthia John- Daughter

The general public should take note of this announcement

**Sign**

David John for the family

## THE DAUGHTER OF BEAUTIFUL ZION CHURCH WORLDWIDE

The general public is hereby notified that the above named organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

**THE TRUSTEES ARE:**

- |                                  |                               |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Prophetess Chinyere Ozajiri   | President                     |
| 2. Israel Ozajiri                | Secretary                     |
| 3. Chidebere Emmanuel Ozajiri    |                               |
| 4. Nnaemeka Israel Ozajiri       | 5. Miss Doris Tochi Ozajiri   |
| 6. Miss Uchechi Precious Ozajiri | 7. Miss Amarachi Gift Ozajiri |
| 8. Miss Sopuruchi Queen Ozajiri  |                               |

**AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

1. To lead men into personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ
2. To build up, equip and establish the body of Christ for Ministry as stated in Ephesians 4:11-16
3. To lead believers into maturity in Christ, living life in the spirit and not in the flesh

Any objection(s) to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, (CAC) Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Road, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight (28) days of this publication.

Signed: **KENNETH C. IKONNE ESQ, SOLICITOR, ABUJA**

## MIRACLE WORKS OF CHRIST MISSION

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Mission has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

**The Trustees are:**

1. Mr. Emmanuel Monday Akpan (G.O)
2. Mr. Sunday Essien (Pastor)
3. Mr. Elisha E. Elisha (Evangelist)
4. Mr. Brownson Ibritam (Elder)
5. Mrs. Helen Monday Akpan (Matron)
6. Mr. Uduak Udoma (General Secretary)
7. Mr. Ekwere Sambo (Financial Secretary)
8. Mr. Joseph Robert (Treasurer)
9. Mr. Mfon James (Patron)
10. Mr. Samuel Jameson Akpan (Member)

**Aims and Objectives**

To reach the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

To promote the welfare of all members

Any objection(s) to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, (CAC) Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Road, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight (28) days of this publication.

Signed: **Barr. Friday Okenkwo**

## CHRIST ASCENSION DELIVERANCE & HEALING MINISTRY

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Mission has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

**The Trustees are:**

1. Evang. Mrs Florence Ukeh (General Overseer)
2. Mr. Friday Ukeh
3. Mrs Faith Ohabuonyi
4. Mr. Oliver Ibeh
5. Mr. Ejike Orji
6. Mr. Ikechukwu Okeke

**Aims and objectives**

To preach the gospel and win soul for Jesus Christ

To spiritually nurture men in the ways of the Lord

To engage, anticipate in outreach, crusades, seminars and conference which are directed mainly at soul winning activities

Any objection(s) to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, (CAC) Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Road, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight (28) days of this publication.

Signed: **OLUCHUKWU I. NNABUGWU ESQ**  
08034730200.

## LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of original allocation paper of Plot No. AR-901 of about 824sqm in Bwari Action Area layout, belonging to Alh. Kabiru Hassan of Tudun Wada Bwari FCT Abuja. All effort made to trace the said document proved abortive. If found please contact the nearest police station

## MARIASAM 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.

**Name of Trustees**

1. Mrs. Olusola Adeoti
2. Pastor. Felix Johnson
3. Miss. Olampio Somoya
4. Mr. Ayodeji Ademola

**Aims & Objectives**

1. To create awareness for the cure of cancer and promote cancer research in Africa.
2. To share the grace of hope and care with cancer patients without prejudice regardless of race, religion, or other affiliations.
3. To initiate awareness of the importance of early diagnostics of cancer.

Any objection(s) to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, (CAC) Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Road, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight (28) days of this publication.

Signed: **ADEMOLA & ADEMOLA**

## MISSING DOCUMENT

The general public is hereby informed of a missing original copy of re-certification Acknowledgment receipt for plot No.704, file No. ZA10149, Cadastral Zone A09, Guzape District, Abuja. If found please return to AGIS or the nearest police station.

Signed: **LOUISA. EZEONYIM**  
Owner

## LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public and authority concerned of the loss of the Original Abuja Municipal Area Council Open Space Allocation Paper with Plot No. CM67A Kubwa Layout dated 16/6/96 bearing **MR & MRS. ABIODUN OLUSANYA** while on transit and that all efforts made to trace the missing documents proved abortive. Anybody with useful information relating to the recovery of the said documents should please contact the nearest police station.

## LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of original letter of offer of grant/conveyance of approval of plot 39 measuring about 1,700m<sup>2</sup> located within Jahi District, Abuja dated 14/10/97 belonging to **MR MAMMAN MIKE OSUMAN**. All efforts made to trace it proved abortive. If found return to the nearest police station.

## LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of original copy of letter of Offer of the term of grant/conveyance issued by Federal Capital Territory Administration Urban and regional Planning Department. Bac zonal planning office dated 19/02/2007 is missing. All effort made to trace the said document proved abortive. If found please return to the nearest police station.

## IMOLEDE ILE-AYO EVANGELICAL 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. Sup. Ap. (Dr) J. A. Adeleke - Chairman
2. Most Special Ap. (Prophet) S. A. Fabiyi
3. Rev Mother-in-Isreal E. B. Adeleke
4. Hon Ap. Isaac Kotawole
5. Ap. John Babawale - Secretary

**Aims and objectives:**

1. Towards the propagation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
2. Evangelism and welfarism of mankind.

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: **Bello Olurotimi Samuel, (Solicitor)**

## CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as **MRS PRINCESS C. G. ADOPHY** now to be known as **MRS PRINCESS C.V.U. ONUOHA**. Former documents remain valid. Central Bank of Nigeria and public note.

I, formerly known as **MISS ABDULSALAM TAWAKALITU** now **MRS. AHAMAD TAWAKALTU**, All former documents remain valid and general public to note.

Sakina: Formerly known as **MISS SAKINA YAKUBU** now wish to be **MRS SAKINA YAKUBU TAHIR**. All former documents remain valid. Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, NYSC and general public take note.

I, formerly **SIKIRAT SHAIBU**, now to be known as **MRS SIKIRAT SHAIBU SUBAIR**. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS ETOKWUDO CHINYERE CYNTHIA CHRISTIANA**, now wish to be address and known as **MRS CHINYERE PATRICK EMEKWUE**. General public take note.

I, formerly **MISS BRISCA DANJUMA LADI**, now **MRS BILKISU IDRIS UMAR**. All former documents remain valid. The general public. NYSC, NCA Jos to take note.

I, formerly **GBADAMOSI FAUSAT BIMBOLA**, now wish to be known as **BAKARE FAUSAT BIMBOLA**. All former documents remain valid. Islamic Youth League Nursery & Primary School, Abuja and general public to note.

I, formerly addressed as **KHADIYA JUMAIL ABUBAKAR** now to be known as **KHADIYA JUMAIL ABUBAKAR EJENAVI**. The general public should please take note.

I, formerly known as **MUSA IBRAHIM KALI** now wish to be called as **MUSA IBRAHIM KAMBA**, NECO shall take note.

I, formerly known as **ANAKWE-UMEH UCHE** now wish to be addressed as **MRS OKWELUME UCHE**. All former documents remain valid.

I, formerly known and addressed as **ENEH BLESSING IFEYINWA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **OLAJUJIN BLESSING IFEYINWA**. Royalton Hotels and general public please take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as **OKECHUKWU ROSEMARY NGOZI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **OLOBAYO ROSEMARY NGOZI**. Royalton Hotels and general public please take note.

# TRUST CLASSIFIED

## HAMEED MUJIDAT AGORO 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. Tokunbo Jaiye-Agoro. | 2. Morenike Akiti          |
| 3. Kofoworola Agoro.    | 4. Khairat Agberemi (Mrs). |
| 5. Femi Sunmonu.        | 6. Yetunde Olayinka        |
| 7. Ibrinke Ojo          |                            |

### Aims and objectives:

- To organize enlightenment programs on Islamic principles for Muslims.
- To seek and pursue non-profit projects that will alleviate the challenges of widows and orphaned children in the society.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed: C. C. Aroh & Co.,  
Suite 69 Dansville Plaza, Apo  
08033298418

## PUBLIC NOTICE GLORIOUS FOUNDATION CHURCH WORD OUTREACH

The general public is hereby notified that the above named organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matter Act 1990.

### The Trustees are:

- |                            |            |
|----------------------------|------------|
| 1. Pastor James Eboe Idoko | -President |
| 2. Pastor Sunday Ikpebe    | -Secretary |
| 3. Bro. Patrick's Omatule  | -Member    |
| 4. Pastor Johnson Omola    | -Member    |
| 5. Bro. Johnson Madaokor   | -Member    |
| 6. Bro. Uche Emeka         | -Member    |
| 7. Mrs. Salome Rose Eboe   | -Member    |

### Aims and Objectives:

- To preach the gospel of Jesus Christ in all part of Nigeria and the world wide using bible as the compass and guide.
- To help the less privileged once in the society such as the orphans, widows, bound and destitute and engage in children evangelism.

Any objective to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission plot 240, Tigris crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama Garki, Abuja Nigeria within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:  
Chris Ike Okpe Esq  
Chris Okpe & Co. CC 8 Ibrahim Taiwo Road, Kaduna.

## CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly known as **ABDULLAHI AHMADU IMAM**, now wish to be known as **ABDULLAHI AHMAD**. All former documents remain valid. Federal Character Commission and the general public to take note.

I formerly known **MISS HYELADZIRA DAVID** wish to be known as **MRS HYELADZIRA ANDREW NGGADA**. All former documents remain valid; NYSC and general public take note.

I formerly known as **MARY AMOS KAIGAMA** now wish to be known as **MARY JOHN BULUS**. All former document remain valid and general public take note.

I formerly known **LADI HASSAN** now to be called **ZARAH HASSAN**. All former documents remain valid, general public take note.

I formerly **MISS RANTI OLORUNFEMI** now **MRS EUNICE RANTI OLOGE**. All former documents remain valid, NYSC general public take note.

I formerly known as **MISS OLUYEMISI HELEN LAWAL** now wish to be called as **MRS OLUYEMISI HELEN OMORAGBON**. All former documents remain valid. EQUATORIAL TRUST BANK and the general public should take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS. RAHINATU MOHAMMED YUSUF** wish to be known as **MRS. RAHINATU HASSAN MAMUD USMAN**. All formal documents remain valid. Department of Accounting, ABU. Zaria and general public take note.

Formerly **IDAYAT ABIMBOLA RUFAI** now wish to be known as **ABIMBOLA IDAYAT JIMOH**. Former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I, formerly **BALA MOHAMMAD BADAKEYA**, now to be called **BALA MOHAMMAD**. All former documents remain valid. BUK and general public to note.

I, formerly **SANUSI UMAR**, now to be called **AHMED UMAR**. All former documents remain valid. Kiyawa Local Education Authority and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **AISHA NGOGO UMAR**, now wish to be known as **AISHA UMAR-HALILU**. All former documents remain valid. Media Trust and the general public take note.

## OLUSEGUN OKE COVENANT BELIEVERS MINISTRY

The general public is hereby notified that the above named ministry has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under Part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

### The Trustees are:

- Rev. Olusegun Michael Oke
- Pastor Mrs. Oluwatoyin Grace Oke
- Rev. Moses A. Idris
- Mrs. Sodipo Habasani
- Mr. Oluwaseyi Oyelami

### Aims and Objectives:

- To preach the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
- To mobilize spiritual gifts of individuals members in Christ.
- To organize seminars and open crusades.
- To engage in christian literature publication and distribution.
- To establish school of ministry.
- To train pastors, ministers and equip them for the work of the gospel.

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 (twenty-eight) of the date of publication.

Signed: Omoluyi Olanrewaju  
08023317670

## CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly **MISS AYOOLA F. AHISHERE** now **MRS AYOOLA F. ONI**. All former documents remain valid.

I, formerly known as **MISS SUWAIBA ALIYU ADAMU** wish to inform the general public that I am now **MRS SUWAIBA PATIENCE OYOMA ECHERO**. All former documents remain valid.

Formerly known and called **DORCAS OKWU** wish to be address now as **DORCAS KALSON**. All other documents remain valid.

I, formerly **MISS FATIMA GARBA, FATIMA ISAH SARKI** wish to be called **MRS FATIMA ABDULMALIC HARUNA**. Former documents remain valid. General public note.

I, formerly addressed as **CHIOMA CHINEDUM OKOLO** now to be addressed as **CHIOMA CHINEDUM NKEONY ORJI**. All former documents remain valid. The general public take note.

Formerly **MISS OKORO CONFIDENCE** now **MRS OKENKWU N. CONFIDENCE**.

I, formerly known and addressed as **AMINA UMAR FUFURE** now wish be known and addressed as **AMINA ABUBAKAR NASIR**. All former documents remain valid. General public to note.

I, formerly known as **MISS ABDULSALAM TAWAKALITU** now **MRS AHAMAD TAWALITU**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly **MISS STELLA SANNI**, now wish to be addressed as **MRS STELLA ISA**. All former documents remain valid. Nigeria Police Force and general public take note.

## LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

This is to notify the general public that the following land (lease) documents are missing.

Abuja Investment and Property Development Company Ltd. Provisional letter of offer for the sale (Sublease) of shops:

- Provisional allocation notice made in the name of **MOHAMMED ABDULLAZEEZ ABUBAKAR** and all ancillary original documents of title for Shop No. C74 Wuse Market Abuja And

- Wuse Market handover certificate in the name of **AZBEK NIGERIA LTD**, for the grant of sublease of Warehouse No. B41 Wuse Market.

The general public is hereby put on notice that the properties to which these documents relate at Wuse market are not for sale beyond the subsisting tenancy interest in them.

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## FOREIGN COACH: NFF's approach is very faulty –Toro, Basse

By Ibraheem A. Fatai

APPARENTLY angered by the series of rejections of the Super Eagles job by some of the short-listed foreign coaches, former NFA's scribe, Sani Toro, has condemned the NFF's approach, describing it as faulty.

Speaking to Trustsports in a telephone interview yesterday, Toro said it was very wrong to shortlist coaches whose contracts with their respective employers have not expired.

"What I expected the NFF to do considering the short time available between now and the

**“Short-listing coaches whose contracts are yet to expire is tantamount to running after shadows.”**

June is to approach some of those Federations and seek for the assistance of their coaches for the South Africa 2010 outing. Egypt failed to qualify for the World Cup, just like Ireland and Russia. We can approach anyone of them to loan us their coach till the end of the game in

South Africa.

"Short-listing coaches whose contracts are yet to expire is tantamount to running after shadows. No employer would be happy with such a move. The right thing should have been to meet those employers and ask them for assistance on a short time basis," the Bauchi-born football administrator reasoned.

On the rejection of the Super Eagles job by Giovanni Trapattoni, Ratimir Dujkovic, Hassan Shehata and Louis Van Gaal, Toro said some of the coaches would like to go to the World Cup with the Super Eagles, but are afraid of poor show in South Africa.

"Some of the coaches rejecting the Super Eagles are doing so because of the very limited time they will have to prepare the team for the World Cup. They do not want anything that will tarnish their CVs. It will be very difficult for the best coach to perform wonders in South Africa with just about three months left to go," he maintained.

In his own reaction, Confederation of African Football (CAF) Media Coordinator, Paul Basse, expressed disapproval of the NFF's approach, saying short-listing coaches without first contacting them whether they would be available or not is the main reason behind the setbacks in the search for new Eagles coach.



RATOMIR Dujkovic, one of the six shortlisted coaches for the Super Eagles coaching job, has rejected the offer.

## Court threatens drastic action against NOC leadership

By Orkula Shaagee &amp; Sunday Ejike Benjamin

AN Abuja High court presided over by Justice Othman A. Musa yesterday threatened to take drastic action against the Nigeria Olympic Committee (NOC) and its leadership headed by Habu Gumel if they fail to appear before him on February 25 when the suit

filed by Shuaibu Ahmed Gara Gombe alleging falsification of documents by the minister of sports will be heard.

Justice Musa threat followed the non appearance of the Committee or its representative, which is the first defendant in the suit.

Gara Gombe had dragged the NOC, and Engr. Sani Ndanusu, Sports Minister and

Chairman, National Sports Commission (NSC) to the court accusing the later of tendering forged documents in the botched NOC elections.

The NOC had however cleared the minister at its annual general meeting held last December in Dutse, an action Gara Gombe said was a clear violation of the laws of

the land. He maintained that only a competent court can clear anyone so accused.

At the resumed hearing in the matter yesterday Justice Musa who had granted Gara Gombe leave to formally serve the NOC at the last sitting of the court expressed displeasure that whereas other parties including the lawyer to the minister were

in court, neither the NOC nor its representatives was in court even after it was notified of the date.

He therefore vowed to deal with the principals should they fail to appear later this month when hearing in the case resumes.

Meanwhile further hearing in the suit has been re-assigned to the FCT Court 25.

# Glo-CAF Awards: Drogba, Essien, Eto'O rekindle rivalry

By Ismaila Lere

CAMEROON'S Samuel Eto'O Fils has made a come-back to contention for a historic fourth title of the African Footballer of the Year Award as he made the list of top three nominees for the 2009 Glo-CAF Awards with Ivory Coast's Didier Drogba and Ghana's Michael Essien.

Mali's Seydou Keita and Yaya Toure of Ivory Coast dropped off the final list, having earlier been named in the top five category announced last December.

The list of nominees was

handed over to the former vice-captain of the

Black Stars of Ghana, Tony Baffour, by the CAF Communications

Director, Suleiman Habuba, to announce at a press conference yesterday at the Holiday Inn in Accra, Ghana. Nominees for various other categories including Best Player on the Continent, Coach of the Year,

Young Player of the Year, Club of the Year and National Team of the Year were also made public at the conference attended by the Ghana Deputy Minister of Sports,

Nii Nortey Dua and the President of the Ghana Football Association, Mr. Kwesi Nyantakyi.

The winner of the award will receive \$20, 000 while the first and second runners-up will receive \$15, 000 and \$10, 000 respectively.

There are also cash prizes for the Best Player on the Continent which is a category reserved for players competing only in CAF organised competitions. The awards ceremony will hold on March 11 at the State

House Banquet Hall in Accra, Ghana.



DIDIER Drogba

“The winner of the award will receive \$20, 000

## Adeh, Owumi join race to lead NPL board

FORMER Nigeria Football Association (NFA) chairmanship aspirant Lumumba Adeh and former Rangers International player Davidson Owumi have joined the race for the Nigeria Premier League (NPL) chairmanship position.

The duo joined the race late last week after obtaining nomination forms for the March 3 and March 4 elections into the board and the chairmanship position.

According to Alhassan Yakmut, Secretary of the 2010 NPL Electoral Committee, who confirmed the development to NAN in Abuja on Tuesday, the duo of Adeh and Owumi have now made

the chairmanship race a five-man battle.

Alex Umoru, NPL's Media Officer, had earlier last week disclosed that it was a four-man race having incumbent NPL Chairman Oyuki Obaseki and three others.

He had listed the others as Chief Rumson Baribote, Chairman of Bayelsa United FC, Akin Akinbobola, a Special Adviser to the Ondo State Governor on Sports, and former NFA board member Sam Jaja.

However, Obaseki is now out of the race to lead the league body for the next four years, after having failed to turn in his completed

nomination form by the deadline of 4 p.m. of Friday, Feb. 12.

Obaseki and 18 others had obtained nomination forms, but by the deadline for the return of nomination forms he and two others were the only ones who failed to meet the deadline.

The other two are present board members Ray Nnaji and Suleiman Kwande, who had joined the 2006 to 2010 board as representatives from the South East and North Central zones respectively.

Owumi had over a week earlier obtained a form for election as the Chairman of Club Chairmen, a position that makes him

one of the seven members that would make up the new board, but he was to return to obtain the chairmanship election form late last week.

In the case of Adeh, who was the Vice-Chairman of the NPL board at its inception in 2005 as an Interim Management Committee for one year, he obtained the form late last week.

He is believed to be eyeing a return to the board through his North-Central Zone, and Kwande's withdrawal is being linked to Adeh's entrance into the race, with his main focus being the board of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF).

Adeh, who served in the then NPL board with present NFF President Sani Lulu, had lost in the 2006 elections into the then NFA chairmanship position to Lulu, and had recently indicated interest in contesting for the NFF presidency.

Yakmut said the NPL Electoral Committee would immediately swing into action in the next step of screening the candidates.

"Now that we have 16 of the 19 forms obtained between Wednesday, Feb. 3, when the forms' issuance began and Friday, Feb. 12 the deadline for submission, we have set down to the more rigorous task of screening."

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E-mail: aircomfortchairs@porchesterafrica.com

Website: www.porchesterafrica.com/aircomfortchairs

## Egypt FA allow Shehata-Nigeria talks

THE Egypt Football Association say they will allow national coach Hassan Shehata to take charge of the Nigeria at the 2010 World Cup if an official approach for him is made.

Shehata, who has helped the Egyptians to the last three Nations Cup titles, but could not qualify them for the World Cup, is apparently one of a number of coaches that the Super Eagles are looking at following the demotion of Shuaibu Amodu.

Others mentioned are Dutchman Guus Hiddink, ex-Ghana boss Ratomir Djukovic and former Senegal mentor Bruno Metsu.

A meeting of the Egyptian FA's general assembly ratified the loan of Shehata for the tournament, but with the Nigerians looking for a long-term successor to Amodu, this is unlikely to be a viable option for them.



SHEHATA

# Fit-again Nadal bullish about tour return

RAFA Nadal has shaken off the knee injury that forced him to abandon his Australian Open title defence last month and is confident of making a successful tour return at Indian Wells in March.

The world number three, who practised on an indoor court near his home in Mallorca on Monday, told Reuters the tendon had healed in his right knee and he was working to get back to the same level of fitness he reached at the start of the year.

"Right now, this week and these first few days back, it's a matter of taking things slowly," Nadal said in a court-side interview after his first training session of the month.

"I think things are progressing very well," added the 23-year-old Spaniard. "I have been working with the appropriate machines to help the tear heal as quickly as possible and also done a lot of physical work in the gym."

Nadal's latest injury setback forced him to withdraw from his quarter-final against Briton Andy Murray in Melbourne in January and he also pulled out of last week's Rotterdam event.

He said he was in solid mental shape and was planning to return to the tour to defend his title at the Masters Series tournament in Indian Wells, California where he

is a tournament where I have almost always played well," Nadal said. "Let's see what happens."

"It's the first event I will have played for a month and a half and it's always more difficult to start like that. I am hoping to play well and build confidence for a strong start to the claycourt season."

Doubts have been raised over Nadal's ability to stay free of injury, in part due to a playing style which relies heavily on power and athleticism.

Nadal said he had no doubt he



RAFAEL Nadal celebrating winning a point. He is confident of making a successful tour return after shaking off a knee injury.

"I think I was there during the first month of the year," he said. "I think I am working well enough to get there again."

"That's sport. You never know when you start (your career) and when you finish."

The six-times grand slam winner said he was not considering taking the kind of prolonged break that could help him permanently correct some of the physical problems that have plagued him in recent years.

"I am not planning right now to do anything else than dedicate my life to playing tennis."

Davis Cup champions Spain begin the defence of their title at home to Switzerland on March 5, the week before Indian Wells, but Nadal said he was unlikely to be available for the tie in Logrono.

"It could be a bit early to come back," he said. "I'll see how things go for me physically but I would need to be ready in about a week

and looking forward to the French Open in May, Nadal said he would not feel any different going into the claycourt grand slam despite having his four-year reign as champion ended last year.

"As always I will be excited about playing a good tournament and trying to win," he said.

"I don't think it changes anything not being champion. Of course you're not going to win Roland Garros every year."

Looking ahead to the French Open in May, Nadal said he would not feel any different going into the claycourt grand slam despite having his four-year reign as champion ended last year.

"I don't think it changes anything not being champion. Of course you're not going to win Roland Garros every year."

## Federer: I've more drive than Nadal

WORLD number one Roger Federer thinks he has more drive than rival Rafael Nadal and will make keeping the top ranking his main goal, despite speculation that he could land a rare calendar grand slam.

Talk of the 28-year-old emulating Rod Laver by sweeping all four grand slam titles this year has got louder since he won his 16th grand slam at the Australian Open last month.

"I'll try, that's for sure," Federer said in an interview with Reuters. "But it's not even number one on my to-do list. I'll just try to defend my number one position."

Federer said Nadal, who has been troubled with knee injuries, would be his biggest threat this year but that the Spaniard did not have the ambition to be number one.

"The first moment when I became number one in the world was six years ago now and it was a magical moment in my career," Federer said. "It was pretty special and I always wanted to get back there."

"Some people have that drive more than others who've been number one. Rafa doesn't seem like he cares as much for number one, or he doesn't show it."

Despite casting doubt on Nadal's motivation, the Swiss still sees him as his biggest threat. Injury forced the world number three out of the Australian Open.

Federer said he's going through is very similar to what I went through last year. Just because you don't win a major they start picking on you. I'm convinced he will come back shortly."

The other players who could upset his shot at the grand slam this year were Novak Djokovic, Andy Murray, Juan Martin Del Potro and Nikolay Davydenko, Federer said, adding that he thought Briton Murray had "got Nadal's number a little bit".

## Llodra advances at Open 13

FORMER finalist Michael Llodra rallied to beat fellow Frenchman Edouard Roger-Vasselin 6-7 (5), 6-3, 6-4 in the first round of the Open 13 on Tuesday.

Llodra, who lost to Jo-Wilfried Tsonga last year in an all-French final, served 17 aces and broke qualifier Roger-Vasselin three times.

Llodra will play Marcos Baghdatis of Cyprus in the second round of the indoor hardcourt tournament.

Sergiy Stakhovsky of Ukraine also advanced, beating Simone Bolelli of Italy 6-3, 3-6, 6-4, and will take on top-seeded Robin Soderling of Sweden in the next round. Stakhovsky saved five of the seven break points he faced and served 15 aces. Lucky loser Illya Marchenko of Ukraine beat Ruben Bemelmans of Belgium 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.

## Peer beats Razzano at Dubai

SHAHAR Peer of Israel has beaten Virginie Razzano of France 6-2, 6-2 in the second round of the Dubai Tennis Championship.

Peer, at No. 22 in the world, is ranked two places higher than Razzano. Peer won 77 percent of the points on her first serve to even their head-to-head record at 2-all. She will next play top-seeded Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark, who defeated Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia 6-2, 7-6 (2).

Peer is playing doubles later Tuesday with Galina Voskoboeva of Russia, taking on Alisa Kleybanova and Francesca Schiavone.



ANCELOTTI

## Ancelotti: I don't care who my players sleep with

CHELSEA manager Carlo Ancelotti has brushed off the latest tabloid rumours surrounding one of his players and insisted that his players' personal lives are none of his business. Blues skipper John Terry has been the subject of intense media focus in the last few weeks after revelations of an alleged affair with Wayne Bridge's girlfriend surfaced. Ashley Cole has also been in the tabloid spotlight this week after allegations of marital infidelity and 'sex texting' were published.

But the Chelsea manager will not be taking any action against his players as long as they continue to perform on the pitch. "I don't care who my captain or troops go to bed with, but what ideas they wake up with in the morning," Ancelotti told La Stampa.

## World Cup 2010: Tickets continue to sell well

THE first seven days of the fourth ticket sales phase for the 2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa has seen a total of 117,589 tickets being sold across 119 countries. 99,042 of those tickets have been sold to South African residents.

About 11,500 applications are still being processed. This second-last sales phase will run until April 7. Applications are dealt with on a 'first come, first serve' basis. Apart from South Africa, the countries with the most tickets sold in this phase are: USA 4,327, UK 1,964, Mexico 1,898, Australia 1,231 and Germany 1,193. Since last Tuesday, a total of 110,583 individual match tickets have been sold, as well as 7,006 team-specific series tickets.



# Rising Bayern face falling Fiorentina

BAYERN Munich and Fiorentina, two teams moving in opposite directions, clash in the Champions League on Wednesday with the Bavarians firm favourites to progress to the last eight.

Bayern, who made a shaky start to the season and finished six points behind Girondins Bordeaux as they struggled through the group stage, have won their last 12 games in all competitions under temperamental Dutch coach Louis van Gaal.

Fiorentina, who qualified for the knockout stages at the expense of Liverpool, have lost momentum since the start of the year, taking only one point from their last five Serie A matches.

They were outclassed 2-0 by Sampdoria on Saturday, almost inevitably sparking talk of a crisis in the Italian media, and have dropped to 11th in the table in one of the most difficult moments in the long reign of coach Cesare Prandelli.



VAN Gaal, Bayern coach

Some fans have even called for Prandelli to leave amid specu-

tion he is wanted by Juventus and Italy after the World Cup.

The team appear to have been hit hard by the ban on Romania striker Adrian Mutu, who was provisionally suspended after the Italian Olympic Committee said he had tested positive for the appetite suppressant drug sibutramine after the 2-1 win over Bari on Jan. 10, the team's last victory.

Fiorentina suffered another blow on Saturday when centre-back Alessandro Gamberini dislocated his shoulder and was ruled out of the game at the Allianz arena while Argentina forward Mario Santana also limped off.

However, the players remain optimistic.

"We're certain that match against Bayern has come at the right moment, it's the most important match in Prandelli's five-year reign," said midfielder Ricardo Montolivo.



## Van Gaal would be content with narrow win

BAYERN Munich coach Louis van Gaal has declared he would be pleased with a narrow victory over Fiorentina in their upcoming Champions League clash and is wary of the Serie A outfit, despite their recent troubles on the domestic stage.

"We are ready, but we must not underestimate the Viola. We will be very happy if we can advance. At this stage all the teams have great quality," he said during a press conference, according to tuttomeratoweb.

"1-0 would be a good result.

It's a team with great players, they demonstrated that in the group stage. On the absence of striker Adrian Mutu, suspended after failing two doping tests, the former AZ trainer said he does not believe it will have a significant effect on their opponents.

"One player is not so important. We won quite a few games without our stars [Franck] Ribery and [Arjen] Robben," he stated.

However, Dutch attacker Arjen Robben is desperate to record a good result in the first leg against the Serie A side.

"It's clear that we have to score at least once. Additionally, it's crucial to keep a clean sheet," Robben was quoted as saying in his pre-match press conference.

The former Real Madrid winger was in a good mood and didn't need long to think of an answer when asked about the 'ideal result' for the Bavarians.

"It would be perfect for us if we record a 6-0 win. However, there's a small chance that we won't record such a big win," said Robben jokingly.

## Porto offer stern test for Arsenal

ARSENAL are brimming with confidence after beating Liverpool but they will have to show consistency to overcome in-form Porto in the Champions League last 16.

The north London team's run of wins was interrupted recently by losses to Chelsea and Manchester United but they won 1-0 against Liverpool last week, a result which kept them in the title race and lifted their spirits.

"It would have been very difficult for us to lose against Liverpool and go to Porto feeling confident," said coach Arsene Wenger.

The draw for the Champions League first knockout round could have been tougher for Arsenal, pitting them against Bayern Munich or one of the Milan giants, but Wenger said Porto could be tricky.

"Porto is a tough draw. They don't look like a prestigious team but every year they are in there and they can surprise people. They have been playing very well recently."

Porto's pedigree, which includes two European titles, has been clear in recent displays against English sides.

## Inter clash captivates Cech

CHELSEA'S Czech international goalkeeper Petr Cech cannot wait for next week's "perfect" Champions League tie against Inter Milan.

The last 16 clash pits Premier League leaders Chelsea, who've yet to win the European Cup, against an Italian side managed by the Londoners' former boss Jose Mourinho.

"Always the Champions League is our aim and you can

see that we've been playing for it every season and we've gone far, but the aim is the same," Cech told Chelsea Magazine.

"The Champions League is the only trophy this club is missing so I think that is what everyone would like to win," added the Czech international, a member of the Blues side that lost the 2008 Champions League final to English rivals Manchester United in a penalty shoot-out in Moscow.

"For the fans, for the players and for everyone linked with the club, I think it is going to be a special occasion (against Inter).

"I said before the draw, right before Christmas, that if the English and Italian media wanted a gift from Santa Claus it would be Chelsea versus Inter or Man United against AC Milan and, in the end, it did happen, which is perfect."

Cech was criticised early in the

season as Chelsea repeatedly conceded goals from set pieces but last week made important saves in his team's win over domestic title rivals Arsenal.

The 27-year-old has a contract until 2013 and, when asked about spending the next 10 years at Stamford Bridge, said: "If I stay fit, at least as I am now, then I'll play as long as I can because this career is normally pretty short and everyone wants to make the most of it."



PETR Cech, Chelsea keeper



## Excellent win for United in Milan

MANCHESTER United came from behind to win a thrilling Champions League last-16 first leg 3-2 away to Milan thanks to a Wayne Rooney headed brace.

Milan took an early lead through a deflected Ronaldinho volley only to see a fortunate Paul Scholes strike level matters before half-time.

Rooney finished both headers brilliantly for a 3-1 lead before substitute Clarence Seedorf, who had replaced starter David Beckham, flicked in at the near post to set up a late charge from the hosts.

Michael Carrick was sent off after picking up a second yellow card in injury-time.

Meanwhile, a lacklustre Real Madrid suffered their first away defeat in the Champions League this season, losing to Bayern Munich in a last-16 first leg tie.

Cameroon midfielder Jean Makoun scored

a spectacular winner just after the interval with a venomous right-foot drive into the top corner of the net from 25 metres.

Jean II Makoun scored a stunning individual goal as Lyon beat Real Madrid 1-0 in the last 16 of the Champions League on Tuesday.

Neither Lyon goalkeeper Hugo Lloris nor Madrid's Casillas had a shot to save in the first half, but after Manuel Pellegrini tinkered with his lineup at halftime, Lyon soon took the lead.

Pellegrini took off Marcelo and on came Ezequiel Garay, but he backed off naively and allowed Makoun too much room and precious time to set his sights, picking his spot superbly as Casillas wandered off his line.

Argentina striker Lisandro Lopez headed over from Miralem Pjanic's freekick and shot narrowly wide after another mix-up in the Madrid defense between Garay and Raul

Albiol.

The 22-year-old Benzema was an emerging talent when Lyon dispatched Madrid 3-0 at home during the 2005-06 season and then 2-0 the following year, both times in the group stages.

Yesterday's performance was Lyon's best for quite some time. The French side managed to hold Manchester United and Barcelona to home draws in the past two years, but both clubs went on to win the competition, and Lyon hasn't reached the quarterfinals since 2006.

Lyon was crushed 5-2 in the away leg in Barcelona last year, but has a slender lead this time.

Sidney Govou had the first chance for Lyon, volleying into the side netting after meeting a cross from the left, and Ronaldo's neat flick almost played in Higuain soon after.

### FIXTURES & RESULTS

#### Today's fixtures

Bayern Munich vs Fiorentina

Porto vs Arsenal

\*Return leg on 9 March

#### Yesterday's Results

AC Milan 2, Man. United 3

Lyon 1, Real Madrid 0

\*Return leg on 10 March.

# Leonardo gambling by building Milan in Brazil's image

By Sandro Modeo

MILAN'S two games against Manchester United in the Champions League are make or break for the Italian side's season and an acid test for new manager, Leonardo. The team are still a work in progress as they seek to live up to the new identity they have carved out for themselves.

After a horrible start to the season, which pushed pundits to talk of an ageing team in terminal decline, a dramatic turnaround came in a period of three days in October with the 2-1 victory over Roma in Serie A and the 3-2 triumph over Real Madrid in the Champions League, two games in which Leonardo hit his stride tactically.

Sending out the team in a 4-2-2-2 formation that was reminiscent of 1980s Brazil, Leonardo's Milan were risky and exhilarating,

all possession football and a passing game favouring technique over speed, which forgot about tackling and breaking up play and pushed defenders up to take part in sweeping moves. With a few tweaks, including another switch to 4-3-3, the philosophy was a winner until 24 January when the derby against Jose Mourinho's Internazionale brought Milan crashing back to earth.

Nesta, like Franco Baresi in Arrigo Sacchi's Milan side, is invaluable for closing down attackers and orchestrating the whole defence. When he is on the pitch his centre-back partner, Thiago Silva, is faster and more attentive. In attack Pato brings his speed, his ability to beat his man and his shooting, as well as his talent for creating space for himself and his team-mates, just like those world-class players who "see highways where others see

footpaths", as the Serbian coach Vujadin Boskov once said.

It is no coincidence that both Pato and Nesta were back for Milan's 3-2 win against Udinese on Friday after recent draws with Livorno and Bologna. With the two key men in the side, Milan can allow themselves the luxury of playing Ronaldinho. Now in the autumn of his career, the Brazilian is still producing sublime assists, nine in Serie A this season, and his shooting on goal can be visionary, but the team need to compensate for his lack of running to stop the game turning into a self-indulgent samba or training-ground trickery.

To do his best work, Ronaldinho needs to be buoyed by the enthusiasm of the whole team, by complete dedication to Leonardo's Brazilian system where tactics have more to do with a euphoric mind-set than the blackboard. To



LEONARDO, AC Milan's coach

his credit, Leonardo has proved a master at infecting all his players with this euphoria, whatever their country of origin, thanks to his mastery of languages, starting with the Italian he learned during his long managerial apprenticeship at Milan.

There has also been an important role played by his No2, Mauro "Djalma Santos" Tassotti, a Brazilian by adoption, Carlo Ancelotti's former assistant, a great right-sided defender under Sacchi and Fabio Capello and a genius at

teaching defences about diagonal and overlapping movements.

But compared with the Milan sides of the last 20 years, champions of Europe five times, this is surely the weakest and Leonardo's masterplan remains a gamble. Recalling the lesson dished out to Manchester United in 2007, Sir Alex Ferguson was right to dwell on the departure of Kaká, who cut through United like a laser.

Sandro Modeo is the football and culture correspondent of Corriere della Sera

## Eduardo set for timely return for Arsenal

ARSENAL are hopeful Eduardo da Silva will have recovered from injury to feature in Wednesday's awkward first leg of the Champions League knockout tie at Porto, though they continue to fret over Alex Song's involvement and are resigned to being without Andrey Arshavin for the trip to Portugal.

The Russia international is struggling with a hamstring strain picked up in the league win over Liverpool and will not be in the squad that leaves Luton airport tomorrow afternoon. Arshavin is, however, confident that he will be able to return for Sunderland's visit to the Emirates on Saturday. "If all goes well, I will get back on the pitch as early as the next Premier League match," he said.

While Eduardo's reintroduc-



EDUARDO has been absent for three weeks

tion after a three-week absence nursing a hamstring problem will represent a timely boost for Arsenal's front line, Arsène Wenger

would be keenest for Song to prove his fitness with the Cameroonian labouring with a knee injury.

## THE WEDNESDAY COLUMN

Mohammed Haruna

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## God, Obasanjo, Jonathan and all that

The last time we met on these pages penultimate Wednesday it was over the propensity of former president, General Olusegun Obasanjo, for swearing on oath in the face of all evidence to the contrary. On at least three occasions during his presidency the man called on God as his witness to deny having a hand in crises everyone, except of course himself, knew he was the architect of.

The first famous occasion was in December 2004 when Obasanjo denied having a hand in the crisis that engulfed Anambra State over the gangster-like attempt by a cabal, which clearly enjoyed his support, at removing its then Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) governor, Chief Chris Ngige, from office. The party chairman, Chief Audu Ogbe, had accused the president of fiddling while Anambra burnt - and worse.

In his lengthy reply, the former president swore to God that he had no hand in what happened in the state even though everyone knew he could have pre-empted it but didn't. "I stand before God and man and in clear conscience," he said on that occasion, "to defend any measure that I have taken anywhere in Nigeria since I became president and I will continue to act without fear or favour or inducement. And it does not matter what is sponsored in the Nigerian media, in particular the print media."

The most recent example of the man's penchant for living in self-denial and at the same time calling on God to be his witness was the subject of this column two weeks ago. The reader would recall how the man tried to seize the golden opportunity he was offered by his chairmanship of the 7th Trust Annual Dialogue on January 21 to deny any responsibility for the constitutional crisis that the ill-health of President Umaru Yar'adua had plunged the country into. He had been almost universally blamed for foisting Yar'adua on the nation as president back in 2007 when the man's ill-health was one of the most poorly kept secrets in the country. Many saw this imposition as either an attempt by a vindictive Obasanjo to punish Nigerians for overwhelmingly rejecting his Third Term agenda or an attempt to secure the agenda through the back door - or both.

"What I need to say," he said on January 21 in an obvious attempt at disowning his bedridden protégé, "is that nobody picked Yar'adua so that he will not perform. If I did that God will punish me."

God may yet punish the man over his proclivity for all too often swearing in His name in vain. Thus far, however, it does look like the man was right when he once told Nigerians that his God has never disappointed him. This was way back in December 2003 during the Thanksgiving service for his second term. "In fact," he said on that occasion, "I make bold (to say) that if you want your prayers answered pray in the name of God of Obasanjo. So far that your prayer will just be answered because God has never ever disappointed me."

As if to remind us about how his God had never failed him, he seized the opportunity of his departure from office in 2007 to tell us in blatant self-denial that, "If I sought the third term and I wanted it, I would have got it. I have not

said it before. God would have given it to me. I did not want it. If I had wanted a third term, I would have prayed for it. I would have worked for it and God would have given it to me. I know this because there is nothing I wanted that God did not give me."

Everyone, except of course the man himself, knew that that fine morning in 2006 when the Senate roundly rejected the amendment of the clause in our constitution that would have allowed him to carry on as president for the third time, the man's God had for once disappointed him.

Last week's declaration of Vice-President Goodluck Jonathan as Acting President by the National Assembly in the teeth of stiff but futile opposition from Yar'adua's men suggests that Obasanjo may after-all be right that his God has never disappointed him: who it may be hard to know that Jonathan's rise from obscurity to the height of power in 10 short years is as much due to his good luck as it is due to Obasanjo, his wily benefactor?

The question now on the lips of almost every Nigerian is will the protégé be at the service of his benefactor or would he, like Yar'adua, turn out to be an ingrate in his benefactor's eyes? God help Nigeria and Nigerians if the answer is the former.

The omens don't look good. First, Jonathan's declaration as acting president has no basis in law or in our Constitution. The Senate's invocation of the doctrine of necessity, as far as I can see, is simply the civilian equivalent of a military coup. The constitutional basis for a Jonathan acting presidency is as clear as daylight. These are sections 144 or 145 of the Constitution. The second option is a voluntary "stepping aside" by the president as a result of his infirmity while the first allows both the Federal Executive Council and the Senate to force the obviously incapacitated president to step aside.

Neither option was used in declaring Jonathan acting president. Section 143 as the impeachment option touted my many leading Nigerians is really no option because

the man may not be available to answer the charges against him whereas the doctrine of fair hearing demands that the man gets a hearing.

This apparently takes us back to the option of doctrine of necessity. But that is a matter for the courts and not the Senate to decide.

In short Jonathan's presidency is of dubious legality, to put it mildly. This leaves him in hock to those, including his main benefactor, who manipulated him into his new job.

And then, as if to confirm fears that he'll be obligated to those behind his rise, *Thisday* revealed last weekend that he held his first and longest one-on-one meeting so far with Obasanjo, and in the thick of the night to boot. It would be most interesting to know what was discussed during what the newspaper said was a three-hour meeting. Nigerians can only hope and pray that it was not about the protégé returning the long list of the benefactor's favours.

God, as I said, may yet punish Obasanjo for swearing in His name in vain, but right now the loud laughter ringing in your ears is of the man's happiness with recent events in the country which seem to suggest his God is yet to refuse each of his every whim and caprice.

The question now on the lips of almost every Nigerian is will the protégé be at the service of his benefactor or would he, like Yar'adua, turn out to be an ingrate in his benefactor's eyes?

## SPORTS REPORT



ANDREI Arshavin

## Arshavin wants Fabregas to stay at Arsenal

Arsenal playmaker Andrey Arshavin understands that Cesc Fabregas must make a tough decision regarding his future soon but wants the club captain to stay at the club.

The Russian insists that it is essential for the Gunners' hopes of future success that his team-mate shuns the offers from Barcelona that are reportedly set to come his way soon.

"If he goes to Barcelona, I will understand his choice. But as an Arsenal player, I really don't want this to happen," Arshavin told Russian newspaper Sport Express.

"I remember when there were rumors of his departure last summer, he said half-jokingly, half seriously: 'I'll stay at least a year or two, I want to play with you.'"

"We joke about this topic again now. But Cesc is a grown man and only he can decide."



GUUS Hiddink

## Hiddink to sign Turkey deal on Friday

Dutch coach Guus Hiddink is on the verge of signing a contract with the Turkish Football Association. The 63-year-old is expected to travel to Turkey on Friday in order to sign a contract.

The former Chelsea manager announced on Saturday that he will not extend his expiring contract with the Russian Football Association and has since been linked with several clubs and national teams.

North Korea and Nigeria were already among the candidates to make a move for Hiddink. However, it appears as if Hiddink has now made his decision. The reports suggest that the former PSV chief will stay with Russia until the end of his contract on June 30 before signing a deal with Turkey running until after Euro 2012.